

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS CITY BRANCH

Hon. Secretary, Mrs. C. M. A. Lane
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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at St. Mary, Kidlington on 12th November 2005.

The Chairman Reverend Anthony Ellis asked the meeting if, in the absence of the Secretary, Graham Nichols, they would agree to the minutes being taken by Catherine Lane. The members confirmed their agreement and the meeting proceeded.

There were twenty-three members present.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from David Lane, John Beale, Peter Lloyd, Sarah Franklin, David Barrington, John Lonsbrough, Jonathan Cresshull and Hazel Rothera.

2. Approval of Informal Minutes of the Half-Year Meeting held at Wolvercote.

The members acknowledged that the meeting had taken place but no minutes had been recorded. The minutes of the 2004 AGM had not been accepted and signed. With the approval of the members these were then accepted and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

The members were not able to raise any matters as there were no minutes to which they could refer.

4. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

5. Election of New Members

| | <i>Proposer</i> | <i>Seconder</i> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Kidlington | | |
| Eleanor Williamson (re-election) | T. Peter Franklin | Rachel Woodford |
| Carole Beckley | | |
| Rebecca Smith | | |
| | | |
| St. Giles', Oxford | | |
| Gwyneth Guy | Simon Edwards | Bernard Masterman |
| Helen Forshaw | | |

Maarit Kivilo
Laura Cairns

The above ringers were elected.

6. Presentation of Certificates

The Chairman presented the Branch Striking Competition Certificates:

- 1st St. Aldate's
- 2nd Kidlington
- 3rd Headington

The Chairman congratulated the bands on the high standard achieved in the Branch competition; St. Aldate's had entered the Guild 6 bell competition and came fourth.

7. Reports from Officers

Ringling Master

Hugh Deam informed the meeting that he was not given to long speeches. The year started with some confusion but improved steadily as it went on.

The schedule for 2006 has already been circulated and it continues to reflect the demand from most towers for training mornings.

The outing on the second Saturday in March will be to the Cotswolds. The attendance at this outing will determine the format of the autumn outing because experienced 8 and 10 bell ringers are needed to enable an acceptable standard of ringing to be achieved at towers with higher numbers of bells.

Branch calendars are available to purchase, the proceeds of which go to Branch funds. It is necessary to sell 40 calendars to break even. Hugh implored everyone to purchase one.

Hugh emphasized that a lot of events had taken place throughout the year and that he would like to see everyone at least one event during 2006.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Branch, thanked Hugh for all the effort and energy that he put into working for the benefit of the members and their ringing activities.

Secretary

There was no Secretary's report.

Treasurer

Simon Edwards circulated the financial report.

He said that the funds were slightly down due in part to additional expenditure on the Whitechapel course. There was an explanation from Jonathan Beale with regard to the course fees for Whitechapel: Peter Lloyd and Tony Stewart had attended although the monies had been transacted through Jonathan Beale.

Andy Dunn queried the website expenses. After some discussion it became clear that some Roadshow expenses had been included under website expenses and that the accounts would be adjusted to reflect this. **Action: Simon Edwards.**

8. Insurance

Roy Jones, who regularly corresponds with other towers, has had increasing correspondence regarding insurance.

Towers are requesting confirmation of personal insurance for all ringers and parental permission and CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) for under-18 year olds; they are also emphasizing that ringers come at 'their own risk'. Roy confirmed to members that their Guild Membership fees cover them for travel to and from ringing activities as well as ringing at any tower. This membership is valid for all ringers between the ages of 8 and 80.

There have also been towers (i.e. PCCs) that have insisted that visiting bands are liable for any minor damage. Roy Jones had discussed this with Nigel Harrison the Guild Secretary.

The Chairman, who is well qualified to direct members on this matter, informed the meeting that most church policies have an excess which means that ringers would have to pay for minor damage themselves.

Proposal:

The tradition of a collection of approximately £1 per member present should be taken at every Branch training event, practice or meeting and put into a fund that would provide for any accidental damage (e.g. broken stays) that might occur in another tower.

Proposer: Katie Lane

Secunder: Paul Lucas

Roy Jones informed the meeting that a tower within the City Branch insists that all ringers are over 18. The members wished to know which tower this was, and were informed that it was North Hinksey. It was wholeheartedly agreed that this was an unreasonable demand and did not promote the philosophy of bellringers and bellringing. The Chairman asked the members if they would permit him, in his capacity of Rural Dean, to raise the matter with the incumbent at North Hinksey.

9. Bell Maintenance

Jonathan Beale asked if it would be possible for more people to attend the Whitechapel maintenance course. The Treasurer said that the Branch could sustain the additional expense and Katie Lane reminded members that the monies in the Branch funds were for training purposes.

10. Election of Officers.

The Chairman stepped down and Roy Jones, Vice Chairman took over the meeting.

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Chairman | Proposer | Secunder |
| Reverend Anthony Ellis | Leon Thompson | Andy Dunn |

The newly elected Chairman resumed the Chair.

| | | |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|
| Vice Chairman | Proposer | Secunder |
| Roy Jones | Paul Lucas | June Steele |

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Secretary | | |
| Catherine Lane | Ron Burgess | Anthony Hughes |

| | | |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| Treasurer | | |
| Simon Edwards | Paul Lucas | John Pusey |

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Ringing Master | | |
| Hugh Deam | Jonathan Beale | Bernard Masterman |

Branch Representative

Anthony Hughes Hugh Deam June Steele

Fund Raising Officer

Graham Nichols Hugh Deam Roy Jones

There was a request from the floor for confirmation that the nominee would be available to carry out any activity and there was reassurance that Hugh Deam would assume any required responsibilities that Graham Nichols could not fulfill.

Web Master

Andy Dunn Leon Thompson Paul Lucas

Branch Training Officer

Jonathan Beale Leon Thompson Janice Knowles

Independent Assessor

Anthony Hughes Hugh Deam Jonathan Beale

The above nominees were all elected.

11. Fund Raising

Hugh Deam reported that the income from can collection was reduced.

He suggested that a raffle should take place at the Half Year meeting and that the calendar sales should be the priority at the AGM.

The collection at practices and meeting should be reinstated and that he had endeavored to do this during the later part of the year.

He informed the meeting that a suggestion had been made by Graham Nichols that a CD of ringing in all the Branch towers should be investigated.

He hoped that Horspath would be able to commit to the wine and cheese evening that they had suggested and that this could be organized in addition to the Garden Party.

12. Educational Courses

Easthampstead: there are no candidates at this time.

Whitechapel Bell Maintenance: this appears to be more important to the Branch at this moment in time and monies will be available for two to attend in October 2006; applications were invited.

13. Any Other Business

The December practice at Wheatley has been cancelled.

3rd December training morning at Iffley will take place between 1100 and 1230.

The July practice at St. Thomas' will take place on the first Saturday not the second as advertised.

The Secretary told the members that all information would be sent to tower correspondents by email and that they would be responsible for providing hard copy for their towers. Every member with an email address, forwarded to Katie, could have an electronic copy of all Branch and general Guild correspondence. She reminded members to sign the attendance book and contribute to the Branch funds

A general thank you for an excellent tea (and splendid bells) was given to Kidlington ringers.