

Minutes of the South East District QDM on Saturday 7th March 2015 at Stonham Aspal

Welcome; The Chairman welcomed the meeting to Stonham Aspal, also welcoming the Guild Ringing Master and members from the North East District to the meeting. The Chairman thanked the Rev'd Philip Payne for taking the service, to Alan Page for playing the organ and to Jenny Scase and Margaret Cherry for making cups of tea.

Apologies; Apologies for absence were received from Stephen Cheek, Mary Garner, Chris Garner, Kate Eagle, Glenys Fear, Ray Lewis, Brenda Claridge, George Pipe, Marian Saker and David Stanford.

Remembrances; No members had passed away since the previous meeting.

Minutes from the Previous Meeting; The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman.

Matters Arising from the Minutes; There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Election of New Members; There were 3 new members proposed for election; Emma Goodchild (Junior) and Ryan Doctor (Adult) for Hollesley, proposed by Peter Harper and seconded by Jane Harper. Lorraine Day for Barking, proposed by Neville Proctor and seconded by Tom Scase. All new members were duly elected to the Guild.

Reports;

Ringing Master; The Ringing Master reported that practices had been well supported since the Annual Meeting. The practice in January at Copdock and Tattingstone was well attended, and although a rope broke at Copdock there was still some good ringing achieved. The February practice was once again well supported. The Ringing Master thanked members for their support, and hoped to continue this throughout the year.

Treasurer; The Treasurer stated that this would be her final report after 5 years in office, and thanked the District for their support over the years. The Treasurer also reported that she had to put money into the District account, and it seemed that donations from members at practices does not correspond to what it should be. The Treasurer also compiled an analysis of membership for the District stating that there are currently subscriptions for 294 (plus the new members from this meeting) to collect for this year.

Mike Whitby asked if the Treasurer had been reimbursed for the loan she made to the District. The Treasurer said that she had not been reimbursed, but was not concerned about being repaid. Mike Whitby urged members to contribute something towards repaying the money owed to the Treasurer. The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for her hard work, and the meeting showed their appreciation for this.

John Girt asked why it was necessary to keep District funds at no more than £50? The Guild Ringing Master said that because of the Guild's charity status, any surplus funds needed to be

transferred to the Guild account. The Chairman suggested that this should be addressed at the next GMC meeting, as the District should not be left short of funds to pay for tower donations. The Chairman told the meeting that Eric Brown (Cretingham) was willing to stand for election for the post of Treasurer, and was proposed by The Chairman (Ralph Earey) and seconded by the Secretary (Ruth Munnings). The meeting unanimously elected Eric Brown as Treasurer.

Recruitment and Training; The Chairman invited the Guild Ringing Master to report on the R & T committee. The Guild Ringing Master stated that there had been no meeting since our District ADM, but hopes that there will be a meeting in the near future.

GMC; The Guild Ringing Master gave a brief account of the previous GMC meeting. Guild subscriptions will remain the same for the forthcoming year. Members will be asked at the Guild AGM whether the age brackets for reduced and free subscriptions should be altered or to remain the same. Arrangements for the Guild Striking competition were in place, beginning at 10am at Rattlesden on Saturday 16th May. A grant of £1500 had been awarded to Ipswich, St Mary-le-Tower for repainting the frame and rebushing the front 8 clappers. There has been no further progress regarding St Nicholas, Ipswich. It has been decided that it would not be wise to proceed with any further enquiries, unless the BAC or Guild is approached to do this. The Guild Ringing Master stated that the R & T committee was discussed, but had nothing further to add from his original report (above).

John Girt asked whether there had been any further development of the ITTS project in the Guild, as this was not highlighted in his original report. The Guild Ringing Master added that there had been 8 sessions within the Guild, and that there was a nucleus of new trainers developing, particularly in the North West District.

Mike Whitby added whether it would be beneficial to add some of these new trainers as contacts onto the Guild Website. He also asked that the Public Relations Officer's landline number be amended.

BAC; There was not much to report from the District. Aside from the grant to Ipswich, St Mary-le-Tower, the work on Wickham Market bells has taken longer than expected. It is hoped that the bells will be back by June.

Young Ringers; George Salter gave a report on practices and the Ringing World National Youth Competition. Practices had been well supported by ringers throughout the year, with practices being held around the Guild to encourage young ringers from all corners of the Guild to attend. There will be a practice at Bury St Edmunds on Sunday March 15th, which George urged members to come and support the young ringers to gain experience ringing on 12. George thanked the members for their support of the young ringers events.

The Guild Ringing Master thanked George Salter for all his hard work organising these events, and added that it is encouraging that we have a group of young ringers that do not just ring call changes, but can also ring methods. George Salter emphasised the importance at the practices of good striking, whether it be call changes or methods.

The Chairman thanked George for his report, and urged members to continue to support the young ringers events.

District and Guild Officers; The Chairman told the meeting that the Secretary would not be standing for re-election at the ADM in December. He said that a job specification has been devised to give anybody interested what the post entails, and if anyone would like to have more information then ask the Chairman or Secretary for details. The District is still in need of a District Technical Officer.

The positions of Guild Secretary and Treasurer will also need to be filled at the Guild AGM in April. The Chairman asked the meeting to think about possible volunteers for these positions.

Guild AGM - Saturday 11th April 2015; The Chairman confirmed that all arrangements for the Guild AGM were in place and as follows;

Ringing at Falkenham 11am - Midday. Ringing at Felixstowe 3.30pm - 4.30pm, followed by service, tea and meeting in the Church. Evening ringing would take place at Felixstowe until 8.30pm. The Chairman also confirmed that there would be a Guild Photo, taken by Peter Davies (Ipswich, St Mary-le-Tower). There is a break between the towers because George Pipe will be exhibiting his collection of ringing memorabilia in the Masonic Hall near to Felixstowe Church, which is still in need of volunteers to act as stewards for this. If any members feel able to do this then please let the Chairman know.

John Girt asked whether there would be a fringe event, and the Chairman stated that there would not be one this year.

Jane Harper asked if members would be willing to provide contributions for the tea, then could they please let her know what they would be prepared to make.

Any Other Business; The District Striking Competition in May would not be held at Otley because the village hall was already booked. The Secretary advised the meeting that she had enquired whether Monewden would be available for the competition, and that she was still waiting for confirmation regarding this.

The Chairman asked the meeting to keep Mike Warren in their thoughts as he is unwell.

The meeting closed at 6.57pm. Evening ringing took place at Stonham Aspal after the meeting.