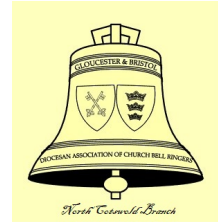


G & B NORTH COTSWOLD BRANCH

MINUTES OF AGM ST PETER & ST PAUL, BLOCKLEY 21st NOV 2024



CURRENT BRANCH COMMITTEE

Martin Penny (Chair & MC Rep), Ashley Ellison (Secretary), Isobel Murphy (Treasurer), Phil Street (Vice Chair), Jackie Hands (Ringing Master), Jess McCarthy (Deputy Ringing Master), Roland Greenhill, Tim Woodgate.

1. APOLOGIES

Isobel Murphy, Stephanie Hemming, Andrew Fleming, Claire Penny, Neil Garner, Myra Ford, Marilou Wilshire, Matthew Wilkinson, Carrie Preston.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 25TH NOV 2023

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

Proposed by Tim Woodgate, seconded by Jeremy Meyrick. Carried unanimously.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. NOMINATION & ELECTION OF NEW BRANCH MEMBERS

New members paying subs since the last Committee Meeting on 21.10.24:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Henry Kenner | Broadwell |
| Felicity Mashedor | Blockley |
| Peter Charalambides | Blockley |
| Denis Clark | Great Rissington |
| Judith Knowles | Great Rissington |

Proposed by Jeremy Meyrick, seconded by Jess McCarthy. Carried unanimously.

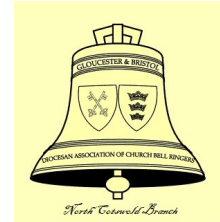
5. OFFICERS' REPORTS

5.1. Ringing Master

Jackie Hands reported that ringing at the Branch Practices around the Cotswolds was not easy but the standard of ringing had been pretty good and ringers of all abilities had been given the chance to ring something of their choosing.

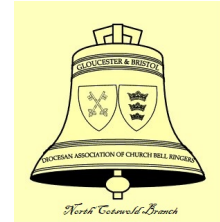
5.2 Treasurer (read in Isobel Murphy's absence by the Secretary)

- The balance sheet, which should be in circulation, shows that the branch made a small profit of £25.13 for the year.
- The lower subs figure in comparison with the previous year has 2 explanations: people making backdated payments for the hiatus during Covid but also a slight drop in members. In recent weeks there has been an increase in people wishing to join the Association.
- If people are in a position to Gift Aid their subs, a form is available for completion. The GBDA Treasurer would welcome these. The Secretary will email to all members.



- All monies due to the G&BDA have been paid for 2024.
- The major item of branch expenditure this year has been engraving the trophies for the Striking Competition. This task had lapsed over Covid so it was necessary to get this up to date, as well as arrange for the 2023 names to be entered.
- If any tower has work to do on their bells, they should approach the branch for guidance on how to apply for a grant **in advance** of the work being commenced.
- As most people know, I am no longer living in the Cotswolds full time. I am happy to continue for another year maintaining the accounts remotely but please can a volunteer be found to take over from 1st November 2025.

| North Cotswolds Branch Accounts Year Ending 31st October 2024 | | | |
|--|--|----------------|----------|
| 2022/23 | RECEIPTS | 2023/24 | |
| £ | | £ | |
| 900.00 | Subs | 790.00 | |
| | Monies in error from 2 PCCs | 40.00 | |
| 15.86 | Interest | 9.33 | |
| <u>915.86</u> | Total Receipts | <u>839.33</u> | |
| | LESS PAYMENTS | | |
| 51.07 | Meetings | 26.70 | |
| 809.50 | To Assoc | 665.50 | |
| 250.00 | Grant to Naunton | | |
| | Engraving | 122.00 | |
| <u>1110.57</u> | | <u>814.20</u> | |
| <u>-194.71</u> | Net profit for the year | <u>25.13</u> | |
| | BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 OCT 2024 | | |
| 2022/23 | | 2023/24 | |
| | CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| 672.23 | Current Account Lloyds bank | 216.03 | |
| -472.00 | Pending payment to GBDA | | |
| <u>175.87</u> | CCLA Account | <u>185.20</u> | |
| 376.10 | Net Assets | 401.23 | |
| | Represented by; | | |
| | ACCUMULATED FUND | | |
| 570.81 | Balance brought forward | 376.10 | |
| <u>-194.71</u> | Net Surplus for the year | <u>25.13</u> | |
| <u>376.10</u> | | <u>401.23</u> | |
| Accounts prepared by Isobel Murphy Treasurer | | Date | 1.11.24 |
| Accounts checked by Deborah Armstrong | | Date | 2.11.24 |
| AGM Approval | | Date | 21.11.24 |



Total Branch membership for the financial year 2023-24 is 46.
Martin Penny wished to add that we accept the Treasurer's offer to carry on for another year.
Accounts proposed by Martin Penny, seconded by Rob Kilbey.

5.3. Management Committee Rep

Jess McCarthy attended the MC Meeting in Sept on behalf of Martin. The main issues were:

The CofE aims to close 1/3 of its churches, so it's important to note which towers are under threat. Listed buildings are 'safer', & a more modern church that is under-populated is more likely to close. Benefices with multiple churches that are less used are likely to shut one or more down and focus on keeping listed/more popular churches open. Also it should be noted which of the 'safer' churches, preferably in the same Benefice, could take a ring of bells. Church closure may be inside a matter of weeks after the decision, with less notice for those not in the inner circle. Getting a ringer on the PCC will help with this, but short notice makes it hard to move the bells if there is no plan.

For the 150th Anniversary of the Association in 2028 we need ideas from the Branch as to how to celebrate this: some proposals so far for the G&B as a whole are 150 quarters, 150 new ringers, 150 fundraising events...

The G&B is also potentially looking at hosting the annual youth competition, either in Bristol or perhaps more rurally if anyone has ideas or suggestions.

If anyone has any ideas to promote ringing to 'young' ringers, both under 18s and under 50s, please get in touch. Across the UK we are particularly struggling with 20-50 year old ringers, so any thoughts are most welcome.

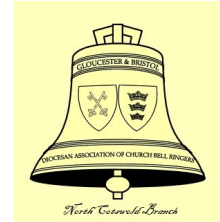
Training days across the G&B are £12 for in-house, £30 for ART (as that's what they charge) and you do not have to be a paid member to attend. Details of ART learning & teaching courses can be found here: <https://events.bellringing.org/en/>

5.4. Chair

Martin Penny reported that the Branch Practices which had been held in a different tower each month, beginning in January, had been largely successful. The main point had been to give help to the home ringers of each tower in a half hour session preceding the main practice, as well as giving members the chance to ring around the Branch.

At the Association Striking Competition in March we entered a team for the 6 bell Croome Trophy, and whilst first place was taken by Tewkesbury, Martin was presented with the Ringing Master's Sabin Clapper for his achievement in resurrecting the Branch and for entering a team for the first time in over 10 years. He emphasised that this was possible through the efforts of all the Committee and Branch Members. Also, as runner-up in the Achievement of the Year Award, Neil Garner was presented with the Littledean and Purton Trophy for his work setting up the Pebworth Bells website with its dedicated area of training resources.

Our own Striking Competition in Nov was held for the first time as a combined event with the FSG, where Mickleton won the Jack Webb rose bowl for first place, and Broadwell won the Les Joynes salver for the most improved tower.



The next Association Striking Competition will be on Sat 5th April 2025 in the Gloucester area, with the Croome Trophy at Churchdown, where we hope that Mickleton will represent us; also we should aim to put together a band from across the Branch for the 8 bell Penn Trophy at Longney, when Triples will be rung as 2025 is an odd number.

And finally he wanted to thank all members for their support in the last 18 months, also Phil Street for an excellent tour around the Burford area, with the hope of more next year.

Jeremy Meyrick then spoke on behalf of the Branch to thank Martin for his excellent work.

This was followed by a Valedictory Address from Roland Greenhill:

"Martin, thank you on behalf of the Branch for your dedication to the post & for giving us the benefit of your well-honed leadership skills throughout this past year.

- You took over a Branch after the pandemic which had left a significant loss of talented personnel & skills.
- You faced a group of disparate towers in need of unification & renaissance.
- You have done great things.
- You laboured hard to improve members' techniques & repertoire whilst rejuvenating the Blockley and Naunton tower bands to full complement.
- You kept us well informed producing a comprehensive periodic Newsletter featuring the Guild & Branch activities alongside many fascinating accounts of the lives & times of fellow Branch Members.
- You successfully encouraged branch wide participation in Branch Practices.
- You have left a legacy of unity & progress in our once near moribund Branch.

I could go on...but I won't.

Thank you Martin on the behalf of the Branch".

Martin was then presented with a gift as a token of gratitude.

6. NOMINATIONS & ELECTION OF BRANCH OFFICERS

Martin had already announced he was standing down as Chair, and now said he would also be leaving the Committee but would continue to edit the Newsletter.

Nominated and seconded for new positions were:

Chair - Ashley Ellison

MC Rep - Jess McCarthy

New Member - Sue Lockett

The remaining Committee positions continue as before:

Vice Chair - Phil Street

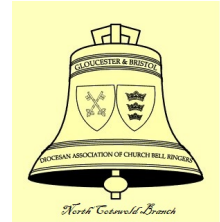
Secretary - Ashley Ellison

Treasurer - Isobel Murphy

Ringing Master - Jackie Hands

Deputy Ringing Master - Jess McCarthy

Members - Tim Woodgate and Roland Greenhill.



7. NOMINATIONS FOR ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Chair - Roger Haynes, willing to stand again
Secretary - Fiona Hartley, willing to stand again
Treasurer - Bridget Lazenby, willing to stand again
All unanimously agreed.
Peal Secretary - nominations needed
Ringing Master - nominations needed

8. ASSOCIATION EVENTS 2025

Branch Officers' Meeting - 1st March
Association Striking Competitions & AGM - 5th April in the Gloucester Branch. Croome Trophy at Churchdown & Penn Trophy at Longley.
Association Training Days -
Spring: Saturday 8th March
Autumn: Saturday 11th October

9. AOB

Ashley wished to end by saying that Martin would be a hard act to follow, but with the support of Phil Street as Vice Chair and his wealth of ringing expertise, together with that of all the Committee members, we would endeavour to continue his success. The year would get off to a cracking start with ringing at Gloucester Cathedral, Branch Practices would be held in towers not yet visited, the website would be updated with photos and detailed information, and an effort would be made to persuade Branch members to train as teachers in order to recruit new ringers in the lead up to Ringing 2030.

The AGM was brought to a close at 7.30pm, with the commencement of the Branch Practice immediately following.