

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

RUTLAND BRANCH

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 6.00pm on 12th January 2019

in Braunston church.

1. VOTE OF THANKS

The Chairman thanked Rev'd Charlotte Osborn for leading the service and for a stimulating address. Thanks were given to Connie Beadman for playing the organ and Richard Beadman and Helen Pollard for the organisation of the day. Also thanked were the team who served tea and to all who donated food.

2. WELCOME

All were welcomed, 25 members were present. Especially welcomed was Guild Treasurer, Chris Fitzgerald.

3. APOLOGIES were received from

Eloise Dickerson, Tom Harley, Hui-yen Bloodworth, Ann Archer, Jane Peach, David and Glenys Murcott, Harry and Mary Poyner, Dave Brown, Araminta Mathias, Sue Baker, Helen Totaro, Jean Tinsley, and David Wilson,

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

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

5. MATTERS ARISING none

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

In summary; a detailed report and statement of accounts was circulated to all members following the treasurer's report at the last committee meeting in December.

The Branch is in a good position financially, with a final bank balance of £2,123 to take into 2019. This figure results from a surplus in 2018 of £162, improving the 2017 bank balance of £1,910. Total Income in 2018 is £796 being down from on last year's figure. Small surpluses were made at the branch dinner and ring for your supper. Some monies will be made available for the portable simulator to be based at Oakham but available to all towers, once Oakham fundraising and an approach to Guild have been made.

The figures have been examined by Nic Hart, a qualified accountant.

In 2018 the branch had 100 members, of which 9 are junior members, In addition there are 5 associate members.

Adoption of the annual accounts was proposed by John Tomalin and seconded by Brian Newman, with all in favour. The meeting also approved the appointment of Nic Hart as independent examiner for the 2019 accounts.

Marylin Tomlinson sought confirmation that subscriptions are gift-aided and this was confirmed.

7. MASTER'S REPORT

First quarter peal certificates were presented to Tim Holt and Thomas Saunders at the meeting, with Sue Baker to receive hers at the next opportunity.

Louis felt that the year 2018 had a varied programme with something for new and experienced ringers alike. An enjoyable dinner, St George's day quarter peals, and a good 6 bell striking competition with 6 teams – Braunston winners. He thanked Christopher Groom for judging once again. Janet Underwood added her thanks to Ray Bailey and Alan Ellis for their continued support for Whissendine.

Louis thanked Alan Ellis (Deputy Master) for his organisation of a successful ringing tour in North Northants.

Thanks were given to Monica Spence and Hui-yen for their work 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 had varied attendance and will continue in 2019.

Proms in the Park in Oakham included demonstrations with the Maplestead mobile belfry. The church tower was open and received 100 visitors. Many of our more experienced ringers supported the event, giving ringing demonstrations and promoting change ringing.

The biggest achievement for the year was the Armistice ringing with all ringable towers in Rutland visited. The organisation was arranged by area, with team leaders responsible for a team in each area. This meant that the county was covered and reflected on the Branch in achieving this aim. In addition 8 new ringers were trained during the second half of 2018 to ring on 11 November, and this is an achievement in itself.

The draft 2019 programme was discussed and approved. It was circulated at the meeting and will also be posted on the branch website and included in the newsletter.

Louis described a more condensed programme, with highlights including hosting the guild AGM, and visits to the Guild striking competitions. The monthly Triples and Major practice, Oakham and Uppingham in the first week of every month, have been listed separately. Alan Ellis will arrange 2 tours in summer and autumn to Loughborough and the Wansford area.

The annual branch dinner will be held on Friday 29th March in a private room at the Olde White Hart, Lyddington.

Next year's AGM will be hosted by Whissendine.

Adoption of the programme was proposed by David Rippen and seconded by Simon Forster, with all in favour.

8. STEWARD'S REPORT

Ted Phillips heads a team of four stewards, although Ted has been the active member of the team this year. He attended the Guild AGM, and invited the Guild Steward to advise on Preston* tower, and to get a report from Taylors on the same tower. He reported that he has inspected/worked on 9 towers this year, with careful attention to health and safety. There followed a discussion of sourcing green ash for stay replacements, presently supplied from Burghley Estate.

The chairman recognised Ted was on top of the role and thanked him for his work.

* Corrected 18.1.19

9 ADMITTANCE OF NEW MEMBERS

There are eight new members who learned to ring this year. They will be proposed for membership at the next committee meeting on 1st February. The chairman thanked Alan Ellis and Peter Light who have spent a great deal of time in teaching learners at Market Overton and Hambleton.

10. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The chairman commented that the level of membership is healthy; we expect 108 members this year. The highlight was 11 November 2018 ringing, but more important is ringing for worship for which he thanked all members, who are good ambassadors for ringing. Thanks was given to all tower captains, for maintaining the fabric of their towers and ropes, supporting their teams and acting as link to PCCs.

The committee members were thanked for their support and work over the past year, in particular, Jane McKee for all her work as Tower Captain at Ryhall and as membership secretary.

Plans are being made for more teaching sessions in 2019, developing understanding of methods and other bell handling skills. We will seek guidance from the Guild for help in improving conducting skills in the branch. He thanked Louis for his work throughout the year.

He mentioned Health and Safety; recommending vigilance. If concerned "ask the question". In summary, the Branch is in good heart, with great friendship and fellowship amongst the members.

11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Alan Wordie,	proposed JohnTomalin,	seconded Marilyn Tomalin
Ringling Master Louis Totaro,	proposed Alan Wordie,	seconded Helen Pollard
Deputy Ringing Master, Alan Ellis,		
Secretary Helen Pollard,	proposed Louis Totaro,	seconded Marilyn Tomalin
Treasurer Simon Forster,	proposed, Alan Ellis	seconded Tim Holt
	proposed Louis Totaro,	seconded Sue Webster

Steward Ted Phillips, proposed Alan Wordie, seconded Brian Newman
Membership Sec. Sue Baker proposed Louis Totaro, seconded Alan Ellis

Other members of the committee willing to continue were proposed by Peggy Jennings, seconded by Marilyn Tomalin and re-elected unanimously.

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

The Chairman invited volunteers to approach him in regards joining the committee if interested.

12. GUILD OFFICERS' COMMENTS

Chris Fitzgerald, representing the Guild, and the new Guild treasurer, thanked everyone for making him welcome. Guild officers needed this year are peal secretary, 100 club coordinator and steward. His message was for us to have fun, and everything else will follow.

Chris encouraged using the Guild's resources to our benefit, specifically mentioning the training fund which does not receive many claims. He thanked us for our subs and donations and hoped that more Tower Captains and Correspondents would agree to having details published, to make communications with the Guild easier.

13. AOB

Janet Underwood passed on a request from Harry Poyner to research use of Vista in order to receive newsletters by audio.

Sue Webster asked for new members to send email addresses to her for adding to the newsletter distribution list.

Alan Wordie confirmed that subs are now £7 + donation for adults, and £3.50 for juniors.

Louis asked members who would like assistance in making up a quarter peal band to contact him.

The meeting closed at 18.55.