

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Boys Smith Room, St John's College on Sunday 1st May, 2011

Members Present

President: C Y Barlow
 Master: C C Shearer
 Secretary: G R Harris

J A Ansell	J Cranfield	B R M Johnson	L T W Smith
P L H Brooke	M L D Drinkwater	C M P Johnson	R A Smith
J E Butler	P J Earis	M S L Jordan	S C Walters
H Charles	E C Frye	F R W M Manners	T R Walters*
R Charles	T Irving*	R Shipp	E Z Yang*

*Elected during the meeting

The President was in the chair and the meeting opened at 1406.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

E Abbey	S A Croxall	J D Shanklin
J A Agg	A Johnson	J D Sherwood
T K Beadman	F H King	L D G Simpson
W J Benfold	J R N Lebon	H C Smith
P A F Chalk	C H Northeast	

2. Minutes of the 2010 AGM

The minutes had been available on the Guild website for many months. There was query from R Charles as to *what* was still in Bene't's; F R W M Manners clarified that it was just that the bells in St Bene't's were still there. They were agreed by the meeting to be an accurate record and were signed by the President.

3. Matters Arising

The President raised the issue again of the lost photo album and the Secretary announced that some more years of photographs had been promised after a plea for certain years around the time of the dinner. However, it was still felt that a consolidated list of what we do and do not have would be good, as a way of keeping track.

P J Earis raised the issue of the accounting error which had been found at last year's AGM. F R W M Manners informed the meeting that the accounts had been corrected (it was a simple addition error), signed and submitted to the proctorial office. The Secretary produced a copy of last year's accounts for those interested, with the correction made. The meeting accepted the accounts of 2009/2010 (proposed R A Smith, seconded F R W M Manners).

L T W Smith enquired as to the discussion which had been had last year about rule changes, in particular the issue of honorary membership. The President replied that a wider discussion of the rules would be had later in the meeting, so asked for the meeting's patience.

4. Relevant matters from the Lent Term Business Meeting

There were no matters arising.

4a. Proposed rule changes

At this stage, the President inserted an extra item in the agenda: that of proposed rule changes. S C Walters' comment last year about honorary membership and J R N Lebon's recent proposal as to associate membership had prompted a wider critique of the rules. The President said that this would be a good opportunity to reconstruct the rules as a whole, as they were formulated in a pre-internet era and are therefore not necessarily appropriate for a working Guild today. She said that L D G Simpson had agreed to re-draft the rules and proposed that members have a close look at the rules after exams. She said that it would be best to start from afresh, considering what it is that the Guild wants from rules and working forwards to create a general set of rules that are not so prescriptive, instead of working back from what we already have and making piecemeal changes here and there. She proposed that a committee should be established to deal with the re-drafting, with some form of online system for members not involved in the committee to have their say.

F R W M Manners opined that any discussion of rule changes should be kept as far away from meetings as possible, so as to avoid scaring off potential undergraduate members. He also said that a full draft of the rules should be made and then S C Walters' and J R N Lebon's proposals be added to them afterwards. P L H Brooke commented that a time scale should be set so we do not forget about the issue but disagreed that a new committee should be established (we already have a committee, so we should use it) and said that perhaps the President should take the first steps instead of L D G Simpson.

F R W M Manners replied to P L H Brooke by commenting that the present committee of officers do not necessarily have strong views on the issue of rule drafting, whereas other members do – the members with the strongest views should be involved as soon as possible to avoid lengthy discussions later. The President suggested that, in any case, the notes from these 'committee' meetings go online for all to see; as a time scale, we should aim to present something to the AGM next year. R A Smith remarked that it is in the interests of the 'committee' to take on board everyone's views, so we should trust them to consult everyone else. S C Walters suggested that a good means of consultation would be to send an email to the global list announcing the proposed revision of the rules and with the time scale, and providing an email address for comments 'committee' so everyone can have their say.

F R W M Manners remarked that we should present the issue to the ‘committee’ and leave it to them to decide which way to go. P L H Brooke suggested that the matter should be left in the hands of the President.

The President agreed to take matters forward and said in conclusion that something would be brought to 2012’s AGM.

5. Cambridge Towers

There was nothing to report concerning Great St Mary’s or St Andrew’s. M L D Drinkwater commented briefly on St Bene’t’s in J D Shanklin’s absence, mentioning particularly that a stay had been replaced on the 3rd.

The President mentioned that the St John’s Project will come to a head when the Governing Body of the college discusses the issue on 19th May this year: at this meeting, a final decision will be made on whether or not to proceed. A discussion of the Guild interest in the project followed.

6. Election of new members

The following were elected for membership of the Guild, proposed by the Master, seconded by F R W M Manners:

T Irving (Emmanuel)
J M Rogers (Clare)

T R Walters (Trinity Hall)
E Z Yang (Fitzwilliam)

All were elected unopposed.

7. Presentation of accounts

P J Earis commented that at last year’s AGM, the meeting had decided to self-insure the handbells and therefore create a sinking fund in case of problems. He asked where the sinking fund was on the accounts. The Secretary accepted that this was an omission and promised that it would be included next year. P L H Brooke asked for the meeting’s mercy in exchange for a promise to have two year’s worth of handbell insurance money ear-marked in next year’s accounts (this will amount to £240, as the AGM in 2010 had agreed to ear-mark £120 a year).

J E Butler queried the large surplus made on Guild Week 2010, particularly addressing the issue of petrol (that is, that members without use of a car during the week pay a substantial amount for petrol whilst at the same time generous members with cars waive reimbursement for petrol costs). This amounted in effect, she said, to students paying a good part of the surplus. P L H Brooke made the point that the issue of budgeting comes down entirely to the organiser of Guild Week. The President suggested that the issue be specifically raised to N J H Small (who it is to be hoped will again be coordinating transport this year); it is recognised that making an accurate estimate of petrol costs for the week is very difficult. The meeting agreed that he should be encouraged to keep the day rate as low as possible, and that if the new policy resulted in a deficit then up to a couple of hundred pounds would be carried by the Guild.

The accounts were proposed by the Secretary and seconded by P L H Brooke. The meeting accepted them.

Regarding the assets of the Guild, the President alerted the meeting to the fact that she is now again in possession of the Barnett bells.

8. Master's Report

The Master summed up the main points of her report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She specifically encouraged people who normally attend only St Bene't's practices to also attend practices at St Andrew's or Great St Mary's (and vice-versa). She also encouraged everyone to go on Guild Week this year.

The President remarked that the Master had done an excellent job this year, encouraging new members and a positive feeling within the Guild and thanked her, and the other officers, for their work. The Master replied that M L D Drinkwater had done most of her job. M L D Drinkwater thought otherwise.

9. Steeplekeeper's Report

The Steeplekeeper's report had also been circulated in advance of the meeting and the Steeplekeeper had nothing to add to it. The President remarked that perhaps the encouragement of new members and the increased activity within the Guild had increased his workload.

The Master alerted the meeting to the fact that relations with StAG seem to be deteriorating, and practices there are starting at variable times this term.

10. Election of Officers

The Master took the chair, and read out the following Senior Officer nominations:—

President

C Y Barlow

Prop. M L D Drinkwater

Sec. G R Harris

Auditor

F H King

Prop. L T W Smith

Sec. F R W M Manners

Senior Treasurer

P L H Brooke

Prop. C C Shearer

Sec. F R W M Manners

With no other nominations, all were duly elected unopposed.

The President resumed the chair and announced that, this year being the new triennium of the Central Council, two new representatives were needed. She read out the following nominations:

R Shipp

Prop. C C Shearer

Sec. G R Harris

L D G Simpson Prop. G R Harris Sec. C C Shearer

Both were elected unopposed.

The President then read out the following Junior Officer nominations:–

Master

M L D Drinkwater (Jesus) Prop. G R Harris Sec. C C Shearer

Assistant Master

W J Benfold (Downing) Prop. M L D Drinkwater Sec. C C Shearer

Secretary

N Clements (Homerton) Prop. C C Shearer Sec. G R Harris

Librarian

H C Smith (Newnham) Prop. C C Shearer Sec. G R Harris

Webmaster

L D G Simpson (Robinson) Prop. C C Shearer Sec. G R Harris

Steeplekeeper

J Cranfield (Homerton) Prop. N Clements Sec. W J Benfold

With no other nominations, all were duly elected unopposed.

11. Diary Dates

C C Shearer read aloud the important dates for the coming term, as listed on the agenda. She requested ringers for StAG on the BBC filming day on 21/05/11 and also ringers for the Ridgman Trophy on 18/06/11. She again encouraged people to attend Guild Week.

The President reported that B I le Gallez would send around a circular about this year's Guild Week shortly, but mentioned that camping at Girton could not be arranged. She also mentioned Bill Ridgman's memorial service, to take place at Haslingfield on 14/05/11, at 2.30pm (with ringing from 2.00pm), followed by tea at Wolfson College. S C Walters suggested a reminder of the service be sent to the Global list this week.

R A Smith mentioned the open ringing practice at OLEM this Thursday (5/05/11).

12. Any other business

S C Walters expressed this thanks to the President for the work she does for the Guild.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 1524.