

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

CENTRAL BUCKS BRANCH

Minutes of the Half Year meeting held on Saturday 14th July 2012 at 5pm in WING

The meeting was held in the church and was attended by 11 CBB members representing 6 towers.

1. Apologies for absence

Janice Robinson, Paul Bagni, Ryan Noble, Geoff Aldridge & other Wingrave ringers, Jeremy Pratt, Julie & Andrew Haseldine, Geoff Cross.

2. Chairman's Opening Remarks-In the absence of Chairman, Heather Dobson took the chair. Heather opened the meeting by explaining that this was the first half year branch meeting for a number of years. It was hoped that re-establishing a HYM would help to keep towers in touch. This had led to other changes such as the Striking Competition happening in May. She called for reports on Jubilee and Olympic ringing. Paralympic celebrations with ringing would be held in Aylesbury on 28th August.

3. Minutes of the AGM held at Stewkley in Feb 2012

The minutes were noted, no amendments were suggested nor matter arising not covered on the agenda were identified

4. Reports:

a) *Secretary*: Diana Reported that it had been business as usual with newsletters and email circulations-etc, The ODG annual report was the biggest problem as, due to its size and binding, it costs almost a £1 to send by post. However, as it was felt to be a very useful reference document, the consensus was that no modifications should be suggested and delivery by committee e.g. Branch Stewards, employed.

b) *Ringing Mistress*: Heather reported that the range of monthly practices was continuing successfully. For the advanced, collaborations with neighbouring branches had been useful. The Striking Competition had been very successfully held at Drayton Parslow with 3 teams entered by the host tower. The regular Saturday branch and mid week ringing were continuing well.

c) *Treasurer*: John reported that he had processed a record 208 subscriptions. With the subs there had been donations totalling £130 towards the George Edmans and £45 to the ODG bell Funds Current funds stood at Current A/c £832 and deposit £568. Interest rates were so low as to not warrant action to move monies or change accounts. Committee members were urged to claim their midyear expenses rather than wait the full year.

5. Membership

a) *Election of New Members*: the election of the following new members at a Branch Practice on April 14 was ratified nem con, subject to payment of the annual subscription:

Whitchurch Sally Nettleton Proposed Terry Wagstaff Seconded Carole Wagstaff

Drayton Parslow Rosemary Howell Proposed by Lynne Pughe; Seconded by Heather Dobson: (

b) *Certificates* – most of the outstanding certificates for new members from the last couple of years had now been received. It was agreed that the Branch Stewards would distribute these

6. Election of Officers to fill vacancies

2nd Branch Steward: Caroline Luxford proposed Diana Slevin; Seconded Richard Goldson

Elected nem con

Note: the position of Deputy Chairman remains vacant.

7. Branch Matters

a) *George Edman's Bell Fund* – the meeting received a paper from Jeremy Pratt on the fund and with proposals for a way forward to be decided at the AGM 2013. Three possible ways forward were identified: Do nothing, dissolve or revitalise.

The meeting resolved to recommend change of rules and revitalisation to the AGM Proposed Ernie Weight and seconded by Caroline Luxford

It was noted that if this went through, fundraising would be needed. An information booklet for towers was also suggested.

John reported that there was an ongoing item in accounts for a £300 loan to the GE fund from Branch funds that he recommended be converted to a grant.

It was agreed to change the £300 loan to the GE Fund to a grant. Proposed by Mike Dodd seconded by Richard Goldson

b) *Website* - it was reported that the CBB website had recently been down again. It was dependent on Hal Drysdale and that was proving problematic now he was no longer living locally. A temporary basic link had been established on the ODG website.

It was understood that as current webmaster, Ryan Noble was proposing that he develop a new site during the year ahead. Diana suggested that at least in the interim, a basic information site for visitors from the ODG site, hosted by ODG should be in place. It was agreed that any site should not be in the name of a person but hosted by CBB, if necessary by the treasurer to ensure any fees are paid.

Resolved to adopt the 2 tier approach proposed by Carolyn Luxford and seconded by Ernie Weight

c) *Training the trainers* : Diana reported that there had been no responses to the call for information on what people wanted after the AGM. It was agreed that we needed to assess what was needed by face to face enquiries. If there is sufficient demand for more training in handling, it is possible we might ask for an ITT session in the branch. Diana will find out when and where the next ITT training is. An organised list of experienced trainers might be of benefit.

8. Branch programme.

a) *Practices*: Branch, Progress and Advanced – the provisional list of CBB and key ODG activities is available to the end of 2012

b) *Orchard Cup October 20th*– Diana to ask Chiltern for information on location.. there was some debate as to whether to hold the Branch practice at Quinton on 13th. If held it might usefully include striking practice

c) *September Branch Outing* Saturday 8th September

Jan Robinson is organising towers in South Oxfordshire for this outing and will publicise information asap.

d) *The Christmas Dinner* would be in January 2013, it was felt that given the locations in the last few years, the venue should be more in the south/west of the branch. Richard Goldson and John Lomas agreed to investigate locations like Chearsley, Haddenham and Nether Winchendon. Venues need to be able to seat 20-30 people simultaneously.

e) 10 Bell Striking Competition & November 24th Guild meeting – is being held at Long Crendon.

9. Vote of Thanks

From the Chair, Heather Dobson offered the meeting's thanks to all at Wing for their hard work in enabling the HYM and the splendid tea.

10. Dates of Next Meetings

Next AGM Saturday February 9th 2013 at East Claydon

The meeting closed at 6.30pm