

Minutes of the Lent Term Business Meeting held in St. Bene't's Church, Cambridge on Friday 29th January 2016

Members Present

President: R A Smith
Master: R L Anderson
Secretary: I R Diver

OP Bardsley	SP Burr	A Carlotti
MA Corless	JRA Dann	JE Dobson
DCW Richards	JD Shanklin	CJ Spoerer
A Winter		

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

CY Barlow PLH Brooke

2. Minutes of the Michaelmas Business Meeting 2014

OP Bardsley pointed out two typos in the minutes of the Michaelmas meeting, in addition to an incorrect year at the bottom of the minutes. He also requested that the nature of the proposed rule change be added to the minutes, so the last sentence includes 'to extend membership to students at Anglia Ruskin'.

Subject to these changes, the minutes were accepted by the meeting and signed by the President.

3. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. Election of new members

There were no new members to be elected.

5. Cambridge Towers

It was noted that St. Bene't's has new lighting and whitewashed walls following the works over Christmas, and that the Guild will be getting a cupboard there in the near future.

R L Anderson told the meeting that there have been a number of cancelled StAG practices recently due to other bookings in the church. However, O P Bardsley reported that the Guild were able to ring a quarter there recently.

S P Burr told the meeting that if StAG practices continue to be cancelled often, there is the option for the Guild to ring at Sawston. The bells are now back in action and Phil Groman is keen for them to be rung. Therefore it would be possible for the Guild to either ring regular quarter peals there or to hold practices there.

S P Burr also reported that another possible option would be an additional practice at Trumpington. There has been times in the past when two practices per week have occurred at Trumpington and additional practices could be discussed for the Guild if necessary.

R A Smith informed R L Anderson that there is to be a change of arrangements for keyholders at GSM. It is unclear what this will be yet, however.

Finally, R A Smith told the meeting that the seventh at OLEM was repaired by Taylor's in December. Although R A Smith has not rung there since this, there has been a peal at OLEM since and therefore this can be assumed a success.

6. Diary Dates

The following dates for the diary were presented to the meeting:

The Joint Outing will be held in the Luton area, organised by RL Anderson.

7. Any Other Business

LTW Smith reported that a rule change was required as a result of a change made by the Proctors which states all rules must include "a suitable defined disciplinary and appeal procedure". He felt this is a fairly uncontroversial change and key comments which have been received regarding such a rule change are concerned with how this will work, in addition to a tidying of the wording and the process.

JD Shanklin informed the meeting that he intends to propose a rule change to section 3.3a. He intends to propose that the names of candidates for election should be circulated before the meeting along with their proposer and seconder. He emphasised that this did not necessarily have to be 14 days, but could be as little as 3 days. This aims to avoid the superfluity of emails. IR Diver pointed out how well that had been done the previous week.

RA Smith told the meeting that he believes those rule changes to be fine in any combination as they do not conflict with one another.

It was reported to the meeting that any notice of change to the rules had to be given at today's meeting. However, the wording does not need to be confirmed until nearer the time, on the 11th March. A majority vote is required to amend the proposal, whereas a 2/3 majority is required to change the rules. This is one reason why the various different proposals are currently been kept separate. DCW Richards noticed that some may wish to abstain from the vote at the AGM, and in order to do this they must leave the room to avoid being counted as a vote against.

O P Bardsley stated that he had nothing further to add to what was sent to the global email list. The proposal is to change the rules which will broaden full membership to all students in Cambridge as opposed to just matriculated members of Cambridge University. There has been some discussion on the global list with regard to the wording of the proposal. Broadening membership to any ringer undertaking or who has undertaken higher education in Cambridge does not make it clear that people living in Cambridge but undertaking courses elsewhere are not eligible.

R A Smith undertook a brief survey prior to the meeting of those in attendance at Bene't's. Everyone agreed that Anglia Ruskin students should be eligible for full membership and there was near unanimity in other extension cases. However, there was very little support for a new class of members, which was what Rod Lebon had essentially suggested in his email to the global list. The majority supported a compromise however if it made the rule change more likely to pass.

R A Smith highlighted that we need to think about what proposal to take to the AGM. Ultimately the wording is O P Bardsley's decision as he is the one to propose the change, however other members can advise what they think is reasonable.

A lot of comments have been made to R A Smith privately about extending membership to Anglia Ruskin students, but not a blanket extension because the wording because too ambiguous. For these people, specifying a list of places would gain their support.

S P Burr noted that the proposed changes are changing eligibility, not entitlement. Any election still requires a proposer, seconder and a majority vote. The Guild do not necessarily have to elect anyone if they think they do not fit the criteria. He highlighted the example of Bristol, where membership is open to any student in Bristol. Other university societies where this applied include Liverpool, which has very similar wording to O P Bardsley's proposal. Contrary to what some have suggested, S P Burr does not believe this will cause disintegration because these societies are still functioning. There are some universities who list institutions in their rules, but almost all of these also add 'and anyone else'. In S P Burr's opinion, the vast majority are not as exclusive as Cambridge at the moment.

R A Smith reported a comment from Robert Johnson, who suggested the change may create awkward moments. J R A Dann suggested those up for election leave the room, but I R Diver pointed out, and A Carlotti agreed, that if they are not elected they would not come back ringing. S P Burr questioned whether this mattered if they were going to be elected. He suggested more awkward moments are created now when Anglia Ruskin students can ring with the Guild without being members.

J R A Dann suggested that the Guild aims to change the rules to include Anglia Ruskin students this year, and then attempts to widen membership further next year. S P Burr disagreed, stating that membership should be completely open, but he understands not everyone is in agreement.

R A Smith noted that it must be considered the number who will turn up to support the change, and the number who will turn up against it. I R Diver thought that people were more likely to turn up to vote against the change than they were to turn up to support it.

J D Shanklin suggested a slight change to the proposal by O P Bardsley, in which membership is open to matriculated members of Cambridge University, plus O P Bardsley's proposal in whatever form is deemed best, plus university employees, for example post doctorates who are effectively students. He felt this should be worded as 'current employees' because that is what the university centre uses in their criteria. They would be able to keep this membership for life, but this also does not open the floodgates to former employees. O P Bardsley's proposal, on the other hand, allows alumni.

O P Bardsley has formulated four different proposals:

Draft 3a

Paragraph 3.1(a) of the Guild rules should read Full Membership shall be open to (1) matriculated members of Cambridge University and (2) anyone undertaking, or who has undertaken, a course of higher education in Cambridge whilst resident in Cambridge, and shall be for life.

Draft 3b

Paragraph 3.1(a) of the Guild rules should read Full Membership shall be for life, and is open to (i) matriculated members of Cambridge University; (ii) persons undertaking, or who have undertaken, a course of higher education at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge Arts & Sciences Limited, Cambridge Regional College or The Cambridge Theological Federation whilst resident in Cambridge.

Draft 3c

Paragraph 3.1(a) of the Guild rules should read All matriculated members of Cambridge University shall be eligible for Full Membership, which shall be for life. Paragraph 3.1(b) should be inserted The Committee may also, at its discretion, propose for full membership (i) members of Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge Arts & Sciences Limited, Cambridge Regional College and The Cambridge Theological Federation; (ii) non-matriculated members of Cambridge University; (iii) other persons not falling within paragraphs 3.1(a) to 3.1(b)(ii) above, provided that such members constitute no more than 20% of the total membership.

Draft 3d Paragraph 3.1(a) of the Guild rules should read Full membership shall be open to (i) all members of Cambridge University; (ii) anyone undertaking, or who has undertaken, a course of higher education in Cambridge; (iii) current employees of Cambridge University and shall be for life.

3b is more prescriptive, 3c has been taken largely from the wording of the OUS rules, and 3d is essentially what J D Shanklin has suggested.

R A Smith noted that the logistics of deciding on the wording today are difficult. Some have only just seen the proposed changes and might want to think about it. He therefore suggested waiting until the 11th March for a decision. The options should be circulated more widely and comments should be invited. R A Smith also recommended O P Bardsley create a group of people whose opinions would be useful and this group can suggest which wording should go forward. These do not have to be those who agree with O P Bardsley.

R A Smith felt it would be useful if the four possibilities were sent to the list, along with how the change will be managed. Everyone's views will be taken on board, but there will not be a vote at this stage. A Carlotti suggested some overview was sent to the main mailing list for those who are interested but do not want to receive all the emails of O P Bardsley's membership-specific list. J D Shanklin also felt it was important to highlight in this email that the last day for finalising the wording is before the Guild Dinner, as some may wish to discuss it at the Dinner.

I R Diver then raised the matter of the Guild library on behalf of Claire Barlow. She wished to bring up the matter of the library since a plan of action was agreed at the 2014 AGM but nothing has been agreed since. R L Anderson suggested the books are categorised, and then a plan to re-distribute them made. O P Bardsley asked whether the Guild would be selling the books. R L Anderson suggested some would become associated with roles, such as steeplekeeper, and the others would be sold.

J D Shanklin told the meeting that the Guild is soon to be getting a cupboard at Bene't's, which will be large enough for a working library. J R A Dann felt that if the books were in Bene't's the steeplekeeper may be more inclined to use them. R L Anderson brought up the subject of the Ringing Worlds, which will be sold or recycled.

R L Anderson suggested that at the end of term a rota is created and members go through and catalogue the books. A list can then be created with the values of the books in addition. J D Shanklin felt this should be done prior to the end of term because the dinner is approaching and publicising the list and values prior to this meant offers could be generated, and this would speed up the process.

R A Smith noted that if there was a feeling that there is value to keeping some of them, this can be done at GSM, which is as accessible as Claire Barlow's office where the books are currently stored. This is a possibility to consider.

A Winter then discussed this year's Guild Week. This has not been conceived yet as no one has come forward to organise it. S P Burr suggested the Bristol area, which R A Smith supported, as there are plenty of towers which are either prestigious or comedy. R L Anderson suggested Swansea. A Winter would like to visit East Yorkshire in the next half decade, if he is still alive. He would be happy to take the lead on this.

J D Shanklin requested provisional dates, and R A Smith reported Guild Week would take place Saturday 20th – Tuesday 23rd August. This would possibly include one half day at either end. R A Smith asked if this was okay with Alan, who replied that he had not listened to a word R A Smith said.

With no other business, the President closed the meeting at 22:03pm.

I R Diver
22/02/16