

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

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held on Saturday 10th February 2007 at Hursley

Ringling on the Hursley bells, newly augmented from 10 to 12, including the service touch, took place before Evensong followed by tea. Following the meeting there was open ringing until 8pm.

Chairman's Welcome

Chairman Richard Thompson opened the meeting promptly at 6:00. He thanked the vicar, Rev. Linda Robertson, the organist, Derek Blazdell and the Hursley band for a delicious tea. He then welcomed guests, Margaret Chapman of Marston Bigot, Rex Corke of Lymington, Charlotte Colliss from Swanmore, Guild Master Andrew Craddock and 48 members. Finally, Richard reported the sad loss of four Guild members since the last annual meeting: Jane Roberts of Twyford, Ruth Burrows of Micheldever, John Spice of Winchester and Life-Member Les Tremeer, formerly of New Alresford.

Election of New Members

Confirmation of Probationary Members

Cheriton	31 January 2007 Matthew Young, proposed by Caroline J. Fairley and seconded by Edmund J. Wratten
Hursley	5 January 2007 Harriet Dodd and Matthew Nichols, proposed by Peter Hill and seconded by Christine Hill
Lockerley & E. Tytherley	5 January 2007 Abigail L. Cummings, proposed by Jen Churchill and seconded by Joy Scanlan
King's Somborne	13 January 2007 Marilyn Bolton, Philip Bolton and Alistair Reynolds, proposed by Sue Spurling and seconded by Brian Orange
Wonston	20 January 2007 Joanna Jackman and Matthew Jackman, proposed by Gerry Cornick and seconded by Valerie Keel

New Ringing Members

Candover Valley	John Hawes, Ann Hobson and Peter Willis, proposed by Jean Kelly and seconded by Jill Parr
Cheriton	Amy Farrer, Miles Greenwood and Hilary Moore, proposed by Caroline J. Fairley and seconded by Edmund J Wratten
Crawley	Charlotte Breen, Nicola Breen and Robert Orlebar, proposed by Edmund J. Wratten and seconded by Amanda Bayford
Hursley	Phil Nichols, proposed by Andrew Craddock and seconded by Janice Higgins
Lockerley & E. Tytherley	Mark Warner, proposed by Jen Churchill and seconded by Pam Bridger
Winchester Cathedral	Jennifer Baxter and Nick Bucknall, proposed by Carrie Eisenhauer and seconded by John Colliss

New Associate Members

Headbourne Worthy	Gimma Macpherson & Martin Macpherson, proposed by Trish Spurling and seconded by Robert Howland
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All were elected unanimously.

Compounding Members

19 November 2006	Nicholas M W Haggett Proposed by Benjamin J. Carey and seconded by Ian Carey, at Reading
25 November 2006	Andrew Kelso Proposed by Jonathan C. Hetherington and seconded by Adam S. Greenley at Wing, Buckinghamshire
10 February 2007	Paul S. Seaman of Cambridge Proposed by Thomas J. Hinks and seconded by John Croft at Micheldever

Transfers

Bishopstoke	Stuart J Heath and D Annabel Preston (Portsmouth District) to Bishopstoke.
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All were confirmed unanimously.

Minutes of last Quarterly meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held at Twyford on 11 November 2006 were previously circulated. Andrew Craddock proposed one change, that when eulogising John Spice he had said that John invented the method Glasgow Surprise Major. With this change made, adoption of the minutes was proposed by Tom

Hinks and seconded by Graham Grant. This was accepted by the meeting and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

Matters arising from the previous minutes and from the previous ADM at New Alresford

none

Events since the last Meeting

November Education Day

Jen Churchill reported that the Plain Bob Minor course had been a great success. She thanked the helpers and the course leader, Richard Thompson. The learners had made lots of progress and it had been an enjoyable day. She urged tower captains to encourage ringers to sign up for courses which would benefit them.

Striking League

Jen Churchill reported that although there were only two towers participating, New Alresford and Romsey Abbey, she was looking forward to learning the outcome. She also explained that she hoped for better support of the League next year whilst understanding that the state of ringing changes in each tower from year to year.

Carol Service

The Secretary reported that this had been most enjoyable and thanked the North Stoneham ringers, who had made a special effort to arrange everything in-house, for all their hard work. She also mentioned that as some members had observed that the service was a bit early in the month, this year's would be on 8 December.

Officers' Reports

Chairman

The Chairman's report had been circulated.

Secretary

The Secretary's report had been circulated. This was duly adopted by the meeting, proposed by Tony Smith and seconded by John Colliss.

Treasurer

The Treasurer's Report had been circulated. Peter Hill asked whether there were any plans for a further loan to the Guild BRF. Theo explained that in the previous year, Tony Smith had urged the District to increase its loan to the Guild BRF because the interest rate was better but that there had been no similar encouragement this year. Andrew Craddock agreed that it was still possible to increase the District's loan to the Guild BRF. Theo suggested that at the May quarterly meeting Clare, having had a chance to assess this year's budgetary needs, could put forward a proposal for members' vote. The accounts were then proposed for adoption by Peter Hill, seconded by Andrew Craddock and signed by Richard Thompson.

Ringling Masters

The Ringing Masters' report had been circulated. Jen added that at the most recent District Practice there had not been enough ringers and that in general additional able ringers were needed at District Practices and that if usual attendees could not attend would they please let her or Edmund know so that people did not make wasted journeys.

Public Relations

Tom Hinks gave an oral report saying that at last year's ADM he had asked members to send him any information about their towers they might wish him publish in local papers and newsletters but that no news had been sent. He explained that due to the pressure of A-level exams and coursework, he had not sought out news from towers. However, he had arranged for Romsey Abbey to be featured twice on Meridian, reports on the frame and on their fundraising beer, wobbly frame. He reminded members that he was standing down this year and wished luck to his successor.

Tony Smith proposed a vote of thanks to all the current officers before elections were held for new ones.

Election of Officers

Office	Nominee	Proposer	Seconded
Chairman	Richard Thompson	Peter Hill	Pam Thompson
Secretary	Theo Johnson	Elizabeth Johnson	Andrew Craddock
Treasurer	Clare Griffiths	Tom Hinks	Graham Wright
Ringling Masters	Jen Churchill	Caroline Fairley	
	Edmund Wratten	Judy Bishop	Carrie Eisenhauer
Guild Exec Rep	Wendy Ling	Jen Churchill	Elizabeth Johnson
Public Relations	John Palk	Jen Churchill	Joy Scanlan
Accounts Examiner	John Colliss	Jen Churchill	Joy Scanlan

Although as in previous years only one person was nominated per office, all were elected unanimously.

Future Events

Wendy Ling had gone to extra effort to produce a pocket-sized card with a calendar of District events and some Guild events as well. This was sized just right to fit inside a Ringing World diary. Theo had distributed these to representatives from most towers but asked members who visited more than one tower please to help distribute these to towers with no representative at this meeting. Andrew Craddock and several others confirmed that the Guild AGM would be on 7 July at Bishop's Waltham. Theo also announced one change of date: the Guild executive committee meeting will take place on 10 November. Although there was no date set for the District Outing, Ken Warner has agreed to arrange this.

Jen Churchill announced that the District Education Day course would probably be 'Beyond Plain Bob Doubles', suggesting St. Simon's and All Saints' Doubles.

Richard Thompson reminded members that if they knew of courses which would benefit ringers in the District to please tell the officers so that these courses could be planned.

Any Other Business

Clare Griffiths: The BRF collection raised £30.

Carrie Eisenhauer: Cathedral Open Evening, Tuesday 13 February, 6pm. A good opportunity to visit the Cathedral for free and see it candle-lit and without all the usual chairs. Other attractions included a mini-ring & tower tours. Graham Wright would need mini-ring helpers and Edmund Wratten would need helpers to demonstrate ringing on the Cathedral bells. For more information pick up a leaflet from her or visit the Guild website.

Sue Craddock: Guild Dinner 21 April at Southwick in the Portsmouth District. Afternoon activities including a brewery visit and D-Day maps on display. Tickets are going quickly and in blocks. Further details on the Guild website.

Richard Thompson: Vote of thanks to Graham Grant for augmenting the District Striking Competition trophy.

Edmund Wratten: Recent blown fuse at Cheriton highlights need for good emergency lighting in towers. Displayed a mini-florescent light bought for £15 at Halford's.

Tom Hinks: Romsey Abbey bells are now at White's of Appleton and there is no ringing until further notice. Fundraising beer, Wobbly Frame, is still available at £19.50 per case.

Andrew Craddock: CRB Checks: the Diocesan Director for Social Responsibility & Child Protection Officer Jane Fisher has received questions from the Executive Committee which she will answer and has been invited to the Ex. Comm. meeting in March.

Edmund Wratten: Work at Sparsholt until at least mid-March.

In the absence of any other business Richard Thompson, Chairman, closed the meeting at 6:45pm.

Minutes of the District Meeting held on Saturday, 12 May 2007 at Headbourne Worthy

The District Striking Competition had been held at King's Worthy in the afternoon followed by ringing on the three bells at Headbourne Worthy and service and tea. The judges, David Forder and Margaret Chapman, announced the results of the striking competition that had been entered by Hursley, Bishopstoke and New Alresford.

Bishopstoke: 42 faults Hursley: 61 faults New Alresford: 70 faults.

The trophy was presented to Bishopstoke.

Chairman's Welcome

Richard Thompson opened the meeting at 5:25 pm and thanked the Rev. Alan Gordon and the organist, Nick Thomas, for the service. King's Worthy and Headbourne Worthy were thanked for the bells and the Headbourne Worthy ringers for a delicious tea.

Minutes of Last Quarterly Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted, proposed by Jen Churchill and seconded by Elizabeth Johnson

Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

Clare proposed that the District increase its loan to the Bell Restoration Fund by £500 to £1500; as there was sufficient surplus money. The money still remained District money but would receive a higher rate of interest in the BRF fund. This was seconded by Roy LeMarechal and carried.

Election of New Members

Confirmation of Probationary Members

Romsey Abbey 18 March 2007 Cheryl Parr, proposed by Andrew Glover and seconded by Martin Daniels

New Ringing Members

Bishopstoke Matt Swain, proposed by Rhiannon J. Matthews and seconded by Kay LeMarechal
Broughton Anita Mason and Nick Jarrett, proposed by Mike Hayward and seconded by Sally Josling

Romsey Abbey Sidney Bull, proposed by Andrew Glover and seconded by Martin Daniels

Winchester Cathedral Celia Ali, proposed by Carrie Eisenhauer and seconded by John Colliss

Compounding Members

27 January 2007 Paul Pascoe
Proposed by Jonathan Hetherington and seconded by Peter Sheppard at South Petherton

4 February 2007 Katherine L. V. Fulcher
Proposed by Jonathan Hetherington and seconded by Mark Place at Bitterne Park.

9 April 2007 Simon Reading, Christopher Bennett, Adrian Moreton, Richard Knights
Proposed by Edward Colliss and seconded by John Collis at Winchester Cathedral.

18 April 2007 Phil J. Payne
Proposed by Brian Woodruffe and seconded by James Hodkin at Marston Bigot.

Presentation of Certificates

Georgia Kelly, North Stoneham
Ruth Leatherdale, Romsey Abbey
Mark Smith, Owslebury

Striking League

Jen Churchill reported that Romsey and New Alresford were currently drawn and intended to have a "ring off" to decide the winner. The chairman said that in order to encourage more bands to enter the competition this coming year it had been decided that composite bands would be allowed to enter. Towers would be contacted in August regarding next year's league.

Future Events

As well as the events given on the agenda the chairman reminded the meeting that there would be a ringing practice on May 19 at Bishopstoke from 7 – 8:30 pm. Special methods were Cambridge and Yorkshire Surprise Major.

AOB

Clare Griffiths: The BRF collection raised £18.

Judy Bishop: Addington were considering putting in new bells and had enquired about a loan from the BRF; it was suggested that the Guild Treasurer should be contacted in the first instance.

Joyce Croft: Asked whether Guild Reports were out yet but were told they were not.

Richard Thompson then closed the meeting at 5.35 pm. The Captain of Headbourne Worthy ringers welcomed all the ringers and invited further ringing on the bells.

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held Saturday, 11 August 2006, at Bishop's Sutton

Before the meeting there was open ringing in St. Nicholas' church. After this, members enjoyed beautiful weather during a picnic tea in the very tidy churchyard. Following the meeting there was open ringing until 6:30pm.

Chairman's Welcome

In the absence of Richard Thompson, Theo Johnson opened the meeting at 5:02pm and welcomed the 18 members to the meeting. She then proposed that she conduct the meeting. The members voted unanimously that this should be so.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, helpfully taken by Pam Thompson, held at Headbourne Worthy on 12 May 2007 had been previously circulated. Judy Bishop pointed out that in AOB the tower using for a loan from the BRF was Avington. Roy LeMarechal and Edmund Wratten suggested that in several places 'ringing' should be changed to 'chiming' as this was more accurate. Elizabeth Johnson proposed and Judy Bishop seconded that, with these changes made, the minutes should be accepted. This was carried unanimously by the members and the amended minutes will be duly signed by the chairman as an accurate record.

Election of New Members

Confirmation of Probationary Election

North Stoneham 31 July 2007 Anthea Harvey and Laura Harvey, proposed by Martin Kelly, seconded by Alison Martin

Confirmation of Compounding Elections

25 April 2007 June D. Wells of Reading
Proposed by Thomas J. Hinks and seconded by John Croft at Micheldever

5 June 2007 Molly S. Waterson of Bathwick
Proposed by Roy LeMarechal and seconded by R. Mark Esbester at Bishopstoke

21 June 2007 Matthew D. Hetherington of Glasgow
Proposed by Jonathan C. Hetherington and seconded by Peter W. J. Sheppard at Bitterne Park

23 June 2007 Charles H. Isitt of Cannock and Michael Roylton Kisch of Hampstead
Proposed by Jonathan C. Hetherington and seconded by Mark B. Place at Lundy Island

New Ringing Members

Bishopstoke Janet Morris, proposed by Roy LeMarechal and seconded by Ann LeMarechal

N. Stoneham Rob Foster, proposed by Martin Kelly and seconded by Alison Martin

All were elected unanimously.

Future Events

Theo reminded members of the upcoming district practice at Winchester Cathedral on 29 August at 7pm. She also announced District Practices at King's Somborne on 3 September and Barton Stacey on 6 October at 9:30am. A band for the Interdistrict 10 Bell Striking Competition, which will be held at Carisbrooke, IoW on 1 September, has been arranged by Roy LeMarechal. The District Outing to the Isle of Purbeck, arranged by Ken Warner, will be Saturday, 13 October; the details continue to develop. Interested parties should advise Ken that they are planning to attend. (K. Warner 01794 517203). The next quarterly meeting will be at Crawley & Sparsholt on 10 November. This will also be the District Education Day and courses will be offered on Methods beyond Bob Doubles (e.g. Grandsire, St. Simon's family, All Saints) with places for both inside and treble ringers. Interested helpers and pupils should contact Jen Churchill.

AOB

Clare Griffiths: Collection for the Bell Restoration Fund raised £12.

Theo Johnson: Twyford ringers are looking for helpers for a wedding on 1 September, paying £12/rope. Alternatively, anyone wishing to ring a QP is welcome to provide a band and do so.

Judy Bishop: Easton Church will probably be closed from September for building works, including underfloor heating and opening up another door, so anyone planning to ring there should contact Sara Janssen first to confirm that there is ringing.

Elizabeth Johnson: Old Alresford and Bighton are now part of a new benefice including New Alresford and Ovington. From September, Sunday ringing at New Alresford will now start at 8:50 am to accommodate the new service time of 9:30am. This means that it is possible to ring also for the Old Alresford service at 10am.

Congratulations to two young ringers, Tom Hinks and Katie Hill, who rang peals of 23 Spliced on successive days at New Alresford and Bishopstoke, where Tom conducted.

Edmund Wratten: Cheriton Church is still closed for building works.

Quarterpeal Week will take place 23 September – 30 September; if any towers would like help he is available. Members should report their details to Jen Churchill, please.

Tom Hinks: Romsey Abbey bells are expected back at the end of September/beginning of October. They have been tuned.

Jen Churchill: This year's Division II Striking League is officially a draw between New Alresford and Romsey Abbey.

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held Saturday, 10 November 2007, at Crawley

This being the District Education Day, before the meeting Christine Hill led a course, 'Beyond Bob Doubles', at Sparsholt. After this, members enjoyed a delicious tea in the church rooms at Crawley. Following the meeting there was open ringing until 6:30pm.

Chairman's Welcome

Richard Thompson opened the meeting at 4:50pm and welcomed the 21 members, including Guild Secretary Pam Thompson, to the meeting. He then thanked the Sparsholt members for the use of their bells and Crawley members for hosting the meeting and providing tea.

Election of New Members

Confirmation of Probationary Election

North Stoneham	3 September 2007	Johanna Duguenay, James Duguenay, proposed by Martin Kelly, seconded by Alison Martin
	14 September 2007	Hai Viet Troung, proposed by Martin Kelly, seconded by Alison Martin
Crawley	7 November 2007	Chloe Breen, proposed by Edmund J. Wratten, seconded by Amanda Bayford

Confirmation of Compounding Elections

17 October 2007	Sally Schupke of Guildford Proposed by Roy LeMarechal and seconded by Benjamin J. Carey prior to a peal at St. Nicholas', Guildford
3 November 2007	Stuart P. Talbot of Cinderford, Gloucestershire Proposed by Christine Hill and seconded by Peter Hill at Colerne, Wiltshire

New Ringing Members

Bishopstoke Virgina Dewhurst, proposed by Roy LeMarechal and seconded by Clare J. Griffiths
All were elected unanimously.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held at Bishop's Sutton on 11 August 2007 had been previously circulated. As no amendments were suggested Rosemary Oakeshott proposed and Jen Churchill seconded that the minutes should be accepted. This was carried unanimously by the members and the amended minutes will be duly signed by the chairman as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

Edmund reported that Easton Church was still closed for ringing as their renovations were under way. Peter Hill reported that the Romsey band was now adjusting to their recently re-tuned bells, which sounded strange to him and Elizabeth Johnson confirmed that, as per an advertisement in the Ringing World, visitors were now welcome at practices.

Ringing Masters' Programmes

Jen remarked how very pleased she was with today's course and pointed out that it had been over-subscribed. She explained that it had been suggested by ringers at the tower representatives' meeting as had a course on bell maintenance. Edmund announced that this course would be in the spring when the weather was warmer.

Future Events

Theo reminded members that the District Carol Service would be held at Micheldever, although Helen Cramp with whom she had originally made this arrangement is now living in Winchester. The Crofts confirmed that the carol service appeared on the church calendar in the parish magazine there. She also reminded members of a District practice at North Stoneham on 8 January 2008 and that the ADM would be at Romsey Abbey. The secretary then took this opportunity to remind members that all offices would be open for election at the ADM as the term for every post is one year. She also informed them that after four years as secretary she would be stepping down, as would Richard Thompson, who urged them to consider candidates. Richard Thompson then reminded members that the Guild AGM, 5 July, would be hosted by the Winchester District this year and urged people to think what towers might take part.

AOB

Clare Griffiths: Collection for the Bell Restoration Fund raised £16.

Peter Hill: An official letter, on headed paper, should be sent to Ken Warner thanking him for arranging an excellent District Outing, enjoyed by many, to the Isle of Purbeck in October. Jen Churchill replied that she had written to him already.

Roy LeMarechal: Winchester District won the 10-bell Interdistrict Striking Competition beating a band from the Isle of Wight and from Portsmouth. The competition was held at Carisbrooke, IoW and judged by Rosemary Hill.

Elizabeth Johnson: There will be no practice at New Alresford on Friday, 30 November. There will be a practice at Old Alresford on Monday, 12 November and Friday, 30 November (in lieu of New Alresford).

There being no further business, Richard Thompson closed the meeting at 5:07pm.