

Bristol Rural Branch

Agenda for Half Yearly Meeting Tytherington Saturday 15th May 2004

The Meeting commenced at 17.31 with 27 members present.

1. Chairman welcomes the members and visitors to the meeting. He thanked the Rev'd Pat Lyes-Wilsden and Mrs Pat Baker for officiating at the service and for playing the organ.

2. Apologies for absence

The only apology was from Fred Scudamore he was at the Police ringing guild at Malvern

3. Approval of the AGM minutes at Westerleigh

The Chairman gave the members present time to read the AGM minutes. These were accepted as a true record Proposed by Ruth Welch Seconded by Graham Hemmett

Matters arising

3.1 **Thornbury upgrade to 10 bells.** The meeting discussed the proposal again and it was felt that unless the Tower itself was to front the update it would not be possible for the branch to take on the commitment. This was proposed by Bryn Shackleton (Chairman) Seconded Fran Johnson (Ringing Master) the meeting voted unanimously to this proposal, the proposal was dropped until Thornbury come forward with their own proposal.

3.2 **Bitton's request for the striking competition to be prior to the G & B competitions.**

It was reported that the G & B are to continue holding the Penn and Croome trophies on the morning of the AGM. It was proposed that the Rural Branch Striking Competition be held in February or March prior to the AGM and it was decided to hold it in March on a suitable Saturday providing hot soup and bacon roles to those attending. Proposed by Sue Jay (Bitton) and Seconded by Les Usher (Thornbury) Carried unanimously.

4. Reports from officers if required

Ringing Master Report (see below)

Treasurer Report (see below)

Secretary Report

Items for the newsletter from all towers in the branch would be appreciated. Every tower must! have something to say at least once a year.

5. New Members

The following new members were proposed and elected.

Steve Crane Senior Almondsbury

Derek Rosser Retired Almondsbury

Gladys Macleod Mrs Senior Thornbury

Proposed as new members by Don Haskins (Almondsbury) and Seconded by Les Usher (Thornbury)

Gladys Macleod was presented with her G & B badge by the Branch Chairman and welcomed to the Association (It has now been the branch policy for about three years to present members who are present at the meeting with a G & B badge, see following notes)

It was stated by the branch treasurer that the Association has decided not to purchase any more G & B badges as they do not sell that well and it is seen as a bit old fashioned to wear a button hole badge. The Secretary asked the two MC reps present if they were aware of this policy and they were not aware of it.

The secretary proposed we take this back to the G & B for clarification and when the decision was made without the view of the members.

Proposed by Pauline Palmer (Frenchay) Seconded by Don Haskins (Almondsbury) carried.

6. Branch Striking Competition

Covered in matters arising above.

7. Branch Annual Dinner

This was raised at this meeting to give the organizers more time to find suitable venues rather than the panic after the AGM. It was also agreed that the dinner would be moved to the second Saturday and away from Burn's night which is always on the fourth Saturday. This will also allow the branch practice to be on the fourth Saturday at its normal time.

The change was proposed by Mary York (Frampton) and Seconded by Les Usher (Thornbury)
Carried.

8. AOB at the chairman's discretion

Fran Johnson raised the issue of the Child protection act for ringers.

After some discussion we will await Steve Coleman's discussions with the Gloucester and Bristol Diocese representatives. However currently the situation has not changed from the statement given by Steve Coleman at the G & B AGM at Cheltenham in April.

9. Chairman closes the meeting.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked the members for attending, invited them to the BBQ next door and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 18.27

Ringing Master Report

The beginning of the year passed quite successfully with 14 at the carol service at Bitton, then 20 for the afternoon practice at Winterbourne during the short days of January. The rehang of the 5 and 6 appears to be a success and with some fine-tuning to the acoustics in the ringing chamber, it will be a job well done. Mangotsfield in Feb saw thirteen, which is probably a good number in the confined space available.

Pucklechurch was the down month with 8 people there, but the ringing was varied and interesting from basic methods through to surprise minor with singles.

The ringing on the branch outing to Devon was varied, and probably accurately reflected the state of ringing in the Branch at present.

I hope that my efforts with short pieces in the news sheet are appreciated, though it would appear that sometimes information contained in what is after all the main vehicle for news and forthcoming events, doesn't always get to every one that it should. It is a brilliant publication much envied by other branches, as is the web site, never take them for granted, they don't happen all on their own!!

The monthly quarters have fizzled out at the moment because unless I organize them, they don't seem to happen. Not a problem. I don't expect every idea to work for everyone. A group of 6 rang at Barnsley last weekend for their village festival. 1320 Bob Minor. and we have received an invite for next year so it can't have been too bad, or they are really desperate.

I would like to thank Arch for coming up trumps again with his organisation of the outing, and his support generally as my deputy.

Fran Johnson Ringing Master

Treasurer Report

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

Christmas Songs of Praise at Mangotsfield – Cost of wine £18.47p.

Annual Dinner at The Kendleshire Golf Club – Cost of Speaker £37

Quiz Night – Self-funded by Westerleigh

GENERAL

Of the twelve branches of the G&B we pay the second largest amount in subscriptions. Last year we were overtaken by Swindon.

Numerically we are third due to Forest having more retired members.

Please note the Annual Reports you have just received are for year 2003. The membership details are not based on the Tower Returns you have just sent me.

Thank you all for completing this chore by the 4th May. Last year was the 28th June and the year before was the 7th August.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Our present balances, considering all known outstanding transactions, are: -

Treasurer's Account (non interest payment) - £ 66.58p

Business Instant Access Savings Account - £302.62p

Total balance - £369.20p

Graham Hemmett

15th May 2002