OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD CITY BRANCH

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting - 20th. November 2004
St. Nicholas, Marston.

1. Apologies for absence

Nigel Harrison, Hon. Guild Secretary; Ken Davenport, Guild Steward; P. Lloyd, D.Nunan, G. Nichols.

2. Approval of informal minutes of the half-year meeting held at Wheatley.

The minutes were circulated at the meeting and approved.
Proposed: N. David Lane Seconded: Hugh Deam

3. Matters Arising

* Two First Aid kits had been purchased for Wolvercote and Marston - to be used on outings and training mornings.
* Boating trip had to be cancelled because of inclement weather
* Some progression practices had taken place and Wheatley expressed an interest in taking part.
* Calendars for 2005 had been printed and were being circulated
* The garden party at Cross Farm had been rescheduled at short notice, due to Anthony Hughes' illness, to the Beales' house at Wolvercote, and thanks were recorded for their help.

4. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

5. Election of New Members

Emily Hess	Wheatley
Judith Kirby	Marston
Donna Murphy	Marston
Miranda Oliver	Headington
Sarah Franklin	St Aldates
Graham Nichols	Headington (re-elected after letting his membership lapse)

Proposed en bloc: N. David Lane Seconded: Roy Jones

6. Presentation of Certificates

Membership certificates presented to: John Dowling, Headington
Simon Chadwick, Iffley

Branch Striking competition certificates to 1st St Aldates ; = 2nd Iffley and Wheatley.

First Quarter Peal certificate to Heather Banyard.

7. Reports from Officers

a) Hon. Secretary

Katie Lane admitted that she had not been able to attend the Guild Secretaries' meeting in October and so was not able to comment on matters of Guild importance. She confirmed that she would be standing down at this meeting and proceeded to thank the Chairmen – Len Porter, David Lane and Anthony Ellis for their support over the time she had been secretary; the Ringing Masters – Jane Marlow (now Broadbent), Len Porter and Hugh Deam and the regular contributors to Odd Bob, in particular Wolvercote, Kidlington and Marston correspondents.

She also asked the Branch to consider, in future, an honorarium for the secretary to cover costs that occurred.

The Chairman and the members thanked the secretary for her work during the last ten years.

b) Hon. Treasurer

Simon Edwards presented the accounts.

The accounts were adopted by the members.

Proposed: Roy Jones Seconded: Leon Thompson

c) Ringing Master

Hugh Deam explained that the venue of the AGM had been changed due to unforeseen circumstances, which had been overcome by good team work within the Branch. He said that the sermon at the service had expressed his feelings about how to keep the Branch running so that the Branch can help the individual towers. The Branch is the third smallest in the Guild and has the fewest number of towers but the amount that is achieved within it must be recognized.

He said that it is important to be positive about the things that have been accomplished.

There are events planned for 2005. Good team work and team spirit are for the greater good of the Branch.

He asked members to prepare methods for practice nights so that more could be achieved at practices.

The Chairman thanked Hugh for his enthusiasm which generated so many activities.

d) Representative

Anthony Hughes had attended two Guild meetings during the year. He told the members of the agenda items that were discussed at these meetings: Health & Safety, Guild Insurance, Guild Library, Child Protection, Guild Website, Education Committee, Towers & Belfry Committee, Finance & General Purposes Committee, Peal Secretary's business, Public Relations Officer's business, Guild Officers, Guild Report, Odd Bob and the importance of the Central Council. He spoke about the two bell funds – the Restoration Fund and the Guild Bell Fund,

Guild courses, the Guild festival and ringing centres. He told members that if ever they had any questions regarding Guild matters to put them to the Branch representative who would take them to the committee meetings.

8. Election of Officers

	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman: Anthony Ellis	Hugh Deam	N. David Lane
Deputy Chair: Roy Jones	John Lonsbrough	Paul Lucas
Secretary: Graham Nichols	Claire Tucker	Hugh Deam
Treasurer: Simon Edwards	Jonathan Cresshull	Anthony Hughes
Ringing Master: Hugh Deam	Roy Jones	Bernard Masterman
Representative: Katie Lane	Hugh Deam	Roy Jones
Branch Training Officer Jonathan Beale	N. David Lane	John Lonsbrough

9. Reports on Fund Raising Efforts

Hugh Deam reported that he had printed additional calendars to sell; that the cans for recycling were dwindling; that the garden party had been a fund raising success. It was planned to unite the half-year meeting with a garden party in the future.

The Chairman thanked Hugh for his work.

10. Approval of Candidates for Educational Courses

It was suggested that Peter Lloyd be put forward for the White Chapel bell maintenance course, the cost of which was £85. It was agreed that as no one used Branch funds for Easthampstead; monies from the Branch funds could be given to this and at least one other candidate. No vote was taken.

11. Any Other Business

* Roy Jones expressed his displeasure at the behaviour of some of the members at the striking competition who left before the judge had finished speaking and before thanks had been given. He said it reflected very badly on the Branch.

He had been approached by a Branch member concerning his, Roy Jones', acquaintance with people who had been asked to judge striking competitions. Roy said that he would welcome suggestions for alternative judges from members if they were able to do so, but many people were not enthusiastic about judging competitions because of the discontent which regularly followed regarding the decision.

* Anthony Hughes reminded the members that City Branch subscriptions carry an addition £1 donation to Guild funds.
* He raised his concerns about the access to St Mary Magdalen ringing room, which he believed to be hazardous. He suggested that whoever is responsible for the tower be asked to consider some maintenance or support on

the stairs. Jonathan Cresshull volunteered to speak to the OUS ringing master and would report back to the members.

* Hugh Deam was asked to comment on the number of people attending Branch Practices. A long description followed explaining that attendance was usually between 12 and 15 people except at holiday time when attendance is poor. However it appears that members prefer to attend Saturday morning training sessions rather that Saturday evening practices and that the events for 2005 may reflect this when they are finally planned.
Jonathan Cresshull expressed concern that confusion would reign if arrangements did not follow a pattern.
The members were reminded that the Branch website has up to date information regarding ringing activities within the City Branch. It was agreed that all means of communication should be used – both modern and traditional.

* The Chairman proposed a maximum honorarium of £25 for the Secretary. It was seconded by Leon Thompson.

* Jonathan Beale asked for appreciation to be given to the editor of Odd Bob for the new format. Hugh Deam said that he had already offered help to the new Secretary to circulate the Odd Bob.

* He reminded the members to check the emergency lighting in the tower regularly and Joy Fitzpatrick informed everyone one that she had been recommended to run down the battery regularly so that it recharges fully.

* Discussion took place about the help and food required for the Guild Autumn General Committee meeting to be held at Kidlington on 27th November. There were several much needed offers from members which were gratefully received.

* Thanks were given to Andy Dunn and Jonathan Beale for the Branch Website.

* Roy Jones proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar of Marston for the service, Roy Peach for the address and playing the organ and the Marston ringers and ladies for hosting the event and providing tea.

12th Nov 2005.