

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 2nd JULY 2011

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN NEWPORT, IOW

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 Newport. The Master thanked all concerned in the Isle of Wight District for organising the day, especially Mary Tester and team for making the arrangements and providing an excellent tea. He also thanked the Vicar for taking the service.

2. Striking Competition Results

Mike Hopkins Till had judged the competition which involved three bands.

All the bands rang Grandsire Triples.

The results were:

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| 1. Winchester District | 106 Faults |
| 2. Isle of Wight District | 108 Faults |
| 3. Alton & Petersfield District | 131 Faults |

3. Apologies for absence

58 members signed the attendance book.

Apologies were presented from Diana Bishop, Susan Clutterbuck, Sue Day, Derek and Ruth Jackson, Toni Keele, Christine Knights-Whittome, Polly Osborne and Jack Walters

4. Loss of Members from death since the 2010 AGM

The meeting stood to remember:

Peggy Chalk	New Alresford & Ropley
Nan Colley	Bishops Waltham
Ted Colley	Bishops Waltham
Barbara Crook	Bramshott
C I Dando	New Alresford
Tom Drew (HLM)	Romsey Abbey
Don Exell	Arreton
Robert Field	Ringwood
Michael Goss (HLM)	Burghlere
Martin Harbord	East Meon
Jack King	Winchester
Rose Lee	Curdrige
Patrick Matthews	Bournemouth

John R Philips	Southampton
Cynthia Rolph	Wickham
The Venerable Ronald Scruby	Isle of Wight
Ken Tipper (HLM)	Petersfield

5. Minutes of the 2010 AGM

The minutes of the 2010 AGM at Basingstoke had been circulated to all towers. It was noted that on under 13 (ii) (a) Belfry Stewardship, the name Hugh Cullings should be Keith Gillings and under (b) Education Committee, that Jen Churchill's name should be added. 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. Life Membership of the Guild

Jill Taylor of Ryde, Isle of Wight, had achieved 50 years' life membership of the Guild.

8. Officers' & Sub-Committees' Reports for 2010

The Master invited comments on each report in turn

i.	Hon General Secretary	No comment.
ii.	Hon General Treasurer	No comment.
iii.	Education Committee	No comment
iv.	Social Committee	It was noted that the dinner at the Holiday Inn, Winchester, had been highly successful
v.	Honorary Librarian & Archivist's	No comment.
vi.	Striking Competition Committee	No comment.
vii.	Belfry Stewardship Committee	No comment
viii.	Hon Peal Recorder	No comment
ix.	Communications Committee	No comment

David Strong proposed a vote of thanks to all the Report writers.

9. Report of 2011 Central Council Meeting

Mike Hopkins Till reported that Tony Smith had now stepped down as Central Council President. The Ringing Foundation and the Central Council were looking at ways of recruiting younger people into the exercise and were looking for major funding from outside ringing to do further training. A new Stedman composition book had been published which concentrated on Stedman Caters and above. If members were interested in variable hunt bell compositions for calls in Grandsire, then Peter Niblett would be able to assist them.

10. Bell Restoration Fund

i Trustees Report and Accounts for 2010

Mike Winterbourne proposed that the report and accounts be formerly accepted by the meeting and This was seconded by John Davey and carried unopposed.

ii Grant Proposals

Barry Fry updated the meeting on the following proposals

1. Bullington – a ring of three. Restoration work was required on the bellframe which would cost in the region of £25,000 - £26,000. The work would also involve strengthening the tower.
The recommendation was for a grant of £2,000
2. St John the Baptist, New Alresford. The cost varied depending on the work required but was in the region of £7,300 - £11,000.

The recommendation was for a grant of £1,000.

Brading and Portsea were also in the pipeline for consideration at a future meeting.

Hugh Routh confirmed that he had set up a company to do bell restoration work.

These proposals were agreed unopposed at the meeting. Elizabeth Johnson thanked the meeting on behalf of New Alresford.

11. District Officers' Forum

David Strong explained that this was an opportunity for discussion between Districts in an informal way. The main items discussed were:

- i District operations - combining business meetings with other events; supplementing general practices with training events.
- ii Inter-District co-operation
- iii. Websites/electronic newsletters to facilitate more effective communication
- iv. Recruitment/retention of ringers
- v. Guild membership and subscriptions

The next meeting would take place on Saturday 29th October 2011 in Southampton.

12. Elections

The posts of Public Relations Officer and BRF Fundraiser were still vacant. There were no nominations for these posts.

13. Guild Merchandise

(i) Report on Shirts

Clare Griffiths reported that she was putting in a bulk order for Guild sweatshirts and polo shirts by the end of June. If anybody was interested in buying a shirt, Clare could give them the details after the meeting.

(ii) Badges and other items

Clare Griffiths reported that the Guild stock of badges had now expired. This has been discussed at the Executive Meeting but there was no consensus of opinion as to whether the Guild still wanted badges or some other item. The minimum order was 450 badges for £250 plus an £80 one off dye for a new design. The Isle of Wight District gave badges to all its new members.

Tony Smith proposed that the Guild reorder 250 badges which would cost £250 and this was seconded by Barry Fry and carried unopposed.

14. Standing Committee for 2016 Central Council Visit

Mike Hopkins Till had kindly offered to form a committee to make the arrangements. Anybody interested in offering help should speak to Mike. There was discussion over whether the visit should take place in one location or several locations. However, the Central Council representatives agreed that one location was better especially for those travelling by train. Portsmouth seemed a good choice.

15. Future Guild Event

Inter-district 10 Bell Striking Competition	3.9.11	Whitchurch, Hants
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District Officers' Forum	29.10.11	Southampton
Executive Committee meeting	19.11.11	Southampton
Guild Dinner	28.4.12	Holiday Inn, Winchester

16.Date and Place of 2012 AGM

This would be held on Saturday 7th July 2012 in the Alton and Petersfield District (probably East Meon) and would include Committee elections.

17.Any Other Business

- i) Mike Hopkins Till agreed to provide Striking Competition certificates on thin card as this was more durable than paper.
- ii) Tony Smith reported that the Central Council and the Ringing Foundation were liaising together to organise a conference in the Midlands on 12th November 2011 to look at a brighter future for ringing. Each Guild would be invited to send representatives to the meeting and Peter Niblett had been invited to attend. Originally it had been intended that Education Officers would attend but that had now been broadened to include other members. Tony Smith agreed to find out if there would be a formal invitation. There was an urgent need to encourage younger ringers into the exercise as the senior membership was rapidly increasing.
- iii) Bruce Purvis told the meeting that the book "Church Bells of the Channel Islands" had almost broken even but there were only two sales in 2009/2010. Jack Walters was currently storing the books but would now like to hand over this responsibility. Suggestions were made to offer the books as raffle prizes or to contact museums or bookstalls on the Islands.

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