

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Boy Smith Room, Cambridge on Sunday 5th May 2019

Members Present

President: R A Smith

Master: M Nash

Secretary: I F E Smith

Oliver Bardsley

Martha Radbourne

Daniel Hagon

David Richards

Christopher Winkless-Clark

Claire Barlow

Frank King

Thomas Haslam

Clarke Walters

John Hutchinson

Greg Chu

Martha Radbourne

James Ellison

Shirui Shirley Lu

Dima Szamozvancev

Alistair Benford

Peter Daws

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Rachel Anderson, Max Drinkwater, Nicholas Small, Jonathan Shanklin, Akiko Saito, James Dann, Elizabeth Hopper and Megan Bardsley.

2. Minutes of the Annual General meeting 2018

David Richards pointed out a few spelling/grammatical errors to be changed.

The minutes were proposed as a true account by David Richards, seconded by Melissa Nash. They were accepted unopposed.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising

4. Minutes of the Lent term business meeting 2019

The minutes were proposed as a true account by John Hutchinson, seconded by Daniel Hagon. They were accepted unopposed.

5. Matters Arising

a. Handbell Restoration

Oliver Bardsley reported that the Barnett bells had been restored and the Guild had been ringing them. The total cost was around £2000 and we raised about £1600, including the Societies Syndicate

fund and donations, which we are grateful for. Oliver said he was happy with the Barnett bells, they are very much improved. He said there was a question as to whether we restore another set of bells. Richard Smith mentioned there was a possibility of selling the 'Stone-age Bruce' ('Old 6'). Oliver Bardsley said they weren't worth very much and not much historic value either (Bernard Stone quoted about £200-£300). Oliver said it may make more sense to sell a larger set of bells which may be worth up to £1000, and this could fund the dinner touch set. Oliver Bardsley said that the quote from Barnard Stone was around £1000 for the dinner touch set.

Richard Smith asked about cases to store the handbells in. Oliver Bardsley said he had bought a new rucksack for the light 8 and two cases for the rest of the Barnett bells. Melissa Nash said it would be good to have a set of 12 which are portable for practicing the dinner touch.

Oliver Bardsley said the dinner touch set are ringable so its not urgent that we restore them, so it may be worth deferring it. He mentioned that the Societies Syndicate may be able to fund us again in a few years. Melissa Nash noted that it was exam term, so we will probably ring less of the handbells; we could wait until Michaelmas to see how much we ring them. There was a general agreement that we don't plan to restore the dinner touch set yet. Melissa Nash mentioned it would be good to get the information Oliver Bardsley has on the handbells, so this can be passed to the incoming committee.

b. Guild Library

Richard Smith said that at the Lent term meeting lots of people had come to him expressing disquiet about the library being sold. He said that at the Lent meeting we had decided to keep the library in book cases in OLEM if we had sufficient donations. Richard Smith said he believes we do have sufficient donations and people have said they will make a significant contribution. He said we don't have a final quote on the bookcases yet. He said there were huge numbers of suitable bookcases (with lockable doors) in second hand shops. He explained that there was little point in paying a large some of money for new cases if we can find suitable second-hand cases. He reported that he had made fairly good progress.

James Ellison reported on the alternative option that was proposed if we didn't have the funds for the bookcases. He said the UL would hold all the books currently in the Guild library and we would raise about £6000 if the books were sold (the ones the UL already has). Richard Smith mentioned that it may take some time to sell the books though. Chris Winkless-Clark mentioned that Durham cathedral were trying to amass a complete collection of Ringing Worlds if we wanted to sell these, as they are of little value elsewhere.

Richard Smith said the Ringing Worlds will probably be kept in the 'catholic'. Daniel Hagon asked how secure the 'catholic' was for storing the Guild library. Richard Smith explained that it was fairly secure as the ringing room is not open to the public and the book cases will have locked fronts. One key will be given to the Guild and one key to the church, which they said they will not give to anyone. Richard Smith said there would be 3 large bookcases, behind the 3 and the tenor bell, where there is not seating space. He said the peal boards may need to be shifted up the wall slightly. Frank King was interested in the visual effect this may have and whether it would be a problem for a

large group of visiting ringers. Richard Smith said there would be very few occasions when a group would be so large that they would not fit in the bell ringing room. Richard also noted that the 'catholic' is very warm so there is not a risk of damage to the books by damp and cold conditions, although it is not the same quality as the UL. Richard said that hopefully some people will occasionally use the library and that it is probably the 3rd largest ringing library with many volumes which are not really easy to get your hands on. Claire Barlow mentioned that she had had very few requests in the past few years for books from the library. Richard Smith did note that very little of the information is online, especially for early 19th century ringing history. Oliver Bardsley mentioned that some of the books are at St Bene't's, those deemed more useful. Daniel Hagon asked if there had been any requests to buy new books to add to the library. Richard Smith replied, saying that the library is basically complete up until the late 90s but the librarian at the time decided to stop buying every new ringing book.

Richard Smith stated that the status quo now is that we will keep the library and aim to move the books to bookcases in the 'catholic' by the end of the year.

Oliver Bardsley and Alistair Benford reported that the simulator sensor at GSM had repaired itself but the situation will be monitored. The secretary said they would pass on some advice from John Harrison as to how the simulator can sometimes be fixed.

6. New Members

The following person was elected to membership of the Guild. They were proposed by Claire Barlow and seconded by Melissa Nash:

Dr Alexander Kabla

They were elected unopposed.

7. Cambridge Towers

Martha Radbourne reported on StAG. She said that the repair to the 5 is now finished. The slider on the 3 has broken and is being dealt with, the tailors have given a quote of £76.80 for the slider. The rope on the 8 is frayed and the red light is not working. Oliver Bardsley said the ropes are looking a bit sad and it would be worth getting new ropes. Richard Smith said it might be worth getting new ends machined spliced onto them, as ropes can be quite expensive. Richard said we could get quotes for the ropes and it would be fine to have them out of action in the summer. The secretary did mention that we have one visiting ringing group in July.

Melissa Nash said Sam Johnson was intending to replace the ropes on the 3rd and 4th at St Bene't's, as well as sorting out the muffles. John Hutchinson said the church is doing building works on the entrance for the next few weeks, so we will have to enter round the back. John said he will write an email to let everyone know where to go for St Bene't's practices.

Oliver Bardsley said there was nothing interesting to report from GSM.

The president said the 7th is now sorted and ringable at the 'catholic'.

Melissa said the Youths are aiming to raise the bulk of funds for St Clements in the summer.

8. Presentation of Accounts

The secretary presented the accounts. She noted that we had made a profit on the dinner. Also, that the handbell refurbishment income and expenditure was processed in the general account as the separate 'Handbell Refurbishment Fund Account' was for insuring the bells only.

Frank King said he would like to change the dates of the financial year from '27th May - 27th May' to the '1st May - 30th April', to make things simpler.

The accounts (with the date correction) were proposed as a true account by David Richards, seconded by Oliver Bardsley. They were accepted unopposed.

Frank King mentioned that the 'Surplus/(Deficit)' column in the accounts is largely meaningless, apart from the dinner, and would be happy to get rid of the column.

Richard Smith said it was at the discretion of the secretary as to how the minor details of the accounts are arranged.

Frank King stated that it would make the accounts simpler if the 'Handbell Refurbishment Fund Account' was abolished and suggested that we don't insure the handbells anymore but just cough up the money if the handbells are broken/stolen/lost.

Richard Smith proposed that we abolish the 'Handbell Refurbishment Fund Account' and add the money into the 'General Account'. This was seconded by Daniel Hagon. All were in favour.

It was mentioned that we did not have a list of assets. Frank King said he had prepared this for the senior proctors previously. He said we had about £14000 worth of assets and probably more with the newly refurbished handbells and bookcases. It was noted that in the future it might be worth seeing a list of assets, possibly at the next business meeting.

9. Master's Report

The master thanked each of the members of the committee for their hard work. Imogen Smith for being secretary. James Ellison for managing to make something happen and getting the ball moving on the Guild library. John Hutchinson has managed to get the QP slot at Bene't's changed. Martha Radbourne has had an unlucky year with a broken stay and slider. Alistair Benford has done a good job as teaching Officer. 130 learners signed up at the freshers' fair and 3 of them did their first QP on dinner day. Hopefully this will continue next year.

The master reported that we were not last at the Ridgman competition. Alternative dinner was at Browns but is now back to a college this year. Guild week had more students. SUA had fairly low numbers but the coming SUA is at Oxford so should be easier to reach than Southampton.

The social scene has been good, and the learners have been more involved. The formal at Emma was the largest in Guild memory. 101 attended the Guild dinner which is up from previous years. On dinner day we had 2 peals, 7 QPs and 15 firsts. One set of handbells has been restored.

Melissa said she had thoroughly enjoyed being master and would like to thank everyone in the Guild for making it so enjoyable.

Richard Smith thanked Melissa Nash for being Master of the Guild this past year.

10. Steeple keeper's Report

Nothing to report

11. Election of Officers

Senior Officers

President: Richard Smith, Proposer: Oliver Bardsley, Seconder: Benedict M'Caw,
Senior Treasurer: David Richards, Proposer: James Dann, Seconder: Imogen Diver,
Accounts Examiner: Frank King, Proposer: Joe Wakeling, Seconder: James Ellison

Junior Officers

Master: Elizabeth Hopper, Proposer: Melissa Nash, Seconder: James Ellison
Secretary: James Ellison, Proposer: Melissa Nash, Seconder: Chris Winkless-Clark
Assistant Master: John Hutchinson, Proposer: Greg Chu, Seconder: Thomas Haslam
Steeple Keeper: Chris Winkless-Clark, Proposer: Imogen Smith, Seconder: Melissa Nash
Librarian: Greg Chu, Proposer: James Ellison, Seconder: Alistair Benford
Teaching Officer: Melissa Nash, Proposer: Alistair Benford, Seconder: Imogen Smith

All were elected unopposed

Richard Smith passed on his thanks to all the outgoing and incoming officers.

Frank King mentioned that the secretary had the slickest accounts he had seen and hopes that James Ellison may follow in that.

12. Diary Dates

Last StAG practice - 16/05/19

The master said there was also a practice on the 13th June (same day as ART course).

ART Course - 13/06/19

At GSM.

Ridgman Competition - 15/06/19

At Bury St Edmunds.

Alternative Dinner - 16/06/19

In Jesus College.

Rounders match- 16/06/19?

Not arranged yet, usually organised by the master.

Honorary degrees ringing- 19/06/19?

Frank King asked whether the students would still be around.

Guild Week - 16/08/19-21/08/19

Jonathan Shanklin passed on the information for the towers he had arranged so far:
Sunday-Grantham, Guild ringing 5pm then joining the locals for service ringing at 6:30pm.

Monday- Lincoln, open guild ringing (=tower grab) at 11:10, followed by a quarter in memory of Chris Johnson, finishing before 12:30.

Tuesday- Newark 11:30-12:30

Wednesday-Three towers in the Deepings area organised by Jonathan Clegg, possibly including Bellingborough and market Deeping.

Jonathan's contacted the local scout group which seem reasonably positive about using the scout hut for student accommodation. They are going to put it to their executive which is meeting this month.

13. Any other business

The master mentioned that Elizabeth cannot do the coming Thursday ringing at StAG and so someone else is needed to organise this. The master also noted that some of the handover of email addresses to new officers may be delayed due to events already organised by the outgoing officers e.g. the ART course.

The secretary said that a couple of emails had been received about the website being down, making it difficult to access things and point people to an online platform. Also, the incoming secretary was notified about sending minutes and contacts of new members to Nicholas Small while the website is down. It was agreed that it would be good to get the website sorted before the freshers arrive. Daniel Hagon said that he could have a word with Joe Wakeling (webmaster) to help with the website. Oliver Bardsley said we could get some details on the CUSU page temporarily, with the times of practices and an email contact. Melissa Nash said that it would be good to have one form of online media for people to see and that we could get the Guild twitter more active.

The President closed the meeting at 15:22

I F E Smith