



**Minutes of the North East District Quarterly Meeting held at
the Jubilee Hall, Theberton, Suffolk at 17.45 hours on Saturday, 11th May 2024
following the conclusion of the North East District Striking Competition held earlier that day**

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Dave Goldstone, Chair of the North East District (**DG**), welcomed 34 members to the meeting and 3 non-Guild member ringers who had taken part in or supported those in the striking competition held earlier. He also welcomed the two judges of the day's striking competition, Tim Munt (**TM**) and Chris Bassett (**CB**), both from the Kent County Association of Change Ringers.

Apologies for absence were received from 4 members whose names and absences were noted in the Attendance Book.

2. Approval of the minutes of the North East District Quarterly Meeting held on 10th February 2024 at Sweffling

The minutes of the last North East District Quarterly Meeting held on 10th February 2024 at Sweffling (a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda) were approved with no amendments or additions proposed.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the North East District Quarterly Meeting held on 10th February 2024 at Sweffling.

4. Election of new members to the Suffolk Guild

No proposals for the election of new members to the Suffolk Guild were received at the meeting.

5. North East District Quarter Peal "fortnight"

Philip Gorrod (**PJG**), North East District Ringing Master, explained that a series of Quarter Peals would be rung as part of a District ringing initiative starting on Friday, 5 July and ending on Sunday, 14th July. He invited any ringers who might wish to participate or be involved to contact him. He added that if a tower would like to host one of the Quarter Peals they should let him know (together with the dates the bells would be available) and he will try to arrange a band. Immediate offers to host were made by Metfield, Chediston and Mendham.

6. Recruitment and Training - update on the Sole Bay Ringing Hub

Sue Child (SC) updated the meeting on the continuing progress and evolution of the Sole Bay Ringing Hub initiative. She reminded the meeting that the Hub operated on most Saturday mornings between 9.30am and 11.30am at Reydon, although on Saturday, 18th May the Hub would be visiting Holy Trinity Church at Blythburgh. SC invited all present to visit the Hub, even if only to have a coffee and see it in operation. She explained that, while the Hub's focus remained the training and development of novice ringers, it had also evolved to embrace the tutoring of more experienced ringers on improving their handling skills. Its success to date (including mention in *Tower Talk*) had been due to the significant investment made by the teachers who supported the initiative. She added that she was in the process of organising an ART course for the District. SC mentioned that anyone wanting further information about the Hub can contact her using the email address nerandt@suffolkbells.org.uk.

7. Planning for the future

DG said that those members who attended the last ADM will be aware that various District and Guild Committee posts need to be filled each year and he was looking for candidates for the next ADM to be held in November 2024. He added that the next meeting of the District Committee is going to focus on this issue. DG encouraged those present at the meeting and others who they ring with to consider becoming more involved in District and Guild matters. He said he was conscious that some members may not be clear what might be involved or the level of support that new recruits will be given. His aim was to see a greater degree of transparency about the nature of the roles. He emphasised that District Committee meetings were informal.

8. Forthcoming events

DG invited Kate Gill, District Secretary, (KG) to provide details of forthcoming events in the District.

KG listed these as follows:

- a) Saturday, 8th June - a District outing will take place to towers at Wickham Skeith (6 bells), Gislingham (8 bells) and Redgrave (6 bells). Details can be found within the "What's On" page on the Guild website.
- b) Friday, 5th July to Sunday, 14th July - District Quarter Peal "fortnight".
- c) Saturday, 10th August - a District walk, picnic and ringing afternoon is being arranged involving two towers (currently planned for Wissett and Chediston). The afternoon would begin at Wissett and return there after visiting Chediston ending the day at a local pub.
- d) Saturday, 14th September - District mini-ring practice at Halesworth and Quarterly Meeting. PJG added that the mini-ring would be present in St Mary's Church at Halesworth from Saturday, 7th September (Halesworth Heritage Open Weekend) to Saturday, 14th September. Ringers wishing to use the mini-ring during the week were welcome to do so.
- e) Saturday, 12th October - District ringing at Mendham.
- f) Saturday, 9th November - District ADM at Southwold.

9. Election of additional District representative to the Guild Management Committee

DG explained that the District membership is entitled to elect up to 5 of its number to act as its representatives on the Guild Management Committee. At present there were only three District representatives, namely PG, Sarah Plummer and Joanna Wilkinson, leaving two vacancies. DG reported that Erika Clarke (**EMC**) had been persuaded to stand for election as an additional District representative and, having been proposed for election by PJG and seconded by Tom Grady, EMC was duly elected by the meeting to that role. No other candidates came forward for election to fill the remaining post.

10. Any other business

No other business was raised by those in attendance and so the formal business of the meeting was concluded at 6.05pm. DG thanked KG and her husband, Robert, and all their helpers for dealing with the arrangements for the day and organising the bring and share ringing tea, PJG for overseeing and managing the striking competition, TM and CB for judging the competition and Theberton church and village hall for hosting the event. He then invited the judges to announce the results of the day's striking competition.

Results of the North East District Striking Competition held on 11th May 2024 commencing at 3.30pm

PJG introduced the judges, TM from Headcorn, Kent and CB from Staplehurst, Kent and invited them to announce the results.

CB began by thanking the District for the invitation to judge the day's event and for the refreshments. He remarked that it was a credit to the District to see so many teams enter the competition. He then explained the approach the judges had taken to the marking and proceeded to provide constructive feedback on each band's performance.

TM announced the results to be as follows:

Position	Team Name	Faults	Rang
1st	Halesworth	23	7th (Method)
2nd	Beccles A	26	8th (Method)
3rd	Yoxford	33	6th (Call Changes)
4th	Aldeburgh	40	4th (Method)
5th	Beccles B	71	9th (Call Changes)
6th	Metfield 2	78.5	5th (Call Changes)
7th	Reydon	88.5	1st (Call Changes)
8th	Metfield 1	101	2nd (Call Changes)

9th	Southwold	156 (DNF)	3rd (Method)
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PJG thanked the judges and asked that they present the trophies to the winning bands.

Mike Peters was presented with the Call Change Trophy for Yoxford and the band were congratulated on their win.

Judith Raven was presented with the Trevor Hughes Trophy for Halesworth and the band were congratulated on their win.

PJG announced the winners of the Harry Archer Memorial Trophy for the “most improved band” were Reydon, noting that the band included three ringers who were new to ringing since this time last year. The trophy was presented to Ian Watson for Reydon and the band were duly congratulated.

Upon conclusion of the day, each of the judges were presented with a small gift by way of thanks.

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Chair