

**Minutes of the Lent Term Business Meeting held in St Bene't's Church, Cambridge on
Friday 23rd February 2018**

Members Present

President : R A Smith

Master : J J Wakeling

Secretary : I F E Smith

Luke Smith	James Ellison	Nathaniel Vilas*
Melissa Nash	Martha Radbourne	Peter Davis
Victoria Gray	John Hutchinson	Jonathan Shanklin
Alistair Benford	Benedict M'Caw	Sam Johnson

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Oliver Bardsley and Richard Andrewes.

2. Minutes of the Michaelmas term business meeting 2017

'Peter Davis' should be corrected to 'Peter Daws'.

The minutes with these amendments were proposed as a true account by the Master and seconded by John Hutchinson. They were accepted unopposed.

3. Matters Arising

Peter Daws said that no progress has been made on the library. Richard Smith replied that he is still working on selling some of the books.

The Master mentioned that the proposed changes to the 2017 Lent term business meeting minutes had not been changed and should be changed.

4. Election of New Members

The following people were elected to membership of the Guild. They were proposed by Benedict M'Caw and seconded by Sam Johnson:

Nathaniel Vilas
Štefan Stanko

All were elected unopposed

5. Teaching Officer's report

Oliver Bardsley provided a teaching report (attached to end of minutes) which was agreed to be correct by those who had learnt to ring with the Guild. Sam Johnson mentioned that work needs to be

done under 'smart ringer' (a website, as part of a teaching scheme, to keep track of new ringers being taught by a group of ringers).

Oliver Bardsley has taken over from Megan Bardsley as training officer. A proposal was made to introduce the role of teaching officer as a junior officer role. Oliver Bardsley provided a detailed list of what this role should involve but, like the other officer roles, it was suggested that we don't have a full description of the role. Oliver Bardsley is going to be asked to draft a few lines to put into the rule book. Sam Johnson said it would be nice to have an AGM without a controversial rule change. Oliver Bardsley, Megan Bardsley, Sam Johnson and others were thanked for their teaching of new ringers over the years.

6. Cambridge towers

Sam Johnson said that Bene't's still exists otherwise we would be getting cold. He said the bells are still as much as they were. The 2 and 3 are looking a bit frayed and the 4 has started fraying so we may need to change the ropes soon. He stated that we do have spare ropes. Joe Wakeling mentioned that the 2 was dropping a few weeks ago but Sam Johnson said it was fine. Jonathan Shanklin said we now have new boxes which he organised before handing over to Sam. There is an ongoing argument on the length of the 4.

Martha Radbourne reported that the bells at StAG were fine when they were checked before the Michaelmas meeting. Benedict M'Caw said that they were fine at the practice on Thursday.

Richard Smith reported that the bells at GSM were still there.

Richard Smith said that the clock at 'the catholic' is still knackered but not enough to stop ringing.

Sam Johnson reported on the project at St Clements. He said the project, to use St Clements as a ringing teaching centre, is still ongoing and moving slowly forward. They are in the stages of raising money.

7. Diary Dates

University Sermon-11/03/18

Guild Dinner at Downing- 17/03/18

Joe Wakeling said that we have some speakers. Phil Barnes is the guest speaker and he is still looking for a past master. Joe Wakeling mentioned that there are a couple of peal slots and there will be at least one peal, a few quarter peals plus standard ringing.

AGM-06/05/18

Joe Wakeling asked about how to book the room for the AGM. James Ellison replied that the secretary (Imogen Smith) had notes on how to do this.

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

The President stated that the Guild week dates are as above: From the Friday evening until lunchtime on Wednesday. He said that he has not made much progress in planning, if any, since the last meeting. He needs to urgently sort accommodation, and is going to try and find a church hall in a big city in Kent, such as Rochester or Maidstone. He emphasised that it would be good to have a healthy crop of students. There is ringing at typically 5 towers in a

day and no obligation to go to everything. Joe Wakeling also mentioned that there was a significant number of pub trips too. Richard Smith said that if there was adequate demand there will be quarter peals and peals and there is no urgency to make a commitment to come (it is ok to only give a couple of days notice).

8. Any other business

Sam Johnson mentioned that he had done his C2 safe guarding training. He said that St Bene't's is asking about data protection and trying to see what data he knows due to the new EU data protection act coming in. This affects all systems that hold data in a systematic database however, the President said he didn't think the act will be a big problem for the Guild. Sam Johnson said that people just need to give consent when giving personal information and need to be able to have this information removed if they would like.

The President closed the meeting at 21:35

I F E Smith

Teaching Report

Lent term business meeting

23.2.2018

Oliver P Bardsley

As I am unable to attend the meeting in person (please accept my apologies) I thought I would instead write a few words on teaching within the CUGCR – past, present and future. First of all, a huge thank you to everyone who's helped out with teaching so far this year – it's been another great effort from a large number of people, and a lot of progress has been made. I'm pleased to say we have a good number of enthusiastic learners at the moment; probably not quite as many as last year, but I think the teaching activities of the Guild are nevertheless in good health. Below, I discuss aspects of the teaching this year which have gone well, not so well, and outline a few of my thoughts on the future.

Successes

- **Recruitment** – in terms of number of people signing up to our mailing list at the freshers' fair – has remained very strong, thanks to the decision by the master to use the Charmborough Ring again.
- **Teaching skills** continue to improve for both new and experienced teachers in our ranks. In my opinion our enthusiasm is one of our greatest assets – all teachers are very keen to spread their love of ringing.
- **ART** accreditation is on the way, and the Johnsons have been working hard towards it – see below.
- **Handbells** are ever so gradually gaining traction amongst learners, and the wider Guild.

Shortcomings

- **Organisation** has been a little off-the-mark this year, for which I take full responsibility. Fundamentally, I haven't been able to make it to as many sessions due to other commitments (cf. this evening!) so my involvement has ended up being somewhat patchy.
- **More flexibility** in practice times would be very useful. We have two weekly practice slots at rigidly fixed times, so it ends up being that most learners are coming at most once a week, and often with large gaps between lessons. Some enthusiastic learners haven't been along this term simply because we don't fit with their other commitments. If we could offer more flexible times for lessons (ideally without increasing the workload on teachers!) learners would progress much faster. (This might work best with one-to-one learner-teacher relationships.)
- **Social inclusion** remains "the problem that can't be solved". We need to get learners coming to the pub, but the best time to do tied-bell practices is before regular ringing. A solution to this problem (which doesn't sap even more time from our already time-generous teachers) would be the Holy Grail. Discuss.

Short-term goals

- **Enrol** learners who aren't yet members of CUGCR.
- **First quarter peals** are on the cards for a number of learners.
- **Appoint** a co-opted officer in charge of teaching, in a similar vein to the webmaster or address book keeper, with responsibilities the same as those of the suggested full junior officer below.
- **ART tasks**
 - Signing SDJ off as an accredited teacher

- Setting up a SmartRinger account with a generic email address to keep all our Learning the Ropes ringers in the same place with multiple people able to access it. I think teaching@cugcr.org.uk already exists and should be used for this.
 - Completion of accreditation for others who attended the ART Module 1 day.
 - ...BRMJ will probably have some more!
- **Photos** of teaching would be useful for the website and recruitment material.

Long-term goals

- **A teaching officer** is, I think, the best way of making sure teaching carries on as an important part of the Guild (assuming, of course, that this is what we want!). The responsibilities associated with teaching are in my mind too great to expect the master or ass master to do it as a sideline to everything else. The remit would be something like...
 - Organise and run weekly teaching sessions.
 - Along with the master/secretary, organise recruitment efforts at the freshers' fair (and beyond?).
 - Organise special sessions (have-a-go at the start of Michaelmas, boot camp at the start of Lent, and/or others...).
 - Arrange ART days, or scope out nearby sessions, in order to teach new teachers. Encourage ringers to get involved in teaching.
 - Oversee progress of learners and accreditation of teachers via the Learning the Ropes scheme.
 - Liaise with the Society of Cambridge Youths (i.e. BRMJ) on activities related to the Cambridge teaching hub - joint SCY/CUG teaching activities may be beneficial.
 - Connect learners to their local towers over the holidays (this is very useful - so long as you pick the local tower carefully!)
 - Arrange progressive quarter peals for learners.
- **ART teaching hub** accreditation will be a useful asset. BRMJ is taking the lead on this, and the idea is that it would be a hub for all Cambridge rather than a specific tower or association. That's basically GSM and Bene't's at the moment, but this may well be expanded in the future. It'll allow us to follow ART procedure (i.e. use the Learning the Ropes scheme) without having absolutely everyone accredited as an ART teacher - assuming the teaching is being overseen by an accredited mentor. Perhaps more importantly, it's a "badge of honour" which we can put on our wall/website/freshers' leaflet, which shows we're recognised teachers.
- **An ART Module 2F/2C day** might be quite fun. It's all about how to teach elementary change ringing skills (i.e. from rounds to bob doubles), something which I don't think we're very good at - and a stage we have quite a few learners at right now. I think Lesley Boyle might be able to take this course so it could be quite easy to sort out if we wanted.
- **St Clements** - I think the Guild should have this project in the back of its collective mind, as it will be a great enabler for our teaching activities. How do we want to be involved in the project? What do we want to get out of it? How would we like to see the tower run? How will it affect our existing ringing diet? These are perhaps questions for contemplation.

Ideas

- **Strictly Come Bellringing** - maybe the title needs some work. A lot of us have non-ringing friends who are interested in what ringing's all about. Might be fun to have a "bring your friend to bellringing" practice and introduce them to it - could be a good avenue for recruits, plus an opportunity to have a go at teaching in a friendly environment.

- **Swaps** are not something we've really done before, possibly because we're scared our hobby is too weird. But there are plenty of societies out there which are equally weird - so why not get together over formal and convince them to give ringing a try?