

**Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers  
Winchester District**

**Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at  
New Alresford**

The meeting started at 18.05 hrs.

1. The District Secretary, Mike Hopkins Till, apologised for the absence of the Chairman, who was absent suffering from food poisoning, and stated that he had been asked to stand in, with the assent of the meeting. He welcomed everybody to the meeting, particularly Bryn Richards, visiting from Mansfield. He went on to offer a vote of thanks to Elizabeth Johnson and Jackie Redway for making the arrangements and providing a sumptuous tea and to Peter Colquhoun for taking the service and Lucy Hopkins Till for playing the organ.
2. The meeting stood in silence to remember Jack King, previously a ringer at Winchester Cathedral, who had died recently.
3. Apologies for absence were given by: John Colliss, Jacquie Horne, Andrew Glover, John Palk, John Croft, Ann LeMarechal, Roy LeMarechal, Sue Craddock.

4. Members elected, and elections confirmed, by the Meeting.

The following were elected as new members:

John Chaplin and Rosanna Chadwick of King's Somborne; proposed by Sue Spurling, seconded by Brian Orange.

Alexander Dicks of Bishopstoke; proposed by Roy LeMarechal, seconded by Ann LeMarechal.

Stephen Fenwick of Romsey Abbey, proposed by Andrew Glover, seconded by Charlotte Meader.

The following elections were confirmed.

New member:

Barney J. Stratford of Hursley elected prior to a peal at Hursley on 12th Feb 2011; proposed by Tony Smith, seconded by Peter Hill.

Compounding members:

Pamela J Thomas of Tonbridge elected prior to a peal at Bicester on 20th March 2010; proposed by Roy LeMarechal, seconded by Graham Wright.

Keith D Waples of Hitchin elected prior to a peal at Hitchin on 20th March 2010; proposed by Roy LeMarechal, seconded by Graham Wright.

Anthony P Cotton of Derby and Simon D G Webb of Cirencester elected prior to a peal at Brecon Cathedral on 24th November 2010; proposed by Roy LeMarechal, seconded by Clare Griffiths.

Faith J Pearce of St Peter Mancroft. Norwich elected prior to a peal at Wymondham, Norfolk on 8th January 2011; proposed by Roy LeMarechal, seconded by Graham Wright.

Probationary members:

Nicola Plummer, Nick Allingham, David Rowley, Rev. Mark Bailey, Mark Wadey, Richard Reynolds, Alan Gower, Wendy Harris, Elayne Norman, Sarah Hazard

elected at Barton Stacey November 13<sup>th</sup> 2010; proposed by Edmund Wratten, seconded by Sue Spurling.

Margaret Goodfellow, Jessica Blatchford

elected at King's Worthy 14th January 2011; proposed by Jonathan Smith, seconded by Lynda Fletcher.

Dorothy Sweeney

elected at Wonston 14th January 201; proposed by Valerie Keel, seconded by Gerry Cornick.

Julian Orchard and Patrick Cooper

elected 12th January 2011 at Romsey Abbey, proposed by Andrew Glover, seconded by Caroline Daniels

Membership certificates were distributed for Caroline Blatchford and Mary Edelsten (Winchester Cathedral), and Elizabeth Hill (Sparsholt).

**5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Quarterly District meeting held at Hursley on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2010 were considered for accuracy. Two spelling corrections were made: Section 5, Election of New Members, Mary Adderley was corrected to Mary Edelsten and John Cleverly was corrected to John Cleverley.

Tony Smith requested that, for Compounding Members, details should be given in full of whom, when and where. Similarly for Full members whose membership is ratified after a belfry election before a peal attempt.

**6. Matters Arising**

No matters were raised from the minutes of the previous meeting.

**7. Officers' Reports**

Committee: The Officers' Committee had produced and circulated a report. A number of errors were corrected: passing of members, Charles Blackman and Peter Dennis (should have been Davies) had been remembered at the previous ADM. Jack King, late of Winchester Cathedral was remembered at this meeting. The section on the Quarter Peal week had corrections to Joe Arthur (not Arthur Green ) and "fist"

was amended to “first” before “quarters”. The report was then adopted by the meeting.

Ringling Masters: Edmund and Lucy presented a résumé of practices held during the previous year, mentioning the higher numbers practice at Hursley, the District Outing to Oxford for which they thanked Christine and Peter Hill, The Young Peoples outing with thanks to Jen Churchill, and the Beyond Bob Doubles sessions organised and run by Edmund and covering Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Surprise Minor. They said that most events had been very successful, but attendance at District practices was very variable and often featured the same few people.

Sue Spurling wished to congratulate Edmund on the success of the Beyond Bob Doubles sessions.

The report was then adopted by the meeting.

Treasurer: Rosemary had prepared accounts and John Colliss had examined them. There were no questions about the accounts and they were also adopted by the meeting. Rosemary thanked John for examining the accounts and Clare Griffiths (the previous Treasurer) for passing on an exemplary setup.

## **8. Election of Officers**

In the absence of the Chairman, Mike Hopkins Till called for nominations for the post of Chairman.

John Palk was nominated by , seconded by and elected unopposed.

Mike then went on to state that he had filled the post of Secretary to help out, but he knew he was not the best person to carry out that role, owing to other commitments and a degree of personal disorganisation. He called for nominations for the post of Secretary. Bruce Purvis was nominated by Lucy Hopkins Till, seconded by Rosemary Oakeshott and elected unopposed.

Nominations for the post of Treasurer were called for. Rosemary Oakeshott was nominated by , seconded by . In the absence of other nominations, Rosemary was re-elected.

Nominations for the posts of Joint Ringing Master were as follows:

Mike Hopkins Till, nominated by Edmund Wratten, seconded by

Lucy Hopkins Till, nominated by , seconded by .

There were no other nominations and they were unanimously elected.

Executive Committee Representative: Lucy Hopkins Till was nominated by Bruce Purvis, seconded by and elected unopposed.

Public Relations Officer: John Palk was nominated by , seconded by and elected unopposed.

Independent Examiner: John Colliss was nominated by , seconded by and elected unopposed.

## 9. Future Events

District Striking Contest: an invitation had been extended by the ringers at Brown Candover to hold the contest there on 14<sup>th</sup> May. The new Officers' Committee would liaise with them and make the arrangements.

A Young Ringers outing had been requested and Jen Churchill was asked if she would be willing to arrange it again, to which she agreed.

John Palk had offered to arrange a District outing, details to be circulated later.

Andrew Johnson mentioned that Twyford bells might be available for a District 8 bell practice from 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. some Tuesday evenings.

Peter Hill stated that there is a Surprise Major practice at Hursley on the second Tuesday of the month.

Details of Quarterly District meetings would be circulated later.

Bruce Purvis asked if there was any interest in practising Treble Dodging Minor methods and / or a Peal week. This prompted a discussion about the quarter peal week, which is usually held in October, often at half term. It was mentioned that some people go away for half term and so were excluded from the quarter peal week. David Strong proposed and Bruce Purvis seconded a motion that we hold a quarter peal fortnight that would include some peal attempts with one of the weeks coinciding with half term. Peter Hill observed that the Clockhouse mini-ring might be available, but would probably be restricted to three peals per day!

The motion was put to the vote and carried without opposition.

Lucy mentioned that the Officers would consider arranging Education sessions of half a day for those people who were unable to commit a whole day.

## 10. Any Other Business

Phil Watts drew the attention of the meeting to the planned Ringing World centenary celebrations, to take place in London on March 26<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged everybody to join in.

Phil went on to mention a peal attempt at North Stoneham to emulate one rung there on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1911 and published in the first edition of the Ringing World. Mike Hopkins Till was arranging a band for the attempt.

Elizabeth Johnson announced that the practice at New Alresford on 25<sup>th</sup> March had been cancelled so that a peal attempt could be made to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bells there.

It was announced that the collection for the BRF had realised £55.50.

A message was passed on that Barton Stacey need some help to train their new band. Practice nights are Wednesdays.

David Strong (Guild Master) was invited to speak on behalf of the Guild. He invited everybody present to come to the Guild Dinner on 21<sup>st</sup> May, particularly as it was to be held at the new Holiday Inn in Winchester. Tickets were available from the organisers, Charlotte Colliss and Julia Clarke at £29.50. David went on to promote the District Officers Forum, to be held in Southampton on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. This was an opportunity for two representatives from each District (not necessarily the Executive Committee members) to meet and to develop ideas on how to improve matters within the Guild. It was to be a discussion forum and significant suggestions could be presented as proposals for either the Executive or the Guild General meeting.

Elizabeth Johnson announced that there was marmalade on sale in support of the New Alresford bells appeal.

The meeting closed at 6.55 p.m.