

Minutes of the Lent Term Business Meeting held in St. Bene't's Church, Cambridge on Friday 24th January 2014

Members Present

President: C Y Barlow

Master: J R A Dann

Secretary: I R Diver

R L Anderson*	M L D Drinkwater	L Oswald*
O P Bardsley	P Jewell	S Johnson
P L H Brooke	D Mestel*	JD Shanklin

*Elected during the meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

W J Benfold	R C Harwin
R K Flockton	D C W Richards

2. Minutes of the Lent Business Meeting 2013

The minutes had been available online for several months and with no objections they were signed by the President. The minutes of the Lent Term Business Meeting were also signed by the President.

3. Matters Arising

J R A Dann raised the matter of the new Guild website. He had received apologies from D C W Richards that not much progress has been made. The meeting was informed that the calendar on the website now works and can be found via a link on the termcard. It was also noted that there are missing photographs within the Officers section of O P Bardsley, R C Harwin and R K Flockton. I R Diver pointed out there is a picture of O P Bardsley on the website, but O P Bardsley felt it was outdated and needed a new one. D C W Richards had suggested to J R A Dann that the University Sermon on Sunday 9th February would be a good opportunity to take these photographs so a full set could be uploaded to the website.

D C W Richards had also mentioned the issue of up-to-date photographs on the Guild website to J R A Dann. It was noted that there are Guild Week photographs up until 2012 and that any further photographs would be gratefully received. M L D Drinkwater told the meeting he has a collection from Guild Week 2012 from A Griffin. The President added that she also has these photographs and has passed them on to D C W Richards.

D C W Richards suggested in his message to J R A Dann that photographs of the Guild should be hosted on Flickr and that he was also almost ready to add the Guild's peal history to BellBoard.

The President thanked D C W Richards.

O P Bardsley added that the Guild are now on Twitter. The President asked whether this Twitter account is being used and I R Diver noted that both herself and O P Bardsley had been having a conversation with the Guild Twitter account earlier in the day. The President also enquired as to whether a link to this Twitter account would be placed on the Guild website. It was thought that it would probably be added to the new Guild website and that if this was not on the website when D C W Richards completed the new website and it was missing it would be suggested to him.

The President enquired whether M L D Drinkwater had had any success with regard to collecting past Guild photographs. M L D Drinkwater answered that he had had a reasonable response since the Michaelmas Business Meeting but that he still did not have the complete collection. The President proposed that a list of the missing photographs was placed on the Guild website.

4. Election of new members

The following people were elected to membership of the Guild. They were proposed by J R A Dann and seconded by S Johnson:

R L A Anderson (Jesus)
D Mestel (Trinity)

L Oswald (Murray Edwards)

Also elected (proposed by J R A Dann and seconded by P Jewell) was Geoffrey Dann (Corpus Christi, matriculated 1974). It was revealed to the meeting that Geoffrey Dann was J R A Dann's father. J R A Dann explained to the meeting that in his first year his father had tried to attend a Guild practice but had failed to find the way in and instead spent the next three years in the bar. M L D Drinkwater noted that J R A Dann had managed to find both.

All were elected unopposed.

All received a Guild mug, a Guild history and an old Guild history when elected. The President provided Guild ties for the newly elected males (also offered to the female but declined). The President suggested J R A Dann could send a Guild tie to his father.

The President informed the meeting that the Guild should work on reducing their stocks of mugs and histories. P L H Brooke noted that it was a good idea to give them to new members. The President also reminded the meeting that the Guild have a few sweatshirts and polo shirts: they would not be given away, but non-residents could be alerted to their existence and we might perhaps shift some over the Dinner weekend.

I R Diver reminded new members that life membership to the Guild costs £10.

7. Cambridge Towers

It was noted that all the towers are still there.

J R A Dann told the meeting that himself and O P Bardsley had been to look at the bells at StAG the preceding day. The stay on the seven is in need of replacement, but O P Bardsley informed the meeting this would require new bolts as the old ones have rusted. In addition, the ropes on the treble and two are too long.

The President queried the current state of relations with StAG. J R A Dann answered that relations were generally good. O P Bardsley reminded the meeting that there was talk of obtaining a written signed agreement during Michaelmas term, but this had not been done. It was suggested this was obtained whilst relations were good.

The President asked J R A Dann whether it was possible to invite the vicar at StAG to Guild Dinner. J R A Dann replied that the vicar had been invited but had turned down the invitation.

The President raised the subject of the Bene't's bells. J D Shanklin noted that the bells ring nicely when they are rung well.

6. Diary Dates

The following dates for the diary were provided by the Master:

OUS Dinner – 01/02/14

University Sermon: 09/02/14

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OLEM Practice – 05/02/14

No StAG practice – 06/02/14

No StAG practice – 06/03/14

Joint outing with OUS – 22/02/14

Guild Dinner: 15/03/14

The meeting was told that only two Guild members, J R A Dann and S Johnson will be attending the OUS Dinner.

The OLEM practice on 05/02/14 is to replace the cancelled StAG practice the following day.

J R A Dann told the meeting that the joint outing would be to Bedford and that he was looking at four towers.

I R Diver requested that any current student member of the Guild who wanted to come to the dinner replied to their invitation as at the moment only two current students are attending. The President enquired as to when the deadline for replies is, and J R A Dann told the meeting the soft deadline is on the 15th February. The President noted that this may be extended.

The President asked J R A Dann whether a clergy guest had been secured for the dinner. When J R A Dann answered negatively John Binns from GSM was suggested. P L H Brooke informed the meeting John Binns is likely to be busy that day as building work at GSM will have finished that weekend and there is a tea party/open house from 3-5pm. It was also noted that this will include open ringing by the Guild at GSM from 3-4pm. P L H Brooke suggested J R A Dann let people attending the dinner know this ringing opportunity was possible.

10. Any other business

J D Shanklin reported the death of John Pratt, a Guild member. He informed the meeting there has been three quarter peals attempted in his memory. During the first the rope on the fifth came undone so a 720 was scored instead. Two further quarter peals were then rang after Christmas. J D Shanklin sent the details to Arthur Pratt and received thanks.

P L H Brooke reported that in the New Year's Honours a Guild member had been honoured. Frances Kirwan an eminent mathematician became a Dame. He was asked whether it was unique for a Guild member to be honoured, and J D Shanklin replied he was once acknowledged in the New Year's Honours list. It was pointed out that it was not possible for him to be made a Dame, however.

The President suggested something should be rung to honour Frances and asked whether she is coming to the dinner. J R A Dann mentioned the possibility of dedicating the quarter peal on 09/02/14 to her. P L H Brooke is in communication with her but was not sure whether she would be attending the dinner. P L H Brooke told the meeting she is an ex-librarian of the Guild and the President suggested, that since J R A Dann has not yet secured a past master to speak at the dinner, Frances could be a possible alternative. The President felt it would be appropriate for her to speak. P L H Brooke recommended persuading her to attend the dinner first, and then asking her to speak.

With no other business, the President closed the meeting at 21:29.

I R Diver
25/01/13