

# **Annual District Meeting**

## **Minutes of the Meeting at 16.2.19**

### **at Newport Parish Rooms at 6pm**

#### **1 Welcome and thanks**

Jill Taylor, Chairman, welcomed members at the Meeting and especially the Vice Master Pete Jordan and his wife Lynne.. She thanked the Rev Canon Kevin Arkell for taking the service and the organist, Steve Parker, for playing for the service.

#### **1a Apologies**

Although we don't usually take apologies as the list can be unmanageable, apologies from Peter Smith, our President and Jenny Brudenell, our Ringing Master for two years, were received and reported to the Meeting.

**2 Minutes of the last meeting** ( 21.7.18) had been distributed earlier. Viv Nobbs, who was unable to be at the Meeting, had a number of corrections to the Minutes. In 10ii we felt no change was required. In 10 iii this was added: 'it was delegated to the District Officers to make contact with John Stock for more details and discussion'. In 9iii Gerry Faulkner's name was corrected. The acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Mary Tester and seconded by Peter Taylor and approved by a show of hands.

**3 Matters arising.** 10i The day at the Crematorium had been worthwhile. Many people had shown an interest in DVD, the model bell and the Ringing Remembers material. 8: NHS 70 had been successful and again raised the profile of ringing with the Ringing Remembers leaflets. 10Ii: Feedback from the ART teaching course was positive. Nine Island ringers had attended and were enthusiastic.

#### **4 Election of new members**

The following were proposed by Barry Downer and seconded by Kieran Downer and elected by a show of hands: Richard Hunt (Senior, Full) Ryde; Brooke Wheeler (Junior, Full) Shanklin; Cody-Mai Harrison (Junior, Full) Shanklin; Rebecca Short (Junior, Full) Shanklin; Vivienne Hein (Full) Shanklin. Andrew Sheppard (Probationer) Ryde, having been named after the previous five, was proposed by Peter Taylor and seconded by Margaret Downer and elected by a show of hands.

#### **5 Presentation of Badges and Certificates**

The following was presented with a badge and Certificate: Sandy Thornton (Whitwell). Jane Day (Brighstone), Heather Mabbett (Brighstone) Vaughan Mabbett (Brighstone), Richard Fenton (Freshwater), not being present, will receive their badges and certificates in their tower.

6 (i) **The Vice Master, Pete Jordan**, talked about the WWI project and the two books of honour which the Guild is presenting. There will be ringing on the two days (May 12 at Portsmouth Cathedral and May 19 at Winchester Cathedral), before and after the service. It is hoped there will be a mini-ring outside Winchester Cathedral. There will be tea and cakes afterwards and the ringers will be welcome. Pete said that communications between the Districts and the Guild were very important and some Districts were better than others. IOW was one of the better districts! He said it would be very helpful to keep up to date with the website and perhaps there was someone who might take an interest in this and to contact Andrew Glover for information.

6 (ii) **The Acting Ringing Master's report**: Both Jenny and I had been elected as Ringing Master and Deputy Ringing Master and following Jenny's knee operation and other health issues, I was asked to take over the helm.

The 8-bell contest was held at Brighstone and was won by Ryde, Paul Miller judged. Afterwards Paul said he would be interested in judging this contest next year to see the improvements the youth team had made. In May Brading entered the Guild inter-tower contest for 8-bells. However they were the only team to enter so they were asked to enter the 6-bell instead. They came 4<sup>th</sup>. The Call Change 6-bell contest originally set up to encourage novice ringers, was held at Whitwell on a beautiful sunny afternoon, And Steve Castle judged. Ryde

won. The District put a team into the Guild inter-district contest held at Basingstoke before the AGM. We had somenew faces in the team and we came 4<sup>th</sup>.

Following a request from the Arreton ringers, a raising and lowering practice was organised and, with help from Steve Noye, proved very successful.

In July all the towers and most of the Island ringers took part in the ringing for NHS70 Day. Representatives from the NHS came and presented certificates to all participants and towers.

Various ringing took place to celebrate Isle of Wight Day in September.

The Change ringing 6-bell contest was held at Shorwell on a very wet and windy October afternoon, with Jenny Brudenell as the judge. Ryde won.

At the end of October a district education course on Raising and Lowering in peal was arranged at Chale. This was very well attended, and another course was arranged at Shorwell in November which was also very successful. Then, in December at Carisbrooke, a Guild education course in conjunction with ART was arranged for teaching bell handling. This was well attended and I personally found it very good.

As part of the commemorations to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War I, many new learners had been recruited and all rang on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, some for their usual morning service, others at 12 noon and others for the lighting of beacons at 7.06pm.

I feel there has been a lot of progress made to bell ringing on the Island in the past year.

6 (iii) Secretary's Report (for inclusion in the Annual Report of the Guild)

### **Secretary's Report 2018**

In 2018 we held our Annual District Meeting at the Priory Church of St Mary the Virgin, Carisbrooke. 16 new members were elected, both Probationary and Full. All the Officers were re-elected without contest and there being a vacancy for Publicity Officer, Lexi Skeldon was elected unanimously.

We have had our three striking competitions: the Don Exell 8-bell striking competition, held at Brighstone, (6 teams entered) was won by Ryde; The Lester Bailey Call change competition, held at Whitwell, (7 teams entered) was also won by Ryde and the Fred Green change ringing competition, ( 5 teams entered) held at Shorwell, was also won by Ryde!

We commemorated five ringers from the Isle of Wight who were killed in the First World War, by laying a wreath bearing their names at the Service of Remembrance at Newport Minster on 11.11.2018. A half-muffled peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Brighstone on Nov 11<sup>th</sup> to mark the Centenary of the Armistice and in memory of the five, and in memory of the Brighstone men who died. All of our towers rang for their local WWI dead with quarter peals and general ringing.

Island ringers rang and named two new Triples methods at Brighstone - Galleybaggers triples (galleybagger: a scarecrow, also an award winning IOW cheese) and 1270 (for a 70<sup>th</sup> birthday) Spliced Grandsire Triples hopefully to be named Grandsire Five Little Bob.

All the towers on the Island were involved in ringing for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Health Service and members of the NHS visited towers and awarded certificates for ringing in support of the NHS. Tea, cakes and a Service were offered at Chale at the end of the day, where the vicar, Rev Nigel Porter, is a former senior NHS employee.

We have had two successful training days, run by acting Ringing Master Margaret Downer, one for Raising and Lowering and the other for Plain Hunt. Both were well attended and much appreciated as it is difficult to get to the Guild Training days on the mainland. We also had a Teaching the Teachers day course, held at Carisbrooke, which was very valuable to us. It was arranged by the Guild in support of our District, as requested by Margaret.

The District entered a team for the Guild Inter-District contest held at Basingstoke and came 4th; and Brading entered a team in the Guild Inter-tower competition and came 4<sup>th</sup>.

Sadly, the bells at Swanmore are no longer available as the church has had to close. This was a useful tower because of the light bells and Lexi Skeldon, the tower captain, was able to teach some quite small children very successfully. The ringers have since joined other towers so their skills are not lost.

Freshwater has had more trouble with falling stonework but they think the problem is now in hand and are hopeful that there will be ringing at the Guild AGM in June.

We had our Christmas party at Shanklin in January this year! It was a very jolly evening, thanks to Kieran and Lexi, with an excellent tea, tricky quiz and party games, the highlight of which was seeing two octogenarians fiercely competing for the last Musical Chair!

#### 6 (iv) **Treasurer's report**

On the first page you will notice that the total money collected this year was £1539.58. From this, payments to the value of £1498.09 were taken, leaving a closing balance of £1391.71, consisting of £1370.41 in the main account and £21.30 in the interest account.

Last year's Guild payments of £611.10 and £264.00 to the Bell Restoration Fund, have been made and cleared at the bank January 9<sup>th</sup> meaning the actual value of the fund for the beginning of this year was £529.21. (See page 2). This means that the funds have increased by £54.09 over the year.

£460.00 was sent to the Guild during the course of the year to go towards the WWI Commemorations Books. This sum was the total of the monies collected from raffles over the last two years, together with the money raised at the special event held during the year.

The information on page 3 gives you the breakdown of membership payments last year and the way the monies to the Guild were calculated.

The date for the balance from the latest bank statement for the interest account, given on page 4, goes back to 12 May, 2016, because there has been no movement on the figures since that date.

As always, the last couple of pages are just for your interest to give you some comparison with previous years. These pages do not form part of the accounts that are submitted to the Guild.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve Noyes for checking over these accounts for me. The Accounts were proposed by Steve Noyes and seconded by Barry Downer and accepted by a show of hands.

#### 7 **Elections of Officers**

Pete Jordan took the Chair. Jill Taylor was proposed as Chairman, being willing to stand, by Mary Tester and seconded by Ian Orchard. She was duly elected by a show of hands and took the Chair again. The Ringing Master, Jenny Brudenell has resigned and Margaret Downer, Deputy, was asked if she would stand to RM but she declined. Barry Downer and Kieran said they would be willing to stand jointly as RM. This was proposed by Richard Knight and seconded by Ian Orchard and they were elected by a show of hands. They felt there was no need to have a Deputy RM. The Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Committee Member and the Independent Examiner, all being willing to stand again, were duly elected by a show of hands. Lexi Skeldon wishes to stand down as Publicity Offers. There being no takers for this role, it remains unfilled for now.

#### 8 **District Teaching Events**

We have had two good courses, described by the Acting Ringing Master. It was decided to charge for these courses because expenses were incurred and it was good to be able to donate to the tower. There had been some controversy about the payment as this is new for the Island and Viv Nobbs (in her absence) wondered if the District could finance Training Days. She was concerned that this had not been discussed at District level. Judith (Treasurer) said that our bank account was not a bottomless pit. Steve Noyes said that the time, materials, and

use of towers merited making a charge. Steve Noyes proposed that for special Training Days a charge should be made. This was seconded by Marghanita Allen and agreed by a show of hands.

**9 The Guild AGM to be held on the IOW on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2019**

The Striking competition will be held at Brighstone and the Service, Meeting and Tea will be at Freshwater. As the date of the AGM is June 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 it is in the weekend of the Isle of Wight Festival and there is some anxiety about traffic and travelling.

The proposed timetable will be as follows:

Striking Competition at 1030 at Brighstone  
Results and Lunch at 1pm in Freshwater Village Hall  
Service at All Saints Freshwater 2.30pm  
Meeting at All Saints Freshwater 3.15pm  
Tea and Cakes and Ringing at the close of the meeting.

**10 Dates for the year.**

April 13 Don Exell 8-bell striking competition at Brighstone at 2pm  
May 12 WWI Commemoration book, Service at Portsmouth Cathedral  
May 19 WWI Commemoration book, Service at Winchester Cathedral  
May 25 Lester Bailey Call Change competition at Godshill  
June 15 Guild AGM at Freshwater and Inter-District striking competition at Brighstone  
July 20 Half yearly meeting at Brading at 3pm  
Sept 21 IOW Day  
Oct 5 Fred Green Change Ringing competition at Arreton (tbc)  
Feb 15, 2020 ADM IOW District at Ryde (tbc)

**11 Raffle money**

Jill Taylor suggested that the Raffle Money for the year should go to the IOW Society for the preservation of IOW church bells, as we all benefit from the Society's help, and as the Youth team are not saving up for this year. This was proposed by Jill and seconded by Mary Tester, and accepted by a show of hands.

**12 Any other business**

There being no other business the meeting closed.

## **Minutes of the Half Yearly meeting held at Brading on 20.7.19**

### **1 Welcome and thanks**

Jill Taylor (Chairman) thanked the Rev Barry Downer for taking the service and to Timothy Bradshaw who played the organ.

2 We were asked to stand for a minute's silence to remember the lives of Ian Cole (Chale) Norah Morey (Chale) and Myrtle Weir (Brighstone).

### **3 Minutes of the last meeting**

The Minutes of the last meeting, having been distributed earlier, were accepted after two small amendments were made .

### **4 Matters arising**

Another amendment was made in \*8, proposed by Judith, to read: 'There had been some controversy about the payment as this is new for the island. Viv Nobbs (in her absence) wondered if the District could finance Training Days.' This was accepted by the meeting.

5 The following were proposed by John Stock and seconded by Viv Nobbs: Tim Cale (Probationer) Shorwell; Ella Cale (Probationer) Shorwell; Jane Johnston (Carisbrooke) Full; Martin Hough (Carisbrooke) Full; Angela Evans (Ryde) Full; Billie Thornton (Shanklin) Full, Gerry Thornton (Shanklin) Full; Michael Wadey (Newchurch) Full (Senior); Chaima Harrison (Shanklin) Full, (Junior).

### **6 Presentation of Certificates and badges**

The following received their Certificates and badges: Richard Hunt (Ryde); Brooke Wheeler (Shanklin); Cody-Mai Harrison (Shanklin); Rebecca Short (Shanklin); Vivienne Hein (Shanklin); Chaima Harrison (Shanklin).

### **7 Report on the Inter District Striking** competition held at Brighstone

Barry Downer (Ringing Master) said the Competition on the day of the AGM (held at Freshwater) had four entries, two from the Isle of Wight, one from Basingstoke and one from Alton and Petersfield. The IOW team A came first with a touch of Grandsire Triples. It was remarked that the IOW had been able to enter two teams and some of the mainland had not even managed one. However, the ringing was all of a good standard. The tea was especially mentioned as being 'brilliant'.

### **8 Report of the AGM at Freshwater**

The day went smoothly starting with lunch at Freshwater Village Hall, when the results of the striking competition were given. Lunch was manned by Jill and Mary, with substantial help from John Smith and Jill Reynolds, church warden, ably assisted by Ann Stewart, Cheryl Myers and David Cobbett. The service was taken by the Rev Leisa Potter, who told us about her attempts at ringing. The meeting took place in the Church and there is a record on the Guild Website for those interested. Tea was available after the meeting. Many thanks for all who donated food/cake contributions on the day. The towers open on the day were Niton (10am) , Chale (11am) and Freshwater (12noon), and the visiting ringers enjoyed ringing at them all, so thanks to those towers. The new Officers of the Guild are: Master, Pete Jordan; Vice Master, Allan Yalden; Hon. Gen. Sec, Adrian Nash; Hon. Gen. Treasurer, Helen Woolford.

### **9 (i) Ringing Masters' notes**

Barry Downer (joint ringing master) said that we had had two successful striking competitions, the

8-bell Don Exell competition at Brighstone and the 6-bell Lester Bailey at Godshill. We had had a good 10-bell practice for all at Carisbrooke which was well attended. He said he was planning more district practices, aimed at specific goals to help people progress.

9 (ii) **Treasurer's report.**

A copy of the Accounts at 20.7.19 is attached.

9 (iii) **Executive committee** member's report. There had not been a recent meeting so nothing to report.

10 **Future Activities**

- i) Next year's Guild AGM will be in the Alton and Petersfield District on June 13, 2020.
- ii) IOW day is on Sept 21 and the Archdeacon would like to have our bells ringing in celebration. It was also noted that the Silver Anniversary of Heritage Open Days is the week 13/22 Sept so perhaps ringing for both could be incorporated.
- iii) The Christmas party will be on Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 2020 and it was suggested that a Tower Captains' meeting might be able to come up with plans.
- iv) Ryde had been suggested for the District ADM on Feb 15, 2020, and John Stock said he would ascertain whether this was possible and who might be able to take the service.
- v) The Fred Green competition for change ringing will be on Oct 5 at Arreton, draw at 2pm.

11 **Any other business**

- i) John Stock said that he would be able to make a record book of all the IOW ringing in memorial for the dead of WWI, so that the Island would have its own record and it would be available on the Island. There was some discussion about where such a record could be kept and it was felt that the best place would be the Minster. The Secretary was asked to contact Rev Kevin Arkell to see if this would be possible. The meeting was in favour of going ahead with the record book if there would be a good place to display it.
- ii) A publicity officer was again appealed for but there were no applicants.
- iii) As there is no longer any Sunday ringing at Arreton, although they have a lively practice night due to a number of volunteers, The Chairman wondered if a rota could be established with ringers ringing for a Sunday service once a month. The Secretary will look into possibilities.
- iv) Viv said that May Day 2-18 had been a great success, it brought many visitors and involved many local ringers. This showed the Island leading the way.
- v) Viv also said that the Centenary of the Isle of Wight District will be in 2021.

12 **Raffle Money.** The raffle was drawn after the meeting was over, but it can be reported that it made £29.

**Date of the next meeting will be the ADM in Saturday Feb 15, 2020, at Ryde (tbc)**