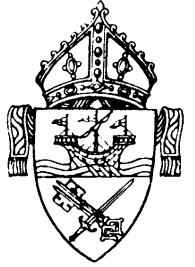


THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

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



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 22 NOVEMBER 2003 AT ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH HALL, LODGE ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON

1. Opening Prayer & Master's Welcome

The Master, Canon Barry Fry, supported by the Honorary General Secretary Robert Cater, the Honorary General Treasurer Michael Bubb and Minute Secretary Francis Mitchell, opened the meeting at 10.15 a.m. with a prayer.

He welcomed everybody, especially those attending for the first time.

The others attending were: Teresa Brown, Steve Castle, Val Cleaver, John Davey, Ceri Dodd, Mark Esbester, David Forder, Dave Goodwin, Wendy Ling, June Mitchell (For IoW District Rep), Brian Oakes, Tony Smith, Mary Tester, Barbara Townsend, Jack Walters, Valerie Williams.

2. Apologies for absence

Andrew Byford, Andrew Craddock, Gilian Davis, Ann Fraser, Maureen Kelly, Martin Waldron, Phil Watts.

3. Loss of Members from death since the Guild AGM

The meeting stood in silence to remember Teddie Gaffikin of Headbourne Worthy.

4. Minutes of the last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2003 were accepted by the meeting with the addition of a fourth item of Any Other Business regarding the size of Membership Certificates and subsequently signed by the Master as a true record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

i Church Bells of the Channel Islands

Tony Smith reported further progress on "Church Bells of The Channel Islands" with more amendments, photographs and illustrations having been supplied by Rev. David Cawley.

ii Donation of bell to Guild

Mark Esbester reported little progress in the construction of a frame for the small bell so it can be used for demonstration and teaching purposes. It was suggested that this item be removed from the Agenda until there is something definite to report.

iii Essex Shield Striking Competition

Andy Byford had sent a report on this very successful event held on 13 September 2003 in glorious weather at East Meon. The local ringers provided superb fare and the bands some superb ringing. The competition was won by the Guildford Diocesan Guild with the W&P in third place.

The Master thanked Andy for his organisational efforts and the meeting agreed to accept the invitation to enter next year's event in Essex on 11th September 2004.

6. Life Members under the '50 years rule'

None had been notified by District Secretaries. There was some discussion on how best to identify members who had joined the Guild 50 years previously.

7. Preparation of Guild Report for 2003 and Handbook for 2004

Tony Smith had distributed packs to District Secretaries for updating the Guild Report. He welcomed returns in electronic format.

The meeting agreed that the Guild Rules should be published as an insert to the 2003 Report.

8. Reports and Accounts of Social Committee for 2003.

Although there are no Social Committee members at present, the report had been prepared by Margaret Wolverson, the previous convenor and circulated with the Agenda. Tony Smith explained the entries for Guest Dinners and offered to simplify them in the Annual Report, with the agreement of the report's author who was thanked for her efforts.

9. Budget Bids for 2004

The following bids were approved:

i	Librarian & Archivist	£125
ii	Report Editor	£50
iii	PR Committee	£250

10. Consideration of BRF Grants

Mark Esbester outlined two applications for grants that the BRF trustees recommended for approval by the Guild Executive Committee due to the short timescale involved.

- i Chilbolton (3). A general overhaul is scheduled for the near future. Work includes rebushing the clappers, fitting new pulleys, cleaning the bearings, tightening fittings and painting the ironwork; Total cost £1002. The BRF Trustees recommended a grant of £150.
- ii Steep (6). Provide new gudgeons and ball bearings for the four bells with plain bearings, renew the ball bearings on the treble and tenor, tighten frame and fittings, adjust chiming hammers and clean the belfry; Total cost £10,035 (including the cost of the local volunteer labour). The BRF Trustees recommended a grant of up to £1500 depending on the amount still to be raised. The work had already been completed.

Tony Smith sought assurance that approval for BRF grants was still only being sought from the Executive Committee in exceptional circumstances when the request was not available in time for an AGM and could not wait for the next one. This assurance was given and both requests were approved.

11. 125th Anniversary Celebrations in District & Guild.

Bob Cater reported that the centrally organised celebrations for the whole Guild were mainly focused on the AGM with Cathedral Peals and the involvement of a Bishop at the Guild Dinner and AGM.

Relatively few additional activities were reported from the Districts, though Andover are anticipating some extra ringing and social activity around June 2004.

12. 125th Anniversary Guild Dinner

Posters and ticket order forms for the Dinner on Sat 24 April 2004 in Winchester Cathedral Refectory were given to District Secretaries at the meeting. The Guild Master is for arranging a Bishop to speak, preferably one of the Guild Presidents. In the absence of a Social Committee Bob Cater had made many of the preliminary arrangements. Ticket orders will be handled by Christine McCallion and Mike Bubb will keep the Accounts.

13. 125th Anniversary AGM, Sat 26 June 2004

Val Williams explained that because of a wedding at East Meon, the Service and meeting will be held in Privett Church followed by one of the A&P District's renowned Barbecues in Privett Village Hall. Timings will depend on the availability of the Bishop being invited by the Guild Master.

14. Revised Minutes for 2003 Guild AGM

Francis Mitchell was revising the minutes of the 2003 AGM to more accurately record several items of business. The replacement version will be distributed shortly, by email as much as possible.

15. Progress on Bell Stock Survey in the Guild

This item had been referred to the Executive from the AGM. A report was not available as Phil Watts had not been able to attend the meeting in time to give one.

16. Filling the vacancy of Guild Hon Gen Sec in accordance with Guild Rule 4.

Bob and Gail Cater's move back to Yorkshire was now likely to happen by the end of 2003. He offered to complete the Honorary General Secretary's Report and the BRF Report first. The Guild Master expressed gratitude to Bob for continuing as Secretary after no candidates for the election of his successor came forward at the AGM. The subsequent appeal for volunteers to take on the job of Honorary General Secretary until the triennial Elections at the 2004 AGM had been answered by Steve Castle.

The Guild Master Barry Fry proposed that Steve Castle be co-opted under Guild Rule 4, as a replacement for Bob Cater in the post of Honorary General Secretary until the next scheduled election. This was agreed by the Executive unopposed.

17. Other Future Guild Events

i Striking Competitions 2004

Andy Byford had emailed his current plans for next year's competitions:

Saturday 15 May - 6 & 8 bell tower competitions, probably in the Andover district;

Saturday 26 June (AGM day) - 8 bell Inter-District, probably at Privett;

Saturday 4 Sept - 10 bell Inter-District

Also under consideration is a Junior Inter-District competition on 6 or 8 bells in September.

ii Education Committee Events in 2004

Mike Winterbourne had published the Education Committee's training dates for 2004:

28th February 2004, Ringing on Higher Numbers, Winchester area;

20th March 2004, London S Minor, Cambridge S Minor, Basingstoke area;

Tuesday 6th April 2004 (Holy Week), Beginners Handbells;

2nd October 2004 Listening Course;

13th November 2004 Plain Bob Doubles & Calling Plain Bob Doubles, Andover Area.

iii Channel Islands District Festival 2005

Mike Bubb outlined the proposed arrangements for the Festival from Thursday 30 June 2005 to Sunday 3 July which will be organised in conjunction with a professional Travel Company. It will incorporate the Guild AGM on Saturday, plus a Festival Dinner, Festival Service and ringing tours of all the Channel Island District towers. Though Guild members will get first chance to book, the Festival will be open to other ringers to make it financially viable. Day trips and longer stays will be available.

18. Date and place of next Meetings

This was agreed as Saturday 6 March 2004 at St Barnabas Church Hall, at 10.15 am.

19. Any other business

- i Colin Cook, Winchester Cathedral Ringers' PRO, had suggested the Guild invite the Earl of Wessex to become a patron, thus reintroducing the style of patronage that existed in the early days of the Guild, unlike the current situation as defined in the Guild Report. He was requested to prepare a paper for consideration at the next Executive meeting.
- ii The meeting was advised of the impending installation of a new Dean of Guernsey, Paul Mellor, who will, ex officio, be a Vice President of the Guild.
- iii The serious illness of two Life Members was reported, Reg Cockle of Bishop's Waltham and John Hunt of Southwick.

There being no further business, the Master closed the meeting with The Grace at 11.21 am.