

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS



General Committee Meeting
Saturday 28th November 2020

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Requests to take any items of Any Other Business.
3. Minutes of the previous General Committee meeting – 14th March 2020 - attached

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

4. Matters arising
 - a) Youth Fund
 - b) Public Relations Working Group
5. Correspondence
6. Reports of Subcommittees
 - a) Finance and General Purposes - attached
 - b) Education - attached
 - c) Towers and Belfries - attached
7. Central Council Representatives' report - attached
8. Diary of Events - attached

FINANCIAL MATTERS

9. Subscriptions for 2021
 - a) Resident Ringing Members & Associate Members
 - b) Non-resident Ringing Members
10. Peal Fees for 2021
11. Guild Budget – see separate document

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

12. Learning and Development Workgroup Terms of Reference – see below
13. Date of Eight-Bell Striking Competition – see below
14. Any Other Business – as agreed at the beginning of the meeting
15. Concluding vote of thanks

ITEM 3 – Minutes of previous Committee Meeting

MINUTES OF GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at the Church Hall, Routh Lane, Tilehurst, Reading 14th March 2020

Subject to confirmation at the next General Committee meeting

The meeting was attended by 33 Committee members. It was held in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic which inevitably affected the numbers attending. It was chaired in the absence of the Master, Katie Lane and the Deputy Master, Tony Crabtree by Ken Davenport, on a proposal by Ken Darvill, seconded by Stuart Gibson.

1. **Apologies for absence:** The attendance book was circulated. 30 apologies for absence were recorded.
2. **Any other urgent items of business:** Lindsay Powell asked for a discussion and decision about whether this year's Radley course should be cancelled in light of the coronavirus outbreak. It was agreed to discuss this item under Item 8.
3. **Minutes of the meeting on 23 November 2019:** accepted as a correct record and signed, on a proposal by Alan Marchbank, seconded by Robert Newton.
4. **Matters arising:** Katie Lane had compiled a report on how the Guild could best conduct its public relations. The conclusion was that a group or committee was needed as there is now too much work for one person. A poster appealing for help had been produced and circulated, and Katie Lane was following up offers of help in response to the poster. Further offers of help are very welcome.
5. **Correspondence:** Ken Darvill reported that there had been no correspondence received since the previous meeting.
6. **Reports from and election of sub-committees:**
 - a. **Education:** In Colin Newman's absence, Robert Newton said that input and views from all branches would be very welcome at the forthcoming training meeting to be held at Cowley on 21 March. The report was accepted on a proposal by Patricia Newton, seconded by John Davidge. Robert Newton, Patricia Newton, Colin Newman, Lindsay Powell, Tony Crabtree and Elizabeth Mullett were elected as members of the committee on a proposal by Stuart Gibson, seconded by Keith Vernon.
 - b. **Towers and Belfries:** In Tony Crabtree's absence, the report was accepted on a proposal by Stuart Gibson, seconded by Angela Darvill. The four members elected last year (Tony Crabtree, John Davidge, Graham Clifton and Keith Vernon) were willing to stand again and all were elected unopposed on a proposal by Alan Marchbank and seconded by Stuart Gibson. Alan Marchbank was proposed for membership by Stuart Gibson, seconded by Graham Clifton and was also elected. Any other members who are interested in joining this sub-committee should contact Tony Crabtree.
 - c. **Finance and General Purposes:** Patricia Newton asked whether the holding of a Ringing Festival on 10 July 2021 needed specific authority from this Committee. Ken Davenport replied that acceptance of this report implied the Committee's agreement to the Festival. In response to a query about a clash of dates, Jenny Page commented that she had been contacted by David Hull the RWNYC organiser regarding changing the date of the 2021 competition from the 1st to

the 2nd Saturday in July. She had advised David that the change was not ideal as it would clash with the Guild Festival. However she did not think that the youth team would be deterred from taking part. Following discussion it was agreed that the Festival date should stand, as a lot of work had already been done to secure towers, venues and catering. It was agreed on a proposal by John Davidge and seconded by Alan Marchbank, carried unopposed, to accept the report and go ahead with the date of 10 July 2021 for the Festival. The following were elected from the General Committee on a proposal by Stuart Gibson and seconded by Richard Stanworth: Robert Newton, Alan Marchbank and Graham Clifton.

7. a) **Peal Secretary's report:** Richard Stanworth said that, as the report should be an indicator of the overall health of the Guild, it would be helpful to have more information about the individuals who had rung peals as well as the peals that had been rung. Ken Davenport replied that next year he would endeavour to identify how many individual members had rung peals.

Jacquie Hazell then observed that quarter peals are popular and perhaps for that reason they could be a better indicator of health: could be reported on officially? It was pointed out that statistics on quarter peals appear in an excellent report in the Annual Report produced by Alison Merryweather-Clarke. Jacquie Hazell was asked to collaborate with Alison to write an article for Odd Bob raising the profile of quarter peal ringing. It was agreed that the Guild Officials would consider how best to raise the profile of quarter peal ringing. Graham John mentioned the success of the annual Newbury Quarter Peal week and suggested that these weeks could be more widespread.

The report was accepted on a proposal by Ken Darvill, seconded by Stuart Gibson and passed unopposed.

b. **Safeguarding Officer's report:** June Wells was thanked for her work and guidance. Her report was accepted on a proposal by Stuart Gibson, seconded by Keith Vernon and passed unopposed.

c. **Librarian's report:** there were no questions on this report, which was accepted on a proposal by Jon Chamberlain, seconded by John Davidge and passed unopposed.

d. **Webmaster's report:** June Wells commented on how helpful Tim Hayward had been in that material submitted had appeared promptly on the site. There were no questions on the report, which was accepted on a proposal by Alan Marchbank, seconded by June Wells and passed unopposed.

e. **Server Manager's report:** It was noted that there would be updates on the servers from April this year. The report was accepted unopposed on a proposal by Stuart Gibson, seconded by Jenny Page.

f. **Report Editor's report:** The Guild's 133rd Annual Report had now been published with 621 copies and at a cost of £1,731. All contributors were thanked. Heather Browning requested that she be advised by email of any mistakes.

Jon Chamberlain asked if more copies could be produced to help 'disconnected' members stay in touch with the Guild. Lindsey Barker asked whether electronic copies could be provided and Ken Darvill replied that this could be a possibility in future.

Tim Pett suggested that towers should ask members if they wanted a copy of the report: Katy Routh observed that Branch Secretaries are asked to check with members how many copies are needed.

8. Diary of events

- a. **The Tower and Belfry course** (general) on 6 June will not take place at Leckhampstead. An alternative, nearby tower is being identified.
- b. **2021 Festival:** Preparations are under way with Magdalen College Chapel already secured for the Service, together with some towers. Lunch locations are being investigated with the W.I. providing catering. A further clash on that day would be the General Synod meeting: we need to provide our own priest for the service.
- c. **2020 Radley Course, 4 April:** Lindsay Powell reported that tutors, students and towers were all identified and in place. There had, however, been a shortage of helpers coming forward: this could be because of concerns about coronavirus infection. There was discussion about helpers: Jacquie Hazell initially approached 90, of whom 37 had declined the invitation.

Lindsay Powell asked whether, in the light of increasing concerns about the spread of coronavirus infection, the course this year should be cancelled. Another option was postponement and a third option to cut the group sessions at the start of the course and the meal at the end. This option would respect the Church of England's request not to serve refreshments or meals on church premises and would also eliminate the additional risk of a large group session at the start of the course.

In discussion, postponement was considered to be difficult because an alternative date would then encroach on the wedding season, summer holidays and the recruitment period for the Steeple Aston course. In favour of not cancelling, it was argued that it was important to keep the course in the diary, at least for the time being: helpers could be reassigned to merged groups if helper numbers decreased, and Lindsay and Jacquie could make a decision closer to the time. Other members argued that it would be difficult **not** to cancel, given the possibility that this kind of church activity could be cancelled in any case, and in a worst case scenario, the churches to be used for the course could be closed. This in itself would force a cancellation.

Lindsay Powell suggested that if the course were cancelled, it would be possible to run 'mop up' sessions for some groups, depending on the needs of Branches that would be identified at the training meeting on 21 March.

Following discussion, Keith Vernon proposed that the course should be cancelled. Lindsey Barker seconded the proposal, which was carried by 18 votes to two. Lindsay and Jacquie were thanked for their hard work on the course.

- d. **8 May – Ringing Day:** It was agreed that Tony Crabtree would decide whether this day could go ahead, based on coronavirus restrictions and the availability of towers in the VoWH Branch.
- e. **18 May – AGM and 8 bell striking competition:** In view of the threat of coronavirus, Ken Darvill proposed postponement of these events, which have been linked to maximise attendance and participation. The proposal was seconded by Robert Newton and carried by 23 to one. Ken Darvill will check the date by which the AGM must be held: he would welcome suggestions for dates from

members and Guild officers would then decide the most suitable date and location. Katy Routh asked whether electronic attendance for a general meeting could be used if reaching a quorum might be a problem. Ken Darvill replied that the officers would look into the matter.

9. **Officers not willing to stand for re-election:** It was noted that Jenny Page was not willing to stand again as Steward. In response to a query, Ken Darvill promised to check when Central Council representatives were due to be elected, and bring the matter to the AGM when it is rescheduled.
10. **Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2019:** the accounts were accepted on a proposal by Sue Davenport and Richard Stanworth. Stuart Gibson thanked Susan Read for her work in putting the accounts together.
11. **Restoration Fund:** Stuart Gibson thanked the six branches which had made donations to the Fund in 2019. The accounts were accepted on a proposal by John Davidge and seconded by Keith Vernon.
12. **Donations:**
 - 1) £2,000 to the Bell Fund (already in this year's budget), proposed by Stuart Gibson, seconded by Ken Davenport and agreed.
 - 2) £200 to The Ringing World, proposed by Stuart Gibson, seconded by Ken Davenport and agreed.
 - 3) £500 to the Association of Ringing Teachers. Stuart Gibson proposed that the donation be referred to the AGM, seconded by Jacquie Hazell.
 - 4) Youth Fund (new). Stuart Gibson explained that he has started liaising with HMRC about setting up a new charity to allow fundraising to support young ringers in the Guild who are ODG members and up to age 18 (i.e. in year 13 of full time education). It was agreed that Stuart would draw up a clear proposal on the aims and remit of the fund, to be put to the AGM.

13. Any other business:

There were no additional items.

14. Concluding vote of thanks:

Ken Davenport thanked Tilehurst for the use of the church for ringing; and the local ringers for organising the meeting and planning a tea which we were - sadly - unable to enjoy on this occasion because of the new coronavirus restrictions.

ITEM 6a – Report of Finance and General Purposes Sub-committee

The Finance and General Purposes Sub-committee has met once since the March General Committee meeting, in October via Zoom.

The meeting discussed at what level to set the subscriptions for 2021 given the low level of Guild activity in 2020 caused by the pandemic. We have still had to bear the cost of the insurance and other fixed costs such as the server computer and printing of the Annual Report, so we still need a level of subscription for the general Guild reflecting that. Our balance sheet is however healthy. The sub-committee is recommending to the General Committee that, for next year only, we reduce the element of the subscription that goes to the general Guild from £5 to £3, and allowing Branches to set their own allocation. Thus they could set their members' subscriptions at £5 if they lowered their own allocation to £2.

A Public Relations Working Group has been set up. It is keen to get the website up to speed and is investigating updating the Guild logo to make it more dynamic and yet still identifiable as representing the Guild.

There was discussion about a plan to move the Eight-Bell Striking Competition from the May Day Holiday to the same afternoon and location as the AGM, with the expectation that it would attract more members to the AGM. It was agreed that this would be put to the General Committee for their approval. We are also investigating having our AGM based on combining members on Zoom with a meeting based in a hall or church.

The March General Committee meeting and the Bell Fund AGM will be via Zoom. We shall review the Covid-19 situation in January / February in deciding what to do about the May Ringing Day, Guild AGM and Eight-Bell Contest.

Ken Darvill

ITEM 6b – Report of Education Sub-committee

Despite the current restrictions on social gatherings, the sub-committee has managed to hold very worthwhile meetings via Zoom on 30th April, 6th August and 8th October. Additionally, the training meeting, postponed from 21st March, held via Zoom on 13th June (attended by representatives of 12 branches) was adjourned after two hours and a continuation meeting took place on 4th July (10 branches), which lasted for a further 90 minutes.

Much of what was discussed in committee has been in response to issues raised at the training meetings and in regard to the developing Covid-19 situation. Perhaps the main concerns discussed have been about tower leadership as we emerge from restrictions: some ringers will have been lost; recruitment has been on hold; inexperienced tower leaders may soon be in post. It is clear that the limited return to service ringing over the last few months has been extremely patchy and that some less experienced ringers are nervous about resuming. On the other hand, there are several centres where *Ringing Room* and handbell practices are being organised. *Ringing Room*, in particular, has enabled some of the less experienced to make significant method progress without the complication of handling a bell!

Sadly, it was not possible to run any of the Guild courses in 2020 and the Radley Course has already become a casualty for 2021. Decisions about the other courses will be made when more is known about the possibilities of a proper return to ringing. The sub-committee has been in the fortunate position of receiving news of ART activities and proposed courses from Lesley Belcher. Colin Newman has been working with Tim Hayward on making the education section of the Guild website more user friendly and creating better links to other resources.

As announced at the Guild AGM, just two entries were submitted for the Young Ringers' Award at the end of March. Congratulations to Holley (Gold, and the Alison Rodrick trophy) and Jack (Silver) on their achievements. It is disappointing that nothing was received from the two others who had registered, or the significant number of other eligible Guild members. Colin Newman and Joanne Druce have been working on a simplified structure for the Award, with the aim of making it more attractive to participants. Normally, the next phase would run from April '21 – March '22 but under the current circumstances this is not realistic. However, it is proposed to run a special one-off 'lockdown' version of the Award to acknowledge the progress made by youngsters in ringing related activities during the pandemic.

Proposals for the amendment of the terms of reference and title of this sub-committee are on the agenda for this General Committee Meeting.

Robert Newton (Secretary)

ITEM 6c Towers and Belfries Sub-Committee Report

The T&B committee has met three times since the last General Committee on 24th February at Radley and using Zoom on 25th June (for “Return to Ringing”) and 7th October. The Zoom attendance has averaged about a dozen which is excellent with nearly all members and certainly higher than using face-to-face meetings. However, the quality of discussion and debate inevitably suffers in “virtual” meetings. There is no plan to change all meetings to Zoom! We are pleased to welcome Philip Dobson to the committee. The membership now broadly reflects the geography of the Guild after a lengthy period when some areas had no members nearby.

The scheduled belfry courses at Leckhampstead and Ivinghoe had to be cancelled which is a huge pity as these courses have been very popular. Luckily, the February rope splicing and belfry management course at Radley beat the lockdown by a few weeks and was very well attended and appreciated by students and indeed the tutors too. Students enjoyed the wide range of artefacts (pulleys, wheels etc) which we used to explain the causes of rope wear and other issues such as rope handling. We want to ensure that students come away with more than just an understanding of how to mend a broken rope.

There is a big demand for rope splicing and we are happy to support local courses with tuition. We want people to come ready to learn skills they can put to good use in their local towers, whether splicing ropes or spotting preventive measures so the rope wear can be reduced and rope life extended. There are many good splicing videos on YouTube (as well as some not so good...).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gb-6YwA2e2Y> is instructive.

At the last meeting, besides inspection reports and planning courses, we discussed the general availability of advice and website downloads. This has now widened to the material produced by CCCBR as well as ART, who are producing some excellent downloads with assistance from T&B experts. The CCCBR documents are being reviewed and updated. I am assisting with that. There have been discussions on the content of the ODG website and work is now starting to update the T&B page and the material available through it.

Since the last General Committee report, T&B Committee members have been active, within lockdown constraints, with TMA (Tower Maintenance Award), grant inspections and general advice at the following places: Wendover (accessibility), Letcombe Regis (tenor bell), North Stoke (inspection), Weston on the Green (minor improvements), Letcombe Bassett (Bell Fund grant inspection), Ashbury (sanctus bell), South Leigh (raising guide frame), Little Horwood (rehanging), Aylesbury Holy Trinity and (current situation), Daylesford (current situation), Hanslope (Bell Fund inspection), Great Tew (Bell Fund inspection), Dorchester Abbey (TMA) and Piddington (advice). There have also been many “return to ringing” inspections.

The Tower Maintenance Award (TMA) scheme continues and towers are encouraged to join in. Inspections are free and there is much to be gained from the inspection and the advice you may receive, so please get in touch if you would like a visit. The TMA report is also available with the General Committee papers.

Tony Crabtree – Chairman.

ITEM 7 Central Council Representatives’ Report

The Guild sends 6 representatives to the Central Council, listed below with the areas of the Council’s work to which they contribute, as well as attending the annual meeting. The work is done by a number of work groups, each sponsored by a member of the Executive, and between us we are involved in most of them.

- Ken Davenport ~ Stewardship & Management (Bell Restoration)

- John Harrison ~ Historical & Archive (Biographies), Technical & Taxonomy (Methods Framework)
- Lucy Hopkins Till ~ Volunteer & Leadership
- Graham John ~ Technical & Taxonomy (Lead)
- Alan Marchbank
- Tim Pett ~ Dove Steward

Ken Davenport is standing down having served the Council for 24 years, during the whole of which he served on the committee and subsequent work group contributing to the work of supporting bell restoration.

As well as the five work groups set up by the 2018 reform (those mentioned above plus Communication & Marketing) the Executive has set up three new work groups this year.

- Senior stakeholder liaison – This is led by Mark Regan and its role is ‘to maintain and develop the Council’s high-level relationships with all relevant Church, heritage and funding bodies. This year it has been instrumental in getting ringing onto the agenda of the Church of England group responding to the pandemic.
- Young ringers (Schools & Youth Groups) – This is led by Colin Newman (Reading Branch ODG) and its role is ‘to establish new long-term sustainable sources of recruits from schools and youth groups, preparing them for transition through higher education and beyond’ – in short to find ways to encourage more young people to take up ringing as a long term activity.
- Young ringers (Universities & Colleges) – This is led by Ian Roulstone. It complements the above group and its role is ‘to establish new long-term sustainable sources of recruits from schools and youth groups, focusing on their transition through higher education and beyond’. This is a stage where many potential ringers are lost, but where there is so much scope for them to develop.

The annual meeting was planned to be in Nottingham, with a mini roadshow like last year, but it was online, with Nottingham moved to 2021. An on-line meeting (like the Guild AGM) feels odd but the mechanics are not so different. In a hall with 200 people only one person can speak at once and it can be hard to attract the chairman’s attention – very similar. When you do speak the delay walking to the front or having a microphone passed to you is not so different from waiting to be unmuted either. The real difference is that there is no feeling of togetherness or sensing the mood of the meeting. One benefit is the voting. No holding your hand up long enough for the stewards to agree on the count, And no fumbling for a ballot paper and passing it down the row for stewards to collect, with the result announced later in the meeting. The voting options appear on screen, you click to vote, and after a pause to make sure everyone has voted, the host announces the result. Much of the business went smoothly. The Medical Guild request to affiliate was overwhelmingly approved. New members were welcomed, former members were remembered, minutes were accepted and the general fund made a small surplus. The formal reports were for 2019 (a long time ago) so there were lots of updates of work done in 2020. Predictably Covid had occupied some groups but a lot of other activity was continuing.

The President outlined the forward plan, which included: support for getting back to ringing post Covid, consultation on the outstanding CRAG recommendations for reform, the work of the newly formed work groups (see above), plans for a mobile belfry, providing more support for the development of ringers who prefer to ring call changes, and a project on Women in Ringing. Women form around half of all recruits far fewer tower captains, quarter peal ringers, peal ringers and conductors. The Council asked Julia Cater to lead a group to find out why, and how the imbalance could be evened up.

It's not uncommon for a small item near the end of the agenda to bring a smoothly flowing meeting to a grinding halt, which is what the motion to create a register of smaller ringing societies did. 'A 'smaller society' is one that aims to promote ringing like any other society but has too few members to be able to affiliate. Examples include some university societies, groups like the Lilliputters (young ringers) and the new ringing community in Singapore. The proposal was to recognise them and allow them to speak, but not vote, at meetings – a half way house to full affiliation.

One of the criticisms that led to the Council reform was that new ideas would spend several years being discussed in committee and referred back for further consideration, and maybe end up in the long grass. The new Executive has been keen to avoid such criticisms, and clearly wanted to move the idea forward, but that meant the consultation was rushed, the arguments weren't fully worked through, and there were a few slips – plenty of ammunition for the proponents of the status quo, which led to a lengthy and 'robust' debate. In the end, the meeting got tired of the arguments and voted in favour by a comfortable margin over the required two thirds.

The meeting should have been finished well before the scheduled (and legally binding) start time for the AGM of The Ringing World Ltd, but it was still going strong and had to be adjourned until afterwards.

The Ringing World AGM fared less well, not helped by the discovery that some documents hadn't been filed with the accounts. The board reported on progress in several areas, but in 2020 the finances will take a big hit because donations have drastically reduced along with the number of quarters and peals. The excellent material that has filled the space does not generate a similar income.

There was a motion to change The Ringing World from a limited company to a charitable incorporated organisation. This is common among similar charities, and has potential benefits. But the case for change left some questions unanswered (and the wrong version had been circulated), giving the critics plenty to work with, and this time to defeat the motion.

Since the AGM the Council has begun work on the recommendations for further reform (on extending membership to individual ringers, on branding, and on the size of the Council). The Executive has been gathering views of Council members through a series of ten on-line meetings and this will be followed by wider consultation with the ringing community.

For more information, see:

Council and Ringing World reports & meeting papers: cccbr.org.uk/about/annual-meetings/2020-meeting/

The gender balance project and ringers' stories: womeninringing.info/

Recording of AGM – first session: youtu.be/2vtsWlksWXM second session: youtu.be/OOcLiRbWEJM

John Harrison

ITEM 8 – Diary of Events

(Note: As well as ODG events, this document contains dates, *in italics*, from sources including the "Things to ring for..." page on the Central Council website. For the full list, see <http://cccbr.org.uk/things-to-ring-for/>)

2020

November General Committee	Zoom
Saturday 28th November	

2021

Spring General Committee & Bell Fund AGM	Zoom
Saturday 13th March	

Radley Course	Radley
Will probably be cancelled	

St George's Day
Friday 23rd April

Ringling Day
Monday 3rd May
Banbury Branch

AGM and Eight-Bell Striking Competition
Saturday 15th May
Bicester Branch

Guild Festival
Saturday 10th July
Oxford

Michaelmas Course
Saturday 25th September
In east of Diocese

Six-Bell Striking Competition
Saturday 2nd October
North Bucks Branch

Steeple Aston Course
Saturday 30th October
Steeple Aston

Holding the Eight-Bell Striking Competition on the same afternoon as the AGM is subject to agreement of the General Committee – see later in the agenda. Alternatively this competition is scheduled for 3rd May in Chipping Norton Branch.

ITEM 12 Learning and Development Workgroup Terms of Reference

Education Sub Committee

Terms of Reference

Name

This group will operate under the name of “The ODG Learning and Development Workgroup”

Status

This group is formed from the resident membership of The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (the Guild). It reports regularly on its activities to the Guild General Committee.

Objectives of the Group

1. To help maintain the heritage of ringing via the provision of effective, enjoyable and rewarding education and training at all levels.
2. To build and maintain an effective training network which promotes excellence at all levels of ringing to promote the highest standards of performance.
3. To promote learning and development via effective communication.

Activities & Deliverables

- Maintain an awareness of best practices and the latest developments in all areas of learning and development and communicate these throughout the Guild membership as appropriate.
- To deliver learning and development events to fulfil the above objectives and to meet the needs highlighted by the Guild membership.
- Acquire, produce and disseminate relevant literature and other learning and development materials as required.
- Communicate regularly with the wider Guild membership to understand perceived development requirements to help shape the learning and development deliverables.

- Receive and consider applications for grants for learning and development purposes and award any such grants considered appropriate within the limits of delegated authority.
- Report twice yearly to the Guild General Committee

Delegated Financial Authority

- Individual grants (up to £50) may be awarded if approved by the Group's membership and approved by the Guild Master or General Treasurer.
- Grant applications of over £50 require approval from the General Committee.

Membership and Structure

- Ex Officio membership shall comprise of the Guild Master, General Treasurer and General Secretary
- Members of the Group will be drawn from the current resident membership of the Guild.
- The Group's membership shall be reported annually to the Guild General Committee.
- The Group will appoint its own Chairman and Secretary.
- At least two meetings will be held annually and convened by the agreement of its members.
- A quorum will be 50% of the current membership.

ITEM 13 Date of Eight-Bell Striking Competition

There was discussion at the F&GP sub-committee about moving the date of the Eight-Bell Competition from the May Day Bank Holiday to the same afternoon and at the same location as the Guild AGM. The Ringing Day would remain on the May Day Holiday.

We are concerned that we need an activity that will attract members to the Guild AGM. Without the Guild providing the resources to attract members, it is asking a lot to expect that the smaller Branches will be able to plan and organise a full programme: having towers open has not in recent years been a draw. The experience in recent years is that our striking competitions are a draw and provide a good social occasion. We would use this to encourage the competition participants and their groupies to stay for the AGM business meeting.

The intention would be to start the competition at about 2pm. Shortly after the competition finishes and whilst the judges were having their discussions, the AGM would start with the competition results being announced at some stage during the meeting.

A proposal to this effect will be made, seeking the approval of the General Committee.