

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held at Lillingstone Lovell on 1st March 2014

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Brian Newman, welcomed everyone to Lillingstone Lovell for the Annual General Meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Received from Robert Newton (Guild Master), James Champion (Guild Secretary), Ted Fawcett, John Brookman, Anne Birch, Ros Tyrell, Catherine Stanworth, Michael Tinsley, Helen and Dan Richardson, John Stanworth, Joanna Taylor, Jeannie Choy and Dean Meakins.

Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the Autumn Meeting held at Downs Barn in September 2013 were published in the November edition of In Touch and distributed at the meeting. No comments were made regarding the minutes so the Chairman deemed this as acceptance of the minutes as a true record.

Matters arising from previous Meeting

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

Officer's Reports

Officer's Reports were published as part of the AGM pack issued prior to the meeting and included with these minutes.

Alan Marchbank clarified that in the Secretary's report, Great Linford won the 6 bell striking competition but Woughton went on to represent the branch at the ODG striking competition. It was also pointed out the incident referred to in the Guild Representative's report took place at Great Brickhill. Alan clarified the position regarding Guild insurance, in that the Guild provides personal accident insurance but not general Public Indemnity insurance except for specific Guild events. People who are learning to ring who are not members are covered by the accident insurance if they are being taught by a Guild member within the Oxford Diocese.

In respect of the accounts Alan Marchbank considered that the Branch was holding too much cash in the accounts and that more of it should be used for ringing purposes.

Adoption of the reports and accounts was proposed by Richard Stanworth and seconded by Hazel Dallen. This was agreed on a show of hands.

Election of New Members

Nominations were received proposing 4 new members:

Tower	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Bradwell	Emily Guinness	Ian Green	Christine Abbott
Old Wolverton	Michael Pearce	Mick Nimmo	John Mercer
Padbury	Roberta Jefferies	Richard Stanworth	Helen Stanworth
Padbury	Jean Stuchbury	Richard Stanworth	Helen Stanworth

All were duly elected.

Election of Officers

<u>Post</u>	<u>Nomination</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Chairman	Brian Newman	Linda Maycroft	Simon Head
Secretary	Gary Reading	Jonathan Griggs	Roy Keeves
Minute Secretary	Patricia Rosewell	Hazel Dallen	Linda Maycroft
Treasurer	Sheila Watts	Brian Newman	Hugh Butler
RDL Newport	Doug Hird	Brian Newman	Graham Bartholomew
RDL Milton Keynes	Graham Bartholomew	Patricia Roswell	Roy Keeves
RDL Buckingham	Lesley Belcher	Jonathan Griggs	Nick Read
Guild Representatives	1, Linda Maycroft 2, Anne Birch 3, Position Vacant	Brian Newman Graham Bartholomew	Sheila Ware Lesley Belcher
Newsletter Editor	Nick Read	Alan Marchbank	Barry Eglesfield
Branch Archivist	Doug Hird	Graham Bartholomew	Lesley Belcher
Independent Examiner	Alison Fowler	Sheila Watts	Sheila Blenkhorn

All officers were elected on a show of hands.

Application for a grant for the Hanslope Bell Rehanging Project

A letter from the Hanslope Church had been received enquiring as to whether the branch would be able to make a grant towards the bell rehanging project at Hanslope Church. A copy of the letter is included in the AGM pack. Jonathan Griggs gave a short summary of the project's objectives. Sheila Watts advised the meeting of the previous levels of grants awarded by the branch and indicated that the officers had felt a grant in the order of £250 would be appropriate. Linda Maycroft questioned whether there would be other towers that would need similar support in the near future. It was indicated that Leckhampstead might be considering a project but there were no others at this stage. Alan Marchbank proposed that the grant should be £750 being 1% of the total project costs. Hugh Butler seconded this proposal. The proposal was passed on a show of hands. Roy Keeves, Tower Captain of Hanslope, thanked the meeting for the generous contribution to the project.

Discussion

There followed a presentation to the meeting on the future of the branch by Lesley Belcher, including some thoughts on what we as a branch are good at and what we are not so good at. It provided some ideas about what we could do to improve the levels of ringing in the branch and also how branch practices could be improved. The attendees at the meeting then split into four breakout groups to discuss four aspects of the branch: Branch Practices, Communication, Social meetings, Training and Development. Due to the enthusiasm of the discussions and a lack of time there was no time for each group to report their thoughts back to the meeting. It was agreed that the feedback would be gathered together and shared across the branch.

Forthcoming Events

12th April – Branch Outing. Details of the branch outing to Hertfordshire were provided in the AGM pack. Graham Bartholomew reminded everyone that places need to be booked and deposits paid as soon as possible.

17th May – Guild AGM at Downs Barn – This comes around once every fifteen years. It was hoped that there would be a good turnout from the branch to support this event. There are two towers open beforehand for ringing: Great Brickhill and Woughton and the Big Ring Pull ringers would be ringing

before the service at Downs Barn. Alan Marchbank will be requesting help with teas in due course. Details of the day are on the ODG website.

7th June – Branch Summer Social and Striking Competition. The members present were asked to consider if their tower could host this event this year.

15th March – 10 bell practice at Olney. Due to an error this has not been booked. There was enthusiasm for the practices so the Secretary will try and book the bells for the practice.

Any Other Business

Linda Maycroft offered some carpet squares to anybody who wanted them. After analysis it was discovered that the carpet material is not ideal for using under ropes on ringing room floors.

Alan Marchbank mentioned that in May there is the Guild Ringing Day and 8 bell competition and that it would be good if North Bucks could enter a band. The method this year is Cambridge Surprise Major. It was also mentioned that there would be the Guild 10 bell competition in November. The method for this is Grandsire Caters. Lesley Belcher is to organise an 8 bell band and Graham Bartholomew to organise a 10 bell band for the competitions.

As Jonathan Griggs is standing down from the committee Nick Read thanked him for his contribution to the branch.

Vote of Thanks

On behalf of everyone present the Chairman thanked the Lillingstone Lovell and Leckhampstead ringers for hosting the ringing, the meeting and providing the excellent tea.