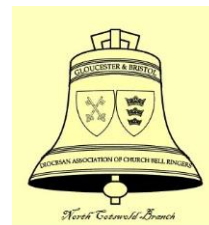


**G & B NORTH COTSWOLD BRANCH**  
**MINUTES OF AGM**  
**ST LAWRENCE, BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER**  
**25<sup>TH</sup> NOV 2023**



**CURRENT BRANCH COMMITTEE PRESENT:** Martin Penny (Chair), Ashley Ellison (Secretary), Isobel Murphy (Treasurer), Jackie Hands (Ringing Master), Roland Greenhill, Tim Woodgate.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Chris Povey (MC Rep), Jeremy Meyrick, Andrew Fleming, Rob Kilbey, Claire Penny.

## 2. RESULTS OF STRIKING COMPETITION

1). Martin Penny opened by thanking the judges, Roger Haynes and Fiona Hartley, Chair and Secretary of the Association.

2). Roger Haynes gave detailed comments on each team, including “a very nice piece of ringing”, “a real pleasure to listen to” and “a high to finish on”. His list of winners was:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mickleton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Longborough
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Rissington
- 4<sup>th</sup> Stow
- 5<sup>th</sup> Blockley

3). Curate Hannah presented the Jack Webb Rose Bowl as first prize to Mickleton, thanking us all for lifting the spirits of untold numbers of listeners, and enjoining us to keep the art alive.

4). Jackie Hands made the decision to award the Les Joynes Salver to Longborough, being the team which had shown notable activity and progress over the year. Phil Street, on receiving the prize, was particularly pleased as Les Joynes had been a Longborough man.

## 3. NOMINATION & ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

New members paying subs since the last Committee Meeting on 21.9.23 were:

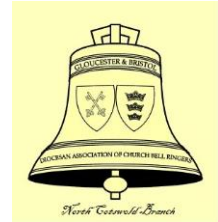
Naunton: Neil Vincent, Judy Hill  
Bledington: Sally Day, Vicky Algar

All were elected unanimously.

## 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM HELD 16.3.23 AT BLOCKLEY

These had been circulated with the Agenda prior to the meeting, and unanimously deemed a correct representation.

5. **MATTERS ARISING – None**



## 6. OFFICERS' REPORTS

1). Ringing Master Jackie Hands reported that good monthly Branch Practices had taken place at Blockley, with an average of 20 ringers attending. These had been very sociable, with some nice ringing. An attempt to alternate with Pebworth had not proved a success as it is not so easy to reach from other towers. Lastly thanks were given to Martin Penny.

2). Treasurer Isobel Murphy reported that this is the first full year the Branch has been active since 2019, hence the notable increase in subs paid, as the majority of members had returned to ringing and a good number of new ones recruited. A sum of £809.50 had been sent to the Association, which goes to the bell restoration fund; and a grant of £250 had been awarded to Naunton.

Full details are available on our website here:

[AGM Papers 2023 - North Cotswold G&B \(pebworth.icu\)](https://www.pebworth.icu)

3). Management Committee Rep Chris Povey not present, but sent in a written report, also available on the website. His main points were:

a) a total of £5,660 was agreed by the Association in grants to 6 towers for bell restoration.

b) all future queries for belfry inspections should go to Malcolm Taylor at Tewkesbury.

c) he would like to pass on the reins as MC Rep, the role requiring attendance at 2 or 3 meetings a year with other Branch members, who are "nice people"! If interested let MP know.

4). Chair Martin Penny's report verbatim:

"Since the new Committee was elected in March this year, we have seen some excellent progress in getting the Branch more active and improving communication with our members.

The number of paid up members has increased and we have established a new website to keep members updated with information about branch activities and other items of interest.

We have also included new links to ringing resources and other local ringing groups which border or overlap our Branch area.

In the Autumn we produced our first Newsletter in a new format which was sent out to all members, and also made available on the website.

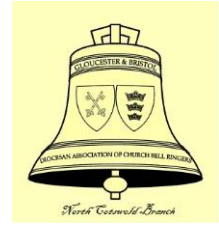
The Committee has held 2 meetings since March, expertly organised and minuted by our new Secretary Ashley. She has also been instrumental in setting up today's Striking Competition and AGM, so I'd like to register a vote of thanks to her in the Minutes.

We have continued to have monthly Branch practices, mostly at Blockley, with our Ringing Master dealing with a wide range of abilities from beginners through to Surprise ringers. We are looking for ways to broaden the appeal of these practices and any ideas are welcome from members.

Looking ahead, we are planning to reintroduce the annual ringing at the Cathedral for the Branch in the Spring, and consider ideas about a Branch quarter peal weekend and/or outing.

Overall it has been a successful 9 months, and we look forward to building on this as we move into 2024".

Thanks were also extended to Ann Clarke for her invaluable help to make this day a success.



## **7. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF BRANCH OFFICERS**

No new nominations were put forward, and the current members of the Committee are willing to stand again (though see CP's report above). Re-election of all was unanimously agreed.

## **8. NOMINATIONS FOR ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

Chair Roger Haynes, Treasurer Bridget Lazenby and Ringing Master James Joynson all willing to stand again.

Secretary Fiona Hartley willing to stand again if no other nominations.

Re-election of all unanimously agreed.

Nominations needed for Peal Secretary.

CC Rep nominations needed to replace Simon Edwards who is standing down.

## **9. ASSOCIATION EVENTS**

1). Branch Officers' Meeting, Gloucester tba, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.

2). AGM, Leonard Stanley/King's Stanley, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Mickleton, as winner's of today's Striking Competition, should represent the Branch in the 6 bell Croome Trophy.

We also hope to put forward an 8 bell team for the Penn Trophy.

## **10. BRANCH EVENTS**

Any ideas for events, especially something new or a bit different, would be welcome. Are visits to distant towers preferable to local ones, and week night events easier to attend than at weekends? Please use the contact form on the website, which will be sent directly to Ashley.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1). Sheila Jesson wished to thank Mimi Stephens for organising the excellent visit to Pershore and Tewkesbury Abbeys in May.

2). Isobel Murphy urged everyone to pay subs for the current year 1.11.23 – 31.10.24. Martin Penny pointed out that only fully paid up members could participate at the main Association AGM competition.

3). Next Branch Practice will be Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec, Blockley, 7.30pm.

4). Gifts were presented to the two judges and thanks extended to Elizabeth Russ for hosting them. Also thanks and a gift given to Curate Hannah.