

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

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held on Saturday 9th August 2014 outside the Church of St Mary, Easton.

- 1. Chairman's welcome:** As the weather was favourable, the meeting was held outside the church. The Chairman, John Palk, opened the meeting at 12.45 with a welcome to those present and expressing thanks to Judy Bishop and Sara Janssen for arrangements and to the Vicar and Wardens for the use of the bells. In the absence of the District Secretary, Andrew Glover was asked to take the minutes.
- 2. Attendance:** The following 10 members of the District were present (representing 7 towers with one member unattached): Judy Bishop, Sara Janssen (Easton), Mary Tiles (Micheldever), Sue Spurling (King's Somborne), Anthony Kent (Bishopstoke), John Palk (Lockerley), Elizabeth Johnson, Rodney Skinner, (New Alresford), Andrew Glover, (Romsey), Edmund Wratten (unattached). There were no guests.
- 3. Apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Peter Willis and Carol Herring (Candover Valley), Amanda Bayford (Crawley), Pam Christmas, Susie Smith, Meyrick Griffiths (all Easton), Drew and Sue Craddock, Christine, Katie, Peter and Rosemary Hill, Tony Smith (all Hursley), all of Lockerley (except John Palk), all of Romsey (except Andrew Glover), Bruce Purvis (Winchester Cathedral), Hugh Hill (Winchester College), Gerry Cornick (Wonston), John and Joyce Croft (unattached).
- 4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The minutes of the Annual District Meeting held on 10 May in the Parish Church of St Stephen, Sparsholt, were accepted as a true record: proposed by Sue Spurling, seconded by Rodney Skinner and adopted on a show of hands.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

St Swithun's/Winchester College initiative: Caroline Fairley reported that joint practices/training sessions of the two schools will start in the New Year, at the College on Tuesday afternoons. Judy Bishop asked why Diana Wilson of Avington had to be re-elected. (This was necessary due to lapsed membership). Rodney Skinner suggested that with all the new members being elected, they should be encouraged to turn up to the meetings.

6. Confirmation of belfry elections.

Compounding members:

Andrew J Cairns of Newcastle Cathedral prior to a peal at Gosforth on 9 May 2014 proposed by Roy LeMarechal, seconded by John Colliss.

Simon A Percy of York Minster prior to a peal at Cheltenham Minster on 26 July 2014 proposed by Christine Hill, seconded by Tony Smith.

Probationary members:

Will Elliott and Laura Smith of North Stoneham on 8 April 2014 proposed by Phil Nicholls, seconded by Charles Harrison.

Mara Wicks of Old Alresford on 3 July 2014 proposed by Ian Redway, seconded by Elizabeth Johnson.

Alex Cairns of Lockerley on 31 July 2014 proposed by Jen Churchill, seconded by Gary Davies.

7. Election of new ringing members.

None received.

8. Presentation of certificates.

David Edgar of Ropley (elected 8/1/14) – not collected.

Ross Playle of Winchester College (elected 10/5/14) – held over as not in Winchester at the moment (student at Winchester University).

1st Peal certificates - Bradley Lewis (Lockerley) – taken by John Palk

1st Quarter Peal certificates were presented to:

Anthony Kent (Bishopstoke)

Kathryn Macgregor (Romsey) – taken by Andrew Glover

Elizabeth Hill (Sparsholt) – taken by Edmund Wratten

9. Election of additional Ringing Master.

There were no nominations or volunteers for this role.

10. Future Events.

The chairman advised that the Young Ringers' Outing organised by Jen Churchill would not go ahead this year due to insufficient numbers of the more experienced young ringers being available.

Andrew Glover issued details of the District Outing on Saturday 18 October to the Hampshire/Surrey border. These would be circulated by the District Secretary, along with menus as the lunch orders are requested in advance.

District Peal/Quarter Peal event in October – The chairman reminded the meeting that it was time to start thinking about any attempts and whether assistance would be required to achieve any goals.

The next QDM and Training Event on 8 November will be held at Sherfield English with the meeting in the Village Hall.

11. Any Other Business

Judy Bishop asked about the validity of the August meeting with so few members present and whether it should go ahead in the future. It was agreed this would be discussed by the District committee and at a future meeting.

Young Ringers' Practices and Annual Outing – Sue Spurling wished to thank Jen Churchill for all she did with the Young Learners and it was a shame that their outing would not go ahead this year.

Ropley update – Rodney Skinner gave a brief update on Ropley but had nothing 'official' to say. The bells are still in the tower and there is now scaffolding around the tower to make it

safe. The walls are going to be weatherproofed and the windows boarded up to prevent people entering the church. We await official news once the forensic investigations have been completed. The ringers currently hold practices at Old Alresford on the first and third Thursdays and also ring for some of the services at Old Alresford and Bishop's Sutton.

Winchester District email group – Andrew Glover said details were circulated in the summer edition of the Winchester Rounds but there was a very poor uptake. The group was created for all members of Winchester District to subscribe to and was intended to be a cut-down version of the Win-Port group that just focuses on the Winchester District. Andrew would ask Bruce to circulate the link to tower contacts and hopefully more members will subscribe.

John Palk said that some of the District events had been poorly supported recently. He asked for tower reps to discuss with their members what they would like to see on next year's programme as the committee would soon be drawing up the list of events for next year.

There was no collection made for the BRF due to the small number of members present.

The meeting closed at 1.35pm.