

Minutes of the South East District Extraordinary Meeting held at Debenham 2nd March 2013

Election of District Chairman: The Ringing Master began by thanking the Vicar and organist at Debenham, and by thanking those who organised the tea before the meeting.

The Ringing Master explained the formalities of the extraordinary meeting and asked for nominations for the position of District Chairman. Robert Scase proposed Mary Garner, and was seconded by Ray Lewis. There were no other nominations. The meeting agreed unanimously to elect Mary Garner, after which the extraordinary meeting was closed by the Ringing Master.

Minutes of the South East District Quarterly Meeting

Welcome: The Chairman welcomed the meeting to Debenham, and thanked them for electing her as Chairman. An apologies sheet was circulated, and a card for George Pipe to wish him well.

Apologies for Absence: Apologies were given by several members, see attached sheet.

Remembrances: The Chairman spoke of the death of Howard Egglestone, Master of the Suffolk Guild from 1969 to 1974. Jenny Scase, John Girt and Muriel Page spoke of their memories of Howard, and the meeting stood in a moments silence in his memory.

Minutes of Quarterly Meeting in September 2012: Names were changed on the list of apologies. Brian Redgers proposed the adoption of the minutes, the meeting agreed to accept the minutes, and the Chairman signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Election of New Members: There were 3 new members proposed for election;

Alan Stevenson and Adrian Craddock for Bredfield, both proposed by Ann Pilgrim and seconded by Mike Pilgrim

Francis Davis for Felixstowe, proposed by Brian Aldous and seconded by Jackie Savage

The new members were duly elected by the meeting. The Chairman handed out certificates to members from Helmingham, Debenham, East Bergholt, Offton and St Mary-le-Tower.

District Striking Competition: Presently the method and call change bands are judged together. Jenny Scase put forward the suggestion that the method and call change bands can still be judged together, but that there should be a separate trophy for the highest ranked call change band. Jenny said that she would be willing to donate a trophy for this if it were to be accepted, and asked that the trophy be dedicated to the memory of her brother, David Barnard. The Chairman agreed that this would be a fitting tribute, and proposed that this be accepted. The meeting agreed unanimously.

Reports:

- i) **Ringing Master:** The Ringing Master summarised the practices since the AGM in December. Framlingham in January, and Stutton and Harkstead in February were well supported, and commented that it was good to see a good mix of people at both events. The report was proposed by Richard Munnings, and seconded by Chris Garner
- ii) **Treasurer:** The treasurer began by pointing out some discrepancies in the accounts, and explaining that donations for towers were made up before the practice instead of being sorted on the day. The membership total for last year was 297, gaining some members but the district did lose membership from 1 tower. 56% of subscriptions had been received so far. The collection from the service was £50.79. The Chairman proposed the Treasurer's report.
- iii) **Recruitment and Training:** There has been no R & T committee meeting, but there is still a big focus on the ITTS scheme. There had been a Module 2 training day at the Norman Tower on February 9th. The Guild Ringing Master hoped to have another catch up session with ITTS teachers, mentors and learners to see how they are progressing towards the end of April. This report was proposed by the Chairman.
- iv) **Guild Management Committee:** Brian Redgers highlighted 2 items for the attention of the District. Nominations for Guild Chairman need to be considered for the AGM on April 6th, and subscriptions will remain the same for next year. The report was proposed by Robert Scase, and seconded by Jenny Scase.
- v) **Belfry Advisory Committee:** Chris McArthur reported to the Chairman prior to the meeting that there was nothing to report to the District from the BAC.

District Representation on the GMC: The Guild Chairman stood up and spoke about discussion regarding the set up of the Guild and GMC representatives. The GMC has proposed that the deanery reps will no longer have to sit on the GMC, but each district will have up to 5 members to represent their District. The Guild Chairman explained that, although in the SE District the deaneries are fairly evenly sized, some smaller deaneries in other Districts struggled to find enough representatives to fill the roles. The idea is to have people to sit on the committee who want to contribute to the running of the Guild.

John Girt asked whether towers could move between the deaneries. The Guild Chairman clarified that this was still possible with the consent of both deaneries concerned and the GMC. Clarification of the deaneries can be found on the Guild website, but not from the Guild report map.

The Guild Chairman encouraged the meeting to come to the Guild AGM on 6th April. As well as the meeting itself, there will be a talk discussing 'What are Church Bells for?'

Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise covered: There were no matters arising not otherwise covered.

Any Other Business: The Guild Chairman highlighted the North East District 10 bell practices at Beccles and Stradbroke. Details will be on the What's On and Guild website. Anyone welcome at Beccles, method ringing only at Stradbroke.

No District practice in April because of AGM, striking competition in May at Brandeston. June will be at Barking and Coddenham, where there will be a brief meeting with bring and share tea. The Secretary has contacted the towers, and will follow up this correspondence.

Guild Dinner tickets are selling well, there are only a few left for those who have not got them already.

Jenny Scase highlighted the practices at Helmingham once a month to encourage learners, held on the 3rd Friday of the month from 7.30pm until 9pm.

The Ringing Master spoke about Quarter Peal Fortnight, and wants to encourage as many quarter peals in as many different towers as possible. This will be from the 19th October to 3rd November.

The District Outing was a great success last November, and this year will be held on 2nd November

Chris Garner asked that if anybody wanted to be part of the email list, that they should pass their email address to him. This information would not be passed on or displayed on emails.

Evening ringing will be at Helmingham until 9pm.

The meeting closed at 6.49pm