

# OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD CITY BRANCH

## Minutes

Half-Year Meeting - 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009  
St. Nicholas, Marston

There were 16 members present.

### 1. Apologies for absence:

Guild Master, Robert Newton; Guild Deputy Master, Alan Marchbank: Guild Hon. Sec. Hilarie Rogers: Graham and Stephen Nichols, Kate Crosby, Robert Bruce, John Beale, Serge Svegintzov.

### 2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at St. Mary the Virgin, Iffley 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

The minutes had been circulated to all tower correspondents, were taken as read and were approved.

### 3. Matters Arising

- o Extraordinary Meeting to accept the Branch Accounts. This meeting took place at Headington in February; the accounts were presented by the Treasurer, Simon Edwards and were accepted.

*Proposed: Anthony Ellis*

*Seconded: Hugh Deam*

- o Striking Competition Certificates: The certificates were not available and so it was agreed that Hugh Deam would send the details of the Branch striking competition to the Secretary who would prepare them for presentation at the AGM on 14 November 2009.

**Action: Hugh Deam and Katie Lane**

### 4. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

### 5. Election of New Members

Stanton- St- John

Tom Pugh, Chris Pugh, Francesca Corbett, Jane Appleton.

Headington

Esther Layton

St Aldate's

Alex Dicks, Chris Griggs, Catherine Marks

Wolvercote

Alicia Green

Unattached

Claire Bell

*Proposed: Katie Lane*

*Seconded: David Lane*

**6. Presentation of Certificates** None of the newly elected members were available to accept their certificate.

A discussion took place, prompted by the Chairman's concerned observation that it was very rare indeed for a newly elected member to be present at the Branch meeting. It was considered courteous and proper to attend when put up for election.

It was agreed that the election of new members should be an agenda item at the AGM and the Secretary should circulate a letter to all tower correspondents before the AGM in order to canvas reaction from members.

*Proposed: Anthony Ellis*

*Seconded: Roy Jones*

A First Quarter Peal certificate was awarded to Rebecca Smith (Kidlington) and received by T. Peter Franklin on her behalf as she was not present.

## **7. Reports from Officers**

Secretary:

The Secretary wanted confirmation that electronic correspondence was being received by the City Branch members. It is rare for her to see any sign of the information sent to towers on display, although some tower correspondents were assiduous in their role. Despite the usefulness of email she felt that hard copies of notices were often more effective. She was also concerned that the ever-increasing mail list was sent to spam boxes and therefore not received. There was a brief discussion, which was inconclusive, debating if the Secretary should send only to the correspondents and they would be required to send on to individual members of their tower.

The Secretary has Guild badges for sale.

Ringling Master:

The RM reported continued good attendance at ringing events and was pleased that there were now successful practices on 8 and 10 bells. The outing to Gloucester had been well attended and enjoyed. More events were planned for the remainder of the year, taking place regularly on the first and second weekends of each month.

Branch Representative:

The Guild 6 Bell Competition is scheduled to take place in the City Branch in 2010.

The Guild Festival will be in Oxford in 2011.

A proposal for deleting Honorary Membership and to replace it with "Honorary and Distinguished Membership" is to be put to the AGM on 16 May. A citation prepared by a proposer and seconder for a member to be elected as an Honorary and Distinguished Member will have to be approved by the Guild Master, Deputy Master and Honorary Secretary. After approval the name will go forward to the next Guild AGM for ratification. This rule change will be proposed and debated at the forthcoming AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2009.

## **8. Reports on Fund Raising Efforts**

Graham Nichols is now attending summer car-boot sales and requires items for sale. He would like any video tapes, black or recorded, trains, rolling stock, books, old cameras, which can all be sold for Branch funds. Aluminium cans can also be recycled to advantage.

Any further ideas for fund raising should be addressed to Graham on 01865 765594.

## **10. Approval of Candidates for Educational Courses**

Branch funds are available to members to attend courses run by the Guild; however very few members take up the offer to support further training.

It was agreed that the Secretary should prepare an application form for potential candidates to complete and return to the committee for consideration. Grants will not be released unless applications are made in writing.

**Action: Katie Lane**

## **11. Any Other Business**

### **o Striking Competition**

T. Peter Franklin asked for details about the Branch striking competition.

It will be held on 30 May at Stanton Harcourt at 6.30 p.m.

Bernard Masterman has agreed to be one of the judges.

It was agreed that the date has made it difficult for towers to find bands to compete. It was suggested that the decision taken some years ago to take the competition out of the Branch should be reversed and that it should take place within the Branch in future.

**Action: Committee to discuss the future of the Branch striking competition.**