

# OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD CITY BRANCH

## Annual General Meeting - 14<sup>th</sup> November 2009 St. Mary the Virgin, Wheatley

The Branch Chairman, Rev. Canon Anthony Ellis welcomed to the meeting, the Guild Hon. Gen. Sec. Hilarie Rogers and John White of the Chiltern Branch.

He then thanked Wheatley for arranging the AGM and tea.

As no service had been organised there followed a few words and prayers led by the Chairman.

There were 17 members present, representing Marston, Kidlington, Stanton-St-John, Headington, St. Giles, St. Aldate's and Garsington.

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Robert Newton, Guild Master, Simon Edwards, David Lane, T. Peter Franklin, Jonathan Cresshull, Robin Hall, Richard Youdale, Paul Harden, Claire Fairbairn and Susan King.

### **2. Approval of minutes of the half-year meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May at St. Nicholas, Marston.**

These minutes were circulated before the meeting; they were approved by the members and signed by the chairman as being a true record.

*Proposed by Roy Jones*

*Seconded by Katie Lane*

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising that would not be dealt with in AOB.

### **4. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence and it was agreed that this item should be removed from the agenda in future unless there was correspondence to be dealt with.

### **5. Election of New Members**

The following members were proposed for election:

Angharad Jeffery, Garsington

Mike Rothery, Garsington

Eileen Frazer, Garsington

Brian Hegarty, Garsington

Jonathan Hegarty, Garsington

John Hall, Garsington

*Proposed by Richard Jeffery.*

*Seconded by Katie Lane*

Nick Boyes, Headington

Virginia Boyes, headington

*Proposed by Paul Lucas*

*Seconded by Kate Crosby*

These ringers were duly elected to membership.

*These elections will take effect on receipt of the subscription by the Branch Treasurer Simon Edwards.*

## **6. Presentation of Striking Competition Certificates by the Chairman**

The Branch striking competition was held at Stanton Harcourt and the certificates were presented to:

- 1<sup>st</sup> St Aldates
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kidlington
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Marston with Headington

## **7. Reports from Officers**

a) Hon. Secretary

### **Guild Subscriptions**

At the October Branch Secretaries' meeting none of those present felt the need for an increase to cover their branch's operating expenses.

Secretaries were reminded that subscriptions for 2010 will be set at the General Committee Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November, and it would be prudent to wait until after that date before asking members to pay.

### **Good ideas to share.**

Several of the branches circulate a regular Newsletter. Would it be the wish of City Branch members to have a newsletter of their own?

After discussion it was agreed that the City Branch website was an accurate reflection of branch activities and nothing else was required.

### **Membership certificates**

The secretary asked for names of ringers to be elected at the Half-Yearly meeting and the AGM to be sent to her no less than three weeks before either meeting so that certificates could be prepared for presentation at the meeting. There are concerns that some of the 130 members of the branch have never been seen outside their own tower and, as the Chairman indicated, it would be a pleasure to meet them at meetings. The proposer of a member for election should encourage their nomination to at least attend the meeting at which they are elected.

b) Hon. Treasurer

Funds stand at £1,880 - about £250 up on this time last year.

There are 130 members. This figure is up from 112 last year and 100 the year before that.

No contributions to course expenses have been requested in the current year.

Donations of £74 each have been sent to the Bell and Restoration Funds.

In short a typical year with no 'lumpy' items of income or expenditure.

Accounts will be presented as at 31 December as normal.

c) Ringing Master

The year has been another typical year with plenty of outings and practices which are maturing into a pattern of 6 and 8 bells. Monday evenings have been used to help at Garsington and in other towers outside the branch, and are well attended; this has helped to bring the standard up in a lot of places. Garsington has benefited especially and will have a competent band within the year.

d) Representative

There was no report from the branch representative.

The chairman stood down from office while the deputy chairman took over the meeting for the election of the Branch Chairman.

## **8. Election of Officers**

a) Chairman Anthony Ellis  
*Prop. Roy Jones* *Sec. Paul Lucas*

The Rev. Canon Anthony Ellis was unanimously re-elected as Chairman of the City Branch.

All the other officers were put forward for re-election:

b) Deputy Chairman Roy Jones  
*Prop. Bernard Masterman* *Sec. Graham Nichols*

a) Hon. Secretary Katie Lane  
*Prop. Roy Jones* *Sec. John Pusey*

b) Hon. Treasurer Simon Edwards  
*Prop. Andy Dunn* *Sec. John Pusey*

c) Ringling Master Hugh Deam  
*Prop. Roy Jones* *Sec. Graham Nichols*

d) Representative David Lane  
*Prop. Katie Lane* *Sec. Andy Dunn*

The Hon Guild Sec advised the members that it is entitled to two representatives. (After the meeting Judy Kirby expressed an interest and the secretary forwarded the papers for the Guild Autumn General Committee Meeting.)

e) Fund Raising Officer Graham Nichols  
*Prop. Roy Jones* *Sec. Richard Jeffery*

f) Webmaster Andy Dunn  
*Prop. Katie Lane* *Sec. Graham Nichols*

## **9. Any Other Business**

### *Striking Competition*

After discussion it was decided that any tower within the branch wishing to take part in the Guild 6 bell competition should inform the Ringing Master by 31<sup>st</sup> January. There would then be arranged either a mini striking competition, or the names of the towers would be selected by a draw.

An informal branch competition would take place as part of the half-yearly meeting.

### *Pudding Evening*

The pudding evening arranged by Marston ringers was very successful and would be repeated in 2010. The ringers made a donation to branch funds from the profits of the evening.

### *Fund Raising*

Graham Nichols continues to collect cans for recycling which makes a small amount every year.

The Car Boots sale season is closed for the winter but Graham Nichols will continue to attend them and made money for the branch. Donations are always welcome.

The Chairman thanked the Wheatley ringers for arranging the venue and the Church Warden for providing tea.