OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHANGE RINGERS CITY BRANCH

Hon. Secretary, Mrs. C. M. A. Lane
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HALF-YEARLY MEETING at St James, Cowley 2002.

There were 19 members present.
Apologies were received from: Anthony Hughes, Basil Townsend, Rev. Anthony Ellis, Phil Samson, Lesley Smith, John Beale and the Wolvercote ringers and the Iffley ringers.

The members present stood in silence as a mark of respect for Roy Goodwin and Laurence Busby.

There was ringing before the informal meeting. The members of Cowley provided tea and biscuits that were well received by those attending the meeting.

A Guild Membership Certificate was presented to Adrian Gray.
No new members were elected.

Discussion took place on the following topics:
Subscriptions
It is has been agreed that by the Branch Secretaries that they should recommend that the current annual subscription should stand at £5.50 (£3.50 to the Guild and £2.00 to the Branches). This decision will be ratified at the next Guild Meeting.

Guild Striking Competition Methods
Plain Bob Major
Grandsire Caters.

Child Protection Issues
There was wide ranging discussion on this topic and members revealed their concerns about ringers under the age of 18.
The Guild Membership Secretary should be notified of dates of birth of all young ringers. The Branch Secretary will address this when completing the details of membership for the next annual report.
An Under 18 identity card is available on request.
Members should refer to the Guidelines circulated earlier in the year regarding young ringers - " Better Safe than Sorry."

The Central Council issued general recommendations concerning young people and ringing:

1 Always have two adults present when children are being taught.
2 Invite parents to come and watch a training session before allowing their children to start learning and ensure that the parent fully understands what is involved in learning to ring.
3 Make sure the parent is responsible for delivering the child to and collecting the child from the tower.
4 Ask parents to sign a permission to learn form.
5 Keep an attendance register.
6 Be aware of the insurance position for children, check the situation with your PCC.
7 Never allow children up among the bells apart from an initial demonstration visit if it is safe to have one.
8 For tower outings get parents to sign a detailed permission form. Organisers should be aware of the Health and Safety and other issues, for example it is in advisable for a child to travel alone with an adult in a car.

Considerable discussion was aroused by the recommendations because of the ease with which members of the City Branch can travel between towers and the difficulties involved in obtaining consent from some parents. It was agreed that members would do all they could to put the recommendations into practice but acknowledged that it would not always be possible and could result in fewer young ringers being prepared to learn.

Guild Insurance

Jonathan Beale requested a copy of the Guild Insurance for Wolvercote PCC. The Chairman would look into the matter for him.

Forthcoming Events

Guild Festival Service at Drayton.
Easthampstead Course - Branch funds are available to help members who would like to attend.
11 November - Course for Cambridge major at Steeple Aston.

