

Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting on Friday 29th October 2021

Meeting Held St Bene't's

Members Present

President: J A Agg

Master: G Chu

Secretary: S C Johnson

Chris Winkless-Clark

Melissa Nash

Kate Jennings

Andrew Carlotti

Kirsten Hawkins

Dave Richards

Dima Szamozvancev

James Ellison

Jonathan Nash

Sam Johnson

Jonathan Shanklin

The President opened the meeting at 21.04.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from James Dann, Harriet Dann, Abby Timmel, Skye Purchase, Thomas Haslam, Andrew Roberts, Claire Barlow, Catriona Agg, Jadd Virji, Alex Hackett, Elizabeth Hopper, Luke Smith and Oliver Winkless-Clark.

2. Minutes of the Lent term business meeting 2021

Andrew Roberts had been missed off the list of members present. The Secretary will change this, and the updated minutes will be uploaded to the website. The minutes were otherwise proposed as a true record of the meeting by Chris Winkless-Clark, seconded by Dave Richards, and were accepted unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

a. Update on ropes at St Andrew the Great

The Steeplekeeper, Chris Winkless-Clark reported that the ropes have arrived and will be moved to StAG next week. The old ropes will continue to be used for the moment as the new tail ends have only been used around 5 times. The ropes will be replaced with the new ones when necessary. Chris thanked Dave and the others involved in the rope ordering process, including the funding and delivery.

4. Election of New Members

The following were proposed for membership by Greg Chu, seconded by Sam Johnson, and were accepted unanimously.

Christiane-Marie Cantwell (Newnham)

Jonathan Chu (Hughes Hall)

Harriet Dann (Selwyn)

Sarah Dauris (Magdalene)

Alexander Hackett (Hughes Hall)

Kirsten Hawkins (Downing)

James Hough (Corpus Christi)

Cicely Norman (Christ's)

Petra Palenikova (Emmanuel)

Gemma Penson (Trinity Hall)

William Qin (Gonville and Caius)

Qaleeda Talib (Lucy Cavendish)

Abigail Timmel (Churchill)

Lena van Dongen (Pembroke)

Matthew Wadey (Corpus Christi)

Oliver Winkless-Clark (St Catherine's)

Ella Wood (Trinity Hall)

5. Cambridge Towers

St Bene't's: Sam Johnson reported that Bene't's was still here (evidenced by the location of the meeting), and that ringing is happening regularly again. Sam has made an extra tie so that teaching can happen on 4 bells rather than 3.

St Andrew the Great: Weekly practices restarted this term and have good attendance. The new tail ends are quite stiff and the Steeplekeeper is still adjusting ropes to the correct length as required. Both these problems should be sorted soon with more use. The bells were checked in June and there were no major problems. There are no muffles at StAG currently, so the Steeplekeeper will look into this in the next few months (there likely won't be time to acquire these before 11th November).

Great St Mary's: Ringing restarted properly over the summer and the bells are in regular use again. The 11 has been fixed, and the quarters seem to be (mostly) working as expected. The 8 doesn't work on the simulator, and this will be investigated.

OLEM: The 2nd session of Guild ringing this term at OLEM will be this coming weekend. There are no major changes to the state of the bells.

St Clement's: Preparatory work has started, with the construction of the bell chamber starting soon. All the money has been raised, and the project is likely to be finished in late spring or early summer next year.

6. Diary Dates

- a. Ridgman Contest (Braintree, Essex, CM7 1EY): Saturday 30th October 2021
- b. SUA (London): Friday 5th – Sunday 7th November 2021

The President remarked that last time the SUA was in London, the Guild won both striking competitions. Some students will be going just for the day, so others are welcome to join them.

- c. University Sermon: Sunday 7th November 2021

The Master reminded those present that as this clashes with the SUA, help will be needed from the resident Guild.

- d. London Outing: Saturday 27th November 2021

The Master reported that 4 towers have now been booked, with a 5th in progress. He thanked John Hutchinson for his organisation of this. The UL dinner is on the evening of Saturday 27th November, to which the Guild are invited.

- e. Annual Dinner (Newnham College): Saturday 19th March 2022

This will be a weekend of ringing, starting with quarters and peals on the Friday and Saturday, and service ringing on the Sunday.

- f. Guild Week (East Yorkshire): Saturday 20th – Wednesday 24th August 2022

The Master reminded those present of the Boat Race, which will take place on Sunday 3rd April 2022. After several years of missing the Boat Race ringing and OUS Joint Outing, the Master will contact the OUS to confirm who is organising which event.

7. Any other business

a. Ratification of rules due to online meetings

The following was submitted before the meeting:

Due to the circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Guild was unable to operate fully in line with the rules. According to sections 6.1 and 6.4 of the same, this is not too problematic, as “The Committee is ... empowered to take any action necessary to maintain the activities of the Guild which falls outside the normal course of events”, including that it “may make or amend any necessary regulations for the conduct of its business”. However, this is on the condition that “any decisions of the Committee should be ratified at the next General Meeting”. The actions that need ratifying are as follows:

§§ 4.1a, 4.1b – These rules stipulate that the AGM and business meetings, respectively, must be held in Cambridge. Due to the pandemic restrictions, meetings were held virtually, and not all members present were in Cambridge at the time, this being the majority for the 2020 AGM and 2021 Lent meeting, and minorities for the 2020 Michaelmas meeting and 2021 AGM. It should be noted that all meetings were hosted by members in Cambridge. These meetings must therefore be validated, which would automatically ratify and confirm all decisions made therein.

§ 4.1c – This rule states that “A General Meeting shall be held during the annual Guild Week”. This did not happen in 2020, as there was no Guild Week due to restrictions. Two interpretations of this rule are possible: either that the meeting is required **if** Guild Week is held, or that Guild Week is itself required to be held by this rule. In the former case, there is no issue, but in the latter, then the cancellation of Guild Week 2020 and its associated meeting needs to be ratified. Furthermore, the decision was made not to hold a meeting during Guild Week in 2021, as it was felt this would pose an unnecessary covid risk, and there were no pressing matters requiring a meeting to discuss them in. This decision therefore also needs ratifying.

§ 5.2d – This rule requires that all Junior Officers be resident in Cambridge. This was not the case in Easter 2020 or Lent 2021 due to the government recommendation that students remain at their home addresses. It is noted that the University has waived the residency requirement during the pandemic.

James Ellison queried the ambiguity in 4.1c, however as it was deemed that either interpretation was sensible, the ratification was proposed by Stella Johnson, seconded by Dima Szamozvancev, and passed without objection.

Dave Richards reminded those present that Histon has a regular quarter slot at 5-7pm on Sunday, which the Guild are welcome to use, as they did last week. Melissa Nash is organising regular quarters at Bene't's, with quarters at GSM, StAG and Histon also possible. She was thanked for her organisation of these.

As the brownies circled the room again, the President thanked Sam Johnson for bringing them. Sam commented that not all the brownies needed to be eaten, but the general muttering suggested this instruction might not be followed.

The President closed the meeting at 21.25.

S C Johnson