

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS**  
**NORTH BUCKS BRANCH**  
**Minutes of Autumn Meeting**  
**Held at Newport Pagnell on 13th September 2014**

**Chairman's Welcome**

The acting chairman, Doug Hird, welcomed everyone present to the Meeting and extended a special welcome to Hilarie Rogers (OD Guild Master) and John White.

**Apologies for Absence**

Received from: Alan, Tine, Alex and John Marchbank, James Champion (Guild Secretary), David Phillipson, Ted and Becky Fawcett, John Brookman, Lesley Belcher, Gary Reading, Brian Newman, Patricia Rosewell, Sheila Watts, Sheila Ware and Ann Birch.

**Minutes of previous Meeting**

The minutes of the AGM held at Lillingstone Lovell in March 2014 were published in the May 2014 edition of In Touch and were distributed at the Meeting. All present agreed they were a true reflection of the AGM and they were accepted as a true record.

**Matters arising from previous Meeting**

Nick Reed advised the Meeting that an update on progress against the strategy outlined at the AGM could be found in the article written by Lesley Belcher which was published in the May 2014 edition of In Touch.

Doug Hird reiterated that the branch committee would welcome constructive and positive feedback from members on the changes being made.

**Forthcoming events:**

September	Sat 20	Branch Practice at Olney on Simulator	16:00-17:30
October	Sat 4	ODG 6 Bell Competition – Old North Berks Branch. Hanslope are expected to represent North Bucks, RDL to confirm.	
	Sat 11	Branch Training Day – theory and practice of ringing up and down in peal, The RDLs are now actively looking for helpers to facilitate the training, don't worry if you can only spare an hour.	12:00-16:30
	Sat 18	Branch Practice at Padbury	19:00-20:30
November	Week commencing Mon 10	Branch Quarter Peal Week – looking to encourage as many towers to take part as possible would be great if these could be accompanied by firsts e.g. first peal, first time conducting, first method	At your discretion
	Sat 22	ODG 10 Bell Competition – Long Crendon	
December	Sat 20	Branch Practice at Olney on Simulator & Xmas Social	16:30-20:00

## **Communication**

### **Group messaging:**

Doug explained to the meeting that Gary Reading on behalf of the branch committee had been exploring suppliers who could give us richer functionality for branch notifications. Tidyclub is now being used to send group messages to tower correspondents and members, along with invites to Branch events, and members may have noticed the difference in formats. Tidyclub has additional functionality which could be used in future e.g. text messaging.

Only half of the current membership has provided email addresses to the branch. The committee is concerned that the only reactive communication some members may receive is a copy of the In Touch newsletter which is sent to each tower. Going forward members will be asked for their email address when renewing their membership each year, which the committee hope will improve the reach of this channel of communication.

### **Website:**

Our new-look website has been launched: the new site will be used to publish events and what members need to know about what's happening in the branch; the existing site will become the archive site and will focus on providing information about the history of the branch; duplicated information will be deleted from the old site over the coming months.

## **Any Other Business**

Graham Bartholomew raised a question about the need to have an Autumn Meeting. The meeting debated the subject and the following points were raised:

Meetings are when we elect new members and appoint officers – however we have approved the election of new members at branch practices.

Meetings used to be the primary communication method, whereas we now have the website, In Touch and emails to communicate up and coming events.

Hilarie Rogers was asked what practice other branches in the ODG follow. Hilarie advised the meeting that North Bucks was one of 3 or 4 branches out of 15 which still have a formal meeting in the Autumn; the other branches still have an event at this time of year but it is not a formal meeting. Election of new members tends to take place at the AGMs or branch practices.

**The branch committee took an action to review the purpose of the Autumn meeting and have motion ready for the AGM in 2015 if a change is proposed.**

## **Vote of thanks**

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to all those who attended and a special thanks to Mr & Mrs Read and helpers Loretta and Liz for organising the tea, Nick Read for playing the organ and Revd Michael Godfrey for conducting the service.