

**Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers
Winchester District**

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held on Saturday 9th August 2008 at Easton

Ringling at St. Mary's, Easton, took place before tea. Following the meeting there was open ringing until 6.30pm.

Chairman's Welcome

The meeting was opened promptly at 5pm by Peter Hill, who thanked the Easton ringers for the use of the church and bells, and welcomed 20 members.

In the absence of the District Secretary, Charlotte Meader, the Chairman proposed that Clare Griffiths would take the minutes of the meeting.

This was carried unanimously.

The Chairman announced the deaths of both Jessie Kippin and Mick Thomas. He spoke of Jessie Kippin, a former ringer at Hursley, who was much missed. Roy LeMarechal spoke of Mick Thomas, a member of the Bishopstoke band for many years, who was a great asset and very helpful during the augmentation of the bells. Members stood in remembrance.

Apologies for Absence

These were received from Charlotte Meader, Sue Spurling, Rosemary Oakeshott and Brenda Palk.

Election of New Members

Confirmation of Probationary Members

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| North Stoneham | 23 rd May 2008 Oliver Sturrille, Sanjay Shivaram and Reverend Kate |
| Sparsholt | Sax, all proposed by Martin Kelly and seconded by Alison Catt 31 st May 2008 Hannah Cooper, proposed by John Cleverly and seconded by Jenny Watson |
| Crawley | 23 rd June 2008 Louise Williams and Isobel Williams, proposed by Edmund J Wratten and seconded by Amanda Bayford |
| Lockerley & East Tytherley | 8 th June 2008 James Reynolds 22 nd July 2008 Megan Bridgman 5 th August 2008 Kate Clarke and Carol Higgins, all proposed by Joy Scanlan and seconded by Jen Churchill |

Compounding Members

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| 30 th May 2008 | K Joan Barton of Barrow-Upon-Humber, proposed by Roy LeMarechal and seconded by Clare J Griffiths prior to a peal at Southampton, St. Barnabas |
| 15 th June 2008 | Judith Reading of Sheffield Cathedral, proposed by Roy LeMarechal and seconded by Clare J Griffiths prior to a peal at Birmingham, St. Martin's |
| 18 th June 2008 | Alex Britton of Dartford, proposed by Peter W J Sheppard and seconded by Benjamin J Carey prior to a peal at Shoreditch |

New Ringing Members

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| Hursley | Harriet J Dodd, proposed by Roy LeMarechal and seconded by Clare J Griffiths, prior to a peal at Bishopstoke |
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All were elected unanimously

Minutes of last Quarterly meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held at Broughton on 10th May 2008 were previously circulated. Subject to the correction of one or two minor spelling mistakes and the removal of a joke, they were accepted by the meeting and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

Matters arising from the previous minutes

The Chairman spoke briefly about the proposed Best Kept Tower Competition. A good criteria of standards, provided by John Palk, had been circulated amongst the Officers. The intention was for Officers to now try out this marking scheme at practice nights. The format would then be decided by the next meeting, with Towers opting into the light-hearted competition, and a small prize as incentive.

Elizabeth Johnson asked for confirmation that the competition would not be starting until after the November meeting, which the Chairman provided.

Presentation of Certificates

First peal certificates were presented to Stephanie LeMarechal and Harriet Dodd. In Stephen Thompson's absence, his first peal certificate was collected by Richard Thompson. In Rosemary Oakeshott's absence, her first peal certificate was collected by Jen Churchill.

The Chairman urged other members, who were expecting first peal or quarter peal certificates, to speak to the Officers.

Events since the last meeting

The Chairman summarised recent events. This year's Guild Dinner at Alton had been particularly successful, aided by the mini-ring which provided pre-dinner entertainment. Of particular note in the Guild Striking Competitions was Bishopstoke's success in the 8 Bell Inter-Tower Competition, this was a closely fought contest with Hursley coming second. The Chairman encouraged other towers to participate in future.

The Guild AGM had been held at Hursley, with additional ringing at Lockerley, Romsey, Bitterne Park and Winchester Cathedral. The Chairman thanked North Stoneham for the use of their bells for the 8 Bell Inter-District Striking Competition. Christine Hill had organised the Winchester District team, which had won the trophy by a considerable margin.

District Practices have been good, but with patchy attendance. The Chairman encouraged as many people to come along as possible, and to contact the Ringing Masters if there were particular methods they wanted to ring.

Future Events

The Chairman detailed the forthcoming District Practices. The Ringing Masters confirmed that the Advanced Practice at Bishopstoke on September 13 would be Stedman, Ringing and Calling, on all numbers, following on from a similarly successful practice earlier in the year.

Young Ringers Outing

This would be held on August 29. Christine Hill told the members they would be seeing the bells at Northington, with ringing at Brown Candover, a picnic lunch and rounders, with further ringing at Old Alresford.

Quarter Peal Week

This would take place September 21-28. The Chairman pointed out that the Ringing Masters were happy to help out with any quarter peal, and for people to contact them and take part.

District Outing

Ken Warner was organising this year's District Outing on October 4, in the Berkshire/Buckinghamshire area. He had requested that people should advise him of their attendance, so that he had an idea of numbers in advance.

Quarterly District Meeting

This would be held, along with the Education Day, at Lockerley & East Tytherley, on November 8.

Any Other Business

Peter Hill: The Parish of Avington had been donated money specifically for a new 6 bell frame, for which they currently had 3 new bells. Matthew Higby, the contractor, had acquired 2 more bells, and was keen for the opportunity to be taken to make this into a ring of 5 bells. Elizabeth Johnson and Judy Bishop explained that the matter was still much under discussion within the village and the PCC.

Elizabeth Johnson also said that if the additional 2 bells were put in, more funding would be required. In the event of this happening, she wished to be in the position to say that the District would look favourably upon the option of granting some financial help towards the project.

Ann LeMarechal thought that the District should wait until Avington had decided upon the bells. Peter Hill thought it would be difficult to comment at this stage. He also suggested the parish should look to the BRF for help.

Andrew Craddock confirmed this viewpoint.

Edmund Wratten suggested it might be helpful to provide examples of similar grants from the BRF to the parish of Avington.

Peter Hill closed the discussion by saying the District might give some money, but it would be an unusual move and depend on the circumstances. He stressed again the value of the BRF in these matters.

Elizabeth Johnson: Drew attention to the plight of the Deputy Tower Captain of Harare, Zimbabwe, who had been beaten up and badly injured. Many members would have read of this in a letter in the Ringing World from the Harare Tower Captain, Dr. Ruth Hutchinson.

Edmund J Wratten proposed a collection for his benefit, this was seconded by Andrew Craddock. £50.00 was raised which was given to Elizabeth Johnson for her to deal with.

John Palk: Bookstall. He had brought an excellent selection of sample books, for display purposes only, to the meeting. He pointed out that as post was free on all orders, it was easier for members to order the books themselves. He confirmed that he would also be at District Practices where people could take a further opportunity to look at the books available. The Chairman thanked him for all his work.

Peter Hill: Brought to the attention of the meeting the notable success of Tony Smith, Hursley, in being made President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

Edmund Wratten: Questioned whether apologies for absence were necessary, not having been a policy of previous meetings. Peter Hill said the point would be considered.

Edmund Wratten: Questioned the position of the Election of New Members so high on the Agenda. Clare Griffiths confirmed that she had copied agendas from previous years. Peter Hill agreed with her that new members were always elected as early as possible in the meeting, allowing them to participate fully.

Clare Griffiths: The BRF collection had raised £11.00

In the absence of any other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, hoped to see as many people as possible at the District Practice at Winchester Cathedral, and closed the meeting at 5:46pm.