

## OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

### CENTRAL BUCKS BRANCH

#### Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 5pm in STEWKLEY

The meeting was held in the church and was attended by 23 CBB members representing 10 towers and the ODG Master (list available on request)

#### Chairman's Opening Remarks

Chairman Janice Robinson opened the meeting welcoming all present including Robert Newton Master of the ODG. Jan lead the meeting in 1 min silence to remember members Richard Markham of Long Crendon and Georgina Carpenter of Whitchurch & Stewkley who died last year.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

John Lomas, Caroline Stonham, Hilarie Rogers ( ODG Secretary), Jim & Greeba Cochrane, Edwin Herring, Jane Vowles, Terry and Carole Wagstaff.

It was noted that with the absence of Treasurer John Lomas, John Benson from Wing had kindly agreed to accept any subscriptions being handed over at the meeting

#### 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held at Winslow on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010

No amendments were made. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by John Benson, seconded by Heather Dobson and carried nem con. The Chairman signed a copy for file.

#### 3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda - none

**4.Reports:** Written reports were received from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer (accounts), Ringing Master, Webmaster and Branch Stewards. (copies available on request)

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Caroline Luxford seconded by Heather Dobson and carried nem con.

It was noted with respect to the increase in Officers' expenses, that the committee had been encouraged by the ODG to claim out of pocket expenses. It had been calculated that Heather Dobson as Ringing Mistress had driven over 800miles to be at all the Branch Practices and had therefore been reimbursed albeit at only about 50% of the recommended ODG rate.

#### 5. Membership

a) *Election of New Members:* the following new members were elected nem con, subject to payment of the annual subscription:

Michael Fopp Wingrave Proposed by Alan Frost, Seconded by Geoff Aldridge

Matthew Pryse Winslow Proposed by Diana Slevin; Seconded by Paul Bagni

Matthew Collins Cuddington Proposed by Caroline Stonham; Seconded by Jeremy Pratt

Jo Cholmeley, Long Crendon Proposed by Kaye Mundy, Seconded by Julie Haseldine

Deana Goss Quainton Proposed by Jane Vowles; Seconded by Terry Wagstaff

Sophie Roff Stewkley Proposed by Bunt Scott; Seconded by Caroline Cox

Bethany Robinson Stewkley Proposed by Bunt Scott; Seconded by Caroline Cox

Drayton Parslow Proposed by Lynne Pughe; Seconded by John Benson:

Marie Haines, Kim Foster, Emily Foster, Julie Humphrey, Andrea Wood, Mary More, Daisy More, Elysia Pughe, Joshua Duncan, Ashley Duncan.

b) *Criteria*: it was noted that the basic criteria for membership were: be able to handle the bell; ring rounds and call changes; be acceptable to ring for Sunday Services.

c) *Re-election* Darren Washington Aylesbury Proposed by Mike Dodd; Seconded by Peter Fay

d) *Non residents*: the question of membership for people not resident in the branch was raised. It was noted that members could continue as non resident members. Requests for membership from Linslade ringers were different, (Linslade was within CBB boundaries until recently). There being no current solution, on the advice of the Master, this matter will be raised at the ODG General Committee

#### **e) Nominations for Distinguished Members –none**

### **6. Election of Officers**

Chairman: Jan Robinson, proposed by Lynne Pughe, seconded by Caroline Luxford  
( Diana Slevin took the chair for this item)

Vice Chairman: no nominations received – *vacant*

Secretary: Diana Slevin, proposed by Paul Bagni, seconded by Heather Dobson

Treasurer: John Lomas, proposed by John Benson, seconded by Peter Fay

Ringing Master: Heather Dobson, proposed by Paul Bagni, seconded by Jeremy Pratt

Deputy Ringing Master Andrew Haseldine: proposed by Paul Bagni, seconded by Heather Dobson

Training Officer: *vacant*

Branch Reps (2): Heather Dobson, proposed by Andrew Haseldine, seconded by Diana Slevin and Caroline Luxford proposed by Andrew Haseldine seconded by Diana Slevin

Branch Stewards(2): Paul Bagni, proposed by Julie Haseldine, seconded by Lynne Pughe  
*2<sup>nd</sup> post -vacant*

Independent Examiner: Kate Edgar, proposed by Caroline Luxford, seconded by Peter Faye  
All nominations were elected nem con

Noted: Heather's concern that her circumstances might change during the year and that might mean that she could not fulfil her duties. Given that, she and Andrew would agree on a way forward including looking at the Training Officer role. Jeremy Pratt offered to help as appropriate. Action would be taken to try and find a second Branch Steward.

### **7. Branch Matters**

#### *a) Recruitment & Training:*

It was reported that a CBB Officers meeting had identified the need to help local trainers possibly with a trainers' training day. Heather and Diana had attended the ODG Annual Training meeting and reported on current ideas e.g. The North Bucks 'Big Ring Pull' recruitment day( also 11<sup>th</sup> February) This had been preceded by pre training a new group of trainers through ODG courses and was being supported by offering those people ongoing support with the new recruits.

Robert Newton explained that there was a move to centralise teaching mixing experienced and new trainers. The ITTS course has follow up to the original session and looks to provide mentors. North Bucks Branch was a pilot and the concept may be rolled out.

It was identified that a number of towers do not have anyone able and willing to teach but that here were also hotspots e.g. Drayton Parslow where Lynne Pughe had arranged for a number of experienced people to help a large number of learners. It was agreed that we needed more 'hotspots'. It was agreed to ask towers a) what they trainers they had and if so b) whether those people would travel to other towers to help and/or act as mentors to novice trainers c) if a 'Train the Trainers' event was of interest and d) if they had ideas for branch recruitment and training.

#### *b) Communications*

Newsletter – Diana Slevin said that she was happy to continue with the newsletter and thanked

people for their contributions during 2012.

Website – Ryan Noble has indicated that he is happy to continue to be the webmaster as this can be done from a distance. It was noted, with apologies, that there had been a problem posting new information recently but this was due to be fixed.

c) *George Edman's Bell Fund* – it was noted that the financial detail on this was part of the annual accounts. At the moment only interest can be spent not the capital with only £165.72 currently available for grants. The investment strategy was queried as only £2 was added in 2011 which seemed very low even with the current low interest rates. It was noted that any changes to the rules of the fund required at least a month's notice and could only be made at an AGM.

It was noted that the CBB treasurer had encouraged towers to suggest members add a donation to their 2013 subscriptions as a way of raising funds for the fund.

It was reported that a request for a grant from branch funds had been received from Ryan Noble. It was for £240-300 for wooden clapper silencers for North Marston tower. These would then be used instead of tying the bells to enable the existing simulator to be used more. This facility would then be open to the branch, particularly the Training Officer and Ringing Master. The timescale would be for the facility to be available from September.

Concerns were raised as to the amount requested as it seemed high and also there was the question as to who would be responsible for running the facility as there was currently no one permanently at North Marston able to do this. It was agreed to leave this proposal on the table pending debate on the GE Fund as there was some support for the idea and request but funds were not available. It might be that such a project should be the subject of direct fundraising rather than simply a grant.

It was agreed with respect to the GE fund, that Jeremy Pratt investigate the possible options to make it more accessible and useful to the branch. These would be debated at the half year meeting with formal proposals being brought to the 2013 AGM.

d) *ODG Bell Fund*

There had been a call for the customary Leap year fundraising by branches in the last week of February. CBB is not at the bottom for donating but only contributes a fraction of the amount raised by the best. However, there are no CBB fundraising schemes in the branch at the moment.

## **8. Branch programme.**

a) *Practices*: Branch, Progress and Advanced - provisional list of CBB and key ODG activities was distributed.

b) *Striking Competitions*

*The CBB 6 Bell striking competition* will be from 2pm on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May a month earlier than usual as so many fetes and wedding are held in June that towers were unable to field teams. This year it will be at Drayton Parslow and will be followed by a social. Everyone is encouraged to enter a team for this and also to *The Orchard Cup* that will be hosted this year by Chiltern Branch on October 20<sup>th</sup>

c) *September Branch Outing*

Jan Robinson offered to organise the towers for this outing and called for ideas as to where to go..

d) *The Christmas Dinner* would be in January 2013, ideas for venues called for

e) *Guild Events*

Noted: the AGM is 19<sup>th</sup> May at Wokingham in the Sonning Deanery Branch

: the November General Committee & 10 Bell striking competition will be in CBB at Long Crendon on Saturday November 24<sup>th</sup>

f) *St Georges Day* 23<sup>rd</sup> April, the ODG is advocating ringing for this. Robert Newton asked to be notified of such ringing.

g) *Jubilee* there are Guild events planned the weekend before i.e.26/27<sup>th</sup> May and towers are encouraged to ring for local and national events over the celebratory period.

h) *Olympics – Torch Relay* 9<sup>th</sup> July, the torch is passing through the branch. As it is a weekday, volunteers are to be sought to ensure good ringing at and help for relevant towers.

Opening Ceremony 27<sup>th</sup> July the original idea for an early burst of fast ringing has been abandoned but towers are asked to do some celebratory ringing and let the Master know details. The specially composed 5 rings doubles and triples pieces are available.

i) *Half Year Meeting* - July 14<sup>th</sup> – New for Branch is confirmed at Wing.

### **9. Any Other Business**

a) Votes of thanks were proposed to the Chairman Janice Robinson for introducing and making such a success of the monthly Mid Week Ring and Ringing Mistress Heather Dobson for her tireless work at all the branch practices.

b)The George Edman's Fund was suggested in response to an enquiry for possible sources of funding for a set of muffles.

c) *Child Protection* – Heather reported that there was a revised set of information on this that would be publicised in the newsletter

d) *Ladies Peal* – Heather reported that July 20<sup>th</sup> marked the 100 anniversary of the first Ladies peal and invited suggestions to celebrate it.

e) *Meeting thanks*: from the Chair, Jan Robinson offered the meeting's thanks to all at Stewkley for their hard work in enabling the AGM and the Rev Philip Derbyshire for conducting the service.

### **10. Dates of Next Meetings**

**Half Year**            Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup> Wing

**Next AGM**           Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2013 at East Claydon

The meeting closed at 6.30pm