OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS CITY BRANCH

Hon. Secretary, Mrs. C. M. A. Lane
Catchmole Cottage, 12 High Street
Wheatley
Oxon. OX33 1XX.
01865 874026
e-mail: lane.catchmole@virgin.net

Annual General Meeting at St. Andrew's, Headington: Saturday 18th November 2000.

There were 30 members present.

1. Apologies for Absence.
Chairman: N.D. Lane, Hon. Guild Secretary: B. Cowper, B. Townsend, B. Masterman, A. Gammon, A. Ellis, P. Samson, R. Burgess, A. Broadbent, J. Marlow, R. Woodford, B. Halliday.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Half-Yearly Meeting
The Minutes were approved and signed by the Deputy Chairman, Roy Goodwin.

3. Matters Arising.
There were no matters arising.

1. Correspondence.
From Guild Master: E. John Wells

Millennium Working Group Report

Hello all,
Sorry to pester you with another request, but the Millennium Working Group are beginning to compile their report. It is hoped to produce this before next year's Guild AGM and distribute it to each tower. There will also be a limited number for sale to individuals.
The proposed content of the report will be as follows:-
1. *Introduction*
2. *Origins and the original Proposal*
3. *Summary of the meetings of the group*

4. *Results of the Questionnaires*
5. *Report from the Education Sub-Committee on Project related Training*
6. *Report from the Towers and Belfries Sub-Committee on Restorations and other related activities*
7. *Report from the Public Relations Officer on publicity*
8. *Report of Guild Activities during 2000*
9. *Report of Branch Activities during 2000*
10. *Other items and stories of note*
11. *Summary*
12. *Appendices:-*

- *The proposal to the 1996 A.G.M.*
- *Towers which rang on 1st January 2000*
- *The Festival Sermon*
- *Bill Butler's speech at the Festival Lunch*
- *List of Peals rung in celebration of the Millenium*
- *List of Quarter Peals rung in celebration of the Millennium*
- *List of ringing for the 100th Birthday of Elizabeth the Queen Mother*

For chapter 9 we would like to have a short report from each Branch. This should include reports on any special Millennium events held in the Branch, any special ringing etc.
We would also like material for chapter 10 – anything you think might be of general interest.
With regard to the quarter peals etc. We have a list of all quarters rung this year which have been published in The Ringing World but we are not sure which were specifically rung as Millennium Quarters. It would be a great help if you could list those rung in your Branch (date and tower only we can fill in the rest). If there are any which have not been published, we would be grateful for the full details. Likewise, any information related to the ringing for the Queen Mother's birthday would be welcomed.
We will be working to a tight schedule, so we would like copy by ***7th January 2001*** *please, so that the draft report can be compiled and circulated to the MWG in time for an editing meeting on 31st January.*
Please send all copy to me, either as e-mail, on a disc or typed copy.
Many thanks for your help.
John Wells.

The Secretary asked that the information requested in this correspondence be passed on to her at the earliest opportunity, certainly well in time to reach the deadline in the Master's letter.

2. Election of New Members

Dorothy Hall	St. Aldate
David Hartley	Headington
Michael Purday	Headington
Peter Bayliss	Wheatley
June Steele	Wheatley

The above mentioned were proposed as new members by Katie Lane and seconded by Hugh Deam, and duly elected.

3. Presentation of Certificates

The Deputy Chairman, Roy Goodwin presented the following ringers with their certificates:

Libby Chase	Horspath
Barbara Brown	Cowley
Angela Munday	Cowley

1st Quarter Certificates were presented to:
Clare Tucker
Roy Peach
David Ramsbottom

4. Reports from Officers:

a) Secretary:

Striking competition methods – 8-bell and 10-bell are to be Grandsire.
Insurance: the matter of insurance is under review by the F&GP Committee and the Education Committee.
Insurance is available to whom The Guild agree is to be covered.
Child Protection Issues – in the present climate of accusation and litigation it cannot be over emphasised how important it is to realise the implications of teaching children to ring. All PCCs should have their own Child Protection Policy and tower captains and instructors need to consult with the rector on this matter, it may be advisable to become an appointed person and be vetted.
Do not ever put yourself at risk by being alone with a young person.

Comment:
Willy Haynes (Towers and Belfries Committee) expressed his concern that more insurance was required, especially for those people working on our behalf. Currently the payout stands at £10,000 for death or disablement and £100 per week for two years. An additional amount on the subscription would increase cover. Anthony Hughes, Branch Representative, agreed to raise the matter at the Guild meeting next week and emphasised that the Guild was already taking action.

The Guild Secretary has suggested that correspondence may be sent to towers by e-mail. As this would reduce the cost to the Guild an allowance may be made to the Branches to

cover their additional expenditure. I could e-mail tower correspondents if they so wish. Please let me know if this would be appropriate.

Guild subscriptions will be discussed at the Guild AGM, at the secretaries meeting it was suggested that the subscription would remain at £5.50. If there were a change in the way correspondence were to be distributed then there may be an alteration to the distribution.

Guild AGM 2001 – Headington have volunteered, but we will all need to help with tea.
This week is the Pudsey Bear appeal week for Children in Need. We have been asked to make donations from any ringing that takes place and I suggest we make a collection from this meeting today.

Odd Bob – please could you contribute with a bit more enthusiasm to Odd Bob; sometimes it seems to be a soap opera about Marston, Kidlington and St Aldate.

I have Guild badges for sale at £1.50.

b) Treasurer

The Treasurer circulated the Year 2000 accounts.
Katie Lane and Len Porter proposed and seconded that the accounts should be accepted. The proposal was passed.
Mark Walker thanked the Branch for the contribution to rehanging costs at Headington.

c) Ringing Master

More support is requested at Branch Practices; it is often the same people who attend and sometimes the hosting tower is not represented. It is very much hoped that there is no sense of it being 'your' practice, not 'ours'. There is genuine disappointment when local ringers are not at the Branch Practice.
Please note that there is a 10-bell practice at St Thomas on 7th July.
Please display notices that are circulated by the Secretary.
Please ask the Ringing Master to arrange in-house courses.
Please request sponsorship for Easthampstead.
Comment:
There was a suggestion from Bob Benstead that the same person should not always lead the practices, and conducting of the ringing, and that it would be nice to hear a different voice. There was no further discussion on this matter.
Anthony Hughes asked if the special practices were always arranged for Saturdays?
Len Porter explained that the minimum requirement was for two hours because of the theory tuition that was always involved. Therefore Saturdays were the only reasonable option.

d) Representative

In addition to the Secretary's report matter of note include a reminder that there is a special service book available for arranging services.
The Guild annually sponsors a page in "The Ringing World".
It is important to stress Health and Safety awareness in towers. There continues to be a requirement for financial donations to the Restoration Fund and the Guild Bell Fund.

The Shinfield Ringing Centre is being established for teaching and information purposes.
Information on all Guild news may be attained from the Guild Website.
The ODG Library is in the process of being re-sited and is available for all members.

5. Election of Officers

Chairman	N.D. Lane
Deputy Chairman	R. Goodwin
Secretary	C.M.A. Lane
Treasurer	S. Edwards
Ringing Master	L.R. Porter
Branch Rep.	A. Hughes
Liaison Officer	H. Deam
Independent Examiner	A. Hughes

All the above officers were willing to be re-elected. However the Ringing Master wished to remind members that recycling of officers is not necessarily healthy for a Branch and that members should be encouraged to put themselves or others forward for election. At this point Joy Fitzpatrick indicated that Mark Walker was willing to stand for election but did not specify which post. There followed some soft discussion on how best to proceed and an unexpected election was held for the post of Ringing Master.
Katie Lane proposed Len Porter, seconded by John Pusey.
Paul Lucas proposed Mark Walker, seconded by Michael Purday.
A vote was taken and Len Porter was re-elected by 13 votes to 8.
The remainder of officers were re-elected en-bloc, proposed by John Pusey and seconded by Peter Franklin.

6. Report on Fund Raising

Katie Lane thanked Hugh Deam for continuing to collect the cans. The monies raised were confirmed for contribution to the Guild Restoration Fund.
John Lonsbrough queried that the money leaving the Branch account was for the previous year's can collection. The treasurer confirmed that it was.
Anthony Hughes reminded the members that the Bell Fund only services small grants for augmentation and that the Restoration Fund is used for other work and that individual towers can use the fund to invest their capital.

7. Approval of Candidates for Educational Courses.

The Ringing Master encouraged individuals to apply for a subsidy of course fees from the Branch funds.

Len Porter proposed that £200 should be allocated to sponsor individuals up to the amount of £50 each.
Seconded by Anthony Hughes and carried by the members.
Len Porter was asked if it were possible to secure places on the Radley Course as places always seemed to be unavailable by the time the forms were distributed.
Katie Lane suggested that if members were keen it would be quite possible to run more cheaply, and equally effectively, our own "Radley-type" course and if requests were made to the Ringing Master action would be taken.

8. Any Other Business
Health and Safety - Mark Walker said that it was imperative that bells should NOT BE LEFT UP during the week, they MUST BE DOWN from 7.00 a.m. on Monday morning until Friday evening. In the event of an incident claims may be brought against towers.
At the weekend doors should always be locked and notices should be clearly displayed if bells are left up between services.

It was suggested that a monthly Surprise Major practice should be arranged at Headington. Mark Walker agreed to arrange this.
Anthony Hughes asked that Grandsire and Stedman should also be considered for regular practice.

Roy Goodwin concluded the meeting by thanking Headington ringers for their hospitality and the use of their news bells, the organist for his contribution and the Vicar for his sermon. In anticipation of a good tea he requested the sum of £1.50.

David Lucas
12/05/01