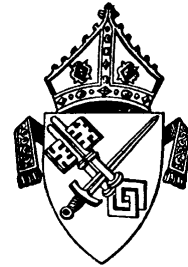


WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT



Minutes of the Portsmouth District ADM held on 2nd February 2008 at Portsmouth Cathedral

- 1 **Chairman's Welcome:** Mark Esbester welcomed all District and Guild members present and thanked Cannon Michael Tristram for conducting the service and David Price for playing the organ. He also thanked the Portsmouth Cathedral band for providing an excellent tea.
- 2 **Apologies:** These were received from the following: Gill and Fred Hales, the Mather Family, Tom and Diana Bishop, Malcolm Powell, Penny and Noel Evans, Anne Houghton, Andrew Byford, Stephen Piper, Mary Ellis, Lee Pinnington, Carolyn White, Tom Nevols, Helen Hoffman and David Atkins.
- 3 **Loss of members through death:** There were none.
- 4 **Minutes:** The minutes of the 2007 ADM were presented and accepted as a true record after a couple of minor adjustments.
- 5 **Matters arising:** There were none.
- 6 **Election of new members:**
At Purbrook, Jamie Richardson and Jordan Salmon from Probationary to Ringing members and Kezia Richardson as Probationary member.
(p. Roy Grayson, s. Jan Allnutt)
At Soberton, Nick Lopez from Probationary to Ringing member.
(p. Noel Evans, s. Penny Evans)
At Portsmouth Cathedral, Oliver Tompson and Victor Twin as Ringing members.
(p. Richard Harrison, s. Andrew Taylor)
At Wickham, Yvonne Dolo from Probationary to Ringing member.
(p. Pam Faux, s. Neale Fray)

- 7 **Officers' reports:**
- 7.1 Treasurer's report. This was presented by Andrew Case. He proposed that the District purchase 4 copies of the Church Bells in the Channel Islands book for the District bookshop at £14.95 per copy and this was seconded by Bill Harris and carried unanimously. Mark Esbester proposed from the chair that the loan to the BRF be increased by £750. He also thanked Andrew for producing the report and for all the work he has done for the District. The report was accepted (p. Ian Carey, s. Francis Mitchell).
- 7.2 Secretary's report. This was accepted (p. Andrew Case, s. Steve Hough).
- 7.3 Ringing Masters' report. This was presented by Rachel Byford. The Portsmouth District won the inter-District competition and Rachel Byford thanked Mark Esbester for organising a band at the last minute. Bill Harris said that we should all congratulate the winning team. Rachel Byford expressed the view that it was shame that more towers did not enter teams to striking competitions. The report was accepted (p. Steve Hough, s. Jan Allnutt).
- 8 **Help Squad:**
- Brian Baverstock, who has run this for at least 6 years, said that many towers were struggling to get a band and that he felt that it was important to decide whether the purpose of the Help Squad was to help towers survive, or to help them advance. He asked for tower captains who would like assistance to get in touch, and to be more specific about what they wanted from the Help Squad, so that the Help Squad could have clear objectives at each tower they visited. Brian Baverstock also asked that all members consider whether they could volunteer to to help at other towers as some people had dropped out over the last year.
- Francis Mitchell and Anthony Manship agreed with all that Brian Baverstock had said but added that they had found it useful to know about and be able to plan for the Help Squad's regular assistance.
- Lyndon Hatfield said that people generally go to practice nights to advance their own ringing, and that although it was a big commitment to help out at other towers, individuals often did so.
- Mark Esbester agreed with Brian Baverstock and suggested that it made more sense for towers with insufficient numbers to make progress looked combine practices rather than to struggle or rely on the Help Squad simply for extra ringers.
- Richard Harrison said that Radio Express FM had recorded an article on ringing and that this had led to a new recruit at the Cathedral. Radio Express FM had shown an interest in recording more programmes and this might help recruitment.
- Brian Baverstock said that he was willing to continue the Help Squad and Mark Esbester thanked him for his continuing commitment.
- 9 **Portsmouth Chimes:** Steve Hough said that he was happy to continue as editor but requested that ringers continue to send him articles.
- 10 **Bell Stock Survey:** Steve Hough has joined the Belfry Stewardship Committee and offered to look at bells in the District and to help with the completion of surveys.

- 11 **Election of officers:**
- 11.1 Chairman: Richard Harrison was proposed from the Chair and was elected unopposed. Andrew Case commented that Mark Esbester had been on the BRF committee for 31 years and had made a large contribution to the District. Those present responded with a round of applause in appreciation of his work.
 - 11.2 Secretary: Diana Bishop was elected unopposed
(p. Marie Boniface, s. Steve Hough).
 - 11.3 Treasurer: Andrew Case was re-elected unopposed
(p. Marie Boniface, s. Andrew Case).
 - 11.4 Ringing Masters: Rachel Byford (p. Marie Boniface, s. Helen Baverstock),
Sarah Hutchinson (p. Richard Harrison, s. Rachel Byford),
Ian Carey (p. Brian Baverstock, s. Richard Harrison).
 - 11.5 Executive Committee Rep: Andrew Byford.
 - 11.6 Newsletter and publicity: Steve Hough.
 - 11.7 Help Squad Co-ordinator: Brian Baverstock.
 - 11.8 Social Secretary: Allan Yalden.
 - 11.9 Independent Examiner: Paul Littlefair.
- (11.5 to 11.9 all expressed a willingness to stand again. They were proposed from the Chair and elected unopposed.)
- 12 **AOB:**
- 12.1 Mark Esbester introduced David Strong as Guild Master and invited him to say a few words. He responded that it was interesting and appropriate that the agenda item that provoked most time and comment was that of the Help Squad, which dealt with recruitment and retention within the ringing movement. This remains a priority around the country and he was pleased to see that it was being recognised and dealt with.
 - 12.2 Sue Craddock gave details of the Guild Dinner to be held at Alton on 17th May.
 - 12.3 Liz Manship thanked the Help Squad and said that they were also inviting visiting bands from the Guild to come to Botley and join with the local ringers to help them progress.
 - 12.4 Roy Grayson spoke on behalf of Ian Hunt, who is willing to follow up his successful 'Bob Doubles' day with a 'Bob Minor' and 'Cambridge' day for under 21's in the area. This will give a chance for younger ringers to get together. Details and dates to be announced later, but helpers will also be needed.
 - 12.5 Mark Esbester said that he was organising a team of ringers to participate in a charity 'Dragon Boat Race' on 25th May and asked for volunteers.
- 13 **Date of next meeting:** Saturday 7th February 2009 at Shedfield.