

Minutes of the Witney and Woodstock Branch AGM held at Witney on 3rd March 2009

Present: Mel Leggett (Chair), Anthony Williamson (Secretary), Louise Brown (Ringing Master), Liz Gaertner (Treasurer), Lindsey Thornton (Deputy Ringing Master), Lorna Smale (Branch Representative), Jon Chamberlain, Bernard Coggins, Peter Coveney, Jane Burgess, Mark Wastie, Terry Hester, Kate Targett, Roger Barnes, Marilyn and David Floyd, Jean Richards, Richard Ford, Jeannie Tognola, Liz Lawrence, Alison Merryweather-Clarke.

1. **Apologies.** Robert Newton, Hilarie Rogers, Zoe and Richard White, Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson, Jenny and Simon Haviland, Chris Putt, Ian and Victoria Davey-Wilson.

2. **Chairman's welcome and minutes from 2008 meeting**

- a) Corrections and signing.

- b) Matters arising

Mel Leggett thanked Witney for hosting the AGM at short notice following the postponement of the meeting at Bampton because of bad weather. Last year's minutes were approved and signed. There were no corrections or matters arising.

3. **Ringing Master's Report** See separate sheet.

4. **Treasurer's Report** See separate accounts sheet.

Liz Gaertner reported that the finances were in a healthy state, with profit of £154 for the year ending 31 December. Although the outing made a small loss, social activities more than covered this and allowed us to make donations to the bell funds.

In previous years, the auditing of the Branch accounts had been done by a Chartered Accountant but it had become difficult to find people to perform this unpaid role. The Guild Treasurer, Brian Gatward, has confirmed that the use of a Chartered Accountant it is not mandatory and that Branch accounts can be audited by anyone who is formally approved by the Branch. Liz Gaertner made a retrospective proposal that Mel Leggett should audit the accounts; this was seconded by Peter Coveney and agreed by those at the meeting.

5. **Election of New Members**

Alvescot	Joanna Lewin	Tackley	Roxanna Villalobos
Bampton	Nicholas Fisher		Angus Paxton
Bladon	George Richardson	Woodstock	Phoebe Clark
Stanton Harcourt	Rachael Elliot	Wootton	Shona Falconer
	Tony Boorer	Yarnton	Judith Passant
South Leigh	John Bellamy		Ernie Canning

The election of all twelve new members was proposed by Roger Barnes, seconded by Lindsey Thornton, and agreed by those present at the meeting.

6. **Election of New Officers**

	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Mel Leggett	Anthony Williamson	Louise Brown
Hon. Treasurer	Jean Richards	Liz Gaertner	Lorna Smale
Hon. Secretary	Anthony Williamson	Peter Coveney	Bernard Coggins
Ringing Master	Louise Brown	Anthony Williamson	Bernard Coggins
Deputy Ringing Master	Lindsey Thornton	Bernard Coggins	Lorna Smale
Deputy Ringing Master	Liz Laurence	Anthony Williamson	Jeannie Tognola
Branch Rep.	Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson	Lindsey Thornton	Kate Targett
Branch Rep.	Lorna Smale	Anthony Williamson	Mel Leggett
Newsletter Editor	Richard White	Lorna Smale	Bernard Coggins
Website Editor	Ian Davey-Wilson	Anthony Williamson	Louise Brown

7. Donations

Anthony Williamson proposed that the Branch give £100 to the Bell Restoration Fund and £100 to the Bell Fund, plus £50 to the Freeland Bell Restoration Fund (once it has been set-up); seconded by Lorna Smale and approved by the meeting. Liz Gaertner confirmed that the Branch has sufficient funds for these donations.

8. Programme for 2009

Branch Outing Richard White would like there to be an outing to Wiltshire on 9 May 2009.

Striking Competition to take place on 13 June 2009.

Social Event Mel Leggett is to ask if the Killingworth Castle pub is available for an Aunt Sally evening on 12 September 2009.

9. Any other business

Website When the new site is launched, towers will be invited to contribute photos and information for their webpage.

Roger Barnes said that the domain name, witneyandwoodstock.org.uk, is registered on behalf of the branch in his name on a commercial server, if the new website moves to the ODG server please can he be notified.

Ringling Survey Not all the Central Council's surveys have been completed; please can these be returned as soon as possible.

Recruitment The meeting was asked for ideas on improving recruitment. Suggestions were,

- word of mouth at local parish social gatherings
- parish/local magazine saying that the tower is in a position to take on more learners
- open tower events sometimes bring in new recruits
- ask vicar to help
- display contact details on church notice board.

Branch Practices The present format is broadly acceptable although visiting a tower once a year does not help a great deal with ringers' progress and many ringers are reluctant to visit other towers. Method of the month has added more scope to practices.

Training There have been a number of requests for help with ringing up and down in peal and with Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Louise Brown would like to arrange some training sessions for these. Dates will be advertised by tower posters and the Branch website.

Free Tower Inspection As a result of an accident recently reported at Charlbury and the difficulty in getting an injured ringer down from the tower, Tackley have arranged a free tower inspection by the Fire Service who have made a number of recommendations. Towers interested in having an inspection should contact their local Fire Service.

Peter Coveney asked if the Branch could make more use of *Ringling World* to advertise the AGM and service. He would also like there to be a couple of towers open beforehand. Lorna Smale pointed out that advertising the AGM in the past did not increase attendance and was a cost to the Branch.

Jon Chamberlain said that as a representative of the Guild he was pleased to note that the meeting had been carried out in the correct manner.

Liz Gaertner was presented with a bottle of wine as thanks for her work as Treasurer.

Lorna Smale asked for a vote of thanks for the committee and retiring officers.

Anthony Williamson
Branch Secretary

Next AGM: Wootton, Saturday 13th February 2010