

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH
BELL RINGERS**

PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT



**Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held Saturday 12th July
2008 at Netley.**

1 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman, Richard Harrison, thanked the Netley ringers for a great BBQ and for hosting the Quarterly Meeting. He also thanked the Vicar, Stewart Wardell, for leading the service.

2 Apologies

The Chairman announced that they would be taking apologies from District Officers only from now on. These were received from Diana Bishop, Ian Carey, Rachel Byford & Andrew Byford.

3 Loss of members through death

There were none reported.

4 Collection

It was proposed by Andrew Case that the collection be for the BRF. There were no other proposals and this was agreed. (The collection raised £20.)

5 Minutes of April QDM

The minutes of the last Quarterly meeting held at Catherington on Saturday 19th April 2008 were approved by members.

6 Matters arising

There were no matters arising

7 Election of new members

There was only one full member proposed: Sylvia de Mars from Alverstoke: proposed by Steve Hough and seconded by Sadie Harrison.

8 Accounts

Treasurer, Andrew Case, had no accounts to present. However, he was pleased to announce that all Towers had paid their Guild subs before the end of June.

9 Guild AGM - Report

Andrew said a few words about the Guild AGM:

He named some Guild members who had passed away this year, and who would be known to some District members, such as Keith Walpole (Basingstoke), Jessie Kippin (Honorary Life Member) & Mick Thomas (Bishopstoke).

He also named some of the Life Members elected at the AGM: Prisca Tremeer (formerly of New Alresford, now living in Jersey) , and John Rolph (former captain and Wickham and a former Chairman of the Portsmouth District) had both completed 50 years membership of the Guild, but our own Mark Esbester was awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his outstanding service to the Guild over many years.

Changes were proposed to Life Membership rules and were referred to the Executive Committee for further consideration.

A correction would be made to the Guild report with reference to last year's Inter-District Striking Competition, which was won by the Portsmouth District and not the Alton & Petersfield, as the report said.

Chris Caryer from the Andover District was elected as the new Striking Competitions Committee Convenor.

The Guild Dinner next year would be the 40th anniversary of the first ever dinner and would be at the Royal Hotel Winchester on 4th April. The AGM would be held at Goodworth Clatford on 4th July.

Derek Jackson had pointed out that the Guild's stationery really ought to be changed because the Guild was actually founded on 20th June 1879 (not the 26th).

Reference was made to the proposed work on the bells at Bishop's Waltham, where Nicholson was to overhaul all fittings and replace the 4th to improve the ringability of the bells and remove the oddstruckness. The cost of this would be £25,799 and the a BRF grant of £2,500 had been agreed together with £2,000 towards a new ring of six at Chawton (cost £47,000) and £4,000 towards rehangng Whitwell (cost £37,600).

10 Tower Captains' seminar on recruitment

The Chairman invited Roy Grayson to talk about how they had gone about recruiting at Purbrook, where they have been very successful in recruiting young people. He emphasised that the key was to get families involved, and to open the tower up to visitors eg Cubs & Guides - on a Cub night. [Jan Allnutt added that groups could come up and use the simulator.] If you can recruit 1 cub, then you could have 1 family, and then other children and their families become interested. Roy said that at Purbrook they encouraged parents to get involved. They also showed some relaxation re Sunday ringing, and even though they didn't insist on Sunday ringing, they found that they youngsters would come along anyway, unless they had other commitments. He also pointed out that they would do away with method ringing sometimes, in order to concentrate on the younger learners. He found that treating them as adults was vital in order that they didn't feel left out.

At Purbrook they had introduced a Report Card for their young learners, so that they could monitor their progress. They also had a tied session with the computer before the main practice.

Muriel Brown of Alverstoke declared that she was unhappy that they did not insist on Sunday Service ringing because that was what was important. However, Roy insisted that the main thing was to get the young interested in ringing, and then they would come on Sundays when they were older.

11 Help Squad - plan of action

Help Squad co-ordinator, Brian Baverstock, said the consensus was that a limited period of help for towers was better than it going on forever. However, towers needed to identify the support required, and, as yet, nobody had requested anything. Richard emphasised that struggling towers really needed an injection of new blood, and this led back to the recruitment drive. Francis Mitchell of Netley stressed that it would be best to put out a letter to towers to clarify what they needed to do re help required, and Brian said he would take care of that.

12 AOB

- Re Child Protection, Andrew Case said there was a problem at Shedfield because the Church was insisting that every ringer be CRB-checked, and some were refusing on principle. Richard said that at the Cathedral only the majority had to be checked, so perhaps this could be taken to the Shedfield Church authorities. Francis referred to the Minutes of the Guild Executive Meeting last year on the subject of Child Protection, and the changes in the law which stipulated that everyone would have to be CRB-checked.

- Barn Dance was 22 November, provisionally.

13 Date of next QDM

18th October at Purbrook. Richard said that members should get used to looking at the District Website where events would be advertised because they were not having the little cards next year.