

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Boys Smith Room, St. John's College,
Cambridge on Sunday 1st May 2016

Members Present

Master: R L Anderson

Minute Taker: J R A Dann

JA Agg	OP Bardsley	CY Barlow	PLH Brooke	AJ Carlotti	MA Corless*
JE Dobson	MLD Drinkwater	JHJ Ellison	SD Johnson	FH King	CC Shearer
LTW Smith	JJ Wakeling	SC Walters			

*Associate member, elected to full membership during the meeting.

The Master was in the chair and the meeting opened at 14:20.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

SP Burr	IR Diver	RK Flockton	DCW Richards	JD Shanklin	LDG Simpson
TK Simpson	RA Smith				

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2015

The minutes had been available online for several months and with no objections they were signed by the Master. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by OP Bardsley and seconded by RL Anderson.

3. Matters Arising from the Annual General Meeting 2015

FH King enquired about the process of selling the Guild library. RL Anderson reported that there had been no progress. A group of people is needed to check the library against the list held by CY Barlow, and then it might be possible to sell the library in the coming year. Selling the library to an independent bookseller has been suggested, as has selling it at the Guild dinner. FH King suggested asking a bookseller for a valuation, which will usually be free and could save cataloguing. SC Walters agreed that getting a valuation would be useful, but opined that the library should be catalogued first. He suggested that the library should initially be offered to Guild members, using the valuation to give a guide price for books, before being sold to a bookseller or advertised in the Ringing World.

FH King pointed out that rare books are not going up in value as quickly as they used to, and might even be coming down.

RL Anderson asked who sells ringing books. SC Walters replied that there are two who've dealt a lot with ringing books. FH King suggested that Amazon might sell them.

OP Bardsley informed the meeting that the Guild now has a shelf in the ringing room at St Bene't's, so some books can be kept. CY Barlow suggested that the books needed for a working library should be decided and moved to St Bene't's immediately. FH King asked if the cupboard is lockable, to which JRA Dann replied that it is lockable but not secure enough to store anything particularly valuable.

4. Matters Arising from the Lent Term Business Meeting 2016

There no matters arising from the Lent Term Business Meeting.

5. Election of new members

JA Spencer (Robinson) was elected unopposed to membership of the Guild. He was proposed by OP Bardsley and seconded by JRA Dann.

6. Cambridge Towers

RL Anderson reported that the ringing room at Bene't's has been redone and is now much nicer. MA Corless pointed out that the new ropes on the third and fourth are still stretchy, and are possibly getting worse.

RL Anderson reported that relations with StAG are OK. Although the church was unavailable for three practice nights during Lent Term, Easter Term seems better, and we were able to have open ringing there on Dinner Day. OP Bardsley pointed out that we have also had several quarter peal slots at StAG.

SC Walters enquired about the states of the proposed projects to put bells in St. John's and Michaelhouse. PLH Brooke reported that the Michaelhouse project has come to nothing, and that BRM Johnson is now investigating putting bells in St. Clement's. SD Johnson said that this looks promising, and that BRM Johnson wants to make it a ringing teaching centre. CY Barlow reported that the John's project has also been abandoned, as the senior member most opposed to it has been elected to Council, and the Guild was advised that the project was therefore not worth pursuing.

7. Presentation of Accounts

RL Anderson read out to the meeting notes on the accounts provided by IR Diver. The Guild Dinner was expected to cost ~£3000. VAT is being discussed with Selwyn. JRA Dann was still owed some money for the Guild Breakfast. £94 was still needed from SJ Ward, but all other payments had been received.

FH King thanked IR Diver for her excellent work on the accounts. He also pointed out that the regular expenses of the freshers' fair, Ringing World subscription and CCCBR fees amount to £160 per year, whereas this year the Guild has received only £50 in subscriptions. All the money made by the Guild, including that just needed to cover routine expenses, is from the Dinner, which is likely to become less profitable in future. RL Anderson asked if the Guild receives any money from the University for ringing for University Sermons etc. FH King explained that the University pays the SCY £500 a year for all such ringing, but nothing to the Guild. The University does subsidise societies for such expenses as equipment, however we do not have many expenses like that.

PLH Brooke enquired as to why the dinner payment is so late. RL Anderson explained that the college didn't send the invoice, and then had to send another as there was a problem with the VAT.

JA Agg asked why the accounts had nothing for the Guild photo, and therefore if there was a year missing a photo. It was explained that two photos will be done at once.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by OP Bardsley and seconded by LTW Smith. The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

8. Master's Report

RL Anderson provided the meeting with a report on the previous year. In Easter term last year, the Guild won the annual rounders match against the SCY, had the alternative dinner at Girton and went punting during May Week.

In Michaelmas term, we gained at least 6 freshers. The London outing was well attended and widely enjoyed, as was Christmas dinner hosted by OP Bardsley and MA Corless. Over the New Year, IR Diver hosted Guild New Year in Flitwick.

In Lent term, there were fewer practices at StAG, as the church was booked up quickly that term. Several students travelled to Oxford for the OUS dinner. Lent term also saw the joint outing with the OUS, this year organised by RL Anderson to the Luton and Dunstable area; relations with the OUS are currently good. The Guild dinner was held at Selwyn, attended by a good number of Guild members and several representatives from the OUS.

Over the Easter vacation, a student band travelled to London to ring a quarter peal for the Boat Race. This was a joint day with a band from the OUS who rang another quarter peal at the same time.

Throughout the year, the resident Guild has enjoyed various social activities, such as formals, film nights and curries.

9. Steeplekeeper's Report

SD Johnson read his report to the meeting. The bells at St Andrew the Great have been inspected twice in the last year. Several stay nuts were tightened, but no other immediate action was needed. However, the pulley blocks on several bells (3, 4, 5 & 7) have become worn and no longer turn freely. No signs of damage were seen on the ropes, but they should be inspected regularly. The clapper on the 5 has become slightly wobbly and needs to be tightened. This job will require some new tools (a large enough spanner and a split pin) and it was suggested that it should be done with the assistance of someone experienced. Finally, it was pointed out that whenever the trap door into the bell chamber is closed, care should be taken that it is not placed such that it interferes with the rope of the 2.

10. Election of Officers

The following nominations had been received for senior officers:

President

RA Smith	Prop: RL Anderson	Sec: JHJ Ellison
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Senior Treasurer

DCW Richards	Prop: JRA Dann	Sec: IR Diver
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Accounts Examiner

FH King	Prop: OP Bardsley	Sec: IR Diver
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The senior officers were all elected unopposed.

The following nominations for junior officers had been received:

Master

OP Bardsley Prop: RL Anderson Sec: IR Diver

Secretary

JHJ Ellison Prop: IR Diver Sec: JRA Dann

Assistant Master

JJ Wakeling Prop: OP Bardsley Sec: JHJ Ellison

Steeplekeeper

MP Sheasby Prop: JRA Dann Sec: JE Dobson

Librarian

JE Dobson Prop: JJ Wakeling Sec: RL Anderson

The junior officers were all elected unopposed.

The Master thanked the outgoing officers.

11. Diary Dates

The following dates were noted:

- 05/05/16 – Ringing for Ascension Day
- 05/05/16 – Last StAG practice before exams
- 06/05/16 – Last Bene't's practice before exams
- 14/05/16 – Guild Photo
- 22/05/16 – Ringing for University Sermon
- 04/06/16 – Ridgman Competition at Daventry
- 08/06/16 – Alternative Dinner (Robinson)
- 10/06/16 – Practice at Bene't's
- ??/06/16 – Rounders vs. SCY
- 20/08/16 – 24/08/16 – Guild Week in Bristol

RL Anderson highlighted the need for ringers on Ascension Day to ring handbells in St. John's.

The meeting was told that the method for the Ridgman Competition is Erin Caters, and that a band had not yet been found.

RL Anderson said that she had not discussed the date of the rounders match. OP Bardsley said that it would likely be on 12/06/16.

JA Agg reported that there will be no clappers at GSM on 05/06/16 and that this would be confirmed the week before.

RL Anderson drew attention to the Guild Photo on 14/05/16. This was scheduled to be in Clare College Fellows' Garden at 15:30. LTW Smith enquired about the photo being on a Saturday rather than a Sunday; he was told that this was because too many people were going to be away on the Sunday. RL Anderson also pointed out that two photos would be taken, for the years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.

12. Any Other Business

A rule change had been proposed by OP Bardsley and seconded by CY Barlow on 11th March 2016. This had been left off the agenda, so was discussed under AOB. OP Bardsley informed the meeting that the rule changes proposed by LTW Smith at the Lent Term Business Meeting had not been brought to the AGM, so the case to be used for Rule 5 in his proposal was the second case, that LTW Smith's rule changes are not approved.

FH King pointed out that the rule change in its proposed form would result in two paragraphs numbered 3.1(b). He therefore proposed an amendment to the rule change to relabel paragraph 3.1(b) to 3.1(c), 3.1(c) to 3.1(d), and 3.1(d) to 3.1(e). After a brief discussion, RL Anderson seconded the amendment and it was passed unanimously.

RL Anderson invited discussion of the proposed rule changes. SC Walters asked to hear the reasoning behind the proposed rule change before making a comment. OP Bardsley explained that MA Corless has come to Cambridge in her first year at Anglia Ruskin University and will be ringing with us regularly, so it seems unfair that she doesn't have the same rights. RL Anderson contributed that MA Corless is a great addition to the Guild, and that having more members is useful for the Guild; officers are currently being "recycled" and having more members would give more choice for officers and put less pressure on unwilling people. JRA Dann also pointed out that the Guild is unusual among university societies by being exclusive. PLH Brooke stated that MA Corless is not the first able ringer who is also an ARU student to ring with the Guild regularly, and the fact that they're not fully welcome is to the detriment of the Guild, so the rule change will make the Guild stronger.

SC Walters commented that when he was up, a ringer from Homerton (which was not then a part of the University) rang with the Guild. Peals were rung for the EDA or St Andrew's Society, which happened for a long time. He liked the common background of current full members coming from being matriculated members of the University and wanted to keep it that way. He had heard comments from some old members being surprised at the proposed rule changes. He clarified that he had nothing against MA Corless, or any past or future members from ARU or similar, and would support a Cambridge Students' Society. He finally mentioned that he thought it would be better to open membership to ARU students and similar from now on, rather than using the wording "who have undertaken". JRA Dann responded to the final point that the rationale was to give past students the same opportunity as past Cambridge University students.

The proposal for the new paragraph 3.1(b) was discussed. SC Walters recalled a mention of notice being given for the proposal of members covered by 3.1(b). AJ Carlotti recalled a suggestion from a business meeting that notice should be given for all members. PLH Brooke suggested that notice could be given at the same time as the notice of the meeting at which they would be proposed, for members covered by 3.1(b) only. FH King suggested that such notice could be a recommendation of the AGM but not be in the rules, as it was too late to make such a major change to the proposed rule changes. This suggestion was met with general approval.

AJ Carlotti mentioned that he had found JD Shanklin's proposed rule change, and asked what had

happened to that. JRA Dann informed him that that proposal had been dropped.

RL Anderson called for a vote on the change to rule 3. With 14 votes for and 1 against, the rule change was passed.

SC Walters asked how rule 5 would work with nominations and ensuring that the majority of officers are matriculated members. JRA Dann responded that nominations are discussed in advance of the AGM, so that can be worked out prior to the meeting if it is ever possible to be an issue.

Votes on rules 5 and 6 were both passed unanimously with 15 votes for and 0 against.

FH King suggested a refinement for rule 3. He distributed a prepared document setting out the suggestion and went through it. His argument was that, because the new wording is inelegant, a member of Cambridge University is not well defined and the intention is to be non-discriminatory, the rules could be further changed to open full membership to anyone. He reasoned that being open to anyone does not mean that people could be forced on us, as new members would still need to be proposed, seconded and voted on. He pointed out that most university societies are open to anyone, including, for example, cricket. He suggested that such a rule change should be thought about for the future. In his opinion, such a change would only enhance the Guild's catchment of good ringers, and would strengthen the Guild. He finally pointed out that the Society of Cambridge Youths is open to anyone, but people do not join unless they ring with them regularly.

OP Bardsley agreed with FH King's suggestion, saying that it was what he had wanted to do, but he had been pragmatic and decided to get something passed now which would work, given that MA Corless will only be in Cambridge for another two years.

OP Bardsley proposed for full membership MA Corless (Anglia Ruskin) and GJ Pearce (Pembroke), both seconded by JRA Dann. JA Agg asked who GJ Pearce was and why he was being proposed for membership under AOB; OP Bardsley explained that he only wanted to be a member if the rule change passed, and that he rings at Trumpington and is secretary of the Cambridge district of the EDA. Both were voted in without objection.

JA Agg asked where the handbells were. RL Anderson said that she had the dinner touch set with her to give to OP Bardsley. JRA Dann reported that he had a set in his room, LTW Smith informed the meeting that there was a set in GSM, and that he had Bruce. He also mentioned that the set in GSM is starting to go mouldy. FH King asked if that is a Guild set; LTW Smith explained that there are two sets in GSM, one of which belongs to the Guild and one of which belongs to the SCY, and that the mouldy one is the one belonging to the Guild.

FH King mentioned that the list of assets is sent to the proctors but not checked. He also pointed out that some assets on the list are stock rather than assets, and noted that no merchandise had been sold in 2015/16. AJ Carlotti said that he had not heard anything about merchandise, to which CC Shearer responded that a list of merchandise used to be sent out with the dinner invitation. FH King enquired about the location of the merchandise. RL Anderson replied that RA Smith has most of it. LTW Smith said that he has some badges. FH King stated that we should know where the assets are; RL Anderson suggested that that should be a job for the incoming committee. CY Barlow pointed out that the assets list is incorrect, in that there are a whole box of new histories, clarifying that by "new" she meant "newer than the old ones".

LTW Smith commented that the minutes for meetings are available but not read out. He suggested sending an email telling people that minutes are available. FH King suggested alternatively sending everything out as a PDF.

OP Bardsley raised the issue of the Guild website. DCW Richards is stepping down as webmaster and the site has not had any updates for a long time, so needs updating. MA Corless had said that she might try to do something. MA Corless said that DCW Richards had offered to help with the technical side. AJ Carlotti asked how the website is hosted. MLD Drinkwater answered that the website is no longer hosted by the University due to security issues; JA Agg elaborated that it was moved in about 2010, and that LDG Simpson was involved.

With no other business, RL Anderson declared the meeting closed at 15:43.