OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHANGE RINGERS CITY BRANCH

Hon. Secretary, Mrs. C. M. A. Lane
Catchmole Cottage, 12 High Street
Wheatley,
Oxon. OX33 1XX.
01865 874026

Annual General Meeting at St. Giles', 13th November 1999.

The Chairman, David Lane welcomed the Guild Master, John Wells and his wife June to the meeting.
The members stood in silent memory of Dot Waring who was tragically killed in a motor accident shortly after her election at the Half Year Meeting in May.

1 Apologies for Absence
Barry Cowper, Sally Harrison, Alec Gammon, Brian Gatward, Rachel Woodforde, Phil Samson, Ron Burgess, Roy Goodwin, Basil Townsend and Barry Greenaway.

2 Approval of the minutes of the Half Yearly Meeting
The minutes of the meeting on Saturday 8th May 1998 were approved. David Lane signed those minutes.
Proposed by Hugh Deam. Seconded by Bob Benstead.

3 Matters arising.
It was explained that the Branch had retained the money that had been allocated to Dot Waring to attend the Easthampstead Course for future training use.

4 Correspondence
There was no correspondence

5. Election of New Members.

Marston	***Roy Peach***	***Proposed: Dermot Roaf***
	Catherine Howard Edwards	***Seconded: Anthony Hughes***
Iffley	***Suzette Reynolds***	
Headington	***David Andrews***	
	Wendy Austen	
	Clare Tucker	

R. Goodwin

The Ringing Master informed the meeting that Guild Rules allow any ringer who has reached the age of sixty-five, and who has been a member for thirty years, to be elected as an Honorary Ringing Member.
He therefore proposed that Bob Benstead (St. Giles') be elected, seconded by David Lane. Ralph Porter (Marston) was also elected as an Honorary Ringing Member. Proposed by Anthony Hughes, seconded by David Lane.

6. Presentation of certificates.
The Master, John Wells presented the certificates to Andy Broadbent and John Beck who were present at the meeting. The other new members' certificates were given to their fellow tower members who were able to pass them on.

7. Reports from the Officers
a) Secretary:
* Subscriptions
The proposal is that they should remain the same for the following year, i.e. £3.50 to the Guild and £2.00 to the Branch, to be ratified at the General Committee Meeting.

* Competition methods
8 bell - Little Bob Triples 1st May 2000
10 bell – Grandsire 9th September 2000
The secretary expressed a hope that the Branch might consider entering a team for the two competitions as it had been many years since Oxford City had taken part.

* Guild Festival - 8 July, 2000
Christ Church Oxford
Service 11.00 a.m. followed by lunch in the Great Hall – tickets; £15.00 approximately.

* Millennium Ringing
From the information that the secretary had received from tower captains it appears that everyone is confident that they will have enough ringers to ring for the noon service on 1st January 2000. If there are problems for any tower then now is the time to contact one of the officers to ask for help.
The Guild has arranged for every tower that rings for on 1st January may receive a plaque to commemorate the event. These are a metallic notice mounted on a walnut veneer board that may be hung in the ringing room without the need for a faculty.
Names of ringers may be added at a cost of £25 or more.
Details of towers that ring should be sent to the Branch Secretary, immediately after the event.
The format of the service appears in the September edition of "The Door".

* Special Brew
A special brew of Hook Norton ale has been commissioned by the Guild that will be on sale, by the case, next year at approximately £1.50 per half-litre bottle.

* "Fun Day Out" 10th June 2000
Based around Oxford.
The day will include a 32 team knock-out striking competition. It will be a fun event with competitions and stalls.

* Leap Year Sponsored peal and quarter peal week in aid of the Bell Fund.
27th February to 4th March. There will be a Branch prize for raising the most per capita.

* Ringing Day and Male Voice Choir in Witney on Saturday 3rd May.
There is plenty of carparking in the Sainsbury carpark.

* Guild Service Book.
Bobbie May continues to work on this with Ken Davenport. Tower captains need to be aware that a license is required to publish and play music. Many churches will hold a CCLI license but any difficulties can be overcome by using hymns from the hymnbook in the church.

* Health and Safety.
Members are reminded that they should never work alone among the bells, if circumstances arise when this cannot be avoided they should endeavour to take a mobile phone with them.

b) Treasurer:
The Treasurer asked to which fund the contributions should be made. There followed an explanation of the two funds:
The Bell Fund is a capital fund currently standing at around £300,000 and does not fund any new bells.
The Restoration Fund is a raise and spend fund for augmentation and restorations.
Since the discussions that took place last year more funds have been donated to the Restoration Fund.
Anthony Hughes proposed that our contributions should go to the Restoration Fund. Seconded by Len Porter and carried.

c) Ringing Master:
Len Porter apologised for not attending all the events earlier in the year. He emphasised the importance of safety when leading ringing practices and outings.

i) Check the safety of bells and their fittings. An incident had taken place in which a bolt had broken on a Hastings stay resulting in nasty rope burns to an inexperienced ringer;
ii) Do not go into the bells alone even if they are down;

iii) Be aware of how much you should extend your learners, control is more important than advancing to methods, do not push on too fast;
iv) Remind ringers of their behaviour in the ringing room (e.g. both feet on the floor)
v) Ringers are responsible for their own safety and that of others.

The Ringing Master supported the request that The City Branch should make a greater effort to enter a band for the 8 and 10 bell striking competitions.

d) Representative:
Anthony Hughes asked how successful the Branch Practices had been. It was agreed that it was important to continue with them despite the attendances being down in some months. After too many years when no practices took place it would be a retrograde decision to abandon them.
The Chairman commented that with the increased number of youngsters and learners it was essential to keep up the practices.
Len Porter said that none should wait to be asked to go to practices and that St Aldate's would welcome anyone wanting to learn to treble bob and surprise methods when practices resumed on the 2nd and 4th Mondays on completion of the church re-ordering.

8. Election of Officers
David Lane, Chairman, vacated the seat for John Wells, Master, to officiate the elections. On behalf of the Guild, John Wells thanked the Branch Officers for their work in the Branch despite the fact that it sometimes appeared to be a thankless but necessary task.
Nominations for Officers.
Chairman
David Lane proposed for Chairman by Bob Benstead. Seconded by John Lonsbrough. There being no other nominations David Lane was duly elected as Branch Chairman.

The nominations for:	Deputy Chairman	Roy Goodwin
	Secretary	Catherine Lane
	Treasurer	Simon Edwards
	Ringing Master	Len R. Porter
	Branch Representative	Anthony Hughes
	Liaison Officer	Hugh Deam
	Independent Examiner	Anthony Hughes

These nominations were all proposed en bloc by Dermot Roaf, seconded by T. Peter Franklin and the officers were duly elected.

9. Reports on Fund Raising.
Hugh Deam has continued to collect aluminium cans and foil items.
The Chairman thanked him and asked members to continue to support him in his efforts.

10. Approval of candidates for educational courses.
Len Porter proposed that £150 should be available from Branch funds for candidates wishing to attend courses. The Treasurer, Chairman and Secretary should be given authority to distribute the money to the candidates as required.
Seconded by David Lane and carried.
This year the Easthampstead course would cost approximately £130, minimum age for attendance is 14. Names of suitable candidates should be given to the Ringing Master as soon as possible.
Radley – 8th April, names to the Ringing Master by Christmas.
Youth training Day (under 16) – 29th April
Katie Lane proposed that collections should be made at every Branch Practice in order to increase the funds available for training.
Seconded by Len Porter and carried.

11 Millennium Service Ringing.
John Pusey said that we should attempt to ring the bells of Oxford on 1st January; it had become obvious that the Oxford Society had made no plans to do anything so he felt it was important for the City Branch to make arrangements.
David Lane said he would contact the bodies responsible for the towers and draw up a schedule. He explained that none of the college chapels would have a service, that Mary Magdalen would be out of action and probably St. Aldate's.
There was a show of hands to see who would be available on 1st January.
Len Porter said he would ring tower captains to confirm their plans for the Millennium Ringing.

12. Any Other Business.
T. Peter Franklin asked why there had been no presentation of Striking Competition certificates. Len Porter apologised for the omission.
Mark Walker described the major restoration at Headington and asked the Branch for a donation. Anthony Hughes supported the application as a good 8-bell tower would be invaluable to the Branch.
A grant had already been approved by the Guild.
David Lane proposed that £75 should be given to Headington.
Seconded by Len Porter and carried.

Mark Walked thanked Andrew Bunch, vicar of St. Giles', for taking the service, Peter Ward-Jones the organist and Dermot Roaf for organising tea. All members were thanked for attending.

13/5/00