

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Boy Smith Room, Cambridge on Sunday 7th May 2016

Members Present

President: R A Smith

Master: O P Bardsley

Secretary: J H J Ellison

Joe Wakeling

Frank King

Andrew Carlotti

James Dann

Luke Smith

Harriet Armitage

Samuel Johnson

Jonathan Agg

Vicky Grey

Rachel Anderson

Megan Corless

Benedict M'Caw

Clarke Walters

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from David Richards, Clare Barlow, Courtney Spoerer, Jonathan Shanklin, Patrick Brooke, Andrew Johnson, Robert Flockton and Imogen Diver.

2. Minutes of the 2016 Annual general meeting

The minutes were proposed as a true account by Megan Corless seconded by Luke Smith. They were accepted unopposed.

3. Matters Arising

The current condition of the library is that a "working" library, consisting of a small selection of books, has been moved to a locked cupboard in St Benet's. These are those books which are useful for teaching. The proposal to sell these books at the dinner has yet to be enacted but was once again mentioned. It was generally agreed upon that the library should be sold, offered to members first at the next dinner, with the remainder being sold to a book seller. The price offered to members should reflect the market price based on a book seller's evaluation. Such an evaluation is believed to already exist although may be out of date or lost.

The secretary reported that he believed Stephen Ward had now paid for his 2016 dinner.

It was noted that the last year's guild photo, and the year before's as they were taken at the same time, had not been generally available. It was believed the Imogen Diver knew the person to contact

about this. The president noted that combining the photo with the AGM as was being done this year seemed to result in higher turnout

The president thanked Megan Corless for her work on the Guild's website which was generally agreed to now be effective and a good site for the Guild.

4. Minutes of Lent Term Business Meeting 2017

The minutes were proposed as a true account by the Master seconded by Sam Johnson. They were accepted unopposed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

6. New Members

No new members were proposed

7. Cambridge Towers

Jonathan Agg reminded people that ringing and the ringers at GSM were not scary and were open to teaching people of any level from 18:00-20:00 on Mondays.

A general appeal for help at the Ridgman competition was made.

Following this an appeal for help at the national 12 bell competition next year was made. Contact Jonathan Agg or Richard Smith about this.

The President reported that the Catholic will soon have new ropes.

Sam Johnson reminded the meeting that St Benet's still exists and has been better attended in recent months. The rope on the 4 has now been replaced so it is no longer stretchy. It is anticipated Sam Johnson will replace Johnathan Shanklin as tower captain in St Benet's at their September AGM.

8. Presentation of the Accounts

The Accounts were proposed as a true account by the Clarke Walters seconded by Joe Wakeling. They were accepted unopposed.

The president noted that the Guild week minutes should read "on the wall" not "on the water" in reference to the church with a broken stay.

The President also believed that surplus money was decided to be in a separate account, the minutes of the meeting do not record this. Frank King suggested it would be much simpler for the secretary if the guild simply absorbed the delta from guild week, be it positive or negative then let it balance out over time. If large surpluses were accrued, then they could be appropriately donated or used as in the case of the church where the stay was broken. It was also noted previous Secretaries had put in much effort to reduce the number of small accounts. This was generally felt to be a good idea to just accept the delta.

The Secretary noted that the large loss reported this year was due to both this and last year's dinner having to be paid this year due to Selwyn making a VAT error. If the dinners were in the appropriate year both this and last year would make a healthy profit

9. Master's Report

The master admitted his report was more of an essay than report (pdf is available on request). Key points were a focus on training both via the Charborough ring and the St Clement's project. He also proposed the creation of a new officer for training. He felt he as master was both running the guild and training people and not all future masters may have the time for this. He suggested that setting up a teaching hub, possibly related to the ART scheme would be a good goal for such an officer.

Clarke voiced how impressed with the Charborough ring he was. The meeting in general liked the idea of the training officer.

10. Steeple Keeper's Report

Sam Johnson gave the Steeple Keeper's record in place of Matthew Sheasby. All the bells in St Andrew the Great are great and operational. The fiberglass 7th still works well. A similar one at GSM failed although this might be due to higher load (both usage, and force).

11. Election of Officers

Senior Officers

President: Richard Smith, Proposer: Oliver Hall, Seconder: Megan Corless

Senior Treasurer: David Richards, Proposer: Oliver Bardsley, Seconder: James Ellison

Accounts Examiner: Frank King, Proposer: Joe Wakeling, Seconder: Benedict M'Caw

Junior Officers

Master: Joe Wakeling, Proposer: Oliver Bardsley, Seconder: Johnathan Agg

Secretary: Imogen Smith, Proposer: James Ellison, Seconder: James Dann

Assistant Master: Benedict M'Caw, Proposer: Sam Johnson, Seconder: Joe Wakeling

Steeple Keeper: Martha Radbourne, Proposer: Megan Corless, Seconder: Joe Wakeling

Libraian: Alistair Benford, Proposer: Megan Corless, Seconder: Sam Johnson

All were elected unopposed

12. Diary Dates

Guild Week - 04/08/17 till 09/08/17

Last STAG practice – 04/05/17

Ridgman Competition – 17/06/17

It was note guild week is now a week earlier.

Rounders against the SCY is the the 18th June

Alternative dinner will be the 19th June

Freshers fair will be on the 3rd and 4th October, the Charmborough ring will again be attempted to be brought along.

13. Any Other Business

Alistair Benford enters the meeting

The president proposed on behalf of David Richards the rule change as the later had proposed. The changes were suggested by the Junior proctors. The Discipline rules were to be used only under very exceptional circumstances. Given the foreseen rarity of use it was seen as a minor change.

The other rule change would mean Senior Treasure being either from Regent house or approved by the Junior proctors. In general, the Guild's Senior Treasurers have not been members of Regent house. Frank King suggested the rule is mainly for political societies to stop "inappropriate treasurers". Various queries were made about the restrictiveness of the rule were made. These were responded to with mention that: we generally have had a good relationship with the proctors, we do have members of regent house who we can appoint if needed and in extremis the rules do allow appointment if no one is available under the above rules via committee appointment.

A few modifications considered "typos" were made to rule 11 and it was modified to include suspension as well as expulsion. David Richards is in agreement with this. The rule changes were proposed by the President and seconded by Frank King. With the modifications both rule changes were accepted unopposed.

Robin Shipp had asked what would happen if someone not from the University of Cambridge but a member of the guild. Say, someone from ARU or one of the theological college were to complain to their own authorities about the operation of the guild. This was seen not to be a problem as we are a society that operates under the Cambridge University Proctors and by joining you must accept to be under their jurisdiction.

David Richards (current central council rep) sent via the President (who shares the view) his support for the recent CRAG report. It was generally felt by the meeting that the report reflected accurately the feeling of most CUGCR ringers and the boldness and aspiration of the changes that seemed to be proposed were appropriate. At this stage the meeting voted unanimously in support of the CRAG report.

It was noted that society representative count may be reduced so we only have 1 representative, this was not seen as too much of an issue as for a few years and for the foreseeable future only 1 of our representatives goes.

The meeting voted that the junior members be allowed to co-opt a training officer at their discretion. Proposed by the President, seconded by the master. Passed unopposed.

It was proposed that the master should have a key to GSM, this would be at the youth's discretion. It was felt not all Masters of the guild would have the required expertise/character (this is no reflection on current or past Masters) and so was not progressed.

The project of getting a list of all members of the guild was again mentioned. Various members of the guild were keen to help with this. It was mentioned that Kati Willets (nee. Langley) may have a membership book. Again it was noted that some of the members listed may have died since joining.

The guild week of 2017 was reported to be proceeding as planned.

The guild week of 2018, organised by Jonathan Shanklin will hopefully be a more "traditional" one, no future details were given compared to previous minutes.

The St Clements project was mentioned but no news further to previous minutes was given.

The president closed the meeting at 15:28

J H J Ellison