

Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting held in St Bene't's Church, Cambridge on Friday 13th October 2006

Members Present

President: C Y Barlow
Master: J E Butler
Senior Treasurer: M S Edwards
Secretary: L T W Smith

T K Beadman	J E A Lewis	L D G Simpson
A F Croxall *	T P Melen *	A L Smith
P J Earis	J Pratt	D A Winter
C M P Johnson	J D Shanklin	

* Elected during the meeting.

Non-members present: C E Lloyd-Perrin, R C Lupton and E K Mottram.

The President was in the chair and opened the meeting at 21:03.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

J C Hetherington
K L Langley
R A Smith

2. Minutes of the Lent Term Business Meeting

The minutes of the meeting were read by the Secretary. The meeting voted to accept them as read, and they were signed by the President as a true and correct record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

The Secretary enquired if L D G Simpson had received a dinner ticket. The response was affirmative.

P J Earis commented that the Guild had entered a team in The National 12 Bell Striking Competition and were placed a credible ninth. He made particular reference to the tight tenor ringing.

P J Earis went on to speak about his work as a Central Council representative, and started by describing the structure of the Council. His view is that significant reform is needed – as he expressed to the Council at their last meeting. He also noted that the Council related activities of S C Farrar (the Guild's other Central Council representative) had been censored due to 'inappropriate behaviour'. P J Earis concluded by mentioning that if any Guild member would like any issue

brought to the attention of the Council, then they should contact him. J D Shanklin requested that all Guild peals be accepted by the Council.

The President thanked the Central Council representatives for their work. She pointed out that as S C Farrar will stand down at the end of the Council's triennium, the Guild will need to elect a new representative at the AGM. Such a person need not be resident in Cambridge, but needs to be aware of the current activities of the Guild and needs to know the Guild as a whole.

J E A Lewis reported that the corporate communion had occurred at the end of Easter Term in Michaelhouse. J Pratt commented on the lack of older members (the congregation was entirely undergraduate).

The Master noted that the production of a Guild sweatshirt had not been pursued.

The President brought up the issue of lack of advertising for Guild events, to which the Master responded that this should not be a problem because all events are now publicised on the website.

4. Relevant Matters from the AGM

The President outlined the reason for including this and the following item in the agenda, and proceeded to mention the following points:

- The handbells are costing the Guild approximately £200 per annum, but they are not generating sufficient revenue to cover this. As the only income is from peals rung on the Guild's handbells, the suggestion was made to have a donation box present at handbell practices.

The Master commented that the Guild does not hold regular handbell practices and agreed that a donation box would be a good way to raise money, but was wary of its introduction. M S Edwards pointed out that in the past, a box was present at every Guild practice and recommended that this should be the case now. The President reiterated this and the suggestion was met with general agreement by the meeting. J D Shanklin announced that as the practice at St Bene't's was not a Guild practice, but an open one, he was unhappy with the introduction of the box there unless the donations were split between the Guild and the tower.

The President therefore proposed the introduction of a donation box at St Andrew's practices and handbell practices, and suggested a level of 50p per ringer. This was agreed by the meeting.

- Discussion turned to the missing photograph album, as discussed at the AGM. The Master suggested that its status now be changed to 'lost', as extensive searches in 12 Victoria Street and 7 Grafton Street have proved fruitless. J Pratt confirmed that it was not present in the Guild's archive in the University Library and M S Edwards said that he has not yet looked in other areas of the Library.
- It was noted that the Guild still has a library, although its future location remains under continued discussion.

C M P Johnson said that the books housed in his room are very accessible. The Librarian has a card, which on presentation to the St John's porters enables her to receive a key to C M P Johnson's room. The Librarian appeared surprised by this revelation.

M S Edwards enquired about the ownership of the Ringing Worlds housed in C M P Johnson's room. They were confirmed as being the property of the Guild.

- There had been mention of the dinner surplus being used to provide a peal board at St Mary the Great.

The Master advised the meeting that F H King has been in contact with someone who he regards as being a manufacturer of superior quality peal boards. A visit to the ringing chamber had been made and one of the existing peal boards was taken away so that the style may be copied. A computerised version of the new board is to be supplied, but it was noted that this had not yet been received. The slowness of the response caused concern to the meeting and it was suggested that another supplier be approached. The President recommended asking Frank about the current status. P J Earis advised against using Rapsons.

5. Relevant Matters from the Guild Week Meeting

- Opinions from the Guild Week Meeting were sought on the washing of bell ropes.

The meeting agreed that the ropes at St Andrew's should be washed in the near future. The Master requested that the Steeplekeeper check things over at St Andrew's since the SUA is not far away. She also commented that stays are easily broken there and instructed people not to do so.

6. Election of New Members

The following were elected to life membership of the Guild, proposed by the Secretary and seconded by the Master;

Tristan P Melen (Trinity)

Helen A-M Ingram (Newnham)

Rosalind F Roberts (Trinity)

Andrew F Croxall (Robinson)

All were elected unopposed.

7. SUA Weekend

The Master spoke about the SUA, to be held in Cambridge on 27th, 28th & 29th October. She pointed out that it is the Guild's opportunity to welcome people to Cambridge and to show that we are a lively and active society. There will be many people there from various universities – we need to be welcoming and make sure they have a good time. Volunteers are needed to help throughout the weekend, and in particular a couple of people need to be found who would be willing to stay in the accommodation (a Guide hut on Perne Road) and oversee events there. The Master made it clear that the Secretary needs to know exact numbers of people planning on attending the evening buffet and encouraged people to let him know.

P J Earis enquired if L D G Simpson is banned from Guide huts.

8. Michaelhouse

The Master summarised this item, stating that the Guild is looking into installing a new ring of bells in Cambridge and had settled on Michaelhouse as the ideal venue. A survey of the tower had been carried out by the Diocesan Bells Advisor and his report had been recently received. The main issue to address is the medieval bell frame which the Diocesan Advisory Committee will not let us remove due to its historical interest. The report, despite having a generally negative mood, suggested two options; moving the frame to the top of the bell chamber or moving it below the bell chamber floor, i.e. into the ringing chamber. The report recommended seeking an opinion from a bellhanger as the next stage, and this view was shared by the meeting.

The President noted that there is room in the ringing chamber to house the bell frame at ceiling level, and there was the opportunity to turn it into a 'feature'.

A L Smith enquired if Gonville & Caius had been approached about the project. The President confirmed that they had not, but noted that with adequate soundproofing the bells should not disturb Caius residents. J D Shanklin recommended getting an assessment from an independent source so we could hear an unbiased view. The President enquired which bellhanger to ask to carry out a survey, to which J D Shanklin suggested Brian White since he is well known to the Cambridge ringing scene. It was agreed that the Secretary should follow this up.

A L Smith asked if the Guild will be required to ring for services. The President confirmed that we will sometimes have to. J E A Lewis asked about how evening events in the church would affect our ringing. The Master said that it has been agreed that we will have a fixed night for practices.

C M P Johnson wondered about housing the library in the tower as this would be a desirable location. The President reckoned that as the ringing chamber is small, there would be room for a small working library only. J D Shanklin suggested using the old bellframe as shelving for the books.

J D Shanklin suggested seeking an archaeologists view of the frame, to which P J Earis recommended Oliver Rackham who is interested in old timber and who has been involved with the bellframe at St Botolph's.

The Senior Treasurer reminded the meeting that despite other opinions being sought, it is the DAC who have authority and who ultimately will be making the decision.

9. Diary Dates

All dates for the term were provided on the agenda.

D A Winter spoke about the cycle outing to be held the following day and outlined the programme. He encouraged people to come on what should be a fun day, and also advertised the bar crawl to be held in the evening.

The Master asked members to support ringing for University Sermons.

Discussion ensued about the towers involved for the Joint Meeting with the Ely D.A. and despair was expressed about the lack of consultation with the Guild. The Master encouraged people to attend as the event is good for maintaining our relations with the local association. The Guild was responsible for providing tea, and J D Shanklin and M S Edwards offered to organise this.

The Master advertised the London Outing, for which the towers will be St Andrew, Holborn, Spitalfields, St Vedast, Foster Lane and St Olave, Hart Street. She also mentioned Guild New Year which would take place at her house in Gloucestershire.

The Annual Dinner at St John's was briefly mentioned. Peal towers have been confirmed as St Neots and the Catholic, and one speaker has already been arranged.

10. Any Other Business

T K Beadman asked for clarification on the policy of putting Guild books in the University Library, noting that we would be unable to get them back afterwards. J E A Lewis enquired which books were under discussion. It was agreed that it was the general ringing books, and as M S Edwards pointed out, books such as the Touch Book go to the UL automatically.

C M P Johnson commented that the UL will not house the Guild Library as such, and that the Pendlebury Library wishes to get rid of the five metres of Guild books currently in their possession. He appreciated the need for this problem to be solved and suggested sending books of limited interest to the UL, and placing books of current use somewhere accessible. He also pointed out that as the UL has its own collection of Ringing Worlds, they would not be keen to having to house the Guild's copies.

J D Shanklin offered the use of the middle chamber at St Bene't's as an interim solution, and the President offered shelf space in her room in Newnham. P J Earis proposed that this matter be dealt with by the officers as there have already been several lengthy discussions at many meetings. The President suggested that all books which have significant monetary value should be moved to the University Library (from Pendlebury or from CMP Johnson's room). A small working library of books of current interest should be identified. For the moment, this could remain in C M P Johnson's room in St John's, but ideally this would live in the Guild's home tower: this may be possible if the Michaelhouse proposal comes to fruition. Finally, the Ringing Worlds and all other books should move to her room in Newnham. This principle was proposed by M S Edwards and was agreed by the meeting.

J Pratt pointed out that all ringing books in the University Library are categorised under 'change ringing', but a list of all ringing books in the UL would still be useful. P J Earis recommended that this be done by the Librarian.

J D Shanklin asked the Librarian if this lengthy discussion had answered her original question, to which she replied that it had.

With no other business, the President closed the meeting at 22:00.