

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

East Berks & South Bucks Branch

Minutes of the Half Yearly Meeting held at Fulmer on Saturday 12th October 2024

The meeting was attended by 29 members representing 12 towers. The Chairman welcomed Chris Mundy (Deputy Guild Master) to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Katie Lane (Guild Master), Stuart Gibson (Guild Treasurer), Marcia Dieppe, Mandy Salter, Diane Darren, Fred Reynolds and Françoise Allen

2. Minutes of the AGM held at High Wycombe on Saturday 27th April 2024

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

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

4. Election of New Members

The following were nominated for membership of the Guild:

Katy Greene – Marlow, proposed by Jon Boughton
Megan Turnwell – Marlow, proposed by Jon Boughton
Judith Keeves – Marlow, proposed by Jon Boughton
Kara Nichols – Stoke Poges, proposed by Anthea Wright
Rueko Kuriki – Stoke Poges, proposed by Anthea Wright
Robert Bagge - Stoke Poges, proposed by Anthea Wright
Hilary Payne – West Wycombe, proposed by Lyn Lee

All new members were elected unopposed.

5. Branch Programme 2024

Two changes have had to be made to the 2024 programme:

The practice at Horton on 26th October will not start until 3pm.

The Christmas practice on 14th December has been moved to Amersham and will be followed by refreshments in church.

6. Branch Programme 2025

The secretary (Patricia Newton) has started booking towers for 2025.

There will be a surprise practice at Hughenden on 18th January.

There will be a Tower Captains' Meeting on 1st February at Penn and it was suggested that this could be followed by a meal in the pub opposite the church.

There have been two refusals to host the Branch AGM on 26th April. Vikki Bulbeck suggested that Clewer might be able to host this.

7. Guild Events:

Membermojo:

Patricia Newton reported that the data base of contact details had been sent to the Guild in September. The details were uploaded to Membermojo and all members should have received a message with instructions to enter their page to sign in to Membermojo and set their preferences. She encouraged everyone to do so and to contact the Guild Membership Secretary if they have any problems. The aim is for Membermojo to go live on 1st January. Chris Mundy thanked the Branch Secretary for the amount of effort she had put into this. There is a massive amount of work required to get the system up and running but hopefully there won't be too much work involved to maintain it and it will enable the Guild to communicate directly with members and over time to do things more efficiently and effectively.

Forthcoming Events:

Chris Mundy congratulated Marlow and Stoke Poges for having lots of new members. He listed events coming up in the next few months:

Grandsire Caters Course at Shrivenham on 2nd November

Judging Striking Contests Course at Old Bradwell in North Bucks on 17th November (to be led by Simon Linford)

Higher numbers practice at Bicester on 17th November (10 bells). Please contact Chris (depmaster@odg.org.uk) if you wish to attend. These quarterly practices have proved to be popular so will be continued next year.

Training: March – Radley Course (Plain Bob/Grandsire Doubles to Major/Triples)

Possibly some “foundation training” – development of ropesight and moving on to Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles. If there is anything that members would like from the Guild please let the officers know.

8. Any Other Business

Jon Boughton noted that the surprise practice at Hughenden was much appreciated. The next one isn't until next January – could we have more of these practices (8-bell)? It was agreed that some (perhaps 3 or 4) of the practices could be run as surprise practices.

The new members outing was very successful but only about 5 out of 30 plus new members attended. It will be repeated in September next year (avoiding the school holidays).

Peter Jasper reminded the meeting about the Bucks and Berks Young Ringers. They currently have some good surprise ringers but they welcome youngers (up to 20 ish) from rounds and call changes level upwards. They have an outing on Saturday to central London.

The Chairman thanked the Fulmer ringers (Celia Thomas and Grania Wright) for providing refreshments and making arrangements.

The draw was made for the 100 Club.

Lorna Newton Competition Results

John Davidge thanked Matthew Johnson and Rosalind Garrett-Bowes for judging the contest. The results were as follows:

1 st	High Wycombe	21½ faults
2 nd	Marlow	26½ faults
3 rd	Hughenden	30 faults
4 th	Lane End	49 faults

(Beaconsfield/Penn had also qualified for the final but had to withdraw due to illness in the band)

Robert Newton presented the trophies to the winning team and runners up, and a suitably engraved wooden spoon was presented to Lane End.

Patricia Newton
October 2024