

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers East Berks & South Bucks Branch

Minutes of the Half Yearly Meeting held at Hughenden on Saturday 12th October 2019

The meeting was attended by 44 members representing 13 towers.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Helen Riddoch and Fred Reynolds

2. Minutes of the AGM held at Clewer on Saturday 27th April 2019

These had been circulated via the User Group. They were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

Vikki Bulbeck informed the meeting that the gudgeon on the 3rd bell at Clewer had been repaired and that the odd-struckness of the bell was within 1msec.

4. Election of Officers

i) Branch Ringing Master – there was no nomination so the post remains vacant **ii) Branch Representative** – Branch membership numbers entitle us to four Branch Representatives. Three have already been elected but there was no nomination for a fourth representative. The Chairman (John Davidge) explained that Branch Reps attend Guild Committee Meetings and report back, and also attend Branch Officers' Meetings to have a say in what goes on in the Branch.

5. Election of New Members

The following members were elected:

New member: Dorothy Baker, Burnham

Re-election: Revd Kevin Lovell, High Wycombe

Election to EBSB Branch as members of Windsor Curfew Tower:

William Stungo (Central Bucks Branch Member)

Edgar Skipsey (Central Bucks Branch Member)

Stephen R Smith (Reading Branch Member)

6. 2020 Programme

Some of the towers have been booked for practices next year but the secretary is still waiting for responses from others. The AGM will be at Maidenhead, the Lorna Newton Final and Half Yearly Meeting at Clewer and the Christmas Social at Winkfield. There will be a Branch Practice every month, usually on the fourth Saturday and another event most months such as a Training Practice or Surprise Practice. The experiment on times for practices this year was not conclusive so the times will again vary. Details will be circulated when the list is complete.

7. Guild Events

The Secretary (Patricia Newton) informed the meeting that there will be a Leap Year sponsored ringing week for the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund next year from 22nd to 29th February (inc.). This can be quarter peals or general ringing, and the Branch Officers would be pleased to help complete bands for any tower that needs extra ringers to enable them to ring a quarter peal, or to arrange a

quarter peal for an individual who wants to ring a specific method. Let's use this as an opportunity to progress our ringing as well as to raise money for the Bell Fund.

The early May Bank Holiday next year will be on Friday 8th May. The Guild Ringing Day will be on that Friday and the Guild 8-bell Contest will be on the day of the Guild AGM (16th May). The Guild Secretary (Ken Darvill) reported that the Central Council will be requesting that bells be rung at about 7 o'clock on 8th May as part of the VE Day anniversary celebrations on 8th May.

8. Any Other Business

- i) Peter Jasper, Young Ringers Organiser, reported that in addition to the eight Bucks & Berks Young Ringers had taken part in the Ringing World National Youth Contest, Ben had rung with the Guild band. They had an outing to central London with the Surrey Association, organised by Holley. After a break during the summer, practices resumed with a practice at Bray this month. Next year they will be entering the South East England contest in Essex and the RWNYC in York. He thanked the towers who had hosted the practices and the adult ringers who had supported them. Anyone under the age of 21 is welcome to join the practices.
- ii) Katie Lane (Guild Master) said she was pleased to be able to attend our meeting and expressed her thanks for all that our Branch does for the Guild.
- iii) Vote of Thanks: The chairman gave a vote of thanks to the Hughenden ringers for hosting the contest and for providing a super tea.

Lorna Newton Competition Results

John Davidge thanked Julie and Andrew Haseldine who had judged the final. The results were as follows:

- 1st Amersham 38 faults (rang 5th)
- 2nd Bray "Delight" 43 faults (rang 1st)
- 3rd High Wycombe "B" 56 faults (rang 2nd)
- 4th Cookham 62 faults (rang 4th)
- 5th Lane End 68 faults (rang 7th)
- 6th Clewer 90 faults (rang 6th)
- 7th Dorney/Hitcham 99 faults (rang 3rd)

The Guild Master presented trophies to the winners and the runners up and a suitably engraved wooden spoon to the Dorney/Hitcham band.

Patricia Newton
October 2019