

Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting held in St Bene't's Church, Cambridge on Friday 23rd November 2018

Members Present

President : R A Smith

Master : M Nash

Secretary : I F E Smith

Jonathan Shanklin

Samuel Johnson

Chris Winkless-Clark*

Alistair Benford

Thomas Haslam*

*Elected during the meeting

Joe Wakeling

James Ellison

Oliver Bardsley

Megan Bardsley

Allison Wang*

Rachel Anderson

Greg Chu*

Shirui Lu

John Hutchinson

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Martha Radbourne.

2. Minutes of the Lent term business meeting 2018

The minutes were proposed as a true account by Megan Bardsley and seconded by the Master. They were accepted unopposed.

3. Matters Arising

Richard Smith brought up the matter of the library. James responded to say that progress had been made. He had a list of prices for the books, which seems reasonable. He is hoping to send out the list to sell the books at the Guild dinner and he just needs to check all the books are there.

4. Relevant matters from the AGM

Oliver Bardsley brought up the matter of the handbells saying we have various handbells in various states of disrepair. There are 5 sets: Dinner Touch, GSM, Barnett, Big Bruce, Stone-age Bruce. The Dinner Touch set is reasonably serviceable; the Barnett bell set is not in such good condition and lives in the Master's room. The Big Bruce set were donated to the Guild by J B Williams and the Stone-age Bruce set are not really worth anything.

Oliver Bardsley said he had taken all the sets to Bernard Stone to have a look at and now the question is thinking about what we really want to do. Oliver Bardsley stated it was a good idea to have a transportable set in a rucksack and it may be worth having a nicer set kept in a case for special occasions such as the Guild Dinner Touch. We ideally want two sets: one kept in a rucksack and one kept special. He said there was not much point in having more than two sets and multiple people voiced their agreement on this.

Oliver Bardsley mentioned finance, stating that it may cost roughly £1500 per set to refurbish, we would need a new case for a nice set and the money has got to come from somewhere. He said that selling sets is an option and seems sensible however, this could be controversial as some sets have a lot of Guild history. Selling the bells internally is a reasonable option but the Guild may frown if we sell them to just anyone. This may help get older members of the Guild to contribute financially. Oliver Bardsley also mentioned that the handbells are self insured every year and so we have some money set aside for them. He clarified that this could be used for their refurbishment and is not just set aside for if the bells are stolen. He said the best candidate for refurbishing are the Barnett bells which are a bit thicker and so have more scope for being tuned. They are rather out of tune at the moment and a couple of bells are sufficiently awful to think about replacing them. Oliver Bardsley also mentioned that CUSU have some grants that they give towards society equipment so we could apply for this.

Richard Smith noted that we are selling the library which is worth a lot of money and could contribute towards the handbells. James Ellison stated that he was not sure there was THAT much money that could be made from selling the library. Some of the more expensive books may now be on permanent loan to the UL. Richard Smith said it was definitely possible to get money from older members of the Guild and can't imagine we would have a fuss with selling the Stone-age bells.

Samuel Johnson asked how many sets would we need to sell. Oliver Bardsley replied that multiple avenues would get us enough money. Richard Smith said there may be some trouble with selling the Big Bruce set and we may have to ask relations of J B Williams.

The Master suggested Oliver Bardsley, James Ellison and possibly Sam should come up with a plan of action for the bells and calculate what we need to sell. Oliver Bardsley said we needed more quotes for refurbishment, we probably want to get a quote from Whitechapel and the CUSU grant will require more quotes. Richard Smith said it would be good to have a small group of people to set up a proposal in time for the Guild dinner or Lent term business meeting. He said it would be politically sensible to include some older members of the Guild who have done some more adventurous ringing. Jonathan Shanklin suggested Bernard Taylor. Oliver Bardsley said he can do it and is keen to offload this onto others before he graduates.

Oliver Bardsley said there was no harm in refurbishing the Barnett bells but the Dinner Touch set needs to be available for the Dinner Touch. He said that we don't have to refurbish both sets with the same person.

5. Relevant matters from the Guild Week Meeting

Richard Smith stated that there was a Guild Week and meeting in Kent. There was a small surplus of around £50 from the week that he will transfer to the Guild account.

Jonathan Shanklin updated everyone on the plans for Guild Week 2019. He had suggested going to Sleaford in Lincolnshire but there was no holiday cottage there so he will be looking for a church hall for student accommodation. Oliver and Megan Bardsley mentioned that there had been some thoughts about making the Guild holiday run concurrently with the Guild Week. However, it looks like this year the Guild holiday will be somewhere else, partly due to lack of interest; Melissa Nash registered her disinterest in the idea of the two running concurrently.

Jonathan Shanklin said the dates for Guild Week will be the 16th -21st August, give or take a day. He was thinking of finding a pub for people to stay in which might appeal to some members. The week will run as normal with the odd quarter peal and maybe a peal. Richard Smith mentioned that peals had not been that popular in the past but you could possibly get Grantham or Lincolnshire cathedral and a few extra ringers to make a peal work.

6. New Members

The following people were elected to membership of the Guild. They were proposed by the Master and seconded by Samuel Johnson:

Dmitriz Szamdzvancev (Downing)

Dongxuz Zhang (Churchill)

Christopher Lewis-Brown (Jesus)

Alison Wang (Corpus Christi)

Sabihe Koch (Hughes Hall)

Sarah Gonzalez (Pembroke)

Gilbertas Umbrazunas (Christ's)

Greg Chu (Corpus Christi)

Thomas Haslam (Churchill)

Ross Clarke (Downing)

Christopher Winkless-Clark (King's)

Elizabeth Hopper (Churchill)

All were elected unopposed.

7. Cambridge towers

Sam Johnson stated, as usual, that Bene't's is still here.

The Master gave the steeple keeper's report on the bells at StAG. She said the stay on the 5th has now been replaced.

Oliver Bardsley reported that there was not much to say on GSM except that two new stays had been replaced this term, both on the 4th.

Richard Smith said 'the catholic' bells are still pretty good; the 7th is a bit challenging at the moment.

8. Diary Dates

London Outing - 24/11/18

Guild Dinner - 16/03/19

The Master mentioned that the OUS outing did not have a date set and that it was Oxford's turn to organise this year.

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

The Master closed the meeting at 21:40.

I F E Smith