

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

RUTLAND BRANCH

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 6.00pm on 13th January 2018

in the Village Hall, Ryhall

1. VOTE OF THANKS

The Chairman thanked Rev'd Paddy McKee for leading the service and for a sensitive and moving address. Thanks were given to Jane McKee for playing the organ and for the organisation of the day. Also thanked were the team who served tea and to all who donated food items.

2. WELCOME

All were welcomed, 36 members were present. Especially welcomed was Guild Ringing Master, Simon Dixon and his wife Kathy. Also, Robin and Judith Rogers who have contributed to the branch in many ways, over many years. .

3. APOLOGIES were received from

David Couldwell, Eloise Dickerson, Kate Riley, Roy Kedge, Simon McLean, Andrew Tinsley, Mary Davidson, Hilary Williams, Bob Williams, Helen Pollard, David Wilson,

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

The previous minutes had been circulated to all members one week prior to the meeting. These were accepted and signed as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

At the 2017 AGM meeting Alan Wordie sought donations towards the installation of 8 bells in St George's Memorial Church, Ypres. Rutland Branch collected £769.00. There is a dedication in the memorial book in memory of the 600 residents of Rutland who died during the First World War.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

In summary; a detailed report and statement of accounts was circulated to all members on 5th January 2018.

The Branch is in a good position financially, with a final bank balance of £1,910 to take into 2018. This figure results from a surplus in 2017 of £79, improving the 2016 bank balance of £1,881, and the carry forward of the £50 deposit on the hire of the AGM hall. Total Income in 2017 is £837 being down from on last year's figure of £985.

Rutland has raised a total of £457 for the various Guild funds, almost the same figure as last year (£458), and a significant figure from a small branch. This results from 75% of the subscriptions, and 50% of the donations from members. Expenditure has increased to £758 in 2017 from £686 in 2016,

The figures have been examined, by Nic Hart, a qualified accountant, who has recently retired as treasurer of St Mary's in Ketton.

The membership secretary reported in 2017 the branch had 106 members, of which 4 are associate members and 12 junior members.

Adoption of the annual accounts was proposed by Simon Forster and seconded by Alan Wordie, with all in favour. The meeting also approved the appointment of Nic Hart as independent examiner for the 2018 accounts.

7. MASTER'S REPORT

Louis thought his first year as Ringing Master had been quite challenging, with the sad passing of respected ringers during the year.

There were also some high points to the year. He thanked Alan Ellis for his organisation of two successful ringing tours in 2017. Thanks were given to Monica Spence for her help in co-ordinating the social aspects of branch events and to Sue Webster for promoting them in the newsletter.

The branch triples & major ringing practices, held monthly alternating between Oakham and Uppingham, have been well supported and will continue in 2018.

In March the annual dinner at The Finches Arm, Hambleton was reasonably well supported, organised by John Tomalin. April saw a team representing Uppingham win the striking competition hosted by Caldecott. Thanks to Christopher Groome for judging on that day.

Jane McKee booked the mobile belfry 'The Charmborough Ring' for a fete in Ryhall in July. Many of our more experienced ringers supported the event, giving ringing demonstrations and promoting change ringing.

In Rutland in 2017, 3 Peals were rung and 23 Quarter Peals, although 7 of these were by visiting teams.

Certificates for achieving the ringing of their first Quarter Peal were awarded to:-

Les Wilkinson – Barrowden,
David Coop - Haringworth,
Helen Totaro –Oakham
David Brown –Whissendine,
Ethan Szyszka –Ryhall,
Hui-yen Bloodworth –Ryhall,
Geoff Bloodworth – Ryhall,
Sue Webster –Uppingham

And for ringing their First Peal – **Juliet Cunningham**

The 2018 programme was discussed and is almost complete. It will be circulated to all membership very soon. It will also be posted on the branch website.

Louis Totaro described a full and varied programme, with highlights including the monthly Triples and Major practice, Oakham and Uppingham in the first week of every month.

The annual branch dinner on March Friday 23rd March at The Wicked Witch, Ryhall. April 21st/22nd should be a weekend of celebration for St George's day and provide opportunities for quarter peals to be rung over the weekend and on Monday 23rd (St George's Day).

A summer ringing tour in July, an autumn tour in October and 'Ring for your supper' in mid-November.

On November 11th all Rutland towers to be involved with 'Ringing for Peace – Armistice 100'. Half muffled bells for Remembrance services and with open ringing later in the day. (after 12.00pm).

Louis expressed his hope that Guild events will also be supported as they occur during the year.

8. STEWARD'S REPORT

The branch was without a steward for 2017. The Chairman thanked Louis Totaro and Richard Beadman for stepping in and helping with maintenance and repairs when needed. Their expertise has been greatly appreciated.

Moving forward, four people are going to act as a team of stewards.

Ted Phillips, Tom Harley, David Coop and Simon Walton. They have received some instruction from Nick Churchman, Guild Steward, to aid them in fulfilling this role.

Ted Phillips will be the lead co-ordinator in this.

9 ADMITTANCE OF NEW MEMBERS

Uppingham: **Ted Phillips** proposed Sue Webster, seconded Alan Ellis

Lyddington: **Simon Walton** proposed David Murcott, seconded Hilary Williams

Gt Casterton: **Helena - Katie Scholes** proposed Roger Scholes, seconded Tim Holt

All were welcomed and presented with new member packs.

10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Congratulations were offered to all who had gained membership in the past year. Especially to our junior members, who are all progressing well.

Thanks was given to all tower captains, for maintaining the fabric of their towers and ropes, also for taking on the current issues around safeguarding.

The committee members were thanked for their support and work over the past year.

A challenge for 2018 will be getting all our ringable towers ringing for the First World War centenary in November.

Plans are being made for more teaching sessions in 2018, developing understanding of methods and other bell handling skills.

The Branch is in good heart but we can always do with more ringers.

11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Monica Spence stepped down as Social Secretary and resigned from the committee. Tony Clark also resigned.

Chairman Alan Wordie,	proposed Marilyn Tomalin,	seconded Jane McKee
Ringling Master Louis Totaro,	proposed Alan Wordie,	seconded Ann Archer
Deputy Ringling Master, Alan Ellis,		
	proposed Louis Totaro,	seconded Marilyn Tomalin
Secretary Helen Pollard,	proposed, Ann Archer,	seconded Jane McKee
Treasurer Simon Forster,	proposed Louis Totaro,	seconded Jane McKee
Steward Ted Phillips,	proposed Monica Spence,	seconded Alan Ellis

Other members of the committee willing to continue were re-elected unanimously.

CHAIR	Alan Wordie
MASTER	Louis Totaro
Deputy	Alan Ellis
SECRETARY	Helen Pollard
TREASURER	Simon Forster
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Jane McKee
STEWARD	Ted Phillips
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Hui-Yen Bloodworth
PRESS CORRESPONDENT & NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Sue Webster
GUILD MANAGEMENT	John Tomalin
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Tim Holt, David Rippin.

Monica Spence was especially thanked for all she has done for the branch and her work on the committee.

Tony Clark was also thanked for his commitment to the branch over many years.

12. GUILD OFFICERS' COMMENTS

Simon Dixon, representing the Guild, thanked everyone for being made welcome. All Guild Officers are standing for office again, with the exception of Alan Marks who is standing down from being Guild Treasurer next year.

Simon described the Guild as an "assisting body" and encouraged using their resources to our benefit. For example; if the learning of a specific method is desired but there are not enough within the branch able to facilitate this, use the Guild expertise and skills. Likewise, for anyone wishing to learn to conduct, the Guild could support.

13. AOB

100 Club. Raises money for the Guild Bell Fund, also giving the chance of a cash prize each month. Subscription is £12 per year. Individuals, groups and towers can join. (Over 16's only for individuals). Jane McKee is the 100 club representative, if anyone is interested.

Branch subscriptions. Jane McKee encouraged prompt payment, either by cheque or, if preferred, online. A payment form was circulated to all members prior to the AGM

Tower Captains Meeting

A meeting open to all tower captains was held earlier in the day, Although a meeting of tower captains had not been held for quite some time, Louis Totaro advised it was necessary to discuss current issues eg. safeguarding, teaching, recruitment, training and general stewardship. Reassurance was given that minutes of that meeting would be circulated in due course

The meeting closed at 19.05.