



## **MINUTES OF SPRING GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Held at Great Brickhill Parish Hall on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 3:20pm.

Attended by 32 Committee members (apologies and attendees recorded in the ODG Attendance Book).

The meeting was chaired by Catherine Lane, Master, who welcomed members to the meeting and told them that the meeting would be recorded.

A microphone and Audio capability were in operation to aid hearing the meeting.

### **1. Apologies**

20 apologies for absence were received:

Stuart Gibson, June Wells, Colin Lee, Steve Rossiter, Katherine Stonham, David Wright, Tony Crabtree, Archdeacon of Dorchester, Archdeacon of Buckingham, Geoffrey Stretton, Graham John, Charles Morrish, Graham Clifton, Jan Glen, Gillian Loyd, Richard Loyd, Josie Irving, Dick Peters, Hilarie Rogers, Richard Law & Geraint Jones.

A list of members attending is recorded at the end of the minutes.

### **2. Any other urgent items of business 8 bell competition piece.**

New training course – demand for ‘Moving on courses’ following on from rounds and call changes.

### **3. Minutes of the General Committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (Steeple Aston Banbury Branch).**

Attendees required correction for omission of 2 members from Old North Berks (ONB) branch.

John Harrison provided detailed wording on the proposed rule simplification for subcommittee and workgroup elections.

Noted that the report about CCCBR’s marketing initiative spelt the agency used for their work incorrectly. The Milton Keynes Brand and Marketing agency is called ‘Yellowyoyo’ not Yellow Yoyo.

*A corrected version will be placed in the official record and ODG website.*

The minutes were accepted.

Proposed – Alan Marchbank

Seconded – Ken Darvill

**4. Matters arising.** None

**5. Correspondence**

- a. ART Statement was noted.
- b. Code for Ringing – prepared by CCCBR is to be printed out and placed in every tower. The Code for Ringing will be published on the ODG website and is on the final page of the ODG Branch Guidelines booklet.

**6. Reports from sub-committees**

- a. **Education (Learning & Development Workgroup)** Report was noted with thanks.

General Committee Members are directed to the workshops and courses planned for 2024 and to commend them to their members.

An election of the workgroup members following the current ODG procedure was conducted (**co-opted members** denoted by # and underlined below are not members of the General Committee **so are elected to the L&D workgroup by the General Committee**).

All current members agreed to continue with their involvement with the workgroup.

\* denotes ex-officio member # denotes co-opted member

Catherine M A Lane \* (Guild Master)

Karen Pile \* (Guild Secretary)

Stuart Gibson \* (Guild Treasurer)

Jonathan Cresswell #

Robert H Newton

Lesley Belcher #

Tony Crabtree

Joanne Druce #

Dorothy Hall #

Colin Lee

Sue McCouaig #

Elizabeth Mullett

Chris Mundy

Patricia M Newton

Lindsay Powell

The L&D workgroup members were formally elected.

Proposer – Alan Marchbank

Seconded – John Harrison

**b. Towers and Belfries subcommittee** Report was

noted with thanks.

New members are welcomed for the subcommittee. General Committee members were requested to note the courses available, and services offered to commend to their members.

The 12 members of the sub-committee were re-elected, and 3 ex-officio members noted.

Catherine M A Lane \* (Guild Master)

Karen Pile \* (Guild Secretary)

Stuart Gibson \* (Guild Treasurer)

Tony J Crabtree,

Anthony Williamson,

David Bardwell,

Graham Clifton,

John Davidge,

Philip Dobson,

Alan Marchbank,

Len Palfrey,

Chris Potter,

Philip Roberts,

Andrew Slater, and Steve

Vickars.

The Towers and Belfries sub-committee members were formally elected.

Proposer – Robert Newton

Seconded – Vikki Bulbeck

**c. Finance and General Purposes** Report was

noted.

The Hon Sec was asked to publish the Membermojo (MM) – ‘Streamlining the ODG membership process’ prepared by Martin Rice (Newbury Branch Chairman and Membermojo project member) on the ODG website.

The MM final subscription implementation would occur after the successful bedding in of the membership phase (planned launch January 2025). Currently there was no planned date for implementing the subscription collection MM processes.

Thanks were extended to MM project members for the commitment & time dedicated to MM in undertaking specific tasks and contributing to the weekly 0830 Zoom progress/project meetings.

A Vote of thanks was made by Ken Darvill.

## **7 Reports from:**

### **a. Peal Secretary**

The comprehensive report was noted with thanks.

### **b. Safeguarding Officer**

The Hon Sec read the report reproduced below.

The monitoring of youth groups within the Guild for safeguarding compliance has been completed with both groups demonstrating compliance with ODG and Diocesan policy. Within the next few months, I plan to visit both groups to see them in action.

Some minor amendments to the Safeguarding Policy have been made and this has been posted on the website.

Katie has recently circulated an email regarding teaching groups that operate across parishes within the Guild. Whilst these are based on ART recommendations, so are likely to comply with Guild Safeguarding requirements, they are not monitored by ART so a report on safeguarding within these groups should be submitted to me.

June Wells, Guild SO.

### **c. Librarian**

The Report was noted with thanks.

### **d. Website Manager**

The Report was noted with thanks.

### **e. Server Manager**

The report was noted with thanks. In addition, General Committee members noted that the work to migrate to a new server has been time consuming and complex. There are still some glitches to resolve. The Master thanked Richard for the considerable time & effort he had expended. John Harrison also extended thanks.

### **f. Report Editor**

Heather advised members that 570 copies had been printed. There are paper spares if more are needed. Any edits or amendments are to be emailed to Heather. A pdf version will be published on the ODG website.

Changes this year to publish some personal contact details if the individual provided them with consent had led to less not more details being made available.

There was a discussion about discontinuing the paper copies. The conclusion reached was that paper copies should continue at the present time.

## **8 Diary of Events & 15-year plan**

### **a. Diary of 2024 Forthcoming Events**

This was noted and the dynamic nature of the ODG forthcoming events diary meant attention to the Guild website and Branch Secretaries updates to branch members was important as new events were added and some arrangements changed.

### **b. 15-year plan**

Clarification was sought by Richard Stanworth about the construction of the 15year plan leaving uneven time gaps between the events for host branches. The Master advised that combining competitions with meetings had led to considerable work and thinking to arrive at the current plan which followed the historical timeline.

## **9 Posts specified in Rule 9© & (f) (iii): Notification of officers not willing to stand for re-election.**

The Odd Bob Editor is standing down. His last Odd Bob will be prepared for issue at the AGM in May 2024. The meeting discussed and agreed that 2 editions of Odd Bob a year was appropriate. A new Odd Bob Editor is therefore sought. The Master requested that replacement(s) were sought in the branches. The post could be shared.

A new position of ODG Meetings Secretary is to be created. A job description will be circulated to all branch secretaries. This will encompass more tasks than the previous Minutes Secretary position. Separating the time critical planning, web publishing and minute writing from the ODG Hon General Secretary role will build in resilience and succession planning to the ODG Secretary role plus allow greater focus on development initiatives like Membermojo.

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **10 Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023**

The General Committee commended the comprehensive financial accounts.

### **11 Donations to the Bell Fund, The Ringing World, and ART**

Discussion about providing sufficient funding for youth ahead of the 3 current funding choices is noted.

Proposed that the donations to put to the AGM are as decided in 2023.

Bell Fund - £2000

The Ringing World - £750

ART - £750

Proposed Pat Newton.

Seconded John Harrison.

This was accepted.

## **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUDING ITEMS**

### **12 Any Other Business**

A proposal was made that ODG looked to simplify their procedures for the election of members to workgroups and sub-committees and take a more pragmatic approach.

Specifically, John Harrison said '*We (ODG) should change the rule that currently allows a committee only to coopt people who are not on the General Committee (who would have to be elected at the General Committee Meeting)*'.

The proposal was accepted.

Proposed John Harrison

Seconded Robert Newton

The Master agreed to look at the ODG rules to see if a change was required.

Chris Mundy (Deputy Master) advised that the 8 bell competition piece was St Clements Major. He also spoke to setting up a new course 'Moving on – beyond rounds and call changes'.

### **13 Concluding Vote of Thanks**

The Deputy Master Chris Mundy thanked North Bucks branch for hosting the meeting. Especial thanks were extended for the excellent refreshments, coffees, and teas. The Deputy Master also thanked the General Committee for their active participation in the meeting.

Copies of the ODG 2023 Annual Report and Branch Guidelines were available for each branch to collect and distribute.

### **14 Date of next meeting**

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024 Spring General Committee meeting – (Reading Branch) & 10 bell competition (venue tbc & outside Reading Branch).

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) & 8 bell competition (EBSB branch)

Attendees at General Committee Meeting (as signed in Attendance book) – Steeple Aston  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023

*Note that some names occur more than once as the individual performs more than one role. Individuals are counted once for the purpose of attendee numbers.*

Catherine Lane (Master)  
Chris Mundy (Deputy Master)  
Karen Pile (General Secretary)  
Doug Beaumont (Librarian)  
Heather Browning (Report Editor)  
Ken Davenport (Peal Secretary)  
Andrew Goldthorpe (Website Manager)  
Richard Stanworth (Server Manager)

Vice Presidents:

Robert H Newton  
Patricia M Newton  
J Chamberlain  
Brian Gatward

Stewards:

Patricia M Newton (also Vice President & EBSB Secretary)

Trustees:

Robert Newton (also Vice President)  
Ken Darvill

Central Council Representatives:

John Harrison  
Timothy G Pett  
Lucy Hopkins Till

Banbury Branch:

Alan Griffin (Branch Rep)  
Rosemary Hemmings (Secretary)

Bicester Branch:

Anne Martin (Branch Rep)  
M Holby

Central Bucks:

Kate Edgar (Branch Rep)

Chiltern Branch:

No attendees

Chipping Norton Branch:  
No attendees

East Berks & South Bucks (EBSB) Branch:  
Angela Darvill (Branch Rep)  
Patricia M Newton (Branch Secretary)  
Jan Galloway (Branch Rep)

Newbury Branch:  
No attendees

North Bucks Branch:  
Alan Marchbank  
Edward Fawcett

Old North Berks:  
Tim G Pett

Oxford City:  
No attendees

Reading Branch:  
No attendees

Sonning Deanery:  
Sue Davenport (Branch Rep and Branch Treasurer)  
John Harrison (also CCCBR rep)  
Vikki Bulbeck (Branch Rep)

South Oxon:  
Amy Herlihy (Branch Rep)  
Japh Slaney (Branch Rep)

Vale of the White Horse:  
No attendees

Witney and Woodstock:  
Andrew Goldthorpe (Branch Secretary)