

**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 7th JULY 2012

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN EAST MEON

1. Master's Welcome

The meeting was chaired by the Master David Strong, who was supported by the Honorary General Secretary Clare Griffiths, the Honorary General Treasurer Michael Bubb and the Minute Secretary Pam Thompson.

Canon Barry Fry said a short prayer to open the meeting.

The Master, David Strong, welcomed members and friends to the meeting in East Meon. The Master thanked all concerned for organising the day, especially Lucy Hopkins Till for the refreshments in the morning and Mo Routh and her team for providing an excellent tea. He also thanked the organist and the vicar for taking the service.

2. Striking Competition Results

Ken Davenport of Wokingham had judged the competition.

All the bands rang Plain Bob Major.

The results were:

1. Winchester District	22 faults
2. Alton & Petersfield District	26 faults
3. Portsmouth District	32 faults
4. Christchurch & Southampton District	35 faults
5. Isle of Wight District	43 faults
6. Channel Islands District	45 faults
7. Andover District	48 faults

3. Apologies for absence

64 members signed the attendance book.

Apologies were presented from Andrew Case, Jen Churchill, John and Joyce Croft, Gary Davies, Francis Ensor, Derek and Ruth Jackson, Andrew Glover, Jon and Lizzie Hetherington, Christine Knights-Whittome, Anthony Manship, Ian and Christine McCallion, Graham Nobbs, Rosemary Oakeshott, Brian Oakes, Bren Palk, Alan Price, David and Ceri Salter, Barbara Townsend, Robin and Gill Wilson.

4. Loss of Members from death since the 2011 AGM

The meeting stood to remember:

Muriel Brown	Alton St Lawrence
Cecil Lock	Romsey Abbey
Heather Foot	Titchfield
Mike French	Headbourne Worthy

5. Minutes of the 2011 AGM

The minutes of the 2011 AGM at Newport had been circulated to all towers . It was noted that under 13 (ii) the word “minimum” should be deleted and “dye” changed to “die”. With these amendments, the minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Master.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

7. Officer & Sub-Committee Reports for 2011

The Master invited comments on each report in turn:

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| i. | Hon General Secretary | No comment. |
| ii. | Hon General Treasurer | No comment. |
| iii. | Education Committee | No comment. |
| iv. | Social Committee | No comment. |
| v. | Honorary Librarian & Archivist | No comment. |
| vi. | Striking Competitions Committee | Tony Smith pointed out that the first line of the accounts should read “Balance brought forward £19.62 and a line inserted for “6 bell IT rope fees £19.00. |
| vii. | Belfry Stewardship Committee | No comment. |
| viii. | Hon Peal Recorder | It was noted that the number of handbell peals for James Croft had been consolidated with those rung by John Croft. James Croft had rung 5 and John Croft had rung 23. |
| ix. | Communications Committee | No comment. |

David Strong proposed a vote of thanks to all the Officers and Committees for their work.

8. Report of 2012 Central Council Meeting

Tony Smith reported that four representatives had attended the meeting in Chester over the Jubilee weekend.

Bill Butler was elected a life member of the Council. Andrew Barnsdale, a member of the Alton & Petersfield District now representing the Sussex County Association, had proposed that peals rung on the simulator should be statistically analysed in the peals report.

Peter Niblett reported that discussion focussed on issues around the recruitment and retention of younger ringers as the average age of ringers was increasing with a large proportion now being over sixty years old. In order to encourage and improve the teaching of new ringers, the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS) had been created and a paper giving information on this was circulated at the meeting. This initiative was particularly aimed at those ringers who had not taught at all or only a little and a course at Bishopstoke would be run in November 2012.

Nigel Herriott, Chairman of the Ringing World Ltd and ex-officio member of the Central Council, urged everyone to subscribe to the Ringing World and encourage others to do so as well. It was now possible to subscribe to receive an electronic copy.

9. Bell Restoration Fund

i Trustees Report and Accounts for 2011

Mike Bubb reported that the funds were available for use and members were welcome to make applications. Nigel Herriott raised the issue of putting money towards the training of new ringers and David Strong stated that this would be addressed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

ii Grant Proposals

Barry Fry updated the meeting on the following proposals:

1. Heckfield

Cost of work £14,361 plus VAT and £11,500 had been raised.
The recommendation was for a grant of £2,000

2. Ringwood

Cost of work was £3,975 plus VAT and £4,000 had been raised.
The recommendation was for a grant of £500.

3. St Agatha's, Portsmouth

Cost of work was £33,854 plus VAT and £20,000 had been raised.
The recommendation was for a grant of £4,000

Tony Smith proposed that these recommendations be taken en bloc. Seconded by Mike Winterbourne and carried nem con.

Mike Bubb told the meeting that the Trustees had withdrawn the grant to New Alresford at their own request.

Hugh Routh commented that the bell stock survey forms that had been completed (over 90) were now on the Guild website. The future work that might be needed on the bell stock had not been quantified financially.

10. District Officers' Forums

David Strong reported that three meetings had so far taken place and the objective was to increase communication between the districts. The Education Committee had put on a course for "teaching the teachers" in a response to Forum discussions.

10(a) Life Membership of the Guild

This item was added to the agenda. Alan Price of Lockerley and East Tytherley had been a member of the Guild since 1962 and had therefore completed 50 years' membership of the Guild. David Strong said he would send him congratulations and his Life Membership Certificate.

10(b) Transfer of Bullington to the Winchester District

This item was added to the agenda. Bullington had requested transfer from the Andover District to the Winchester District as this tower was looked after by the Barton Stacey ringers in the Winchester district. This was carried nem con.

11. Discussion on Guild Dinner and future social events

Charlotte Colliss reported that they had only managed to sell just enough tickets for the 2012 Guild dinner in order to break even. There followed discussion on whether members wanted a formal dinner or something more informal. A straw poll showed a slight majority in favour of a formal dinner rather than a less formal event. David Forder suggested that this should be left to the Social Committee to consider what arrangements could be made.

12. Discussion on future Striking Competitions

Mike Hopkins Till had circulated a paper proposing that:

- a) The Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild should seek to form a Striking Contests Committee comprising at least one and not more than four members.
This was not seconded.

- b) Should a Striking Contest Committee be formed, the members of the committee should be actioned to arrange an Inter-District six-bell competition (rules and details to be developed), an Inter-District eight-bell competition (as is currently run), and an Inter-District ten-bell competition (as is currently run). The current Inter-Tower eight-bell competition should be abandoned until more support is found throughout the Guild.

An amendment was proposed by Peter Niblett and seconded by Viv Nobbs and supported by Mike Hopkins Till that the inter-tower six bell competition be kept and the eight-bell competition be abandoned. This was carried.

As a result of further proposals, the meeting recommended that the matter should be left in the hands of the new Striking Committee to take on board the indications given by the meeting.

13. Election of Committees

i) Belfry Stewardship Committee

Hugh Routh proposed Roger Barber, Andrew Banks, Christopher Chapman, John Davey, Hugh Routh, Keith Gillings and Charlie Barrett.

Seconded by Kathy Arkless and carried.

ii) BRF Fund Raising Committee

There were no nominations.

iii) Communications Committee

John Davey proposed David Forder, Rosemary Oakeshott and Ian McCallion.

Seconded by Toby Arkless and carried.

iv) Education Committee

David Strong proposed Ros Brandwood, Chris Caryer, Andy Ingram, Sallie Ingram, Polly Osborne and, with the meeting's permission, himself.

Seconded by John Davey and carried.

v) Social Committee

There were no nominations so Clare Griffiths agreed to email to try and find volunteers.

vi) Striking Competitions Committee

Christine Hill proposed Nigel Herriott and John Davey proposed Peter Niblett. These people were seconded by Richard Thompson and elected.

David Strong proposed a vote of thanks to all members of the committees.

14. Election of Officers and Trustees to Vacant Posts

i) Honorary Peal Recorder

Edd Colliss Proposed by Clare Griffiths, seconded by Graham Wright, and carried.

ii) Public Relations Officer

There were no nominations.

iii) BRF Trustee (Portsmouth Diocese)

Malcolm Powell Proposed by Lizzie Hough, seconded by Andy Banks, and carried.

15. Ringing for the Diamond Jubilee

David Strong told the meeting that ringing had taken place in 85 different towers and this included 12 peals, 61 quarter peals plus 13 on the Isle of Wight by the Bath & Wells Association and 60 other pieces of ringing. (This has now increased to 17 peals and 66 quarter peals – a total of 143 pieces of ringing in 100 towers).

Members agreed the greeting which had been circulated at the meeting with the addition of “the” before members which would be sent with the book detailing the celebratory ringing.

16. Future Guild Events

Executive Committee meeting 17th November 2012 Southampton

17. Date and Place of 2013 AGM

This would be held on Saturday 6th July 2013 in the Channel Islands District and would include Guild Officer elections. Mike Bubb confirmed that there would be an afternoon meeting followed by an evening function.

18. Any Other Business

- i) Viv Nobbs told that the meeting that Kieran Downer had organised a team of young ringers from the Isle of Wight to ring in the Ringing World National Youth Contest. Congratulations were in order especially as four of the ringers had never rung in a striking competition before.
- ii) It was noted that the Honorary General Secretary, Clare Griffiths, would not be standing for re-election next year as she now lives in Devon.

There being no further business, the Master, David Strong, closed the meeting.