

Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting held in St. Bene't's Church, Cambridge on Friday 18th October 2013

Members Present

President: C Y Barlow
Master: J R A Dann
Secretary: I R Diver

W J Benfold	E Fisher*	D C W Richards
P L H Brooke	R K Flockton	J D Shanklin
S Burr*	S Johnson	F Sherwood*
M L D Drinkwater		

*Elected during the meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

R C Harwin
O P Bardsley
D Love

2. Minutes of the Lent Business Meeting 2013

The minutes had been available online for several months and there were no objections. The minutes were not present at the meeting and so will be signed by the President at the earliest opportunity.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Relevant matters from the AGM

No matters were reported.

5. Relevant matters from the Guild Week Meeting

The President raised the issue that there were no students at this year's Guild Week, and this had been discussed extensively at the meeting. She suggested it needed to be made more attractive to students, and that they may be deterred by a number of factors including cost, the time of year, the location and the number of students who were also attending. The President expressed that no student should be debarred from attending by cost and that there should be funds available in colleges for such things. She also conveyed that some senior guild members are keen to, and would be prepared to, help financially. It was agreed that this topic was for discussion outside the meeting.

Next year's Guild Week will be based in Durham, 16-23 August 2014, organised by Karen and Rod Lebon.

6. 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:

Stephen Burr (Clare Hall)
William Bosworth (Magdalene)

Emily Fisher (Newnham)
François Sherwood (Trinity)

Also elected (proposed by M Drinkwater and seconded by J D Shanklin) were Carol Backhouse (Jesus) and (proposed by D Love, seconded by J D Shanklin) Professor Jonathan Rawlings (Corpus 1979).

All were elected unopposed.

The form for membership and a request for membership payment will be sent to Professor Jonathan Rawlings via email to Dickon Love.

7. Cambridge Towers

It was noted that building work is currently being undertaken at Great St. Mary's so access for ringers will be through the South door until at least the end of February. It is not known whether there will be any occasions where the Guild will be unable to ring due to the building work.

The meeting was informed that StAG had been reviewing its policies and had written requesting £15 per hour for the Guild's use of the tower to ring the bells, in line with room use charges to other non-church groups. However, the Master was successful in persuading them to waive the fees as a result of the work the Guild does to maintain the bells, so long as they continue to undertake this work.

The President reported that there has been no progress on new rings. Due to recent developments within the St John's decision-making council, the St. John's project is now highly unlikely to go ahead.

8. New website design

The webmaster told the meeting that the Guild website is currently being revamped. The site will be maintained and the relevant information will still be available whilst the site is undergoing refurbishment. The webmaster will upload a prototype of the new site on a non-global server which can be viewed by members of the Guild. Any feedback on the new site design should be emailed to the webmaster. The new site will go live in a few weeks.

Anyone with access to details will be able to edit parts of the site, enabling members to add news and events.

The webmaster also informed the meeting that the photograph section was to undergo substantial improvement as the majority of the photos on the site are outdated and do not contain current members of the Guild. The current photograph page will be replaced by a full gallery section.

The new site will also contain a full calendar, kept up to date with new events as officers will all be able to edit it. The calendar will be exportable as it is a Google calendar and can therefore be downloaded onto android phones and tablets.

The webmaster also stated that the new site will be integrated with Bellboard in order to display recent peals and quarter peals of the Guild on the site.

9. Diary Dates

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

University Sermon: 20/10/13

University Sermon: 3/11/13

SUA Weekend: 8/11/13 - 10/11/13

London Outing: 30/11/13

Guild Dinner: 15/03/14

It was noted that as yet there are no transport arrangements for the SUA, which will be held in Southampton. Train fares to Southampton were deemed too expensive.

10. Any other business

M L D Drinkwater raised the matter of the Guild photo album which he has put together. It contains photos dating back to 1957 (any earlier photos can be found in the University Library). There are still photos missing from some years in the 1960s, 1990s and early 2000s. M L D Drinkwater will circulate a list of the missing years and anyone in possession of any of the missing photos should email them to him. The meeting was also informed that there are digital copies of all the photographs within the album.

It was asked whether the Guild will be doing anything to commemorate three hundred years since the death of Fabian Stedman. It was suggested that the peal taking place at Great St. Mary's on December 7th could be dedicated. In addition, S Johnson suggested that week's Sunday quarter peal at Bene't's could be dedicated.

The Master noted that the stall at the Freshers' Fair was in need of updating. The issues in question are a need for a diagram of ringing and how it works as well as some up-to-date photos of current members of the Guild. The possibility of borrowing a mobile bell in order to provide a model was suggested. Furthermore, the question was raised of whether the Guild could invest in a wooden demonstration model.

The President remarked that the Guild still has a large amount of merchandise in storage. This should be sold in order to reduce stocks. W J Benfold asked for a list of colours of t-shirts and polo shirts to be produced. The list of merchandise will be placed on the new Guild website by the webmaster.

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

I R Diver
26/10/13