

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Dirac Room,
St. John's College, Cambridge on Sunday 6th May 2001**

Those Present

President : Dr. C.M.P. Johnson
Senior Treasurer : Dr. C.Y. Barlow
Master : M.J. Bright
Secretary : C.H. Isitt

John Sturdy	Clarke Walters	Richard Smith
William Edwards	Mair Allen-Williams	Claudia Smith
Ian Wells	Richard Lewis	Lucy Weston
Tim Butler	Philip Saddleton	Henry Lockwood
Andrew Tibbetts	Robert Johnson	
Jill Galloway	Joanne Garner	

The President was in the chair and opened the meeting at 1406.

1. Apologies For Absence

Apologies were received from:-

Christine Northeast	Emily Hirst	Mungo Stacy
Philip Earis	Tim Poole	
Jonathan Shanklin	Edwin Carter	

2. Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting

The minutes were read by the secretary. The meeting noted that; firstly in Section 9 entitled "In re St. Bene't's", the statement "J.D. Shanklin usually charged £6 per rope, but on this occasion had asked for £7" should read "usually charged £3 per rope, but on this occasion has asked for £6"; secondly in Diary Dates, "the date for the 2001 Dinner is 19th March, that being the Saturday after the end of the Easter Full Term, should read "the end of the Lent Full Term".

Subject to these amendments the meeting voted to accept the minutes, and they were signed by the President as a true and correct record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

Philip Saddleton rose the matter of the peal of Grandsire Minimus. He said the objection is now out of date, and peals of Minimus which are not rung in blocks of extents are now accepted. Clarke said it was too late to get the peal accepted, but it would be nice to have a peal board erected. The President said it would be nice if the new officers could sort this once they had taken on their new roles. The Steeplekeeper said that he believed Tim Milner could get a good deal on a suitable peal board.

There were no other matter arising.

4. Election of new members

The following were elected to membership of the Guild:

George van den Driessche (Trinity), proposed by M.J. Bright, seconded by A.J.W. Tibbetts;

Angela Chew (New Hall), proposed by M.J. Bright, seconded by L.A. Weston;

Dr. Marianne Baker (Girton), proposed by J.C.G. Sturdy, seconded by A.J.W. Tibbetts;

All were accepted by majority vote of the meeting.

John Sturdy also proposed Sarah Alexander, a ringer from GSM. The senior proctor said that she was not eligible for membership of the Guild, and John Sturdy withdrew the proposal.

5. Presentation of Accounts

The accounts were presented as shown. The secretary noted that we had not yet paid anything to Girton College for the Guild Dinner, as we had not come to an agreement over whether we should pay VAT. William Edwards pointed out that as a registered University Society we were exempt from VAT. The President said that this had not formally been checked, although he had spoken with a VAT expert within the University, and he assumed this to be the case.

The Master stated that Girton didn't seem to mind either way. The Senior Treasurer suggested that we need a form of words to tell colleges that as a registered university society, we do not pay VAT. The President said that the words he used for the Guild Week held in St. John's would be suitable.

Clarke said that the College for this year's Staffordshire Guild Week, did not expect us to pay VAT. They consider it to be a course, and they have a bit of input, so as normal they do not expect us to pay VAT, although they would accept it if we were insistent on paying. The President agreed with what the Senior Treasurer said, and added that this would make it easier at the time of budgeting for things like the dinner, knowing whether to include VAT or not.

The President asked the Auditor if he wished to add anything. The Auditor said that he was happy with these accounts, and that the Dinner made a loss if VAT was paid, but a profit if it was not.

Referring to the assets, Dr. Barlow said that she once had a peal board in her garage, from when the tower was redecorated at St. Andrew's. The Steeple keeper said that there are two peal boards in the void at St. Andrew's. Dr. Barlow gave the Peal Board to the Steeplekeeper, when Martin Bright held the post. The Master said in which case the peal board was probably in the void at St. Andrew's.

Clarke Walters asked if the handbell peal fees cover the cost of insurance for the handbells. The Secretary noted that the Librarian had not yet collected all the peal and quarter peal fees. Robert Johnson said the Librarian needs to be quite aggressive when collecting the peal and quarter peal fees, so that they do not get left to the next year's Librarian.

Clarke questioned whether the set of 13 handbells shown on the asset sheet was correct, or whether it should be a 14. The Master said that the set was a 13, containing a sharp second in D sharp.

The President asked if there were any other queries from the accounts or assets. The accounts were proposed by J.C.G. Sturdy, seconded by M.J. Bright and accepted by majority vote of the meeting.

6. Master's Report

The Master said that he was rather embarrassed that he did not have a report to present and asked the meeting if he could put his report on the website within the next few days. He blamed the secretary for not reminding him - at which the Secretary commented that he didn't remind the Steeplekeeper - who subsequently remarked that he reminded himself.

The President asked the Master if he could give a brief summary of the high-lights and low-lights of the year. The Master mentioned the fact that we had won the SUA 8-bell striking competition, which was held in Cambridge this year, we had a good Guild New Year in Bradford, lots of handbells had been rung, including lots of peals and quarter peals, and it had been a good year for the Guild.

The President agreed, and asked that the rest of the report was submitted to the Webmaster in the next few days.

7. Steeple Keeper's Report

The Steeple keeper noted that his report should say Mr. Shanklin rather than Dr. Shanklin, and that there was a moveable apostrophe in Whites. The President said this was correct, and that there were still several White's within the company. He mentioned that two White's are directors, there are several White's in the background, and that Uncle Frank is still alive.

The President said that there has been a lot happening this year, and the Steeplekeeper had not mentioned his own name, although he has mentioned the various helpers. The President added that he had not done much, and wished to thank the Steeple keeper for his efforts.

The Master asked if it was noteworthy that no work has been done at St. Bene't's by the Guild. The Steeple keeper said that the Guild would replace stays if broken, whilst Jonathan Shanklin was away, but this had not happened.

The meeting accepted the Steeple keepers report.

8. Remedial Work at St. Andrews

The President gave the meeting some background regarding the work at St. Andrew's. He mentioned the quote from Whites of £2,200 + VAT, for one visit, which required us to identify the size of the bearings before hand. He had also received a further quote from Taylor's of £2,440 + VAT. The President had spoken to Tom Ridgman, and he told the meeting Tom's views.

Tom thought that the quotes seemed a lot of money. He suggests investigating further, by looking at the bearings that were noted to be making a noise. The Master commented that there were vibrations in the frame, which could be felt when standing on it as the bells were rung. The President said that Tom had two ideas, the first was to use a crowbar to discover untoward play, and the second was to take off the end plates to see the whether there was a problem with the bearing cage. Tom volunteered to do this at a mutually convenient time, and seemed quite relaxed about it. He suggests the Guild Steeplekeeper rings him to fix a day, and he will equip himself with a crowbar and necessary tools.

The President asked if the Guild was happy to proceed along this course, assuming no rapid deterioration took place. Clarke said that it was well worth pursuing, and the President said he would ask Tom, on the Guild's behalf to get at the bearings to look. Clarke said to get good access may require lifting one of the bells. The Steeplekeeper said that there are 3 bells in the corners, 1 that can be got at, but the others can't. The four in the middle would also be difficult to access. The President said that Tom has not been up into the bells at St. Andrew's, and the Steeplekeeper commented that we could hire a chain block if necessary. Clarke replied that it would be difficult to fix this at top of the frame, and the Steeplekeeper said he was unsure of the strength of the steel beams. John Study suggested using a temporary steel tripod, and said that he had a casting jack which could be used. Clarke noted that we would only need to lift about half a tonne, John added the jack could lift 3.5 tonnes.

The President remarked that if you hold the ropes whilst the third is rung, then vibrations can be felt. He also understands from Tom, that there is a number etched on the inner part of the bearing race to enable it to be identified. Tom has also said that there is a ready market for replacement bearings of this size. Brian White had said that 7 of the bearings are the same type, but one was different, which Clarke commented was the tenor bearing. Clarke said that one option was to jack up one bell, take off the bearing, disassemble and assess it. The Steeplekeeper asked how difficult it would be to jack up the treble, Clarke suggest the 2/3 or 6/7 would be easier, as these could be jacked down the side, and the bearings could be got out easily. The Steeplekeeper said we could use a bottle jack and bits of wood to lift the bells, allowing access to the bearings. The President said this would only need to take the weight of the bell and headstock, although Tom was more in favour of the chain block approach. Clarke commented that this method would be more stable, but the Steeplekeeper questioned the support for the chain block above the frame. The President proposed that we ask Tom Ridgman to look and consider if it is necessary to lift the bells, and decide upon a suitable course of action base on his inspection, with which the meeting agreed.

9. Election of Officers & Central Council Reps

Firstly the Senior Officers were elected. The Master took the chair for the election of the President. Dr. C.M.P. Johnson was re-elected unopposed (proposed by M.J. Bright, seconded by C.H. Isitt), and was accepted by majority vote of the meeting.

The President resumed the chair. Next the Senior Treasurer Dr. C.Y. Barlow was re-elected unopposed (proposed by M.J. Bright, seconded by C.H. Isitt), and was accepted by majority vote of the meeting.

Thirdly the Auditor Dr. F. H. King was re-elected unopposed (proposed by M.J. Bright, seconded by C.H. Isitt), and was accepted by majority vote of the meeting.

Election of Junior Officers followed. Firstly Andrew J.W. Tibbetts was elected unopposed to the post of Master (proposed by J.R. Johnson, seconded by P.J. Earis).

For the post of Assistant Master, there were two nominees, Jillian E. Galloway (proposed by I.J. Wells, seconded by J.R. Johnson) and Henry N. Lockwood (proposed by P.J. Earis, seconded by I.J. Wells). Jillian Galloway was elected by majority vote of the meeting.

Mair H. Allen-Williams was elected unopposed to the post of Secretary (proposed by R.P.I. Lewis, seconded by C.H. Isitt).

For the post of Steeplekeeper there were two nominees, Lucy A. Weston (proposed by J.S. Garner, seconded by M.J. Bright) and Henry N. Lockwood (proposed by T.J.A. Butler, seconded by C.H. Isitt). Lucy Weston was elected by majority vote of the meeting.

Claudia M.L. Smith was elected unopposed to the post of Librarian (proposed by A.J.W. Tibbetts, seconded by J.E. Galloway).

The President thanked the outgoing officers, and also those who had helped and supported the Guild over the past year, particularly the Master and Secretary, the Librarian and Steeplekeeper, the Handbellman Patrick Hogan, and John Sturdy for his calligraphy on the dinner place cards. He also wished to thank the people who helped with the work at St. Andrew the Great, and non-resident members such as Clarke and Philip for continuing to attend meetings.

The President asked when the election of Central Council representatives was due. Clarke Walters replied that elections would take place in just under 13 months. If we left it until next years AGM whoever was nominated would only know for 3 weeks, and people liked to know well in advance. The President remarked that according to our own rules we must formally propose nominees, and display the nominations in advance of our meetings. The President asked Clarke if he was willing to continue, and added that he was very good at consulting us. Clarke said he'd be happy to stand again, unless anyone else wanted to, and added that the Central Council meeting would be held in St. Ives. The President suggested we re-elected Clarke and Kit, but we would have to proceed without checking, unless it was satisfactory to

deal with the election of CC reps at the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting. Clarke agreed that the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting would be in plenty of time, and would give the opportunity to formally elect our CC reps. He said that the nominated CC reps should be displayed, and suggested adding the list of nominees to the notice of the forthcoming meeting in the Ringing World.

Following the discussion of CC reps, the President asked Clarke Walters if he wished to tell the Guild about latest news from the Central Council. Clarke said that he had all the committee reports if anyone wished to see them. He said there are one or two motions currently in process. Firstly, a long winded rule change to bring the Council in line with the Charities Commission. The objective of “encouraging good striking” was also to be added to the CC’s aims and objectives. There were also proposals for an Honorary Assistant Secretary, which would split the role of Honorary Secretary in two posts. When Chris Rogers took over the role, it was a lot of work, and has increased since he’s been doing the job. Chris Rogers is going to retire, and will not take one of the new posts. In the Methods section there is a proposal to add a paragraph saying “in methods with hunt bells there should be at least 2 leads in the plain course”. Philip Saddleton commented this was to replace the statement “same number of leads as working bells”. It was noted that the Guild would be in favour of this change, and that methods committee had become less restrictive over recent years. The President invited those with further comments or questions to continue the discussion at the end of the meeting, and Clarke added that the forthcoming Central Council meeting would be held in Liverpool, and anyone was welcome to sit in and hear the proceedings.

10. Future Meeting Venues

The President began by reminding the meeting of the problems with access through the Fisher Building Lobby, on Friday nights when Jazz events were in progress.

The Senior Treasurer told the meeting that she could find a room in Manufacturing Engineering on Mill Lane, which is both near to Bene’t’s and to various pubs, and might be easier for holding the Michaelmas and Lent Term Business Meetings. The President asked if there was a problem with the outer door being locked. The Senior Treasurer said access shouldn’t be a problem as soon ordinary undergraduate engineering department swipe cards could let people in, along with herself and Laura. Richard Smith asked what if the door was locked when other people wished to get in. The Senior Treasurer commented that there was a door bell.

Clarke asked what would happen if Claire couldn’t make it. Claire replied that Laura could sort out a room booking in Claire’s absence.

John Sturdy suggested holding the meeting in St. Benedict’s church. It was noted that the box housing the light switches may be locked, but Richard Andrewes has a key. The President proposed that we check with the vicar to see whether we can use St. Benedict, and if not we opt for MET. John Sturdy noted that we might be interrupted by tourists, but the meeting thought that unlikely at 9 o’clock at night. The meeting took the decision that, subject to approval from the vicar, the Michaelmas and Lent Term Business Meetings will be held in St. Benedict, and the AGM will continue to be held in St. John’s.

11. Diary Dates

The President asked Clarke to give a brief summary of the progress with this year’s Guild Week. Clarke said that it would be held in Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston nr. Stoke-on-Trent. The college was an old Edwardian building, with a variety of rooms including those with en-suite facilities, and some for sharing at a slight reduced price. The college would also accommodate non residents who could come in for meals by arrangement. The cost will be around £25 per person per night based on last year’s figure. The President asked if this was for supper, bed and breakfast and Clarke confirmed that. He mentioned that the college wouldn’t mind if we had a barrel or two of beer knocking about. The towers has not yet been fixed. Clarke said he had several leaflets about the college should anyone wish to see them, and he hoped to send a circular out before the end of term, to save postage amongst residents, although he may send the circular by e-mail.

The President suggest Clarke gave a brief overview of Guild Week for those who had not been on one before. Clarke said it was a week of ringing, which was not desperately intensive, with around six towers per day, and the odd peal.

The President highlighted the rest of the dates on the agenda. No other dates were brought to the attention of the meeting.

12. Any other business

The President on behalf of the meeting thanked the Webmaster for the excellent work which had been done on the Guild's website, www.cam.ac.uk/societies/cugcr.

John Sturdy commented that the attendance at last years Guild Photograph seemed to be lower than usual. The President asked that people made an effort to attend the Guild Photograph this year.

No other business was raised and the meeting was closed at 1522.