

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Newbury Branch

Minutes

of

Annual General Meeting

held at

Victory Rooms Bucklebury

on Saturday 4 March 2023 at 4.00 pm

Present

Stuart Gibson (Guild Treasurer), Martin Rice (Chairman), Mark Robins (Secretary)(Part Time), Tony Smith (Treasurer), Sue Smith (Midweek Ringing Master), (Mike Hopkins Till (Advanced Practice Ringing Master), Chris Maslen (200 Club Organiser), Lucy Hopkins Till (Training Officer), Marcus Allum, Nick Annetts, Mark Backhouse, Rachel Backhouse, Graham Brown, Amanda Marchant, Andrew Clark Maxwell, John Durham, Ros Durham, Rosemary Evans, John Kape, John Manley, Chris Pack, Roy Pratley, Kevin Rogers, Lin Rogers, Maureen Velvick.

1. Welcome

Martin welcomed Stuart Gibson (Guild Treasurer) and all those present to the meeting.

2. Act of Remembrance

Silence was observed for those who died in 2022:

Ron Christopher of Thatcham
Cyril Lewington, formerly of Bucklebury
David Harris of Lambourn

3. Apologies for Absence

Rod Brown, Cath Fittell, Mike Head, Richard Marshall

4. Minutes of the 2021 AGM

Taken as read.

Proposed by Rosemary Evans

Seconded by Marcus Allum

5. Matters Arising

None.

6. Officers' Reports

a) Chairman

Martin said he felt the Branch is vibrant, with three practices a month taking place. There was also active recruitment of new ringers in some towers. He had been pleased recently to join a band at Brightwalton who rang prior to the last service of the Rector, which was attended by school children from Brightwalton and Great Shefford,

b) Midweek Ringing Master

See attached Report

c) Advanced Practice Ringing Master

Mike Hopkins Till said that he was disappointed that those who had requested the change from Surprise Practice to Advanced Practice had not attended the new practices regularly. Practices had started cautiously in March initially at well ventilated ground floor rings. Practices were at eight bell towers, where various methods including Surprise Major were rung. Mike thanked those ringers who attended for taking part.

d) Branch Practice Ringing Master

Martin Rice reported that the first Friday of the month practices has taken place at mostly 6 bell towers and that the eight-bell practice at Lambourn had been the best attended tower of the year. He indicated that he will continue to prioritise 6 bell towers in the coming year.

e) Secretary

Mark Robins reported that sending email messages to Branch Members and Tower Correspondents was working smoothly and that his role was largely management. He had provided the Guild Newsletter Editor with information for various sections of the Guild Report. He acknowledged the support given to him by Tony Smith regarding membership names. Martin thanked Mark for all that he does as Secretary.

f) Treasurer

Tony Smith read his report to the meeting and highlighted significant items from the Accounts for Year Ending 31 December. A copy of the Report and the Accounts is attached to the Minutes.

Tony reported that a Savings Account paying 0.65% has recently been opened with Lloyds Bank and some monies would be transferred from our Current Account

g) 200 Club Organiser

Chris Maslen noted that the financial information had been included in the Branch Accounts. He said that 2024 subscriptions for the 200 Club would be collected in the Autumn of 2023, similar to the arrangements for the current year. The remaining 2023 draws would take place at the April and July practices.

He proposed that £357.50. should be donated to the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund. This was seconded by Mike Hopkins Till and approved by the Meeting. Stuart Gibson thanked the Branch on behalf of the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund

h) Training Officer

Lucy Hopkins Till reported that initially there was a slow start to training sessions, ultimately leading to six training sessions being two of plain hunt, two of Kent/Oxford and two of Cambridge/Yorkshire.

Lucy reminded everyone to let her know if there was a specific training requirement. She noted that the books are selling gradually and that she had A4 posters and leaflets available free of charge.

i) Newsletter Editor

Mark Robins said he was happy with the amount of information supplied to him for publication. He intends to continue with two newsletters per year.

j) Guild Representatives Martin Rice & Lucy Hopkins Till

Lucy & Martin confirmed that they had attended meetings and that the Guild was proposing some reorganisation.

Stuart Gibson confirmed that there is an ongoing discussion and that the proposals will be reviewed at the Guild Spring Committee meeting.

7. Election of Officers

The following were proposed, seconded and duly elected by the meeting

		<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
a) Chairman	Martin Rice	C Maslen	R Pratley
b) Vice Chairman	Vacant		
c) Midweek Ringing Master	Sue Smith	A C Maxwell	M H Till
d) Advanced Practice Ringing Master	Mike Hopkins Till	R Evans	C Pack
e) Branch Practice Ringing Master	Martin Rice	M H Till	K Rogers
f) Secretary	Mark Robins	A Smith	L H Till
g) Treasurer	Tony Smith	C Maslen	R Pratley
h) 200 Club Organiser	Chris Maslen	M Allum	J Manley
1) Training Officer	Lucy Hopkins Till	M H Till	L Rogers
j) Newsletter Editor	Mark Robins	R Evans	J Manley
k) Guild Representatives	Lucy Hopkins Till & Martin Rice		

8. Election of New Members

The following were proposed, seconded and duly elected by the meeting.

	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Fiona Hockedy of Thatcham.	Tony Smith	Mark Backhouse
Heather McNaughton of Newbury	Martin Rice	A Clark Maxwell
Paul Sims of Kintbury	Mike Hopkins Till	Lucy Hopkins Till

9. To appoint Len Palfrey of Pangbourne as Auditor

Proposed by Tony Smith, seconded by Chris Maslen and approved by the meeting.

10. To approve Auditor's Honorarium of £20.00

Proposed by Tony Smith, seconded by John Kape and approved by the meeting.

11. To appoint Ethical Websites to host the Branch Website.

Tony Smith reported that the cost for the coming year commencing 27 April 2023 is £110.00.

Tony Smith proposed that Ethical Websites should be appointed for one year commencing on 27 April 2023 at a cost of £110.00.

There was a discussion that an alternative would be for someone in the branch to carry out this function, but no one at the meeting volunteered to do so.

Mark Backhouse seconded Tony's proposal which was then carried by a majority vote.

It was agreed that the Officers should investigate an alternative for 2024.

12. 2024 AGM

It was agreed that the 2024 AGM would be held in the afternoon on Saturday 2 March. Venue to be decided.

13. A vote of thanks was made to:

Julia Hunt for taking the Service
Lucy Hopkins Till for playing the organ
John Durham for reading the psalm
Mike Hopkins Till for running the ringing
John Durham for making the arrangements
The Bucklebury Ringers for providing the tea.

14. Any other Business

a) Maureen Velvick detailed the arrangements for the return of the bells to East Garston:

18 March 10.30 am Visit to Whites to see the bells. Please tell Maureen if you wish to attend.

25 March Bells arrive at the Church

26 March Bells are blessed

27/28 March Bells to be re hung. Volunteers to tell Maureen if they are available.

The bells have new headstocks. The tenor has been tuned and has been weighed at 13 cwt, losing half a stone as a result of the tuning.

b) Lucy Hopkins Till asked whether Mike Hopkins Till could be proposed as a Distinguished Member of the Guild. Stuart Gibson advised that a proposal could be made by an individual.

c) Mark Robins intends to organise a Quarter Peal Week in September. Richard Marshall has indicated he is willing to organise a Branch Dinner at the end of that week.

d) Stuart Gibson reiterated his thanks for the proposed donation to the O D Bell Fund and announced that as 2024 is a Leap Year there will be an O D Quarter Peal Week to raise money for the Bell Fund.

e) Lucy Hopkins Till noted that there had not been any Officer's Meetings during 2022. Martin Rice replied that any matters requiring action had been dealt with by email. The requirement for Officer's Meetings would be reviewed by Martin.

The meeting closed at 5.15 pm

Distribution
Stuart Gibson
All Branch Members

ADS 13. 03. 23