

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Founded 26 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 2 JULY 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN St PETER'S CHURCH, St PETER PORT GUERNSEY

1. Master's Welcome

The meeting was chaired by the Master, Andrew Craddock who welcomed everybody to the meeting in St Peter Port, especially the Very Revd Canon K Paul Mellor Dean of Guernsey and Guild Vice President. Supported by the Honorary General Secretary Steve Castle, the Honorary General Treasurer Michael Bubb and the Minute Secretary Francis Mitchell, he started proceedings at 14.50 pm by asking Canon Barry Fry to say a prayer.

2. Striking Competition Results

The Master thanked Roger and Rachel Barber for standing in at short notice to judge the Guild Inter District striking competition held at this Church earlier in the day. Four teams entered, all rang Grandsire Triples.

The result of the competition was:

1. Portsmouth District	34 faults
2. Channel Islands District	38.5 faults
3. Winchester District	42 faults
4. Andover District	73 faults

Canon Mellor presented the trophy to Mark Esbester on behalf of the winning team:

3. Apologies for absence

54 members signed the attendance book.

Apologies were presented from:

Pauline Bartlett, Marie Boniface, Colin Cook, Sue Craddock, Peter Gallienne, Maureen Kelly, Jane & Phil Le Conte, Vivien Nobbs, Mary Sterry, Les & Prisca Tremeer, Mike Winterbourne, Carolyn Wright.

4. Loss of Members from death since the 2004 AGM

The meeting stood in silence to remember members:

Connie Clark of Brockenhurst; Leslie Duguid (LM) of Portsmouth; Robert Fowle of Southampton; Rev. William Hall of Jersey (LM); Malcolm Harper of Sherfield English; Fred Mouland of Nether Wallop; Audrey O'Leary of Hambleton; Keith Reynolds of Kingsclere; Cecily C Roberts (LM) of Steep; Edward Roberts of Chale; Nicholas A Weaver of Basingstoke.

5. Minutes of the 2004 AGM

Minutes of the 2004 AGM held at Privett Church had been circulated to all towers via District Secretaries.

Their acceptance as a true record was proposed by Jonathan Hetherington seconded by John Davey and agreed unopposed by the meeting. They were signed by the Master.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

- i. Crawley bells are to be reinstalled shortly.

7. Honorary Life Membership of the Guild

Ruth Jackson and Gladys Matcham of Eling, and R Andrew Routh of Steep will achieve 50 years membership in 2005. They automatically become Life Members.

A proposal to confer Honorary Life Membership on Canon Barry Fry, the Immediate Past Master, for outstanding service to the Guild was proposed by Ann Fraser, seconded by Michael Bubb and passed with an overwhelming majority. The new Life Members were congratulated by the Guild Master.

8. Officers' & Sub-Committees' Reports for 2004

The Master named each report published in the Guild Report, invited questions and proposed their acceptance en bloc. Their acceptance was proposed by Charlotte Colliss, seconded by Jonathan Herrington and passed with no questions asked and no votes against.

9. Report of 2005 Central Council Meeting

Hugh Routh reported on this year's Central council meeting at Harrogate.

Tony Smith was congratulated on his election as Vice President. Committee elections for the W&P's representatives had resulted in Hugh Routh joining the Tower and Belfries Committee, Tony Smith remains as chairman of the Methods committee, Phil Watts is a director of Ringing World Ltd and Michael Church was elected to the Admin committee and the newly created Tower Stewardship committee.

Hugh was impressed by the dedication and hard work of the 234 members of the Central Council.

10. Bell Restoration Fund

i Trustees Report for 2004

There were no questions regarding the BRF Report, acceptance of which was proposed by Jonathan Herrington, seconded by John Croft and passed with no votes against.

ii Trustees Accounts for 2004

There were no questions regarding the BRF Accounts, acceptance of which was proposed by Phil Watts, seconded by John David and passed with no votes against.

iii Grant Proposals

Mark Esbester informed the meeting that three requests for grants, all for augmentations had been received for presentation for approval at this AGM:

1) Bitterne Park - Augmentation from 8 to 12. Total cost £32,000, work possibly to be staged.

Grant recommended £5,000, to be paid when all work completed.

Approval of this grant was proposed by Roy Lemarechal, seconded by John Davey and passed with no votes against.

2) Hursley - Augmentation from 10 to 12. Total cost £56,000. Local ringers have raised £30,000 with the rest underwritten by a local benefactor. Grant recommended £2,000.

Approval of this grant was proposed by John Croft, seconded by John Colliss and passed with no votes against.

3) Selborne - Augmentation from 6 to 8. Total cost £15,000. Grant recommended £2,500.

Approval of this grant was proposed by Jon Hetherington, seconded by Colin Belsey and passed with no votes against.

11. Rule Change - Master's term of office & Vice-Master

Andrew Craddock outlined the role of Vice-Master who would usually be expected to stand for election as Master. The Executive Committee had recommended a maximum period of office for both Master and Vice-Master of 6 years.

The Guild Master, Andrew Craddock, proposed from the Chair acceptance of changes to the Guild Rules as circulated with the Agenda:

Rule 4 - Administration. First sentence.

After "Executive Committee ... consisting of: Master (Chairman)," insert "Vice-Master,"

Rule 5 - General Meeting. Second sentence.

After "Every third year to elect a Master," insert "Vice-Master,"

Rule 5 - General Meeting. Third sentence.

"Officers elected shall remain members of the Administration (Rule 4) ex-officio for a period of three years when, if desired, they will remain eligible for re-election."

Replace with

"Officers elected shall remain members of the Administration (Rule 4) ex-officio for a period of three years when, with the exception of the Master and Vice-Master, they will remain eligible for re-election. The Master and Vice-Master will remain eligible for re-election unless they have previously been re-elected."

After some discussion and clarification the rule change was approved on a show of hands with no votes against.

12. Future Guild events

i Striking Competitions

Andy Byford announced dates of Guild striking competitions:

- a) 6 and 8 bell Tower competitions on 8 October 2005;
- b) Junior competition on 3 September 2005;
- c) The Guild has been invited to enter the Essex Shield competition on 17 September at Isleworth.
Andy Byford and Chris Kippin are organising a band.
- d) Next year's 6 and 8 bell competition on 20 May 2006.

Barbara Townsend commented that the lack of adequate notice of these events had led to a clash of dates with the Andover District. Andy Byford apologised for any shortcomings in previous publication of these competition dates.

ii Guild Dinner April 2006

Districts were invited to organise and host the Guild Dinner. In case no offers are received, Winchester Cathedral Refectory has already been provisionally booked.

13. Date & place of 2006 AGM

This is being organised by the Christchurch and Southampton District on Saturday 1 July at Christchurch Priory as Andover were unable to take their usual place in the order of AGM hosting.

14. Any other business

- i. John Colliss was congratulated on attending 40 consecutive Guild AGMs.
- ii. The Guild Peal Recorder, Jonathan Hetherington reminded members of the one month time limit for Peal submissions.
- iii. Mike Bubb informed members present that the Guild Reports were posted to District Secretaries in May, as it would appear that some members had not yet received their reports.
- iv. The Guild Master and all present warmly thanked David Strong and the organising committee for doing a tremendous job in organising the ringing festival and AGM. Various problems such as no-fly weather and airline changes had been overcome to make the event a great success.

There being no further business, Andrew Craddock thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting with The Grace at 3.51 p.m.

The meeting was followed by the W&P 200 Club prize draw.