



**THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN
GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS**

Founded 20 June 1879 as the Winchester Diocesan Guild

Presidents:

THE RIGHT REVD THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER
THE RIGHT REVD THE LORD BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
17 JUNE 2017 5PM
ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL, MILFORD ON SEA**

A G E N D A

1 Master's welcome

2 Inter-District Striking Competition results

3 Apologies for absence

4 Loss of Members from death since the 2016 AGM

Brian Orange	King's Somborne
Ruth Roberts	Christchurch
Alan Anstey	formerly of St Michael's, Basingstoke
D Kenvyn Walters	formerly of Yatley
John Smith	formerly of Ryde and Shanklin
Michael Pointer	formerly of Romsey
Nigel Miller	formerly of Ryde and Arreton
Phillip Davis	formerly of Godshill and Shanklin

5 Minutes of the 2016 AGM

6 Matters arising

7 Life Membership – for fifty years continuous membership

Graham Cane	Buriton
Valerie Williams	East Meon
David Cooper	Blackmoor
Roy le Marechal	Bishopstoke
Rosemary Rogers	Christchurch

8 Officers' and Committee Reports for 2016

a) Hon General Secretary	(Annual Report) P4
b) Hon General Treasurer	P5
c) Education Committee	P15
d) Hon Librarian and Archivist	P17
e) Striking Competitions Committee	P18
f) Belfry Stewardship Committee	P19
g) Hon Peal Recorder	P20

h) Communications Committee P24

9 Bell Restoration Fund

- a) Trustees' Report and Accounts for 2016 (Annual Report) P9
- b) Grant Proposals

10 Report on 2017 Central Council Meeting

11 Guild Officer Elections

Confirmation of appointment of Honorary General Secretary

12 Action Plan Update

13 Proposals

- a) To reduce wasteful printing of unwanted annual reports
- b) To setup a Guild Ringing Schools Committee
- c) To formalise the relationship between the Guild and its committees
- d) AGM date

14 Future Guild Events

District Officers Forum	30 th September 2017	St Barnabas' Church Hall
Education Course	14 th October	Plain Hunt & Trebling to Doubles Methods – Goodworth Clatford
Education Course	4 th November	Stedman Triples, Venue TBA
Executive Committee Mtg	18 th November	St Barnabas' Church Hall
Executive Committee Mtg	10 th March 2018	St Barnabas' Church Hall

15 Date and place of 2018 AGM

16 June 2018 at Basingstoke

16 Any other business

Motion (A)

Tony Smith proposes and John Palk seconds on behalf of the Executive Committee that the wasteful printing of unwanted copies of the annual report be reduced by asking members to request copies in advance. Specifically that rule 18 **Reports** be sub-divided and 18.c amended by deleting the words struck through and inserting the words underlined.

- a. Local secretaries shall forward an annual report on the activities of their tower to their District Secretary not later than 4th January of the following year.
- b. Each year the Honorary Report Editor of the Guild will issue a questionnaire to each District Secretary for completion. District Secretaries shall forward the completed questionnaires and an annual report on the activities of their District to the Honorary Report Editor for publication, not later than 28th February.
- c. Funds permitting, an annual report shall be published, the contents of which shall be at the discretion of the Executive Committee. ~~A copy will be supplied free to all except probationary and compounding members.~~ A copy will be supplied free to all life, ringing and associate members who have requested a copy. District Secretaries or District Treasurers will ask local secretaries how many of their members would like a copy of the report and shall forward the number required by the District to the Honorary Report Editor not later than 28th February.

Motion (B)

Andy Ingram proposes and Mike Winterborne seconds that a Guild Ringing Schools Committee should be setup.

Throughout this process the terms Teaching Schools, Hubs, Ringing Schools have been used at various times but all are inter-changeable.

Background to the Project

From the ACTION PLAN REVIEW AGREED AT THE 2015 A.G.M – PERIOD 5TH JULY 2015 – 2ND JULY 2016 (Part):-

In addition, a focus group has been established recently; the initial purpose has been to investigate and introduce if necessary, the possibility of teaching schools within our Guild. The group is financially and administratively separate from other Guild committees. It will act harmoniously with them, of course. The group will report to the Executive Committee later in 2016 and might require some funding.

In response to this the March 2016 Executive meeting agreed to the “*setting up of a working group ... to consider the provision of centre(s) for teaching new ringers*”.

Further clarification was given by the Past-Master (Viv Nobbs) as to what she had envisaged to be the outcome of this project:

“To encourage ... ringing and the cultivation of change ringing by increasing the number of proficient ringers across the Guild”.

Stage 1 - Teaching Schools Model

Although this was a broad remit the initial purpose of the working group was defined to investigate (and introduce, if necessary) the possibility of teaching schools within the Guild. The working group discussed the projects aims, possible types of model, syllabus and hardware and was generally in agreement with the following aspects of :

1. Training should focus on teaching safe and consistent bell handling up to rounds standard, and further into elementary change ringing as students progress. The group acknowledged that various factors needed to be considered between where teaching was most needed, versus a supply of good teachers, and the potential availability of good training facilities.
2. Various types of models to be used were discussed, from intensive term- holiday courses, to weekly evening courses. Saturday mornings (roughly 10-12 o'clock) would probably be the most popular for students and teachers.
3. A charge per student per session was considered appropriate, which would be used to cover tower donations and course material. Various “rewards” for learners at set stages should also be able to be supported by this charge.
4. In setting up a teaching centre, various costs will be incurred, and sought from the Guild. There could be initial costs in setting up a venue as a suitable venue and as such, a budget submission will be made to the Guild for its approval to cover certain envisaged costs, and the risk of any shortfall.
5. Further discussion is needed to be had on the syllabus, but it was considered that the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) ‘Learning the Ropes’ schemes (levels 1 and 2) provides students and teachers with clear goals and would provide a consistent, graded approach which can be easily adopted in different areas.

6. The group considered that good teaching venues would have (amongst other things):
- bells that can be regularly available
 - space for teaching and/or whiteboard area
 - refreshment facilities
 - toilets

The Chairman of this focus group, David Mattingley, presented a paper based on the above to the Executive Committee Meeting, 12 November, 2016. This concluded the work of this working group other than defining the terms of reference for the Ringing Schools Committee.

Stage 2 - Implementation

It is proposed to create a committee, Ringing Schools Committee, to create and manage the teaching facilities described above.

Although independent it would work with the Education Committee concerning matters of mutual interest (this reflects the Central Council arrangement of separate Education and Ringing Centres Committees whereby the latter provides hardware and trainers, the former provides training material and courses).

Terms of reference: *"To teach members' bell-handling to a good and safe standard"*

Initially the work of this committee will be to investigate viable sites for Ringing Schools with budgets for additional equipment and to prioritise those sites which would be relatively easy to set up. Availability of trainers will also be a consideration.

A progressive implementation of Schools is envisaged subject to budget constraints and availability of Committee members time.

Once Schools are established the Committee will be responsible for promotion and support (as required) of the Schools so that they can maintain high standards of tuition together with dissemination of good practice throughout the Guild.

Motion (C)

Tony Smith proposes and the Master seconds on behalf of the Executive Committee that the relationship between the Guild and its committees be formalised. Specifically, that in rule 4 **Administration** “Convenors of sub-committees” be amended to “Convenors of committees”, that the following two new rules be added after the existing rule 8, that existing rules 9 to 22 be renumbered 11 to 24, and that cross-references between rules be adjusted accordingly.

9. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

- a. Members are appointed to the committees enumerated in paragraph b. of this rule at the General Meeting two years after the meeting at which the officers are elected. Members are appointed for three years and are eligible for reappointment. Notwithstanding the note in rule 22 concerning when an alteration to the rules becomes operative, a new committee shall be appointed at the meeting at which the committee is added to those enumerated in paragraph b. of this rule. The Guild may at any time dissolve a committee or alter its membership.
- b. The following shall be the committees of the Guild:
 - i. Belfry Stewardship
 - ii. Communications
 - iii. Education
 - iv. Striking Competitions
 - v. Ringing Schools
- c. Each committee shall appoint a convenor and shall report annually to the Guild. Each committee shall have the power to co-opt further members. Reasonable expenses may be paid.

10. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEES

The terms of reference of the committees shall be as follows:

- a. *Belfry Stewardship Committee.* To give advice about bells and their fittings in any Guild tower; to inspect and report on all completed bell restoration works subject to grants from the Guild Bell Restoration Fund, and to continue the work of the Guild's Bell Stock Survey.
- b. *Communications Committee.* To enhance communication within the Guild by maintaining and developing the Guild website as the hub of news and information, maintain and develop the e-mail lists and social media presence and connect to the wider bell ringing community.
- c. *Education Committee.* To improve members' ringing abilities and confidence in all practical and theoretical aspects of bell handling and method ringing.
- d. *Striking Competitions Committee.* To encourage improvement in striking across the Guild, through friendly and social competition, both between individual towers and Districts.
- e. *Ringing Schools Committee.* To teach members bell-handling to a good and safe standard.

Motion (D)

Tony Smith proposes and Bruce Purvis seconds on behalf of the Executive Committee that in future the Annual General Meeting should normally be held on the third Saturday in June instead of the first Saturday in July although, in accordance with rule 5, the place and date are fixed at the previous Annual General Meeting.