

# OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD CITY BRANCH

## Minutes of the Half-Year Meeting - 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007 St. Lawrence, North Hinksey

### 1. Apologies for absence:

P. Lloyd, A. Stewart, T. Hillsdon, C. Fenn

There were 19 members present.

The Chairman welcomed the Guild master: Jon Chamberlain, the Deputy Guild Master: Robert Newton and Patricia Newton.

### 2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at St. Giles' Horspath, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

The minutes had been circulated and were taken as read.

### 3. Matters Arising

i) The Guild 15 Year Plan has been revised and will be circulated at a later date. As a result the Oxford City Branch will host the Guild Festival but will no longer be required to host the Guild Ringing Day, although will offer towers to neighbouring branches if required.

ii) David Lane (Secretary of the Oxford Society) confirmed the Branch Outing to the city centre towers in September. J. Beale thanked him for the organisation and will circulate all the details to City Branch members when finalised.

### 4. Correspondence

A letter had been received from the Guild Master:

*Our New Bishop John Pritchard will be installed as Bishop of Oxford in the Cathedral on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007. I hope as many towers in the Diocese as possible will ring to welcome him, not only as our Bishop but as new President of our Guild. Please let Hilarie Rogers, the Guild Secretary (01865 890163) know which towers have rung what, so that we can present Bishop John with a record of our welcome.*

### 5. Election of New Members

David Ingrouille	St Giles'	Proposer S.L. Edwards Seconder B. Masterman
Gregor McLean	St Giles'	Proposer S.L. Edwards Seconder B. Masterman
Jonathan Jones	Iffley	Proposer S. King Seconder A. Hughes
Jan Lawrie	Marston	Proposer R. Jones Seconder H. Deam

These nominations were elected by the members present.

### 6. Presentation of Certificates

The Guild Master presented certificates to;

Richard Motson (not present retained by the Secretary)  
Michael Lowe (not present retained by the Secretary)  
Christine Fenn  
Tim Hillsdon  
Michelle Thompson (not present retained by the Secretary)

## **7. Reports from Officers**

### **a) Hon. Secretary: Katie Lane**

The Secretary thanked the Branch members for their help and co-operation in organising the Ringing Day on 7<sup>th</sup> May. A special mention was given to Roy Jones and Hugh Deam who worked hard to ensure that all the towers were stewarded. Recognition was also given to Kidlington for their contribution to the Guild 8 Bell Striking Competition.

The Secretary reminded members to collect Guild Reports that they had ordered.

### **b) Hon. Treasurer: Simon Edwards**

The Treasurer briefly reviewed the accounts.

### **c) Ringing Master: Hugh Deam**

Since the AGM there have been two outings, three training mornings and seven quarter peals. Despite the reduction in the number of members attending Branch events the enthusiasm of those members is very encouraging. It has proved impossible to confirm Branch events further ahead because most ringers have other commitments.

H. Deam had attended a Ringing Masters' Get Together arranged by Jon Chamberlain. On behalf of the Branch, the Chairman, Anthony Ellis, thanked Hugh for his hard work.

### **d) Representative: Anthony Hughes**

The Branch Representative attended meetings at Newbury and Banbury.

The loss of the Easthampstead course was due to the rising cost of facilities.

P. Newton (Guild Education Committee) said that there will be a one day course at Shiplake which will be advertised as the Michaelmas training Day. This course will be more advanced than the Radley Course and anyone interested should get in touch with John Wells.

A. Hughes spoke of danger of attempting to ring at towers which had be condemned as unringable and sited the example of Stanton St John. He emphasised that such inappropriate action jeopardizes the good faith of incumbents in the bell-ringing fraternity.

R. Jones informed the members that the community of Stanton St. John was actively raising funds for work to be done on the bells.

The Representative told members of the generous donation given to the Guild by the employers of the late Terry Gibson.

He reminded members that the Guild AGM would be held on 19<sup>th</sup> May at Beaconsfield.

### **e) Website Manager: Andy Dunn**

(the Secretary had been asked to include this as an agenda item)

A. Dunn has made recordings of the bells of Headington, Kidlington and North Hinksey which are available on the Branch website.

### **8. Reports on Fund Raising Efforts**

It was agreed that the City Branch members find it hard to have fund-raising events. The Secretary reminded members that £1.00 was added to everyone's subscription to help overcome this dilemma.

Graham Nicholls continues to attend car boot sales and to collect cans for recycling.

### **10. Approval of Candidates for Educational Courses**

There were no nominees for courses. It was agreed that funds continued to be available if required; 50% for the Michaelmas Course and £20 for the Radley Course.

### **11. Any Other Business**

i) Ray Rook spoke at some length about the requirement for the Guild, and therefore the Branches to pay Corporation Tax and suggested to the Treasurer that there were alternative methods to recover tax which only require trivial administration. He was adamant that the City Branch should not need to contribute and that the Gift Aid process should be consistently adopted.

The Master said that Brian Gatward, the Guild Treasurer, was seeking further information about Gift Aid but the City Branch would not be able to avoid the tax because it is part of the Guild.

R. Rook emphasised that an interest free loan to the Guild would suffice. He was recommended to talk to Brian Gatward.

**Action R. Rook to speak with the Guild Treasurer.**

ii) Jonathan Beale thanked A. Dunn for the excellent website management. He asked for further information about contributions to the Guild Bell Funds so that we put our donations to the best use.

**Action: Secretary to arrange a Committee Meeting and make this an agenda item at the AGM to provide members with the information.**

**Treasurer to prepare an informed proposal for the AGM.**

iii) T. Peter Franklin gave a vote of congratulations to the City Branch band who won the Guild 8 Bell Competition – much to the pleasure and delight of all concerned. He said that the standard of ringing had been very high and the results very close at the top.

Three members of the band were present at the meeting and the trophy was displayed.

Method: Plain Bob Triples

Treble:	N. David Lane	St Aldate's
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Katie Lane	St Aldate's
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Richard Youdale	St Aldate's
4 <sup>th</sup>	Simon Edwards	St Giles'
5 <sup>th</sup>	Jonathan Cresshull	St Aldate's
6 <sup>th</sup>	Leon Thompson	St Aldate's
7 <sup>th</sup>	Robin Hall (C)	St Aldate's

Tenor            David Barrington    St Aldate's

These members ring together every Sunday at the Cathedral and or St Aldate's.

iv)     R. Jones: the Branch 6 Bell Striking Competition will take place at Wootton, near Woodstock, on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 1830.

v)     1000 Years of Oxfordshire

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> October St Frideswide's

Oxford South TV will be covering the ringing. There will be a service at Christ Church. Details will follow.

vi)     Branch Outing: 13<sup>th</sup> October to Essex

vii)     R. Jones expressed his concern about the retention of young ringers and made a suggestion that the subscription should be reduced for younger members. There was no discussion.

He also requested that the AGM should have 'Social Secretary' as an agenda item.

**Action: Secretary to add to AGM Agenda.**

viii)    Guild Communications – Shirley Haines, Guild Steward

S. Haines asked members for their thoughts on the Guild communicating directly to members by email or post as it has been suggested that this would be a more effective method of communicating from the Guild to all its Branches. The City Branch members saw no requirement to change the way that information is being circulated.

*The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the North Hinksey members for the use of the bells and their hospitality.*