

**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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 17 NOVEMBER 2012
AT ST BARNABAS' CHURCH HALL, LODGE ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON**

1. Opening Prayer & Master's Welcome

The Master David Strong, supported by the Honorary General Treasurer, Michael Bubb, Honorary General Secretary, Clare Griffiths and Minute Secretary, Pam Thompson, opened the meeting by asking Canon Barry Fry to say a prayer. The Master welcomed everybody, especially new members attending for the first time.

Other members present were: Andrew Banks, Alan Barsby, Michael Church, Edd Colliss, Anne Fraser, Barry Fry, Lucy Hopkins Till, Mike Hopkins Till, Christine Knights-Whittome, Jane Le Conte, Janet McCoy, Peter Niblett, Viv Nobbs, John Palk, Malcolm Powell, Bruce Purvis, Maureen Routh, Mary Tester, Anthony P Smith, Barbara Townsend and Matthew Wilks.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Roger Barber, Diana Bishop, John Davey, David Forder, Keith Gillings and Nigel Herriott.

3. Loss of Members from death since the last Meeting

The meeting stood to remember:

Ray Aldington	Winchester Cathedral
Doris Barber	Hawkley
Sue Buchanan	Candover Valley

4. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2012 had been distributed before the meeting. Acceptance was agreed with no votes against. The minutes were signed by the Master as a true record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

i. Refurbishment of Guild Display Boards

Viv Nobbs reported that the refurbishment of the boards was being organised by the Isle of Wight ringers. The problems were not as bad as had been expected.

ii. Guild Service Books

Tony Smith reported that the original artwork had been located and passed to the Guild website. David Strong said that he had so far received requests from five out of the eight Districts for the labels.

iii. Ringing for the Jubilee

David Strong reported that the ringing for the Jubilee had been a very successful event with a hundred towers taking part and 800 Guild members. Jubilee ringing was still taking place in

Guernsey. Tony Smith congratulated David Strong on his initiative and Bruce Purvis offered to confirm the statistics. There was an official record of the Jubilee ringing in the library and Executive Committee representatives were asked to share this with their districts.

iv. Newport Open Day

Viv Nobbs reported that 300 visitors had attended the Newport Open Day which had received huge media support and free publicity.

6. Reports and Accounts for 2012

Striking Competitions Committee

The report and accounts had been circulated. These were proposed by Mike Hopkins Till and seconded by Bruce Purvis and carried.

7. Budget Bids for 2013

i. Librarian & Archivist £150 (2012) plus £300

Bruce Purvis explained that no money had been requested in 2012.

The £150 being requested was to cover *The Ringing World* subscription and to purchase a copy of Elphick's *Sussex Bells and Bellringers*. The £300 was to cover the backlog of binding for *The Ringing World* up until 2011. This was proposed by Bruce Purvis, seconded by John Palk and carried.

ii. Guild Report Editor £50

Proposed by John Palk, seconded by Mike Hopkins Till, and carried.

iii. Belfry Stewardship Committee (bid to be received in March)

iv. Education Committee (no bid put forward)

v. Communications Committee £505.50

(Domain Name Renewals £10, Web Hosting £52.50, Newsletter Printing £378, Post & Packing £65). Proposed by David Forder, seconded by Bruce Purvis and carried.

vi. Striking Competitions Committee

Peter Niblett sought the members' views on whether 50p per rope should be charged for striking competitions to cover the costs of the hall and judges. After some discussion, it was proposed by Viv Nobbs and seconded by Barbara Townsend that there should be no charge per rope. This was carried. In view of this decision, Peter Niblett proposed a budget bid for £160 to cover the striking competitions, to replace the 8 bell trophy and for repairs to the 6 bell trophy. This was seconded by Christine Knights-Whittome and carried.

8. Bell Restoration Fund

i. Report on Trustees' Meeting

Barry Fry welcomed Malcolm Powell as Trustee for the Portsmouth Diocese. The BRF held £60,000 in cash which was available for future grants. West Tytherley bells had been much improved by the installation of new clappers. The refurbishment of Heckfield and Ringwood bells was about to be completed. The new ring of bells at St Agatha, Portsmouth had been dedicated on 10th November 2012 and would be installed at the beginning of January 2013.

ii. Grant Proposals

St Mary, Buriton

Just over £3K was required for refurbishing the bells. So far, £2,000 had been raised. A grant of £400 was recommended.

St Michael and All Angels, Hinton Admiral

The estimate to renew and refurbish the fitting was £21,000 of which £4,000 remained outstanding. A grant of £1,500 was recommended.

All Saints, Minstead

A total of £16,000 was required to augment the five bells to six bells and to include refurbishing. £5,300 had been raised so far. A grant of £2,000 was recommended.

These grants were proposed by Barry Fry, seconded by Michael Church and carried en bloc.

9. Proposal to update and publicise the Bishopstoke Ringing Centre

David Strong had circulated a proposal that the Guild finance the updating of the Bishopstoke Ringing Centre Abel simulator software to the most recent version at a cost of £22. This was seconded by Matthew Wilkes and carried. It was noted that the centre had no organising committee but was available for use with donations being invited from users. Tony Smith proposed that the centre and its availability to members in our area and all other areas should be advertised in the Annual Report and on the Guild website and this was seconded by Barbara Townsend and carried.

10. Discussion paper on Change Ringing for the Future

A survey had been circulated by the CCCBR Vice-President, Chris Mew, on behalf of the Wellesbourne Conference Review Group. The survey, together with the responses by the Education Committee, had been circulated for discussion by David Strong. Discussion by members at the meeting centred round the need to recruit and retain more ringers. District representatives were asked to go back to their districts and ask members what they would like to see in the future by way of recruitment and training resources and to feed this back for consideration by the Guild. David Strong agreed to formulate an agenda item for the March Executive Meeting.

The members were content for David Strong to formulate replies to the questions and agree these replies with the other principal officers.

11. Striking Competitions Committee – Arrangements for 2013

Inter-Tower 6 and 8 bell competitions	6th April 2013	The Clatfords (tbc)
Inter-District 8-bell competition	6th July 2013	St John, Jersey
Inter-District 10-bell competition	7th Sept 2013	East Meon (tbc)

It was agreed that composite bands would be allowed for the 8-bell competition on the 6th July 2013 at St John's, Jersey, and this would be arranged by Nigel Herriott and Peter Niblett. Peter Niblett had volunteered to judge the competition.

12. Vacant Guild Positions

No nominations were put forward for the positions of BRF Fund Raising Committee, Public Relations Officer or the Social Committee.

13. Church Bells of the Channel Islands

Bruce Purvis reported that 110 – 120 copies of the original 330 copies printed remained to be sold. If we sold six copies at a 30% discount then we would break even with the costs. It was agreed that the District Officers on each of the Channel Islands would try and contact booksellers, etc, and offer a discount of 50% if they took the books.

14. Future Events and 2013 Meetings

ITTS Module One Course	24th November 2013	Bishopstoke Ringing Centre
Executive Committee Meeting	9th March 2013	St Barnabas' Church Hall
District Officers' Forum	23rd March 2013	St Barnabas' Church Hall
Annual General Meeting	6th July 2013	St John, Jersey

Jane Le Conte (Channel Islands District Secretary) and Anne Fraser (Channel Islands District Chairman) provided a handout and outlined the proposals for the AGM in July 2013. Anne agreed to make a contact list of who was likely to be attending so that there was an early indication of numbers. Details of the event would be posted on the Guild website and the Guild e-list, with an entry in the Guild Report.

15. Any other Business

- i.** John Palk stated that there were still back copies of the Guild Reports for 2009 and 2010 available.
- ii.** Matthew Wilks asked whether the Guild had supplies of ash stays in view of disease affecting ash trees. Although there are no supplies of ash tree stays, Japanese Oak could also be used to make stays.

The Master closed the meeting at 12.11 pm.