

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Boys Smith Room, St. John's College, Cambridge on Sunday 4th May 2014

Members Present

President: C Y Barlow

Master: J R A Dann

Secretary: I R Diver

JA Agg	OP Bardsley	TK Beadman
WJ Benfold	PLH Brooke	MLD Drinkwater
RK Flockton	JE Galloway	CMP Johnson
SD Johnson	FH King	BI Le Gallez
JRN Lebon	DR Love	DOD Mestel
TN Milner	CH Northeast	LDG Simpson
JD Shanklin	CC Shearer	RA Smith
DS Vasak	SC Walters	

The President was in the chair and the meeting opened at 14:12pm.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

R Hall	A Hudson	FRWM Manners
V Nutton	J Johnson	R Johnson
N Petersen	DCW Richards	JD Sherwood
R Shipp	N Small	LTW Smith
A Winter		

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2013

The minutes had been available online for several months and with no objections they were signed by the President.

3. Matters Arising

The President raised the matter of the Guild library. As it is underused it has been previously agreed that the University Library will be offered any of the books they wish to have. The University Library have expressed interested in this proposal but it is as yet unknown as to which of the books they will take. The remainder of the books will be offered to Guild members and those not wanted by either the University Library or members of the Guild will be sold or disposed of. The President suggested a list be placed on the website of the books unwanted by the University Library that members may want.

4. Matters Arising from the Lent Term Business Meeting 2014

There were no matters arising from the Lent Term Business Meeting.

5. Election of new members

DR Beamish was proposed as a life member of the Guild by JRA Dann and seconded by The President. He was elected unopposed.

DR Beamish spoke at the 2014 Guild Dinner and seemed to like the idea of being elected as a member of the Guild. He will not be charged a membership fee.

6. Cambridge Towers

JD Shanklin reported that there had been some general tidying and maintenance undertaken at St. Bene't's over the Easter Vacation. The bolts have been tightened, frame maintained and a large amount of hoovering took place. JD Shanklin informed the meeting this has improved the resonance of the bells.

7. Presentation of the Accounts

Copies of the accounts were circulated at the beginning of the meeting and the secretary gave a brief explanation of how to interpret them. IR Diver added that it appeared as though a substantial loss was made on this year's Dinner, but that around £400 was still owed in dinner payments and when this was collected the Dinner would have created a small surplus.

PLH Brooke told the meeting the problem of people failing to pay for the Dinner had been getting worse over recent years and he feels this is unacceptable. The Guild should not accept responses without payment. PLH Brooke asked IR Diver to send him a list of those who had as yet not paid and he would chase them up. CYB suggested the invitation should be more forthright, however PLH Brooke believes the issue partly arises because we are slack on the closing date, and it was thought we should maybe reject those who do not pay and not allow them to the Dinner.

PLH Brooke also raised the issue of a substantial loss being made on the Alternative Dinner, and questioned whether this was because it goes through the Guild books. FH King pointed out that the Alternative Dinner is not an official event and should therefore have nothing to do with the Guild accounts, in the same way that formals do not. LDG Simpson noted that the money for Alternative Dinner probably needed to go through Guild accounts because it was too much money to come from one person's account, especially as those organising the Alternative Dinner are students. PLH Brooke stated that he is happy for the current arrangement to continue but that perhaps better care needs to be taken over calculating costs.

PLH Brooke also pointed out that the balances brought forward on the accounts sheet do not add up to the total money we have in the accounts. He informed the meeting this is an issue he has noticed for some years, but felt now was an appropriate time to raise it and sort it out. FH King hoped the junior treasurer would be able to explain this, but IR Diver was unable to explain the issue as she had used the balances carried forward from the previous year, and FH King had checked the income and expenditures were correct.

The actual balances in the two Guild accounts total around £8000, meaning the balances on the accounts sheet state the Guild have £1500 more than they do. PLH Brooke thought that the discrepancy in these balances was offset from way back, when the general account was split into separate 'accounts' within the one account.

FH King stated that he knew the handbells section of the general account was correct, but questioned why the total amount was not a multiple of £120 since the Handbells Sinking Fund which was added each year had a value of £120. IR Diver stated this was because interest was added on to it each year, and RK Flockton added that a value different to £120 had been added in its first year of existence.

The President suggested the accounts which are sent to the University of Cambridge were used, but FH King stated that these were not helpful.

MLD Drinkwater proposed accepting the accounts, and JRA Dann seconded this proposal. The accounts were then accepted by the meeting.

PLH Brooke thanked the junior treasurer, who has been good to work with this year, especially as the role is not an easy one.

The President suggested that the date for the AGM may be putting too much pressure on the junior and senior officers to complete the accounts in time for the meeting. IR Diver felt that the work was better completed earlier because if the meeting and completion of the accounts were moved later in the term the work would be closer to exams.

SD Johnson thought the AGM should not be moved a week later so that the new officers can run one practice before the break from ringing for exams. T Milner pointed out that placing the AGM on the Bank Holiday weekend allowed more non-residents to attend, and that this was deliberate. On the other hand, The President pointed out that there would be more traffic on the AGM weekend for non-residents due to it being a Bank Holiday.

DS Vasak questioned why the AGM had to be held in Easter Term and asked whether it was possible to hold it in Lent Term instead. PLH Brooke stated that the reason for the AGM being held in Easter Term had been lost in time.

OP Bardsley suggested the AGM be held on the Dinner weekend to encourage more people to attend; this was the case in Durham and usually allowed non-residents attending the dinner to also attend the AGM.

PLH Brooke agreed with IR Diver that the timing of the AGM was best the way it currently is in terms of getting too close to exams if it is moved any later. He believed that the officers will just have to cope with the work needing to be done soon after the beginning of term.

8. Master's Report

The Master's Report was circulated at the beginning of the meeting. The Master summarised the report; stating that the Guild are still making progress. He added that StAG hadn't been particularly well-attended this year, but that Bene't's was still well-attended and has arguably become our main practice. It was noted that if the Guild wanted to make more effort to improve their handbell abilities then more regular practices were needed and they should be organised in advance and at regular intervals, such as fortnightly, as opposed to being organised one-by-one.

The Master thanked everyone who had supported the Guild this year.

9. Steeplekeeper's Report

It was noted that StAG had tried to start charging us for use of the bells this year, but JRA Dann negotiated with them, informing them of the Guild's upkeep of the bells, and agreeing to provide termly steeplekeeping reports.

The steeplekeeper informed the meeting there had been regular check-ins with the bells this year, and that the tail ends on the front three bells had been shortened. It was also noted that the bells are all still there and all still work.

OP Bardsley wished SD Johnson luck in the role next year.

willing to act as a convenor for discussion and proposal of rule changes. He thought this would unite the Guild.

CPM Johnson informed the meeting he felt the Guild needed a president from the AGM. As far as he understood, nobody had an aversion to RA Smith becoming president except R Lebon. He told the meeting that the issue could be resolved by a simple vote on the resolution that there should be a president elected in the meeting.

T Milner added that it was important the Guild proceeds in accordance with its Rules; if an appropriately proposed president is running the Guild should elect them. He stated that the Guild had received a validly nominated candidate and he should therefore be elected at the AGM, following the normal course.

PLH Brooke endorsed what T Milner said; stating that in his role as Senior Treasurer he was required to produce a report for the University's Junior Proctor which included reporting on the constitution. He therefore wanted to elect a president and could then inform the University that the correct constitution had been followed.

The attendees of the meeting were invited to second R Lebon's proposal that the Guild do not elect a president at the AGM, but there were no seconds.

T Milner stated he felt CPM Johnson's motion to elect a president at the AGM was an unnecessary one but he would second it.

WJ Benfold asked whether it was permissible for the Guild to change the constitution at the AGM, but The President informed him that it required notice.

The President invited the meeting to follow the Guild's constitution and declared that RA Smith was elected as President. She also declared that PLH Brooke would continue his role as Senior Treasurer and FH King would continue his role as Accounts Examiner.

CY Barlow continued to chair the meeting as had been previously agreed with RA Smith.

For the junior officers, the following nominations were read to the meeting:

Master

RK Flockton	Prop: IR Diver	Sec: JRA Dann
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Secretary

IR Diver	Prop: JRA Dann	Sec: RL Anderson
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Assistant Master

OP Bardsley	Prop: IR Diver	Sec: JRA Dann
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Steeplekeeper

SD Johnson	Prop: IR Diver	Sec: JRA Dann
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Librarian

RL Anderson	Prop: IR Diver	Sec: JRA Dann
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Webmaster

DCW Richards	Prop: JRA Dann	Sec: IR Diver
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PLH Brooke pointed out that the Webmaster is not an officer because they are co-opted by the committee. However, The President noted that it was important to know who was in the position.

The officers were all elected unopposed.

The President thanked all outgoing officers and wished incoming and continuing officers the best of luck.

11. Diary Dates

The following dates were noted:

- 8/05/14 – Last StAG practice before exams
- 9/05/14 – Last Bene't's practice before exams
- 25/05/14 – Ringing for University Sermon
- 12/06/14 – Practice at StAG
- 13/06/14 – Practice at Bene't's
- 19/06/14 – Alternative Dinner (Location TBC)
- 16/08/14 – 22/08/14 – Guild Week in Durham

It was noted that on the Agenda the date for Guild Week was incorrect, and that it should read 22/08/14, rather than 22/04/14.

It was reported that the final practices before the break for exams would be this week.

The Alternative Dinner will take place during May Week, and will be organised by DS Vasak.

R Lebon reported on Guild Week 2014, noting that there were around 20 copies of the letter and booking form with the secretary. He asked how to send the invitation and booking form to the global list and The President answered that it should be sent to N Small. R Lebon added that there are also copies of the provisional programme at the front of the meeting which includes travelling around Newcastle by metro and ferry. He also reported that there is currently a slight problem with St. Matthews, but he hopes this will be resolved.

The meeting was told that camping is certainly available from Jean Woodward on her lawn, a couple of miles from the main HQ at Grey College. R Lebon said there will be a bus service available.

OP Bardsley suggested that there may be some empty student rooms in the area and agreed he would ask and keep R and K Lebon updated.

FH King asked whether there was a date for the Guild Photograph. IR Diver answered that the date for the Photograph was yet to be fixed, but that it would take place in the next few weeks. FH King noted that the Photograph used to be taken on the day of Mere's Commemoration in order that members did not need to dress up twice. However, RK Flockton informed the meeting that it had been delayed the year before as the Master was out of the country on the day of Mere's Commemoration and that this may not suit everyone because he had been in an exam when the ringing for Mere's Commemoration had taken place this year. IR Diver said she would try to organise the photo on the day of the Mere's Commemoration next year.

It was also asked whether there was a date for the Ridgman striking competition. JRA Dann believed the date to be 7th June, a week earlier than normal.

12. Any Other Business

RA Smith thanked The President and stated that he hopes to still see her at Guild events. He apologised for his part in the run-up to the AGM.

IR Diver told the meeting that she would like permission to clear out the Secretary's stuff as there were a number of folders which seemed irrelevant, such as the collection of Guild Dinner replies from 1996. C Walters agreed, and questioned whether the replies mattered so long as a record of

who attended the Dinner existed. However, some other members felt that the Guild's history should be preserved and such things should therefore be kept. On the other hand, it was pointed out to the meeting that keeping Dinner replies may well be in breach of the Data Protection Act as the Guild can only keep information which is absolutely necessary after a certain time period has elapsed. It was agreed that some of the stuff could be disposed of, as long as it was sorted through sensibly.

With no other business, the President closed the meeting at 15:12pm.

I R Diver
06/05/14