

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

East Berks & South Bucks Branch

Minutes of the Half Yearly Meeting held at Clewer on Saturday 9th October 2021

The meeting was attended by 21 members representing 11 towers.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from David Cornwall, Diane Darren, Marcia Dieppe, Jill Glennerster, Katie Lane (Guild Master), Mandy Salter, James White

2. Minutes of the AGM held via zoom on Saturday 12th June 2021

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

3. Matters Arising

Regarding the Bucks and Berks Young Ringers' practices, Robert Newton asked whether any funding was received from other branches. Peter Jasper responded that there was no funding apart from the EBSB contributions (to cover tower donations for practices) and a small amount from the ODG for the Ringing World National Youth Contest expenses. Peter thought that the treasurers of the various branches were liaising regarding funding. This is not happening but could do. There are currently about 5 or 6 young ringers from EBSB and 5 or 6 from other branches including Chiltern, Sonning Deanery and South Oxon. Stuart Galloway suggested that the £10 per monthly practice provided by the Branch was not a financial hardship. It was agreed that it was not worth the effort of the treasurer liaising with other branches for such a small amount. Robert Newton suggested that in future a breakdown should be provided of Young Ringers in this Branch and those of other Branches.

4. Election of Officers

i) Deputy Branch Ringing Master: Vikki Bulbeck was proposed by Robert Newton and seconded by Matthew Johnson and was elected unopposed.

ii) Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Michael Bayley had indicated that he would stand down at this meeting, but he is now able to continue until the next AGM when Ros Garrett-Bowes will be prepared to take over.

5. Election of New Members

The following had been nominated for membership of the Guild:

Marlow: Lily Cassap, Oliver Hart, Sian Robinson

Hambleden: Jon Boughton

Turville: Nigel Page

All were elected unopposed.

Monica Gilmour (Chenies) was elected as an EBSB Branch member

6. Forthcoming Events

The secretary (Patricia Newton) highlighted the following forthcoming Branch events:

Saturday 23rd October (a.m.) Branch Practice at Chalfont St Giles

Thursday 4th November (a.m.) Branch Practice at Turville with emphasis on ringing for less experienced members

Saturday 27th November (p.m.) Branch Practice at Lane End

The Christmas practice and social has been booked at Winkfield for Saturday 11th December. The secretary has asked if the local ringers are still prepared to host this and awaits a response. In the meantime a show of hands indicated that only 5 people present at this meeting would plan to go to this event.

Plans for 2022:

Saturday 26th February: Tower Captains' meeting

Saturday 23rd April: AGM (a volunteer was requested to host this but none was forthcoming)

Other practices will be arranged for next year a few months in advance. There will not be a diary card again listing the full year's programme.

John Payne asked the secretary to ensure that events were posted on the electronic Branch calendar.

7. Guild Events

In the absence of the Guild Master, the Secretary mentioned that the Guild 6-bell contest had been cancelled.

There are plans to go ahead with the Guild 10-bell contest and Guild Committee Meeting on 27th November (at Aston Clinton and Cuddington respectively).

Saturday 6th November there will be a Grandsire Caters course at Shrivenham

The Radley Course will take place next year in early April but the date has not yet been confirmed.

The Guild Festival in Oxford that had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions has now been re-booked for Saturday 8th July 2023.

8. Any Other Business

Ken Darvill informed the meeting of problems at West Wycombe. The church is currently closed. The parish cannot afford the expense of maintenance of the building so the future of the church is in question. There is to be a public meeting on Monday 11th October. As ringers we should be concerned about the bells and the situation with the tower. There could be similar concerns elsewhere if the Diocese is looking to close any other churches. Ken would be happy to forward links to information if requested.

Margaret Carlyle spoke about the 100 Club. This ceased during the pandemic but she has sent letters to all tower correspondents requesting subscriptions with the view to holding the first draw in December at the Christmas practice. The subscription has been £5 for many years and has now been raised to £10. If Tower Correspondents have not received the letter they should contact Margaret.

The Chairman thanked the Clewer ringers (Vikki, Jane, Holley and Lesley) for their hospitality and refreshments.

Patricia Newton
October 2021