

Minutes of the Lent Term Business Meeting, held in St Bene't's Church, Cambridge, on 23rd February 2025

Members Present

President: J A Agg
Master: S J Spencer
Secretary: A S Cooke

Catriona Agg
Oliver Bennett*
Luke Butcher
Greg Chu
Toby Clifton

Amy Dunn
Thomas Haslam
Lucy Hennessy
Thomas Higton
Samuel Johnson

Jonathan Nash
Joshodeep Sarma
Jonathan Shanklin
John Sturdy
Matthew Wadey

*Elected during the meeting

The President opened the meeting at 21:05.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Claire Barlow
Samuel Canning
Michael D'Avanzo
Lena van Dongen
Stella Johnson

Jonathan Martin
Melissa Nash
David Richards
Luke Smith
Chris Winkless-Clark

2 Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting 2024

With minor corrections, the minutes were proposed as a true and correct copy of the meeting by Toby Clifton, seconded by Lucy Hennessy and were accepted unanimously.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Election of New Members

The following were proposed for membership by Sam Johnson, seconded by Greg Chu, and accepted unanimously.

Rui Aoyama (Pembroke)
Oliver Bennett (Girton)
Milo Choudhury (Sidney Sussex)
Michael Lucas (Emmanuel)
Asha Mior (Lucy Cavendish)

Maya Noonan (Newnham)
Juliet Robson (Newnham)
Marlene Shaff (Pembroke)
Poline Sidiropoulou (Newnham)

Cameron Pearson was proposed for associate membership by Josho Sarma, seconded by Amy Dunn, and accepted unanimously.

5 Cambridge Towers

St Andrew the Great

The steeplekeeper informed the meeting that the height of the sallies for the back four bells had been raised. She also explained that she had been in touch with both Taylor's and Whites to get quotes for the repairs to the clapper of the seventh, which had fallen out of the bell and been damaged during a recent quarter peal attempt. She informed those present that the plan was to use Taylor's for the repairs as they were significantly cheaper. Jonathan Nash asked what the two prices were to which the Master gave the prices of roughly £280 for Whites and £139 for Taylor's.

St Bene't's

Sam Johnson confirmed that the bells were still here and that four of the six new ropes had been put in, meaning the rope for the fourth is no longer stretchy. He explained that he is looking to hold a full inspection of the bells with a bellhanger in the near future. The Secretary informed the meeting that, as had been agreed at the AGM, the Guild was making a donation of £200 pounds towards the cost of the ropes, which was in the process of being transferred.

Great St Mary's

Greg Chu informed the meeting that the simulator was being used, though there are still problems with the eighth. He added that everyone was welcome to come to the improvers' and main practices on Monday evenings. Jonathan Shanklin explained that the improvers' practice was mainly aimed at those who could ring plain bob minor. The President asked people to continue speaking with GSM shop staff when coming up or down the tower.

OLEM

The President explained that scaffolding had been erected for upcoming repairs to the stonework and that there had recently been a structural test on the tower using lasers, performed by the Engineering Department. The Master added that there were now two Guild practices next term owing to the loss of the practice in Lent.

St Clement's

Sam Johnson explained that the centre's work was going well with teaching for ringers from local towers, new learners and sessions aimed at tourists. The bells are all in good condition, though stays are being used quickly, and the new demonstration bell is being put to good use. The Master drew attention to the upcoming Intermediate Practices at the tower. Toby Clifton asked about the Guild's free time at the tower. The Master explained that the Guild still has two free hours a week which are not always being used so members should feel free to organise use of the bells. Catriona Agg informed the meeting that there are district practices at the tower on the third and fourth Sundays of the month respectively focused on rounds and call changes, and plain hunt.

6 Diary Dates

Joint Outing with the OUS, Saturday 24th February 2025 - The Master informed those present that transport information had been sent out and that the OUS was sadly not attending as they had been unable to arrange transport. He explained that there were still plenty of ringers for the towers.

University Sermon Ringing, Sunday 25th February 2025 - The Master asked people to attend the ringing if they were able to because every extra ringer allows more bells to be rung.

Intermediate Practice at St Clement's, Sunday 25th February 2025 - The Master explained that this practice was going to focus on rounds and call changes.

Intermediate Practice at St Clement's - Sunday 2nd March 2025 - A focus for this practice had not yet been decided.

Annual Dinner, Saturday 15th March 2025 - The Master reminded the meeting that the Annual Dinner was being held at Fitzwilliam College and that the deadline for signups was the coming Wednesday at 6pm. Toby Clifton asked if this would be extended. The Master confirmed that there would be no extensions to the deadline this year.

Boat Race Ringing, Sunday 13th April 2025 - The Master commented that Oxford should be organising the towers this year. Amy Dunn confirmed that she had been contacted by the Oxford organiser for tower contacts.

Guild Week, Saturday 16th to Wednesday 22nd August 2025 - The Master explained that Chris Winkless-Clark had sent out details with information about booking a hotel. The President encouraged members to attend, even if only for a few days.

7 Any Other Business

No further items were raised.

With no further business, the President closed the meeting at 21:18.

A S Cooke