

Minutes of the South East District QDM on June 7th 2014, at St Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich

Welcome; The Chairman began by thanking Revd Canon Charles Jenkin for conducting the service, George Pipe in helping to arrange the service, Christopher Moore for playing the organ, and Diana Pipe, Jane Harper, Claire Potts and Sonia Docherty for the excellent tea. The collection for the tea was £59, of which tower donations were deducted with the remainder being donated to the Bell Restoration Fund.

Apologies for Absence; Apologies were received from Kate Eagle, Sally and Alan Munnings, Marian Saker, Mary and Chris Garner, George and Colin Salter, Glenys Fear, Muriel Page, George Pipe, Tim Stanford and Stephen Cheek.

Minutes of the previous QDM at Hollesley; The minutes were accepted by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising from the Minutes; The membership form for Geoffrey Page had been redone, ready for his election to the Guild.

Election of New Members; There were three new members proposed for election - Carol and Eric Brown for Crettingham and Geoffrey Page for Debenham. The new members were duly elected by the meeting.

Reports;

i) Ringing Master; The Ringing Master commented on the practices since the previous meeting. Earl Soham in April was well attended, finishing off with a drink at The Victoria in the village. May saw two teams from Pettistree winning the method and call change trophies, with thanks to Glenys Fear, David and Gill Twissell for providing ringers with tea throughout the afternoon and setting out the bring and share tea. The Guild Striking Competitions were well represented by the District, unfortunately one team from the District was unable to compete in the eight bell competition due to the competition overrunning.

ii) Treasurer; The Treasurer stated that there were not excessive funds in the District account. There was £6.95 in the donations pot. Guild Subscriptions have been paid by 78% of District members, with 67 members still to pay.

iii) Recruitment and Training; There had still not been a meeting, but the Ringing Master had been corresponding with Ruth Suggett regarding the ITTS Scheme.

iv) GMC; The Chairman told the meeting that Revd Brian Redgers will be stepping down from the GMC. The Chairman thanked Brian for all his years service on the GMC, and said he will be sorely missed. It was proposed by the Chairman that the Ringing Master wished to take his post on the GMC, which was seconded by Diana Pipe. The meeting carried this proposal.

v) BAC; The BAC met recently and were addressed by Brian Morton of Morton Partnership, structural and civil engineers. John Girt asked if any progress had been made with regards to St Nicholas. There has been correspondence with the local ringer, who was not aware that there may be problems with the bells. It was felt that perhaps the Diocese needs to be made aware of the problems, and it was decided that these concerns first needed to be addressed at the GMC.

vi) Young Ringers; The Chairman told the meeting that preparations for the National Youth Striking Competition were going well. 32 young ringers will go along to Worcester to take part and join in with different activities running throughout the day. George Salter is organising an outing to London for the young ringers. The Chairman encouraged the meeting to look out for young ringers events and to support them where possible.

Christmas Ringing 2014; The Chairman stated that Revd Brian Redgers would not be organising this event, but it was felt that we would still like to continue this as an annual event. The Chairman said that this would be raised again at the next quarterly meeting, and to think about who could take over the organisation for this year. The Chairman thanked Brian for all his hard work organising this for so many years, and thanked him for the instructions to pass onto the next organiser. John Girt stated that there would be no parking available at St Margaret's School this year, but St Margaret's Church would be available for refreshments after the Christmas ringing.

Guild Striking Competitions; The Committee met just after the Guild Striking Competitions in May, and it was felt that something needs to be done about the structure of the day. The Chairman said that he would put forward thoughts to the GMC for their consideration, and will report back on this at the next meeting.

Any Other Business; David Clough has asked to advertise a service at Hacheston on 13th July at 11am to welcome the new ringers in the benefice, and to thank Revd Canon Harry Edwards for all his help with the restoration.

The Ringing Master hoped that the August quarter peals would be successful, and to look out for more details on the what's on and Guild website.

David Stanford spoke about progress at Clopton. He has had 7 people learn to ring, with only 1 not continuing to learn. If anybody wished to help out at their practice night, contact David for details.

Jenny Scase reminded the meeting that Veteran's Day would be on Wednesday 9th July, and would check with Muriel Page that all arrangements were made as Muriel has been unwell. The Chairman asked Jenny to pass on best wishes from the meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm, with evening ringing at St Mary-le-Tower until 8.30pm.