



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD of CHURCH BELL RINGERS
North Bucks Branch

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Saturday 2nd March 2019 at 17:00

held at St Mary's Woughton on the Green

1) Chairman's Welcome

Graham Bartholomew welcomed 46 members of the Branch to the meeting.

2) In Memoriam

The meeting was advised that two members had died in the past year, Gerald Stratton and John Griffiths. Their service to the branch was noted with respect and a quiet moment.

3) Apologies for Absence were received from:

Gary, Hilary and Clair Reading - Loughton
Anne Macintyre - Loughton
Patricia Rosewell - Wavendon
Keith and Liz Wagstaff - Newport Pagnell
Ian Green - Bradwell
Liz Sheaf - Olney
Sally Gallimore - Olney
Jean Mattinsley - Woughton

4) Minutes of previous meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed and there were no matters arising. Becky Fawcett proposed and Sheila Ware seconded.

5) Officers' Reports

Reports were presented from Graham Bartholomew (Chair), Patricia Rosewell (Acting Secretary), Douglas Hird (Archivist), Phillip Starr (Newsletter Editor), Anne Nightingale (Treasurer) and Patricia Rosewell (Guild Rep). There were no matters arising from these reports and they were approved including the accounts.

6) Monday May 6th

a) Plans for hosting Guild Ringing Day

Alan outlined the arrangements for this annual Guild fundraising day with an expectation of raising £1,000-1,500. He confirmed that the arrangements are mostly in place and that he will send round a final note to ensure that everybody is clear on the final arrangements.

b) Band for 8 bell Striking Competition

Barry advised that the Guild 8 bell striking competition will take place on the same day with the final at Great Brickhill. Arrangements for preliminary heats may be needed dependent on the number of bands. The method is Grandsire Triples. Barry advised that he will circulate Towers to seek volunteers for the North Bucks band and a practice will be organised. He mentioned a problem in getting access to the Tower Contact details.

7) Election of New Members

The following were proposed by Simon Head and seconded by Alan Marchbank. Alan asked for Ella's previous membership to be checked. Graham welcomed the new members and asked those attending to present themselves to the meeting.

Name	Tower
Geoffrey Pickles	Bradwell
Brian Fisher	Bradwell
Sharon Robert	Bradwell
Ella Sheaf	Olney
Fenella Pritchard	Olney
Daniel Jacob	Gt Brickhill
Hollie Melen	Gt Brickhill
Kaye Brown	Lavendon
Andrew Ramsden	Lavendon
Louise O'Boyle	Lavendon

8) Secretary's Post and other Vacancies - discussion

Graham introduced the topic of a vacancy in the key post of Secretary, which, together with the lack of a Minutes Secretary creates a real problem with a lack of co-ordination of the administrative tasks and extra pressure on the Chair. He thanked Brian for stepping in and taking the minutes today. Brian made it clear that he was not seeking either of these posts. Graham asked if there is anybody present who would like to help in these roles. There were no offers received.

Alan explained to the meeting that since the resignation of Gary Reading arrangements had been made with Keith Wagstaff (Database) and Steve Thomason (Website) to provide support to these two important tasks. Alan said that this support is very much appreciated.

Brian advised that Trish is willing to continue in the role of Acting Secretary for the prime purpose of maintaining a contact point for Guild communications, however she is not in a position to cover for the full role of the Secretary. Brian commented that, whilst he is not immediately available, he could see the dilemma and asked members to "watch this space".

9) Election of Officers

The following Officers were re-elected. Graham advised that this would be his fifth and final year as Chair.

Name	Role	Proposed	Seconded
Graham Bartholomew	Chair	Barry Eglesfield	Simon Head
Vacancy	Secretary		
Vacancy	Minutes Secretary		
Anne Nightingale	Treasurer	Phillip Starr	Sheila Watt
Phillip Starr	Newsletter Editor	Sheila Ware	Nick Read
Douglas Hird	Archivist	Barry Eglesfield	Simon Head
Alan Marchbank	Guild Rep 1	Barry Eglesfield	Phillip Starr
Patricia Rosewell	Acting Sec./Guild Rep2	Brian Baldwin	Alan Marchbank
Barry Eglesfield	Ringling Master	Nick Read	Alan Marchbank

10) Any Other Business

- a) Emberton ringers report the installation of new ropes and gave thanks for the grant from the Branch
- b) David Middleton asked if the accounts, in future, could show the signature of the Independent Examiner. The Treasurer confirmed that Peter Green is the Examiner and his report had been received.
- c) Nick Read reported on the excellent progress of the mid-week practices. He said that towers are willing to host and attendance has been as high as 16 with an average of 8-10. He advised that future meets would be on the 4th Thursday, not the 2nd. The meeting expressed their thanks to Nick for his initiative and arrangements.

11) Thanks

Graham thanked the Woughton team as hosts and for an excellent service and tea. The meeting closed at 18.25