

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

**Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held on Saturday 19th November 2011 in the
Parish Hall, Church Road, Bishopstoke**

The meeting started at 5.54 p.m., with 21 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 Roy LeMarechal and the Bishopstoke band for hosting the day and supporting the afternoon's training in Grandsire and Stedman, to the Revd Richard Wise for taking the Service and to Kay LeMarechal and her team for providing a splendid ringers' tea.

Apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from Celia Ali, Jennifer Baxter, Judy Bishop, Nicky Breen, Caroline Daniels, Robert Howland, Alan Hutchinson, Nicola Plummer and Susan Spurling.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Corrections: Item 2, substitute *Quarterly* for *Annual*; Item 4 under 'Crawley', delete *at this meeting*; after 'Romsey', insert *confirmed and* between *were* and *elected*; Item 6 under 'West Tytherley', delete *that a faculty ... for* and substitute *the Guild BRF had been approached*. With these corrections the minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting, held on 13 August at Barton Stacey, were accepted as a true record

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

Members elected: confirmations.

Compounding Member: David G Maynard of Southwark Cathedral, elected before a peal at Chesterfield Vicarage on 24 August 2011, proposed by Tom Hinks, seconded by James Croft.

Probationary Members: Nicky Atkins, Shona Blackmore, Katie Gould Louise Gould and Anthea Hawkins, all of West Tytherley, on 3 October 2011, proposed by David Strong, seconded by Anne Strong; Robert Stratford of West Tytherley, on 4 October 2011 proposed by David Strong, seconded by Jen Churchill.

Recent Events. The Chairman gave an account of our most enjoyable District Outing on 11 September to the Petworth/Arundel area of West Sussex, attended by about a dozen ringers. The District's very successful Peal and Quarter-Peal fortnight saw two peals and 19 quarters, rung by 80 ringers in 11 venues from 16 to 30 October. The leading towers were The Clock House Bells at Awbridge and Bishopstoke each with a peal and two quarters, the leading ringers were Roy LeMarechal (2 peals, 6 quarters), Harriet Dodd (1 peal, 4 quarters) and Trish Spink (5 quarters).

Future Events.

The District Carol Service would take place at Owslebury on 3 December; the next District Practice would be at Lockerley on 19 January and the ADM would take place at Winchester on 11 February. Edmund Wratten advised that the next *Beyond Bob*

Doubles would be on 30 November at Lockerley and there would be none in December.

Charlotte Colliss reminded the meeting that next year's Guild Dinner would be at the Holiday Inn, Winchester, on 28 April 2012

Best Kept Tower Awards.

Awards were made to Hursley (gold), Romsey (gold) and Sparsholt (silver)

Bell Restoration Projects.

Hursley All Saints: Sound-control shuttering had been completed on two sides, with work on the pulley system being outstanding.

New Alresford St John the Baptist: Work was due to begin in January, with fundraising proceeding well, with the gala concert on 10 December being sold out.

West Tytherley: Work was proceeding well – with the bells back in the frame and test-rung.

Any Other Business.

The paper presented to the Guild Executive meeting that morning on the future of Guild striking competitions was outlined. The Guild wished to receive District responses at the next Executive Committee meeting in March. As this important topic had been aired only that morning the meeting agreed to defer discussion until the ADM.

The Secretary notified the meeting of the death of Mike French of Headbourne Worthy on 13 September

The meeting noted the proposal by the conceptual artist Martin Creed for bells to be rung at 8.00 a.m. on 27 July to launch the Olympic Games.

Lucy Hopkins Till asked for suggestions for methods to be featured at Training sessions: Cambridge Minor and Stedman doubles were suggested.

The collection for the Bell Restoration Fund raised £25.90

The meeting closed at 6.20 p.m.