

Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Winchester District

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held on Saturday 14th February 2009 at Winchester

Afternoon ringing took place at Twyford; unfortunately only 9 ringers attended this part of the afternoon's proceedings. Tea was then held in the Education Centre in the Cathedral Close, Winchester, and after a service touch of Grandsire Cinques members joined the congregation for Choral Evensong in the Cathedral. The meeting was held in the Education Centre following which there was open ringing on the Cathedral bells until 8:45pm.

Chairman's Welcome

The meeting was open promptly at 6:30 by Chairman Peter Hill. He explained that as the Secretary, Charlotte Meader, had expressed her intention to stand down from the post, Christine Hill had offered to take the minutes. The meeting approved this arrangement.

The Chairman thanked the authorities at Winchester and Twyford for allowing us the use of their bells, and thanked the Winchester ringers for making the arrangements and for providing an excellent tea. He then welcomed guests, Charlotte Colliss (Swanmore), Robin Milford (Curdrige), Wendy Smart (Botley), Robin Winckworth (Petersfield), June Birch (Guildford), Hugh and Maureen Routh (Steep), and some 40 members.

Loss of member from death

The Chairman reported the death, on 23 January 2009, of Jack Page, a former ringer at Romsey Abbey and a Life Member of the Guild. Charlotte Meader said that there had been a low key funeral service, and the Abbey ringers had rung a quarter in his memory. The meeting stood in silence.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Sue Spurling, Wendy Ling and Theo Johnson.

Election of New Members

Confirmation of Probationary Members

Wonston	10 Jan 2009	Paul Fitzgerald	Prop G Cornick, sec V Keel
Sparsholt	12 Jan 2009	Jonathan Anderson	Prop J Cleverley, sec J Watson
Kings Somborne	2 Feb 2009	Jack Lane	Prop S Spurling, sec S Holligan
Romsey Abbey	11 Feb 2009	Bethany Tongs	Prop A Glover, sec J Hetherington
Old Alresford	9 Jan 2009	Elizabeth Kirk	Prop H Galley, sec I Redway
Hursley	10 Feb 2009	Michael Arthur	Prop P Hill, sec J Higgins
Hursley	10 Feb 2009	Joe Arthur	Prop P Hill, sec J Higgins
Easton	12 Oct 2008	Sarah Bullen	Prop J Bishop, sec S Janssen
Easton	12 Oct 2008	Diana Wilson	Prop J Bishop, sec S Janssen
Easton	12 Oct 2008	Tom Player	Prop J Bishop, sec S Janssen

Compounding Members

29th November 2008	Ross Hartley of Beckenham, Kent Proposed R LeMarechal, seconded J Colliss prior to a peal at Bexhill
2nd January 2009	Jacqueline L Bale of Epsom, Surrey Proposed R LeMarechal, seconded by B Carey prior to a peal at Bishopstoke
4th January 2009	Brian A Sanders of Barnsley Proposed R LeMarechal, seconded by J Colliss prior to a peal at Birmingham

These were all confirmed unanimously.

New Ringing Members

Lockerley & East Tytherley	Carol Higgins and Kate Clerke Proposed by Joy Scanlan and seconded by Jen Churchill
Kings Somborne	John Stammers Proposed by Sue Spurling and seconded by Brian Orange
Sparsholt	Hannah Cooper Proposed by John Cleverley and seconded by Jenny Watson
Hursley	Margaret Eltham Proposed by Janice Higgins and seconded by Christine Hill
North Stoneham	Johanna and James Duquenoy Proposed by Martin Kelly and seconded by Gerard Catt
Romsey Abbey	Jane Pridmore Proposed by Andrew Glover and seconded by John Williams
Winchester Cathedral	Lynne Woodward Proposed by Paul Nolan and seconded by George Medd

These were all elected unanimously.

Presentation of certificates

A First Peal certificate was presented to Joy Scanlan of Lockerley.

First Quarter Peal certificates were collected for James Pinder and Jane Anderson (Easton), Nicky Breen (Crawley) and Georgia Kelly (North Stoneham), as these were not present at the meeting.

Membership certificates were collected for Harriet Dodd (Hursley), Astri Ablitt (Romsey) and Janet Morris (Bishopstoke), as none of these were present at the meeting.

The Chairman congratulated members on their achievements, welcomed the new members and asked people to encourage new members to attend District events.

Minutes of last Quarterly Meeting

The minutes of the last quarterly meeting, held at Lockerley on 8th November 2008, were read out by the Chairman. They were accepted as a true and accurate record by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from the previous minutes and from the previous ADM at Romsey

At the last ADM Edmund Wratten had advised of a number of changes in the organisation of the united benefices in the north of the District. The Chairman advised that the District Officers had considered whether a report on possible rearrangement of the district boundaries should be made, but had seen no advantages in doing this at the present time.

Elizabeth Johnson reported that the bells at Avington were now installed – three bells in a five bell frame. Local objections to adding two more bells had been withdrawn and the augmentation was proceeding. There is still a lot of work to be done, and there are still local sensitivities and she advised that potential visitors should wait for a while.

Events since the last Meeting

Carol Service

The service at Hursley was reasonably attended, but mainly by the local band. The Chairman said how disappointing low attendances were for people who put a lot of effort into arrangements and urged members to support events.

Best Kept Tower Competition

The Chairman said that this was a new initiative, and six towers had entered – Easton, East Tytherley, Hursley, Lockerley, New Alresford and Romsey. All these towers were in very good shape, and he awarded the prize (a box of chocolates) to Lockerley.

Officers' Reports

A joint Chairman, Secretary and Ringing Masters' report had been previously circulated. A condensed version of this for inclusion in the Guild Annual Report had also been circulated, together with a PRO's report and the Treasurer's report and accounts.

The Chairman thanked all the current officers for their efforts during the past year and invited any questions. The acceptance of the reports was proposed by John Croft, seconded by Tony Smith and carried unanimously, subject to the correction of some minor errors and the insertion of the result of the Best Kept Tower competition.

Election of Officers

Guild Master David Strong took the Chair for the election of the District Chairman. Following his re-election Peter Hill resumed control.

Office	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman	Peter Hill	Charlotte Meader	Elizabeth Johnson
Secretary	Rosemary Oakeshott	Judy Bishop	Charlotte Meader
Treasurer	Clare Griffiths	Roy LeMarechal	Graham Wright
Ringing Masters	Jen Churchill	John Palk	Janice Higgins
	Christine Hill	Charlotte Meader	George Medd
Guild Exec Rep	Wendy Ling	The Chairman	
Public Relations	John Palk	The Chairman	
Accounts Examiner	John Colliss	The Chairman	

As in previous years only one person was nominated per office, and all were elected unanimously. The Chairman thanked Charlotte Meader for everything that she had done during her year as Secretary.

Future Events

The Chairman drew attention to the provisional list of events for 2009. He asked again for people to support events, and said that some district practices were still to be arranged because the officers would prefer bands to invite the District to their tower. He asked towers to approach any District Officer if they wished to host an event.

The District Calendar and Directory would be produced for circulation with the Guild Newsletter in March. This was being produced after the ADM so it could contain details of the current officers.

Specific events.

- The summer practice at Winchester Cathedral this year would be on Wednesday 12 August.

- On the second Tuesday of each month there would be a Surprise Major practice on the simulator at Hursley, 730-900pm. All are welcome.
- The District Outing this year had been cancelled because of lack of support. A show of hands indicated that people were keen on it being arranged again in 2009, on a date to be decided.
- District Carol Service – Old Alresford had agreed to host this, with the support of their PCC.

Tessa Smith drew members' attention to the forthcoming Guild dinner to be held on 4 April in Winchester. Tickets are still available. Roger Savory and the Dean of Winchester will be speaking.

BRF Collection

The BRF collection raised £27.

Any Other Business

Andrew Johnson asked whether advertising meetings and the Carol Service in the Ringing World might improve attendance. The outgoing Secretary admitted that this had not been done this year, but it was agreed that it should be done in future. The District Officers would also consider a quarterly advertisement for other district events.

Jackie Downham asked members to volunteer for Refectory duty at the Cathedral – this was good fun. She asked members to take posters back to their towers and encourage people to sign up.

Elizabeth Johnson said that the Best Kept Tower competition had been good and that more towers should be encouraged to enter, particularly those which were not so good on either cleanliness or safety issues. The Chairman said it would be promoted again next year, and that he and John Palk were looking at producing some information for towers on where to seek advice on safety matters.

The Chairman proposed that District funds be used to sponsor people attending Guild Education events, which usually cost about £8 per day. This was well received, and a discussion ensued about whether it should be available to certain people only, or open to all. The Chairman proposed that £50 per event in the next year be made available, for which anyone could apply, and the District Officers would come up with some rules on how to apply and how money would be allocated. This was carried unanimously.

Andrew Johnson said that he had heard of a device to measure oddstruckness, and suggested that the District or Guild obtain one which towers could borrow. It was agreed to pass this suggestion to the Guild for consideration. It was noted that a device might be available from bellhangers.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:35pm and thanked everyone for coming.