

OXFORD DIOCESEAN GUILD of BELLRINGERS
SONNING DEANERY BRANCH

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2009
AT ALL SAINTS PARISH ROOMS, WOKINGHAM

1.0 APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies had been received from Trica Amos, Sue Thomas, George Roberts, Hugh Dempster, Rob Needham, Pauline Needham, John Manley, Brian Gatwood (Guild Treasurer), Michael Johnson, Nigel Bearne, Margaret Bearne, Judith Bowler, Aidan Hopkins, Liz Hopkins, Stan Scott, John Harper

2.0 The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks for Colin James, Associate Priest for taking the service, for David Rance for playing the organ and Mary Spence and team for the tea.

2.1 A minute's silence was then observed for the following members who had died during the proceeding year:

John Rance
Michael Morley

3.0 Officer's Report

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3.3 Ringing Master's Report

The Master report was read to the meeting by the Secretary in his absence. No questions were raised.

3.4 Branch Representative's Report

The branch representatives had no further comments to the report as presented and no questions were raised from the floor.

3.5 Training Officer's Report

John Harrison, Branch Training Officer, summarised his report for the meeting. The only additional comments made were from the floor in that people should be asked what courses they wanted and these where possible should be organised. John Harrison then noted that this could be done but that volunteers would be needed to help run the courses and that if anybody was prepared to help could they please contact him.

John Harrison noted that the Towers Maintenance course had been run previously and that he nearly had enough people for another course. This was a course which was not just limited to ringers as the steeple keeper could be a non ringer.

3.6 Bookstall Officer's Report

There were no comments from the floor regarding the report as presented.

3.7 Newsletter Editor's Report

In the absence of the newsletter editor Rachel Moss noted that the first of the new look newsletters had been published in January and asked the floor for there comments. She also apologised for that the first newsletter had not been issued earlier but that due to other commitments she had not been able to meet the new editor to discuss format etc.

The overall view from the floor was positive but it was noted that an A5 size might be more practical. Rachel Moss noted this point and would advise the editor. It was also noted that any newsletter was only as good as it contents and articles sent to the editor would be greatly received. It was also noted that a reminder of copy deadlines would be sent out in advance of all issues.

3.8 Branch Webmaster's Report

The Branch Webmaster was not present but his report had been available for viewing on the branch website. The Secretary read out a summary of the report in his absence and no queries were raised at this time.

4.0 Election of New Members/Honorary Ringing Members

The following new members were proposed.

Nominee	Tower	Proposer
Emma Tilston	Aborfield	Judith Atkinson
Martin Wheatley	Barkham	Chris Grundy
June Foskett	Barkham	Chris Grundy
Lynne Crawford	Binfield	David Fawcett
Thomas Crawford	Binfield	David Fawcett
Steve Rowsan	Binfield	David Fawcett
Jacque Howson	Easthampstead	Steve Wells
Ray Clarke	Finchampstead	Trica Amos
Llewelyn Milford-Moore	Sonning	Pam Elliston
Richard Bennett	Wargrave	David Sullivan

All of the above were seconded by Michael Fawcett of Binfield.

5.0 Election of Officers

Position	Officer	Proposer	Secunder
Chairman	Rachel Moss	John Harrison	Sue Davenport
Treasurer	Eric Bowes	Pam Ellison	Chris Brown
Secretary	Andrew Moss	Chris Brown	Hillary Pollock
Ringing Master	Ken Davenport	Chris Brown	Neil Curnow
Deputy Ringing Master	Lesley Graves	Louise Marshall	Hilary Pollack
	John Manley	Steve Wells	John Harrison
Following a ballot John Manley was elected			
Branch Representative	Pam & Andrew Ellison	Chris Brown	Lesley Graves
Newsletter Editor	Sarah Boys	Michael Fawcett	Chris Grundy
Bookstall Manager	Rob Needham	Michael Fawcett	Andrew Moss
Training Officer	John Harrison	Chris Brown	Neil Curnow
Webmaster	Aidan Hopkins	Andrew Moss	Steve Wells
Independent Examiner	Steve Wells	Michael Fawcett	Chris Brown

Rachel Moss expressed thanks to both Aidan Hopkins and Lesley Graves for all of their work over the last few years in their respective posts.

6.0 Branch Practices and Event Schedule

The Secretary read out a summary of the branch practices for the coming year. He noted that there were still a few practices that needed confirming and that once these had been he would issue the branch practice cards to all members. It was noted that the Six Bell Competition this year would be

held at Binfield and that once again a skittles evening would follow this at the Jack 'O' Newbury in Binfield. The secretary confirmed that a provisional booking had been made for the skittles.

7.0 Striking Competitions

Six Bell Competition

The Six Bell Competition had been held on the back 6 at Warfield with 4 teams entering. The competition had been won by Sonning with Easthampstead 2nd, Wokingham All Saints 3rd and Warfield 4th. The competition had been followed by skittles evening at the Jack 'O' Newbury Binfield which had been enjoyed by all who had attended.

Eight Bell Competition

It was noted that there had not been enough interest in having a separate call change competition to the method competition and as such it had been dropped. There had only been 2 teams enter the competition from Wokingham All Saints and Easthampstead. A further scratch team was formed at the event to enable other ringers who were present to gain experience in ringing in Eight Bell competition. The competition was won by Wokingham All Saints ringing Yorkshire with Easthampstead 2nd and the scratch team 3rd.

Robert Newton Guild Master then presented the certificates for both the 6 and 8 Bell competitions.

8.0 Social Events

It was noted that the branch dinner organised by Hilary Pollack had been a great success. It was agreed that another diner would be a good idea. At this time there was no volunteer to organise the dinner and the Chairman agreed to approach Hilary Pollack to see if she would be happy to arrange the next dinner.

9.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Finchampstead noted that the major building works scheduled for the church