

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2011  
Guild Week meeting of the CUGCR  
Old Hall, Girton College, Cambridge

Present:

President (Claire Y Barlow)

Master (Max L D Drinkwater)

Patrick L H Brooke

Chris H Rogers

Brian G Meads

Robin Shipp

Stephen A Elwell-Sutton

A Robin Guy

Chris M P Johnson

M Susan Threlfall

Philip J Earis

Alan J Griffin

Jennifer E Butler

Luke T W Smith

Dickon R Love

Richard A Smith

Wendy Bishop

David Bishop

David C W Richards\*

Stephen A Croxall

Catriona C Shearer

J Rod N Lebon

Jonathan A Agg

David A Jones

Barbara I Le Gallez

Nicholas J H Small

Hilary Muirhead

David J Lynch

Ian G Vincent

T Peter Hearn

F Eric Roberts

(Karen Lebon)

*\*elected during the meeting*

1. Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Jonathan D Shanklin

Richard L Underwood

Brian D Threlfall

Hazel M Rothera

2. Minutes of the last Guild Week meeting were circulated beforehand and have been on the website; they were not read out. They were accepted *nem con.*

3. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last Guild Week meeting.

4. There were some matters arising from the previous academic year:

NJHS corrected a statement made at the AGM that the previous year's transport budget made around £700 profit - it in fact had a surplus of around £200. BILeG has been made aware of this and knows it will be acceptable to make a small loss on Guild Week this year. Any surplus is returned to Guild funds. The meeting was made aware of a previous suggestion to donate surplus to a suitable local guild or society for their hospitality.

An inquiry was made into the progress of repairing Guild handbells. There is work ongoing to raise money but no major steps taken at present. PLHB reported that the Guild is setting aside a yearly insurance quota to self-insure the handbells and potentially provide for such repair.

The President announced that she has drafted some changes to the current rules. She invited people to request a copy of the changes from her for comment. The intention is to put the changes forward at the next Lent Term business meeting to vote on at the next AGM.

5. No comment was made on any current Cambridge towers. There was a report and discussion on the present state of the project at St John's. CMPJ spoke as follows:

In March 2009 the council set four targets to be reached before it would recommend the project to the Governing Body for approval:

- (a) independent engineering advice should be taken to confirm that ringing bells will not endanger the tower or chapel;
- (b) confirmation is needed that the bells can be made sufficiently inaudible in or near the Chapel;
- (c) all ringing must be under the control of the College authorities rather than the Guild;
- (d) a more precise estimate of the cost is required.

Fulfilling the first of these, Barry R M Johnson performed an independent analysis (CMPJ can send a copy of his report to anyone who is interested) concluding that he was satisfied that the tower was structurally sound. His report recommends an internal structure to support the bell frame which is particularly suitable for sound control, and his conclusions are supported by work by an acoustic consultant Mr Tim Lewers. Estimates indicated that the current cost might be in the region of £400,000.

The council also considered letters from the CCCBR, including one from BGM as chairman of the committee of the Ringing Foundation.

The council was satisfied on all criteria and recommended the project to the Governing Body for approval at its next meeting.

At that meeting there was discussion but a vote was not taken, so the project remains unresolved until an undefined future date. Informal discussion with members of the Governing Body has indicated that if the money for the project were on the table, the project would be likely to go ahead. The conclusion is that full responsibility for fundraising lies with the Guild; CMPJ would not be willing to undertake this task.

BGM confirmed that the Ringing Foundation approves of such a teaching centre as the Guild should be sure to establish at St John's if the project were to go ahead; he compared the work done at Worcester Cathedral. RS on behalf of the Ringing Trends committee added that teaching centres were going to be vital to the existence of the Exercise. BILeG asked that any teaching centre be made available to the wider EDA as well. PLHB suggested efforts be concentrated on making GSM into an up-to-date teaching centre instead.

Other options for the St John's project were discussed; this discussion is encouraged to continue outside the meeting.

6. Two new members were elected:

David C W Richards (St John's 1997)

Naomi Laredo (Newnham 1974)

Proposed by the Master, seconded ARG, elected *nem con*.

7. BILeG made some administrative announcements about the current Guild Week. She apologised for the lack of washbasins in rooms and has been in discussion with the college; she has a verbal agreement that a discount will be given.

AJG proposed a vote of thanks to BILeG for her hard work in organising the week, and applause was offered. BILeG asked to thank NJHS also.

8. Future Guild Weeks are to be held as follows:

2012 - IGV has booked St John's Theological College, Bramcote, Nottingham for 18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> August. There is no bar but we can bring our own beer and IGV has a contact at a local brewery. Camping is available but there is no provision for cooked breakfast. Continental breakfast will be available and IGV would be interested to know whether 2 or 3 courses are preferred in the evening. The cost per night will probably be a little lower than this week.

2013 - there are no further plans for Guild Weeks and no-one in the room volunteered. NJHS suggested Sussex. A week in Durham organised by LTWS was suggested; SAC may have further

contacts. JNRL is in principle willing to organise a Guild Week, but not in the immediate future. The urgency of the matter was brought to the meeting's attention as accommodation is likely to be booked up any later than 18 months in advance.

9. Other upcoming dates include:

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2011 - SUA to be hosted by Cambridge

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2011 - London outing (details to follow)

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012 - dinner in Selwyn College

10. There were three items of Any Other Business:

AJG asked that people take their photos.

DRL invited people to contact him about ringing *in memoriam* Mark Jones, who died of a rare form of cancer this year. He is organising a day of peal ringing on 11<sup>th</sup> February around Chiselhurst, where Mark is interred, as 14<sup>th</sup> would have been Mark's birthday. It is DRL's wish, as it would have been Mark's, that the peal fees be donated to the Sarcoma Cancer Trust.

CCS asked that people buy Guild mugs at £4 each.

With no further business the meeting closed.

MLDD and CYB 24/08/11