

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD of BELLRINGERS  
 SONNING DEANERY BRANCH  
 MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
 EASTHAMPSTEAD, SATURDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2012

1. Apologies had been received from Robert Newton, Stuart Gibson, Simon Milford, Hugh Dempster, Mary Ede, Sue Thomas, Chris Jones, Brian O’Callaghan, Diana Coulter and Simon Graves.
2. Acceptance of the minutes of the previous AGM was proposed by Ken Davenport, seconded by Rob Needham and accepted without dispute. There were no matters arising.
3. Officers’ Reports had been available to view and were accepted as follows:

	Officer	Proposal to accept the report	Seconded by
a.	Treasurer	David Fawcett	Simon Farrar
b.	Secretary	Simon Farrar	Joyce Crockford
c.	Ringling Master	Ken Davenport	Simon Farrar
d.	Branch representatives	Alex Sneller	David Fawcett
e.	Training Officer	John Harper	Graham Slade
f.	Bookstall	Alex Sneller	Alison Clayton
g.	Newsletter Editor	[verbal report accepted]	
h.	Webmaster	Simon Farrar	David Fawcett

The Treasurer had not forecast a budget, as the arrangements concerning the newsletter had been uncertain. She had transferred £1500 into an investment account giving 0.7% interest. While the branch seems to have a relatively large sum saved, it was deemed necessary as several towers might request grants simultaneously.

The Secretaries’ Report was amended as requested.

The Ringling Master highlighted the fact that the branch had entered the Guild 10-bell competition for the first time in many years. When asked how ringers could improve he said that visiting other towers gave useful experience in improving handling and bell control. The monthly Tuesday practices had moved to Binfield; the change had been popular and Binfield ringers had benefited from it.

Updating the branch reps’ report, it was noted that there was now a report on the Guild website about the Big Ring Pull, a recruiting/training initiative at Milton Keynes. While some information was available about local plans relating to the start of the Olympics, details of the timing and route of the torch were not yet available. Towers should contact their local councils to find out what was planned. There is a website called ‘More than Gold’ aimed at helping churches to make the most of the 2012 Olympics. Premier Christian Radio is supporting the idea that a network of Jubilee beacons be set up. The Central Council website has a page about the Olympics and the Jubilee. Paralympic torches are travelling from the 4 UK capitals to Stoke Mandeville and from there to London.

The training officer stated that details of courses were on the branch website. Anyone interested should add their name to the appropriate list. All Saints Wokingham have two simulators which can provide a perfect band to practice with. Rob Needham said that there was some old bookstall stock for sale at a reduced price.

It was decided that one printed copy of each edition of the newsletter should be sent to each tower.

The Webmaster said that his job also included the role of Postmaster. He asked members to inform him of any mistakes they found on the branch website. If members wanted to be included on the distribution list they should forward their email address to him. Tower correspondents should update lists regularly.

4. Election of New Members:

Tower	Nominees
Arborfield	David Price
Barkham	Richard Bolton, Sharon Bolton & Nicola Lee
Binfield	Iain Downs & Mandy Bryant
Easthampstead	Anna Barker
Finchampstead	Deborah Blamire, Ray Clarke & Elizabeth Tracey
Hurst	Alison Murray, Wendy Pinches, Chantal Roberts, Simon Roberts & Pat Tidy
Sonning	Ros Lee, Victoria Taylor & Bob Townsend
Twyford	Richard Hamilton & Angela Smith (returning?)
Wokingham All Saints	Susan James

They were proposed en bloc by Simon Farrar and seconded by Rob Needham.

## 5. Election of Officers

Officer	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman	Simon Milford	Rob Needham	Graham Slade
Treasurer	Sue Davenport	Graham Slade	Joyce Crockford
Secretary	Pam Elliston & Andrew Elliston	Sue Davenport	David Fawcett
Ringing Master	John Manley	Andrew Dugdale	Joyce Crockford
Deputy Ringing Master	Graham Slade	John Manley	Andrew Dugdale
Branch representatives	Sue Davenport and Andrew Elliston	Rob Needham	Joyce Crockford
Newsletter editor	Alison Clayton	David Fawcett	Sue Davenport
Bookstall holder	Rob Needham	Simon Farrar	Andrew Dugdale
Training officer	John Harrison	Simon Farrar	Sue Davenport
Webmaster	John Harrison	Simon Farrar	Andrew Elliston
Independent Examiner	Steve Wells	Rob Needham	Lesley Graves

The Ringing Master stated that he expected to be leaving the area within the year and felt that it would be preferable if someone else took on the job, but none of those nominated at the meeting was willing to stand for election.

## 6. Branch Practices and events

A provisional list had been circulated. John Harrison suggested that, in view of the results of his recent online survey, the times of the summer meetings be brought forward to the late afternoon. It was stated that the Committee Meeting in November is open to officers plus one representative from each tower; all towers were encouraged to send someone to represent them. The 2012 Guild AGM is to be held at Wokingham St Paul on 19 May; offers of help were requested by Sue Davenport.

## 7. Striking Competitions

It was agreed that, because so few teams enter our 8-bell competition, it would be judged by members from our own branch.

## 8. Fundraising & social events

Various social events and more ringing outings were suggested. It was noted that hiring a venue was becoming more expensive. After some discussion it was decided to send out an online survey to find out what social functions would be most popular. Another pagoda sale in Woodley precinct has been arranged for Saturday 31 March, in support of the Guild Bell Fund; help and further items for sale would be appreciated.

## 9. AOB

Sonning's plans to mark the opening of the 2012 Olympics on 27 July were explained. The tower would be opened for the public to come up to the ringing room and help to chime the bells from 8am. Perhaps some interest in ringing might be generated.

There is a special composition for the Olympics called Five Rings Triples (and also a doubles version). It was suggested that we try to ring this at tower and branch practices. Arborfield requested help with the doubles variation. An introductory offer from The Ringing World (3 months free to any new individual subscribers) was advertised. The Ringing Master commented that while 6 teams was a good entry for the 6-bell striking competition in 2011, he would like more this year. Any team that can ring rounds can enter.

Notice was given about the Three Counties WI Ringing Day near Oxford on 27 March. Visitors of both sexes are welcome; details are available on the WI website.

At the end of the meeting, John Harrison thanked: Father Peter Bestley for taking at the service, Tim Martin for

playing the keyboard, and the Easthampstead ringers for an excellent tea. Sue Davenport thanked Easthampstead for donating £30 of the receipts to the bell fund. The meeting closed at 19:10h. There were 30 members present.