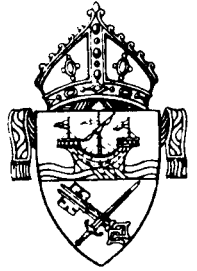


THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

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 HELD 12 MARCH 2005
AT ST BARNABAS' CHURCH HALL, LODGE ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON

1. Opening prayer and Master's welcome

The Master, Andrew Craddock, supported by the Honorary General Secretary, Steve Castle, the Honorary General Treasurer, Mike Bubb, and, taking the minutes, Tony Smith, opened the meeting with a prayer. The Master particularly welcomed Marie Boniface (Portsmouth District), Gary Andrews, Keith Gillings and Margaret Paterson (Basingstoke District) who were attending their first Executive Committee meeting.

Also attending were:

Andrew Banks, Val Cleaver, John Davey, Mark Esbester, Anne Fraser, Theo Johnson, Maureen Kelly, Hugh Routh, David Strong, Mary Tester, Barbara Townsend, Jack Walters and Phil Watts.

2. Apologies for absence

Andrew Byford, Michael Church, David Forder, Barry Fry, Wendy Ling, Francis Mitchell, Brian Oakes, Val Williams.

3. Loss of members through death

Members stood in silence while Steve Castle read the names of past and present members who had died:

Leslie Duguid (LM), Portsmouth; Robert Fowle, Southampton; Malcolm Harper, Sherfield English; Audrey O'Leary, Hambledon; Keith Reynolds, Kingsclere; Cecily C Roberts (LM), Steep; Edward Roberts, Chale; Nicholas A Weaver, Basingstoke.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

Subject to the deletion of "£1000 including" from 9.e, the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2004 were adopted on the proposal of John Davey, seconded by Mike Bubb, and signed by the Master as a correct record.

5. Matters arising

None.

6. Life members

Gladys Matcham of Eling will achieve 50 years membership in 2005.

7. Channel Islands Festival 2005

David Strong reported that arrangements for the inter-island flights were now confirmed. 126 people had booked through the travel agent, he was aware of about 2 dozen who had made their own arrangements which meant that about 150 people had committed to attending. 103 people had booked on the Alderney and Jersey trips out of a capacity of 116; about 80 had booked for the Festival Dinner; about 100 for the Social Evening on Friday, near capacity; and about 105 for the Guernsey trips. In reply to a question from John Davey, David said that, with the possible exception of St Peter Port, tower practices would be held as normal. Phil Watts was concerned about a possible low attendance at the AGM in view of the competing attractions. He was advised that the rules do not specify a quorum. In reply to a question from Val Cleaver, David said that there were people attending from outside the Guild but he did not know how many. In reply to a question from Barbara Townsend about transport for day trippers, David said that all the events were in St Peter Port and there was good public transport.

8. Reports for 2004

a. Belfry Stewardship Committee

Adopted on the proposal of Phil Watts, seconded by John Davey.

b. Review of Belfry Restoration Activity

Received subject to correcting the spelling of "Gillett & Johnston", correcting "St Appoline, Guernsey" to "St Saviour, Guernsey, Chapel of St Appoline", adding information: tenor weight at St Helier is about 9 cwt, contractor at Forest was Peter Gallienne, tenor weight at St Appoline is about ½ cwt, and moving the entries for Forest and the Chapel of St Appoline to the **Works completed** section.

c. Bell Restoration Fund

Received subject to correcting the sentence before the list of trustees to "The trustees during the year ended 31st December 2004 were:-", adding "Honorary Guild Secretary" in parentheses after Steve Castle's name and correcting "appointed" to "elected" in parentheses after Andrew Craddock's and Jack Walters' names.

Mike Bubb asked Districts with surplus funds to consider increasing their interest-free loans to the BRF.

d. Education Committee

Adopted on the proposal of Steve Castle, seconded by Barbara Townsend.

e. Librarian & Archivist

Adopted on the proposal of Tony Smith, seconded by Mike Bubb.

f. Peal Recorder

Tony Smith corrected the spelling of "Roy LeMarechal", the number of peals of Stedman Triples to 1, and said that Jersey Surprise Major had been first rung for the Guild in 1972. It was agreed that Septuples should be corrected to Sextuples, not agreed that the zero totals for Cinques and Sextuples should be removed, and agreed that a zero total for Minimus should be added. Barbara Townsend was concerned

about the precedent created. The report was then adopted on the proposal of Mike Bubb, seconded by Mark Esbester.

g. Public Relations Committee

Adopted on the proposal of Phil Watts, seconded by Steve Castle. Phil said the Belfry Stewardship Committee would like to work with the Public Relations Committee to develop new web pages on belfry maintenance and stewardship.

h. Quarter peals

A report from Alan Buswell had been distributed for information only.

i. Secretary

Adopted on the proposal of Steve Castle, seconded by Phil Watts, subject to correcting the spelling of "Vice-Master". Provisional membership totals had been distributed for information only.

j. Treasurer

Adopted on the proposal of Mike Bubb, seconded by Tony Smith.

k. Social Committee accounts

Adopted on the proposal of Mike Bubb.

9. Rule change - Master's term & Vice-Master

The Master thanked Tony Smith for drafting the changes to rules 4 and 5 which he would propose from the Chair at the AGM.

10. Rule change - officer nominations

In reply to a question from Tony Smith, Steve Castle said that the proposed words were to be added after the second sentence of rule 5. Tony said that the change could make it harder to replace officers. In reply to a question from Jack Walters, Steve provided the background to the proposal. Mark Esbester said that the change could result in only one undesirable candidate being proposed. A proposal by Andy Banks, seconded by Mike Bubb that consideration of the proposal be deferred until the November meeting was agreed.

11. BSC presentation

Phil Watts, Andy Banks and John Davey gave a presentation on the Bell Stock Survey and database. Phil Watts asked the District representatives to encourage towers to complete the Survey forms.

12. Mobile ring

A working party is being set up to investigate and report back to the November meeting.

13. Commemoration ringing 1945-2005

Attention was drawn to an article by the President of the Central Council, Mike Henshaw, in *The Ringing World* encouraging ringing on 10th July to mark the end of World War II. Mark Esbester mentioned the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar on 21st October and Mike Bubb mentioned the 60th anniversary of the Liberation of the Channel Islands on the

9th May as other events worth ringing for. The importance of local advertising in advance of the reasons for special ringing was stressed.

14. Future meeting

On the proposal of Mark Esbester, seconded by Barbara Townsend, it was agreed that the Autumn meetings in 2006 and 2007 should be on the 3rd Saturdays in November (18th and 17th respectively). On the proposal of Mike Bubb, seconded by John Davey, it was agreed that the Spring meetings in 2006 and 2007 should be on the 2nd Saturdays in March (11th and 10th respectively).

15. Any other business

- a. Steve Castle asked District Secretaries to stock up on Membership Certificates and other Guild consumables. In answer to a question from Theo Johnson, Steve confirmed that the probationary member cards still had the previous Master and Secretary's names.
- b. Phil Watts said that Dr John Baldwin had requested permission from the Guild to make details of bell weights, notes and casting dates from the Bell Stock database available in the on-line version of Dove. On the proposal of Jack Walters, seconded by Gary Andrews, it was agreed (9 voting for; 2 voting against) that Phil should seek permission from the DACs. On the proposal of Mark Esbester it was agreed that, if the DACs raised no objection, Phil could go ahead.
- c. John Davey passed a card to Tony Smith for placing in the Archive that recorded the activities in the Christchurch & Southampton District to mark the 125th anniversary of the Guild.
- d. John Davey asked for a list of BRF donations for the Bell Stock database. Mike Bubb said a list had been prepared and would be published on the Guild website.
- e. John Davey commented on the increasing cost of drinks for the top table at the Guild Dinner. It was suggested that only guests should receive free drinks.

There being no other business, the Master closed the meeting.