

Minutes of the South East District Quarterly Meeting at Hollesley, 1st March 2014

Welcome; The Chairman welcomed the meeting to Hollesley. He thanked The Rev'd Ruth Hatchett for taking the service, Micky McBurnie for playing the organ and to the Hollesley ringers for the excellent tea. The Chairman also welcomed visiting ringers from Metfield to the meeting.

Apologies; Apologies were received from Stephen Cheek, Muriel Page, Marian Saker, Mike and Jenny Warren, Tim Stanford and Glenys Fear.

Remembrances; There were no remembrances from the district. George Pipe and John Girt spoke of their memories of Roger Peters from the North East District. The meeting stood in a moments silence in his memory.

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting from September 2014; There were no matters arising from the minutes. The minutes were accepted by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Election of New Members; There were three new members proposed for election;

Matt Newson for Otley, proposed by Jimmy Wightman and seconded by Jenny Scase

Rev'd Ruth Hatchett and Clare Goodchild for Hollesley, proposed by Alan McBurnie and seconded by Micky McBurnie

The members were duly elected by the meeting. All of the new members were present at the meeting, and the Chairman welcomed them to the Guild.

George Pipe stood and spoke to the meeting regarding a former member of the Guild, Geoffrey Page. He has recently moved back to Mendlesham, and wished to be listed as a member at Debenham. John Taylor stated that a membership form for Mr Page had been sent to the Guild Secretary.

Reports;

i) **Ringing Master;** The Ringing Master commented on the practices for the year so far. Henley was well supported in January, and it was nice for the local ringers to have district members present to support them as they progress. February's practice at Marlesford was again well supported. There were no matters arising from his report.

ii) **Treasurer;** The end of year funds were lower than stated at the December meeting. This is due to loans to the District account to help pay tower donations. The Treasurer suggested that we pay tower donations slightly differently, by preparing the donations in advance. Members will still put their 50p's into the district pot, and at Quarterly/Annual meetings the tower donation will be included in the fee for tea. The Treasurer stated that there was approximately £18 in the District tub, showing that donations exceeded the turnout for today. Junior, senior and over 75's membership is higher than last year, with Life Honorary and Non Resident

members remaining the same. The Chairman encouraged members to pay their subscriptions on time to avoid unnecessary aggravation for the Treasurer, and reminded members that they could not vote at the Guild AGM and were not covered by Guild insurance until their subscription was paid.

- iii) **R&T;** There had been no R meeting since the last District quarterly meeting. Alan McBurnie spoke about the continuing success of the ITTS scheme, and stated the next course at Hollesley was fully booked. If anybody wished to take part in the scheme they should ask Alan for details.
- iv) **GMC;** The Chairman reported to the meeting that the BAC is looking for a new chairman, and that there is currently no one in line for the Technical Advisors role. 4 grants had been awarded to Rattlesden, Wickham Market, Halesworth and Horringer. The Guild AGM next month is to be held at Stowmarket, and members who intend on attending need to book teas as this will be a hot meal. The Chairman stated that he will be leading discussions on the future of ringing after the Guild AGM.
- v) **BAC;** Nothing was reported from the BAC.
- vi) **Young Ringers;** The Chairman reported on the progress of the Young Ringers. He reported that the main focus for now will be on the National Youth Striking Competition to be held in July at Worcester. Young Ringers events are published on the website, and members should endeavour to help out and encourage them where they can. Mike Whitby congratulated George Salter on his recent achievements in conducting peals of Stedman Cinques and London Royal.

St Nicholas, Ipswich; John Girt addressed the meeting regarding the state of the bells at St Nicholas. He was invited there at Christmas time and felt that they were very hard work. He wondered whether there was anything that could be done, considering that St Nicholas is a Diocesan centre. The Chairman reported that the Committee had agreed that something needed to be done, and that the District should ask the BAC advisor to report on the condition of the bells. This could then be presented to the Diocese for them to consider whether the Guild could carry out necessary works, or whether the Diocese wanted to fund the work themselves. The Chairman said that he will approach the BAC with regards to the initial assessment.

Any Other Business; Richard Munnings stated that he and Ruth Munnings currently have no internet access, so to contact them by phone.

The Chairman congratulated Sean Antonioli, of St Mary-le-Tower, and his wife Louisa on the birth of their son, William.

The meeting wished John Taylor Happy Birthday!

Evening ringing is to follow the meeting until 8.30pm. The meeting closed at 6.36pm