

Minutes of the Lent Term Business Meeting held in St Bene' t's Church, Cambridge on Friday 28th February 2020

Members Present

President: R A Smith

Master: E Hopper

Secretary: J H J Ellison

Jonathan Shanklin

Samuel Johnson

Christopher Winkless-Clark

Melissa Nash

David Richards

John Hutchinson

Dima Szamozvancev

Jonathan Nash

Shirley Lu

Ed Gardener

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Greg Chu, Harry Rodgers and Andrew Johnson.

2. Minutes of the Michaelmas term business meeting 2020

Jonathan Nash's name in section 9 was corrected to "Jonathan Nash" rather than "Johnathan Nash" as in the original.

With this correction, the minutes were proposed as a true account by Christopher Winkless-Clark and seconded by Melissa Nash. They were accepted unopposed.

3. Matters Arising

3a. Report on the Library move

Greg Chu (librarian) sent a report to the meeting stating that:

The library's move to OLEM is currently scheduled for 1730 the upcoming Tuesday, (March 3rd), meeting initially at Claire Barlow's office at Newnham to collect the books before moving them with Paul Seaman to OLEM. Greg Chu asks for one or two volunteers to assist with the move. The volunteers are likely to be most helpful if they meet at OLEM before 1830.

Greg Chu states that the President should have an update on the additional bookcase (or two) which are still to be installed. If the bookcases are not in place by then, the plan is to store the surplus in the window reveals temporarily. These items will likely be the bounded Ringing World volumes.

Greg Chu offers many thanks to Claire Barlow, Paul Seaman and the President for their part in organising this.

The President clarifies that the plan is to move the books into the current bookcases, then assess how much additional space is needed, then to get additional bookcases as required. The void is another possible storage location for any books that do not fit.

3b. Ringing World Collection

The Secretary reminded the meeting of the issue of the ever-growing collection of Ringing Worlds. It was decided that it would be best to defer the decision to the next meeting when a better idea of the storage space at OLEM was available. Furthermore, there was a discussion on the possibility of binding the currently loose Ringing Worlds. The President states there are two general methods for binding the Ringing Worlds. The "DIY" version uses a bradel to pass a leather cord through the book and attach a "leather case", it takes about 20 minutes for each year and is much cheaper than professional binding. The alternative is professional binding. There is also the option to put them in an A4 lever arch file. It was also suggested that they may no longer be worth keeping (considering they are available electronically, the collection is not complete and the UL has a complete collection). The meeting again felt it was best to defer a decision to the next meeting when more information on shelf space is available. John Hutchinson requested that the Ringing Worlds be brought to some practices. The Master states that she will endeavour to do so and will redirect the Ringing Worlds to John Hutchinson if he wished. John Hutchinson declined the redirection. A discussion ensued about the biodegradable properties of the ringing world covers. It was concluded that the covers are not as biodegradable as the meeting hoped.

3c. Guild Week

The President is organising Guild Week this year in Shropshire; some towers are now booked. It will be the 7th to 12th August. The President was looking to go to a smaller town, south of Shrewsbury, following the success of Jonathan Shanklin's approach this year. The President is again planning to organise a church hall for students/money-strapped recent graduates but will need to find a suitable location. If this plan does not work out, then staying in Shrewsbury is the fallback.

The President is looking to restart the organisation of peals during Guild Week, specifically targeting a peal at St Chad's (twelve bell) on the Saturday morning. The idea is to encourage those who do not usually come on Guild Week to be interested in the peals being rung. The meeting generally agreed that this was a good idea to strengthen Guild Week. It was confirmed that there would still be towers in the morning, but they are likely to be six bell. The President notes that the week may go briefly over the Welsh border.

John Hutchinson asks if the public transport connections are good. The President confirmed that all the towns he had looked at had access to a train line, although he does not consider it a necessity, as many of the towns where the first towers of the day have stations, and therefore people may join at that point if they wish.

Henry Lewis has suggested going to visit an Italian cast ring of 8 at Stoke St Milborough. These will be hung for full-circle ringing by Matthew Higby.

3d. ART Module 2 course funding outcome

Melissa Nash reported that the Guild paid for 8 people to do the ART module 2c (rounds to methods). The Societies Syndicate was contacted, but unfortunately, we were too late for the Michaelmas deadline and cannot apply retrospectively. Rebecca Harwin (who previously had been on the Syndicate's committee) confirmed this was not negotiable.

Sam Johnson and the President stated that they thought that it was a good course and an excellent use of Guild funds.

3e. Access to bell chamber at GSM

Jonathan Shanklin reports that a key safe has been bought for GSM. Sam Johnson and Johnathan Shanklin now have keys to the safe, thus resolving the issue of only having one key.

The meeting was updated that Frank King has had two additional keys cut. One of these keys would be given to a designated Guild member from October to July. Frank King is going to write a list of rules for this. Once rules are complete (likely to be in the next two months) the keys will be given to a designated person, this is likely to be Sam Johnson for the time being.

The meeting considers this very satisfactory.

4. New Members

The following people were elected to membership of the Guild. They were proposed by Samuel Johnson and seconded by Melissa Nash:

Alistair Burton (Clare)

Thomas Williamson (St Johns)

Autumn Pinto (Newnham)

Elmar Rollings (Trinity Hall)

Rachel Orrell (Robinson)

Simon Westripp (Girton)

Yanke Song (Corpus Christi)

Surya Mathialagan (St. Catherine's)

Brendan Hollaway (St. Johns)

Edward Gardner (Associate member)

All were elected unopposed.

5. Cambridge towers

Christopher Winkless-Clark reports the slider on the 3rd at STAG is fixed as of week 3. Taylor's was phoned, and they recommended that a new hole be drilled in the slider. This was done and allowed the slider to be fitted. It was noted that the nut and bolt are rather tight. Christopher Winkless-Clark is conscious of this and will check on the situation over time. It has been working so far, and a peal has been rung on it. Further, around week 2 the rope on the 4th snapped at the tail end around the splice. This was swapped for the rope on the 2nd to give a ringable 6. A rope has been borrowed from GSM for the time being. This will be staying on until the day after dinner day when it will be taken off and returned to GSM. At the same time, all the ropes are going to be sent to Phil Gorman to get new tail ends. This will cost £25 per rope (and uses a rope walk). These will then be returned and fitted before the first practice of term. Christopher Winkless-Clark inspected the tops of the ropes, and all seemed in reasonable condition. There is slight wear on the ropes where they go through the garter hole. The ropes will be moved slightly when returned so as to distribute the wear.

The President thanks Christopher Winkless-Clark for his efforts in getting STAG in good condition.

Sam Johnson reports Bene't's is "exactly the same as it was at the Michaelmas meeting".

David Richards reports that St Clement's is progressing and a faculty notice is on the front door.

The President reports that the Catholic is still going very well.

It was reported that the GSM simulator is not working on the 4 and the 8. Sam Johnson cannot see anything obviously wrong. Johnathan Shaklin reports the 4 was working on the previous Monday. It was speculated the LED might have been misaligned.

6. Diary Dates

Guild Dinner at Magdalene – 14/03/20

The Boat Race – 29/03/20

100th Anniversary of First Peal of Spliced Major – 19/05/20

Ascension day (likely to need ringing at St John's) – 21/05/20

University Sermon – 31/05/20

Ridgman contest – 13/06/20

Guild Week – 07/08/20-12/08/20

The Master reports all speakers at the dinner are now confirmed, although slightly later than she would have liked. John Hutchinson is organising the ringing.

It is Oxford's turn to organise boat race ringing. Melissa Nash reports that so far only one tower has been arranged; the other one has been contacted.

The President notes that in 1920 was the first peal of spliced major rung in hand by members of the Guild. Melissa Nash suggests that handbell ringers may wish to mark this event.

The Ridgman contest will not be at Boston as they may still be out of action. It is likely to be in Essex, probably at Waltham Abbey. The method will be Grandsire Caters. The President notes Waltham Abbey is a 37cwt 12 and maybe slightly hard ringing. David Richards confirms that at the 12-bell eliminator, most teams were eliminated.

Christopher Winkless-Clark highlights the need for Ascension Day ringing.

7. Any other business

7a. Central Council representatives election

The Secretary reminds the meeting we currently have two CC representatives James Dann and David Richards. However, James Dann will soon no longer be a student at the university and wishes to stand down. David Richards is happy to be a CC rep still. The Secretary suggests that we no longer need two CC reps. David Richards confirms that being a member vs not being a member is very little difference. A decision is not needed until September. The meeting suggests this issue be taken forward to the AGM.

7b. Rule change

The President reminds the meeting that for a rule change to take effect notice of the intention of a rule change must be given at a previous meeting i.e. at the Lent 2020 meeting, and then a final version be taken forward to the AGM to be voted on.

The President states these rule changes are being driven by the Junior Proctors' office, and the President would not be suggesting them if it were not for the Proctors' pressure. The Junior Proctors are, however, very insistent that we make these changes or at least ones along these lines.

The meeting feels that it is probably not worth fighting the Junior Proctors given the nature of the proposed rule changes.

The President notes these are only suggestions of the wording and he is open to input, revision and discussion outside of the meeting

The President provisionally proposes to append to rule 5.2(c):

The Senior Treasurer shall not be liable for any financial debt or other obligation of the Guild unless he or she has personally authorised such a debt in writing.

Jonathan Shanklin notes that this is due to other societies, not the Guild, having debt issues, which has resulted in other senior treasurers having problems.

The President states that the Guild is an unincorporated association. Thus when the Guild enters into a contract, it is the individual and the members (those involved in the decision) that are actually obligated by the contract. This is a somewhat complicated matter, and something often argued over by lawyers. The President notes that the rule may or may not exempt the Senior Treasurer in practice.

The second proposal, to Append new rule 12:

The Society may be dissolved only at an Annual General Meeting of the Guild with the consent of not less than two-thirds of the Full Members present, and only after twenty-one days' written notice of the intention to dissolve the Guild has been given to the members under rule 4.1(e). Any motion for Dissolution of the Guild

shall provide that all assets remaining after all liabilities have been met shall be transferred either to another registered University Society, or to the Societies Syndicate.

The President has adapted this from the Proctors' wording. Sam Johnson notes that it is not at all foreseeable for the Guild to be dissolved. The meeting feels that this removes ambiguity in how the Guild could be dissolved, and indeed that it makes it harder to dissolve the Guild. The President notes that, at present, one could argue that all it would take to dissolve the Guild, would be a simple majority at a meeting and no notice would need to be given. Christopher Winkless-Clark states that the relevant Guild assets could be appropriately disposed of before any dissolution. President confirmed this could be done before dissolution e.g. the St John's fund be given to St John's. Again the meeting reiterates that there is no intention to dissolve the Guild.

The President speculates, based on Frank's insight, that the Junior Proctors wish to have a degree of uniformity between the various societies.

The President and meeting feel there is little to be gained from fighting the Junior Proctors, though the details need refinement.

Sam Johnson notes there are still brownies and the meeting needs to eat them.

The President closed the meeting at 21:50.

J H J Ellison