

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Sonning Deanery Branch

Minutes of the Annual General meeting held at St. Mary's Hall, Wargrave
on Saturday February 17th 2007

The meeting commenced at 5.30 with a minutes silence for Elsie Smith, Walter Hillary and Mike Lakin.

We thanked the Wargrave ladies for an excellent tea and thanks to the Rector and Organist for the service and their hospitality.

Apologies were received from Clive Cadman, Bob Packer, Aidan and Liz Hopkins, Daniel Chafen, Louise Marshall, Stan Scott, Judith Bowler, Nigel and Margaret Bearne, Simon Graves, John Harper, Elisabeth French, John Tutchter, Sue Thomas, Derek Titford, Mary Ede and Pauline Needham.

Minutes of the last AGM were agreed and signed by Rachel. There were no matters arising.

Officers Reports

Treasurer's Report We now have separate funds for 'General' and 'Restoration'. As from the 1st January 2007 the General fund started from zero. Balance stands at £119.79 for the General fund and £1,458.84 for the Bell fund. The interest rate is c.4.5%.
Proposed John Harrison, seconded Chris Brown.

Eric requested that subs be in a.s.a.p. please. It was confirmed that the Guild was not a charity so our funds can't be gift aided. The Guild is liable for corporation tax on the bank interest earned depending on whether the interest is net or gross.

Secretaries' Report John Harrison's daytime practices continue to be beneficial and good progress being made. Training courses now listed plus a description and expected learning outcome of each information and application forms on the website.

Sonning bells were recorded to be used on a CD commissioned by The Bavarian State Radio. Aidan Hopkins has improved both branch website and branch e.mail distribution lists, which are proving useful for officers and members alike.

Thank you to Rachel for organising the branch outing to Surrey on February 3rd, approx 21 people attended and enjoyed by all.

The branch Dinner at The Elephant and Castle at Hurst has been changed from 10th March to October 13th, more details will be distributed at a later date.

Ringin Master's Report The report was read out by Rachel Moss. We rang 13 quarter peals in November and have rung for several major occasions. A number of members went to Oxford for the 125th Anniversary Festival. Four teams entered the 6 bell striking competition and branch practices have been varied this year. Seventy six quarter peals rung. New recruits the RM knew about at Arborfield, Binfield, Easthampstead, White Waltham and Wokingham All Saints. Binfield have six new starters following a successful recruitment campaign. Still many towers struggling to keep going. Need to consider how to recruit and to develop sound ringing in all towers if bell ringing is to survive in the Sonning Deanery.

Branch Representative's Report. There will not be an Easthampstead course, but an advanced training day instead.

Peal fees went up from 35p to 40p per rope. John Harrison commented about communication to achieve better co-ordination between Branch and Guild.

Training Co-ordinator. John Harrison reported that daytime practices varied between 6 to 8 people. We ring whatever people ask for including Stedman Doubles, Crayford Minor and Norwich Surprise Minor.

There are 14 courses on offer and you can view a waiting list. Courses planned for 2007 are Bell handling, Rope splicing (done); date is fixed for a listening course and organising a raising and lowering course. John is liaising with the Reading Branch to get courses underway and fill the final places. Request for volunteers please otherwise JH doing them all and taking longer to do. There were no further questions.

Book Stall. Ken Davenport took the books to three places last year. Sales amounted to £24.09. Stock value at end of Dec 2006 was £256.92. Stock considered unlikely to sell is kept separate and can be sold at a reduced price; one item was sold at a reduced price (50%). No new stock purchased. Cash in hand at end of the year for re-investment is £32.93.

Webmaster's report can be viewed on the website.

Newsletter Editor – no report

Guild Representatives' report was handed out and available upon request.

Election of New Members

Member	Tower	Proposer
Laura Glasby-Rogers	Twyford	Mike Dane
Derek Barrett (returned)	Finchampstead	Hugh Dempster
Chris Markham	Finchampstead	Hugh Dempster
Josh Parrott	Easthampstead	Steve Wells
Tom Kemp	Easthampstead	Steve Wells
Lucy Bricheno	All Saints, Wokingham	John Harrison
Michael Johnson	All Saints, Wokingham	John Harrison
Naomi G Andrew	White Waltham	Lesley Graves
Tina Lockie	Binfield	John Harper

Ratification of New Members

Claire Hodnett Ratification of election at Sandhurst BP in May
David Hazell Ratification of election at Sonning BP in July
Paul Gozzard Ratification of election at Wokingham All Saints in September
Proposed by Steve Wells
Seconded by Andrew Moss

Election of Chairman

Sue Davenport proposed Rachel Moss, seconded David Sullivan. No other proposals.

Treasurer

Eric Bowes willing to stand again. Proposed Rob Needham, seconded Lesley Graves.

Secretary

Rob Needham and Hilary Pollock (joint secretaries) both standing down. Chris Brown proposed Andrew Moss, seconded by Mary Elliott. Andrew agreed to take on the full post.

Ringing Master

John Harrison proposed Louise Marshall, seconded by David Sullivan on condition of her agreement to carry on.

Deputy Ringing Master

Andrew Moss proposed Lesley Graves, seconded by David Sullivan.

Branch Representatives

Sue Davenport proposed Andrew and Pam Elliston, seconded by Rob Needham.

Newsletter Editor

Daniel preferably would like to stand down. No proposals.
Rachel proposed a Newsletter every other month i.e. six a year.
Rachel proposed Daniel Chafen, seconded by David
No other nominations.

John Harrison wondered if regular news could go out via another circulation. Rachel suggested this could be discussed at an officers meeting.

Bookstall Holder

Ken Davenport standing down after 5 years in the post.

Rob Needham offered to take over. John Harrison proposed, seconded by Hilary Pollock.

Training Officer

Sue Davenport proposed John Harrison, seconded by Rob Needham.

Webmaster

John Harrison proposed Aidan Hopkins, seconded by Andrew Moss.

Independent Assessor

David Sullivan proposed Steve Wells, seconded by Judith Atkinson.

Branch Practices and Events Schedule

Most towers have confirmed.

Sue Davenport confirmed 8-bell striking competition in September. Bells available until 8pm.

No Branch Practice afterwards.

Rob Needham handed out the latest amended version to be put up in towers.

Fund raising/social events

Sonning tower is organising a Quiz night and posters handed out for each tower.

A Branch Dinner on 13th October at the Elephant and Castle, Hurst. More details at a later date.

A.O.B

Andrew Moss explained about the belfry award scheme within the guild; information from Andrew or John Davidge.

St Paul's have made a DVD showing a recording of the old bells plus photos of the new. £6.00 each.

Mike Dane reported that after Easter help would be needed for Twyford once he has left the area. Rachel M thanked Mike and a peal has been rung for him as a thank you.

John Harrison has a supply of glossy leaflets for notice boards etc.

Steve at Easthampstead announced a quiz night for next Saturday, tickets available. Proceeds for emergency lighting.

Rob Needham issued joining packs for the following new members

Claire Hodnett	Sonning
David Hazell	Waltham St Lawrence
Paul Gozzard	Arborfield

Striking Competition

Robert Newton (Deputy Guild Master) presented the certificates.

6 bell competition:

3 rd	Easthampstead
2 nd	All Saints, Wokingham
1 st	Sonning

8 bell competition:

3 rd	Easthampstead
2 nd	Sonning
1 st	All Saints, Wokingham

The meeting closed at 6.45pm