OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
CITY BRANCH

Hon. Secretary, Mrs. C. M. A. Lane
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HALF YEAR MEETING HELD AT NORTH HINKSEY 10 MAY 2003

All City Branch members were welcomed to St Lawrence, North Hinksey; the Priest-in-Charge and North Hinksey Ringers were thanked for delicious cakes and biscuits for which they did not charge, much to the pleasure and enjoyment of those present.
The Half Year meeting is an informal meeting at which notes, but not full minutes are taken.

Apologies for Absence
Dee Nunan, Victoria Davey-Wilson and Ron Burgess

Matters Arising from the AGM held at St Nicholas, Marston on 16th November, 2002.
The election of an Independent Examiner had been omitted from the election of officers. Therefore Anthony Hughes was proposed by N. David Lane and seconded by June Steele and elected nem.con.

Certificates were presented to:
Hillary Stevens (not present)
Leon Thompson
Andrew Dunn
Heather Banyard (not present)

The following new members were elected:

Jennie Bridge, St.Aldate's	Proposer: Katie Lane; seconder: Roy Jones
Sylvia Street, SMV, Wheatley	Proposer: Joy Fitzpatrick; seconder: June Steele

Branch Matters

Annual General Meeting, November 2003
St. Ebbe's had been asked to host the AGM, but they were unable to confirm the church diary until spring of 2003 when it was decided that the AGM could not take place on that date. Fortunately Iffley church and ringers were able to host the event instead, an offer which was gratefully received.

Branch Officers
The Chairman, N. David Lane and the Secretary, Catherine Lane informed the Branch members that they would not be standing for re-election at the AGM.

AGM
It was decided that the Secretary should send out papers for the election of officers at least five weeks before the date of the AGM.

Donations to the Bell and Restoration Funds

The Secretary asked members to look at the Guild accounts in Odd Bob and notice how small the City Branch contribution to The Guild is, in comparison with that of other Branches. It was decided that the level of contribution should be discussed at the AGM.

Branch Training

The Secretary asked the Ringing master to circulate information about training to all towers in the Branch. Hugh Deam said that some of the outings that he arranged were used for training and that using towers outside the Branch is cheaper than using Guild Courses. It was noted that not all towers within the City Branch are given information about training sessions or 'training' outings.

Roy Jones asked if towers were able to collect funds for 'training' outings. The Secretary explained that for several years members had been asked to make a donation at Branch Practices which was put towards Branch Training. This practice does not always take place unless the Secretary is at the BP, rattling the tin.

The Treasurer, Simon Edwards, said that when the occasion arises we should look for funding.

Roy Jones wanted to know that if donations from ringers on 'training' outings did not cover the cost of the towers would it be possible to make a claim from Branch Funds?

David Lane suggested that the Branch could subsidize 'training 'outings, and the Treasurer agreed that this would be a good solution.

Hugh Deam explained that he thought that morning outings were more successful than afternoon outings, and that it was a more effective way of getting sufficient support.

The official Branch Outing will be to Warwickshire on the morning of Saturday 11th October, 2003.

A vote was taken about morning v. afternoon outings and eight people present preferred a morning outing compared with three preferring an afternoon outing. It appears that wedding commitments make it difficult to attend afternoon outings.

Funding for Tower Maintenance

A question was asked about the availability of funding from the Branch for tower maintenance. David Lane suggested that a proposal should be put to the members at the AGM that officers should be able to discuss applications and delegate funds for essential maintenance.

Ringing Masters Business

Hugh Deam said that a number of people had been making good progress with their ringing and he thanked members for their support at Branch Practices. He also thanked David and Katie Lane for their work in the Branch for more that ten years.

