

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers
Oxford City Branch AGM
Minutes

The meeting was held on Saturday 16 November 2019 at All Saints' Cuddesdon at 4 p.m..

Simon Edwards chaired the meeting. He opened by thanking the Cuddesdon ringers for the very good tea they had provided for us, and Vicky and Luke from Ripon College for leading the service. There were 22 members in attendance.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Wendy Austen, Tony Crabtree (Guild Representative), Clare Fairbairn, Chris Fenn, Peter Franklin, Andrew Freer, Stuart Gibson, Roy Grant, Brenda Gratwicke, Mike Lelkes, Paul Lucas, Claire Malone-Lee, John Pusey, Phil Sampson, Lesley Smith, Tertia Softley, Lindsay Steff, Nora Tarczy, and Rachel Woodforde.
2. **Minutes of the Half Yearly meeting:** These were approved and a copy signed by the Chair.
3. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
4. **Election of New Members:** The ringers below were unanimously elected:
 - Barbara Sargent (Garsington) – proposed by Mark Hunter, seconded by Richard Jeffery
 - Rupert McShane (Wolvercote) – proposed by Jonathan Mills, seconded by Ron Burgess
 - Beth Elliott (Kidlington) – proposed by Ron Burgess, seconded by Jane Burgess
 - Ben White-Horne (St Aldates) – proposed by Dorothy Hall, seconded by Simon Edwards
 - Nico King (Cuddesdon) – proposed by Brian Lowe, seconded by Marion West.
5. **Presentation of Certificates:** Certificates were presented to those members elected at the half-yearly who were present.
6. **Reports from Officers:**

The Treasurer reported that we have 153 members. Expenditure from subs mostly goes to the Guild (£5 per member, plus £2 to Bell Fund and Restoration Fund). A £100 grant had been made towards the Elsfeld bell inspection, and there had been £11.99 of website expenses. The Treasurer reminded the meeting that grants were available to cover the costs of training events, but that no-one had applied for such a grant this year. It was noted that the £1000 grant to Stanton St John has been paid this year, but had been accounted for in previous years. There is therefore a surplus of £153.

The meeting asked whether there would be any increase in subs, and it was confirmed that there was not expected to be any such increase.

It was noted that the Guild rules require that Branch accounts be approved at an AGM, and that they were currently only being approved by a meeting of the Finance Committee. The Committee agreed to look into how to change the timing of meetings so that the whole Branch had an opportunity to review the final accounts. *[Post-meeting note: the AGM and half-yearly meeting will be swapped from 2020 onwards, to allow the accounts to be presented to an AGM in May.]*

The Branch does not currently have a Ringing Master, but there was a brief review of the Branch Practices held over the last year, in addition to two special practices for Cuddesdon learners, and monthly Advanced Practices at Headington. The Committee welcomed any suggestions for specific practices which people would like to see in 2020.

7. Election of Officers: The officers below were unanimously elected:

- Simon Edwards (Chair) – proposed by Dorothy Hall, seconded by Hugh Deam
- Katy Routh (Secretary) – proposed by Rachel Croft, seconded by Elizabeth Mullett
- Paul Lucas (Vice-Chair) – proposed by Simon Edwards, seconded by Brian Lowe
- Dorothy Hall (Treasurer) – proposed by Katy Routh, seconded by Ron Burgess
- Katherine Stonham (Auditor) – proposed by Simon Edwards, seconded by Rachel Croft
- Rosanna Cretney and Lindsay Powell (Branch Representatives) – proposed by Simon Edwards, seconded by Rachel Croft
- Ringing Master: no nominations.

8. Any Other Business: The meeting received an update on Bernard Masterman's health.