

Minutes of the Guild Week meeting held at Hethersett Girls' School, Norfolk on 24th
August 2005

Members Present

President: C M P Johnson
Master: K L Langley
Senior Treasurer: C Y Barlow
Secretary: J E Butler

Philip Chalk
Hayden Charles
Rosemary Charles
Philip Earis
Simon Farrar
Terry Gooch
Alan Griffin
Julie Guneratne
Christine Hill
Peter Hill
Andrew Johnson
Rod Lebon
David Lynch
Brian Meads
Rebecca Melen
Hilary Muirhead
Vivian Nutton
Mark Ockelton
Eric Roberts
Chris Rogers
Philip Saddleton
Robin Shipp
Leigh Simpson
Luke Smith
Richard Smith
John Sturdy
Jim Taylor
Susan Threlfall
Richard Underwood
Ian Vincent
Clarke Walters
Tim Watt
Paul Williamson
Richard Youdale
John Wrenbury

The President opened the meeting at 19.43

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from J D Shanklin
 A L Smith
 D A Winter
 A Parry
 Marianne Baker
 D R Love
 B H Taylor

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 26/8/04

It was noted that H J Verity had been misspelt H T Verity

The minutes were then taken as read and accepted by the meeting (The President signed the minutes at the end of the meeting)

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising

4. Election of new members

J Binns was nominated by J Butler on behalf of J D Shanklin. The meeting discussed this and C H Rogers suggested that his election should be left to the Michaelmas Business meeting. S C Walters supported this and the meeting agreed.

No new members were elected

5. 2005 Guild Week

(J Renbury arrived at 19.48)

(I Vincent arrived at 19.49)

H J Charles announced that the Corporate Communion would be held in Hethersett Church at 7.30 am on Thursday 25th August. People wishing to go were to meet in the car park at 7.20

A programme change was announced for Saturday 27th August, the treble at Besthorpe is out of action so the touring party would be going to Bunwell instead.

H J Charles informed the meeting of the tight timings on Thursday 25th August

R Youdale proposed a vote of thanks to H J Charles and R Charles. He commented specifically on the success of the mini-striking competition on Sunday 21st August and

the general excellent organisation, both of the ringing and the domestic arrangements. The meeting agreed and applauded the organisers

6. Future Guild Weeks

2006 Guild Week- B G Meads in Essex

Booked into New Hall School, Boreham, Chelmsford (Girls' Catholic Boarding School). All rooms are single and the nearest pub is ~1 mile away, where most of walk is within the grounds. Alcohol will be available on site. Expected cost is £37-38 per night (£32 for accommodation and food) which B G Meads said is in line with cost of previous Guild Weeks (£34 2002, £35 2003, £32 2004, £27 2005). The meeting was happy with this.

There will be general ring at Basildon, Foxearth, Writtle and a visit to East Bergholt. The 12 bell peal will be at Chelmsford.

B G Meads enquired about a preferred time for the evening meal. A Johnson said that it all depends on time of return to base. The meeting had no suggestions. C M P Johnson thanked B G Meads.

2007 Guild Week- C H Rogers in Yorkshire

We will be staying at the Lawn Centre in Collingham (University of Hull) and will have use of a separate room for dining (all confirmed) There is a common room and bar serving real ales on the premises. Ringing will include one day in York and one day in N Lincolnshire. Some of the distances may be quite long (trip up to Scarborough) due to lack of towers in the area. There will be 5-6 towers per day plus one peal and one quarter but there is little scope for more. Price unknown but will be closer to 2006 than 2005.

C H Rogers expressed concern about the amount of people at towers, having only one ring and queuing gives it an 'open day' feel. D Lynch suggested longer at each tower. C H Rogers suggested having two masters per day, alternating towers so that times can overlap. C M P Johnson said the meeting would leave C H Rogers to use his initiative on the matter. C M P Johnson thanked C H Rogers.

2008- J D Shanklin in N Wales/Cheshire.

S C Walters asked about 2008 Guild Week. J D Shanklin not present at meeting to comment

C M P Johnson commented that rising numbers coming on Guild Week indicates that the Guild is flourishing. C H Rogers agreed.

8. Diary Dates

C M P Johnson went through Diary Dates

Michaelmas meeting- 14th October 2005
London Outing- 26th November 2005
Dinner- 18th March 2006
Guild Week 2006- 19th-26th August 2006

C M P Johnson asked if the Officers had anything further to comment.
K L Langley encouraged people to come and support the undergraduates on the London Outing.

9. Any Other Business

R Charles advertised mugs for sale for the NDA Restoration Fund for £5 each. These are available from 3 towers during the week.

P Abbey and E Abbey had a son called Daniel on July 17th 2005 (details on website)

H J Charles informed meeting on spare flyers for P Cattermole's new book to be distributed.

H J Charles reminded the meeting that several people have accounts to settle in the next couple of days.

P J Earis gave a report on the recent Central Council meeting. He first thanked his predecessor, S C Walters, for 30 years of representing the Guild. The meeting was informed that P J Earis brought his reform agenda for the Central Council meeting to the Guild AGM in May for approval, which was given. His plan was to observe his first meeting rather than take any action.

3 motions were proposed at the Central Council Meeting:

1. Proposed by C H Rogers- a scheme to create links with towers in Europe. (P J Earis voted for the motion)
2. Proposed by the Methods Committee (P J Earis voted for the motion)
3. Proposed by A R Wilby- work on tower stewardship to create guidelines on how ringing should be run. (P J Earis abstained, S C Farrar voted for the motion).

P J Earis felt that young people (under 60s) were underrepresented and that change is needed

P J Earis also felt that good ringing was lacking, with poor quality running of towers, no band placing and generally low standards.

This Central Council meeting was the first of the triennium, P J Earis was elected to the methods committee and S C Farrar to the PR committee.

P J Earis said that the meetings are bureaucratic, with only one meeting per year, with an undemocratic system of electing Honorary members and informed the meeting that he spoiled his ballot as a matter of principle.

P J Earis asked if the meeting would like any issues to be raised and said that he will discuss anything further at the Michaelmas business meeting.

S C Farrar informed the meetings that his views on the Central Council do not necessarily correspond with those of P J Earis.

C M P Johnson said that it is a good thing that the Central Council reps are taking their jobs seriously, which the meeting agreed with.

C H Rogers commented that the good work of the Central Council is done by the committees, not at the meeting itself.

H J Charles said that he thought there were about 8 CC reps in the room. A show of hands revealed 6.

S C Farrar said that next year the Central Council meeting is in Leicester and he is keen to organise a peal of Guild CC reps at Neighton

S C Walters highlighted that the average age of Central Council reps appears to be younger than when he first started and that it is difficult to change the high average age, as associations tend to elect their reps by honour which leads to older representatives.

J Taylor agreed with P J Earis about the large number of 'excess, useless committees'

J R N Lebon enquired about the publishing of peals rung on Dinner Day. K L Langley and J E Butler assured him that it is under control and they will be published soon.

K L Langley reported on the success of the student discounts for the dinner this year, as many more undergraduates attended. The meeting agreed that the student discount should continue.

A Watt said we should get the Guild Week report to the Ringing World as soon as possible to maximise the chance of publication. A Johnson acknowledged this.

P A F Chalk returned to the matter of overcrowded general ringing on Guild Week and suggested having two simultaneous sets of towers, although this would mean more work for the organiser. C H Rogers reiterated that there are not enough towers to do this in 2007, which C M P Johnson acknowledged. H J Charles said that a closing deadline further in advance may help with organisation with more preparation time. A Watt commented on the difficulty caused by the demand from accommodation to know numbers in advance. C M P Johnson agreed, saying that people should agree as early as possible as the dates are almost always the week before the Bank Holiday. P Hill

commented that the problem of queuing may have been worse than average in Norfolk due to large number of small gallery rings. F E Roberts added that some people are satisfied with only one ring at each tower.

C M P Johnson closed the meeting at 20.32

Jennifer E Butler