

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Boy Smith Room, Cambridge on Sunday 6th May 2018

Members Present

President: R A Smith

Master: J J Wakeling

Secretary: I F E Smith

Benedict M'Caw

Frank King

James Ellison

Sam Johnson

Megan Bardsley

Alistair Benford

Oliver Bardsley

Melissa Nash

Victoria Gray

David Richards

John Hutchinson

Martha Radbourne

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Claire Barlow, Jonathan Shanklin, Clarke Walters and Imogen Diver.

2. Minutes of the Annual General meeting 2017

The minutes were proposed as a true account by Megan Bardsley, seconded by Joe Wakeling. They were accepted unopposed.

3. Matters Arising

Frank mentioned that it would be nice if the library disappeared. The president said that there were a lot of books in the library which are quite expensive. He had taken this list to a book shop but was still waiting for the valuation which he will chase up. He also noted that the majority, but not all, of the books have been digitalised and made available online.

4. Minutes of the Lent term business meeting 2018

5. Matters Arising

Oliver Bardsley mentioned that we are able to elect a new training officer without changing the rules.

6. New Members

The following person was elected to membership of the Guild. They were proposed by Sam Johnson and seconded by Oliver Bardsley:

Ellen Jameson

They were elected unopposed.

7. Cambridge Towers

James Dann entered.

Martha reported that the bells at StAG were still working and there were no problems.

Sam Johnson said that St Bene't's was still exactly the same and not nearly as bad as it seems. He would like to make a campaign to the Guild to increase numbers. The rope on the four has been changed which now means it is stretchier on Fridays than on Sundays. There has been quite good attendances to St Bene't's this year.

Oliver Bardsley reported that GSM was still there but not much had been rung recently because of the 12 bell competition. He also noted that there is going to be work done on the tower over the summer so, it will be out of action, but this probably won't affect Guild ringing too much.

The president said that there had not been much ringing at the Catholic this year, partly due to the bells being out of action for a while as the clock was repaired.

Samuel Johnson said that things were still moving forward at St Clements but there is still quite a way to go.

David Richards reminded everyone that the Remembrance service on Sunday the 11th of November will probably still coincide with the SUA but help from the Guild to ring at StAG would be helpful.

8. Presentation of Accounts

Frank King noted that there was a lot of stochastic variation between years. He said the Guild dinner usually makes a profit and the cheque for the Guild dinner this year hasn't gone through yet.

He mentioned subscriptions last year were 22 but only 6 this year. The Charnborough ring is good but there is quite a loss made on the freshers' fair. Benedict noted that the Charnborough ring is being paid for by the dinner profits.

Joe Wakeling mentioned that training this year was not as well organised. Megan Bardsley said there was not as much interest at the start this year and there were less people signing up at the freshers' fair. Frank king said that recruiting people to ringing was a nationwide problem.

Sam Johnson noted that the freshers' fair was for people from all years. Last year was the first time we had the Charnborough ring which is why we recruited many people from all years.

Oliver Bardsley said we should be quicker at collecting money and getting people to fill the membership form. The consensus was that we want to focus on getting as many people into ringing as possible.

It was all agreed that we just want to make a profit overall and it doesn't matter if the fresher's fair isn't paying for itself.

The secretary noted that there were 3 unpaid cheques: one for the dinner, one for the central council and one for Sam Johnson (which he had forgotten about).

The Accounts were proposed as a true account by James Ellison seconded by David Richards. They were accepted unopposed.

9. Master's Report

The master reminded everyone that we need to make the most of our freshers and get more people in. We have had a good few years of ringing and this year has continued. But, many times at GSM we have been down on numbers. He asked the next committee to think about bringing our numbers up because a small Guild means everyone feels obliged to turn up to everything, which is detrimental to the social side.

He mentioned the Guild should have a training officer and it would be good for the committee to make a plan over summer to be able to hit the ground running at the fresher's fair.

James Ellison voiced that he wanted a poem but the master replied that was for the dinner speech only.

10. Steeple keeper's Report

Nothing to report

11. Election of Officers

Senior Officers

President: Richard Smith, Proposer: Courtney Spoerer, Seconder: Megan Bardsley

Senior Treasurer: David Richards, Proposer: Oliver Bardsley, Seconder: Luke Smith

Accounts Examiner: Frank King, Proposer: Alistair Benford, Seconder: Shirley Lu

Junior Officers

Master: Melissa Nash, Proposer: Megan Bardsley, Seconder: Imogen Diver

Secretary: Imogen Smith, Proposer: Imogen Diver, Seconder: Benedict M'Caw

Assistant Master: John Hutchinson, Proposer: Sam Johnson, Seconder: Joe Wakeling

Steeple keeper: Martha Radbourne, Proposer: James Ellison, Seconder: Oliver Bardsley

Librarian: James Ellison, Proposer: Megan Bardsley, Seconder: Alistair Benford

All were elected unopposed

It was decided that the role of teaching officer would be an elected officer.

Alistair Benford was proposed by Oliver Bardsley and seconded by Sam Johnson.

He was elected unopposed.

David Richards suggested that we made funds available, up to £50, to give the training officer some ART training. This was accepted unopposed.

12. Diary Dates

Guild Week - 17/08/18-22/08/18

Richard Smith said the Guild week was going to be in Kent. He had almost secured student accommodation and he was trying to get a peal at Rochester Cathedral.
(The Guild holiday starts on the 24th of August so doesn't clash).

Richard Smith explained that Guild week has been going many decades. It is a light hearted ringing holiday and you are not expected to ring at all towers. There will be ringing on Friday evening if there is enough people. There are usually 5 towers in a day and we finish at lunchtime on Wednesday. There is cheap accommodation for students. It's pretty inexpensive and you don't have to come to the whole thing. It always feels more social if there is more people your age so it would be nice to see many of you there.

Last StAG practice - 17/05/18

Alternative Dinner - 14/06/18

In a private room in Browns, let Megan Bardsley know if you would like to come.

Ridgman Competition- 16/06/18

Held at St Peter, St Albans. Joe Wakeling will be coordinating for this.

Rounders Match - ?

It was unknown as to whether there was going to be a rounders match organised for May week.

Honorary degrees ringing - 20/06/18

Frank King asked if anyone would be around for the 20th of June, 1:45-2:45pm, to ring on the day of honorary degree presentation.

Youths 12 bell competition - 23/06/18

On Saturday the 23rd June, the Cambridge youths are holding the national 12 bell competition. They would be pleased to have volunteers, there is a link on the website.

13. Any other business

Megan Bardsley would like to hand over the role of webmaster to another student ideally before September (when she is no longer a student). She said it is not much of a time commitment, speak to Megan if you would like to find out more of what the role entails. Joe Wakeling offered to do it if he is still in Cambridge next year.

Oliver Bardsley stated that there was lots of money in the handbell account. He said there had been less reluctance to ring handbells this year. There are lots of handbells, but not in particularly good condition; the only good set are the dinner bells and "heavy 8". He would like to come up with proposals for what could be done. He speculated that we could sell one set to refurbish another. David Richards agreed it was a good plan because the same was done in Histon. It was unknown as to which set would be repaired, possibly the set of 13. The President stated a few names of people or companies he knew that would repair handbells, all with varying prices and time scales. Oliver Bardsley said that he would like to start the ball rolling and further information needs to be gathered but, someone else will need to carry this through as he won't be here this time next year.

Sam Johnson mentioned that he will be replacing Bene't's practice with a GSM simulation practice. This will be more for the Bene't's ringers than the Guild.

The President closed the meeting at 15:00

I F E Smith