

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

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held on Saturday 12th May 2012 in the Parish Church of All Saints, Hursley.

The meeting started at 5.30 p.m., with 30 members of the District and two guests present.

The Chairman, John Palk, opened the meeting with a welcome to those present and with thanks to the Hursley Band for hosting the day, to Peter Niblett for overseeing the judging of the Striking Competition and to Richard Thompson and his team for providing a splendid ringers' tea.

Striking Competition Results. The chairman of the judges, Peter Niblett, spoke of the competition as having two halves: two teams wishing to push the bells along and the other two opting for a slower pace.

Team A rang Cambridge Surprise Minor at a peal speed of 2h 39m. Theirs was good, confident (i.e. fast) ringing, with no method errors. Handstroke gaps were in general quite pronounced, but there were some slight inconsistencies in the leading which is noticeable at this pace. There were some small irregularities when 5 and 6 were dodging.

Team B opted for Plain Bob Doubles, rung at a peal speed of 3h 7m. This band started at a much steadier pace than Team A, and seemed to slow down further as the ringing progressed. Again there were no method errors, but there was a bit of unsteadiness around the bobs. It was quite difficult to place this team relative to team A, given the difference in speed and method.

Team C also rang Plain Bob Doubles, at a peal speed of 3h 5m. This band also rang at a steady speed. There were a few hesitations and clips but no major errors. The ringing settled down in the last two leads, which were good.

Team D rang Grandsire Doubles, at a peal speed of 2h 41m. This band had a rope break during their practice, but it didn't seem to throw them off their stride. All credit to the ringer of the 2nd who had to cope with a new rope. This band returned to the pace of Team A, with no method mistakes. One or two of the handstroke leads were rushed, but there were several entire leads with no blemishes, and overall the ringing was a pleasure to listen to.

Sue Spurling said how much she enjoyed judging the competition, adding that it was a good experience in the company of an expert, and she would encourage others to try judging. She found the minor hard to score owing to the greater complexity and difficulty in distinguishing the rows. The scores varied between the judges but they were proportionately equivalent.

John Palk, the third of the judges announced the results:-

in fourth place, with 29 faults: Team C: Romsey Abbey;
in third place, with 14½ faults: Team B: Lockerley;
in second place, with 14 faults: Team A: Hursley;
in first place, with 9 faults: Team D: Bishopstoke.

Apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from Gerry Cornick.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting. The minutes of the Annual District Meeting held on 11 February in the Education Centre, Winchester Cathedral, were accepted as a true record: proposed by Michael Hopkins Till, seconded by John Palk.

Matters Arising. The treasurer pointed out that, under the record of elections of full members, Peter Winter (now of Romsey Abbey) had not needed electing as he was a ringing member the previous year, at Milford on Sea in the Christchurch and Southampton District.

Election of Members.

1. Confirmation of belfry elections.

Compounding members:

Andrea B Beaumont of Weston-super-Mare and Matthew D Dawson of St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, prior to a peal at Wimborne Minster on Monday 9 April 2012, proposed by Edd Colliss, seconded by Lizzie Hough.

Ringing members:

Kevin J McManus, unattached member of the Christchurch & Southampton district, prior to a peal at Bishopstoke on 10 April 2012, proposed by Roy LeMarechal, seconded by John Colliss.

Probationary members:

Filip Hargreaves of Romsey on 1 February 2012, proposed by Andrew Glover, seconded by Adrian Hargreaves;

Mary Tiles of Micheldever on 14 February 2012, proposed by Gerry Cornick, seconded by John Croft;

Wayne Irish of North Stoneham on 14 February 2012, proposed by Alison Martin, seconded by Phil Nicholls;

Aaron Brown of Micheldever on 3 March 2012, proposed by Gerry Cornick, seconded by Valerie Keal;

Islay Evans of King's Somborne on 5 March 2012, proposed by Sue Spurling, seconded by Ron White;

Gillian Dockray of Micheldever on 24 April 2012, proposed by Gerry Cornick, seconded by John Croft.

All confirmed on a show of hands.

2. Election of new member. Joff Marshall-Lee as a ringing member of the Candover Valley band, proposed by Jill Parr, seconded by Peter Willis; elected on a show of hands.

Membership certificates were taken for Elaine Anderson, Shona Blackmore (both of West Tytherley), Jessica Blatchford (King's Worthy), Hamish Corfield (New Alresford), Margaret Goodfellow (King's Worthy), Louise Gould, Anthea

Hawkins (both of West Tytherley), Christine Leahy (King's Somborne), Stephanie Nicholls (North Stoneham), Benjamin Stokes, Catherine Stokes (both of Romsey Abbey) and Robert Stratford (West Tytherley).

Future Events.

The following events were planned, all subject to confirmation:

9 June: Training evening on *Raising and lowering in peal* at Easton; 12 June: Tower Representatives' Meeting, Winchester; 14 July: Training evening North Stoneham, 11 August: Quarterly District Meeting: Picnic and walk in the Itchen Valley; Late August/Early September: Young Ringers' Outing; 29 August: District Practice, Winchester; 1-30 September: Best-kept Tower review period; 8 September: Outing to Mid-Somerset; 13-28 October: District Quarter-Peal and Peal fortnight; 10 November: Quarterly District Meeting and Education Day, Alresford; 8 December: District Carol Service, King's Somborne; 12 January 2013: District Practice, Micheldever; 9 February: Annual District Meeting, Lockerley and the Tytherleys; w/c 11 March: District Practice; w/c 8 April: Training event.

The chairman reported that he had secured the following towers within a rough timetable for the District Outing on 8 September: Ston Easton (6, 4cwt), Chilcompton (6, 20cwt), lunch, Pilton (8, 17cwt), Marston Bigot (6, 8cwt) and Pig-le-Tower, tea, Ditchat (8, 24cwt) and/or Evercreech (10, 21cwt), both subject to confirmation. Andrew Johnson enquired about travelling times between towers: the chairman replied, about 10-15 minutes.

Any other business.

The treasurer reported that the District's grant of £500 to New Alresford for the rehang of their bells had been returned, as had that from the Guild Bell Restoration Fund, owing to the success of their fundraising efforts, on which he congratulated the band. Elizabeth Johnson explained that the Gala Concert in December had raised more than £7,500, and that the church had received a bequest of £13,000 from the estate of the late Peggy Chalk, specifically for the use of the belfry. Enhancements to the access ladders were being called for on health-and-safety grounds, and the legacy would be put towards that objective.

At the suggestion of the District officers, the treasurer invited discussion on whether the District should give newly-elected members Guild badges, at a charge of £2 each to the District. The Isle of Wight and Christchurch and Southampton Districts gave their members badges on election. Upon Nigel Herriott's proposal the meeting agreed to give a Guild Badge to new members. An amendment proposed by Andrew Johnson that a Badge should only be given when the new member attended a District meeting was lost. Rosemary Oakeshott reminded the meeting to hand out Welcome leaflets to new members.

Elizabeth Johnson informed the meeting that the Ovington ring was being chimed: Nicholson's had advised that the tower was unsafe for regular ringing and that consideration was being given to a restoration project.

The treasurer said that new District Directories and Programme Cards were available and thanked Wendy Ling for printing them.

The collection for the Bell Restoration Fund raised £23.01

The meeting closed at 5.57 p.m.

Appendix: Striking Competition teams

First Place: Bishopstoke

1	Ann P. LeMarechal	4	Allen L. Guile
2	D. Annabel Preston	5	Graham J. Wright (c)
3	Janet L. Morris	6	John Hallett

Second Place: Hursley

1	Christine R. Hill	4	Anthony P. Smith
2	Patricia D. Spink	5	Richard M. Thompson
3	Pamela J. Thompson	6	Peter W. Hill (c)

Third Place: Lockerley

1	David A. Strong	4	Jen Churchill
2	Brenda Palk	5	Gary Davies (c)
3	Anne Strong	6	Michael Hayward

Fourth Place: Romsey

1	Rosemary Oakeshott	4	W. Nigel G. Herriott (c)
2	Jennifer M. Herriott	5	Jonathan C. Hetherington
3	Benjamin Stokes	6	John Williams