

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Dirac Room, St John's College,  
Cambridge on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

**Members Present**

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

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| R T Backhouse * | K L Langley     |
| T K Beadman     | J E A Lewis     |
| P L H Brooke    | T P Melen       |
| D F Hagon       | J Pratt         |
| R O Hall        | P A B Saddleton |
| C M P Johnson   | S C Walters     |
| F H King        | D A Winter      |

\* Elected during the meeting.

The President was in the chair and opened the meeting at 13:05.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

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Apologies were received from:

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| P J Earis   | R L Melen     |
| A Johnson   | C H Northeast |
| T Hooley    | J D Shanklin  |
| J R N Lebon | L D G Simpson |

**2. Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting**

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The minutes of the meeting were read by the Secretary. S C Walters proposed to accept the minutes as read, seconded by R O Hall. The meeting voted in agreement, and they were signed by the President as a true and correct record of the meeting.

During the course of the minutes being read, P L H Brooke, F H King, T P Melen and Captain Haddock (non-member) arrived, the latter settling himself on F H King's coat.

**3. Matters Arising**

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K L Langley mentioned that following a search, the photo album had not been found in 7 Grafton Street, and that J E Galloway had no knowledge of its whereabouts. The President commented that the album has now been missing for a number of years and we may have to accept that it will never be found.

F H King recommended a further and more detailed search of 12 Victoria Street, since the house is total chaos and full of mess. He also suggested sending a message to the global mailing list to advertise the issue to the Guild as a whole. M S Edwards enquired if the OUS had the album based on their past reputation of stealing silverware. The President asked that members loan their personal photographs for electronic scanning so that the album can be recreated. It was agreed that the officers would proceed with this matter.

The Master advised the meeting that the commemorative peal board for Great St Mary's would soon be ready.

#### **4. Relevant Matters from the Lent Term Business Meeting**

The President felt that all relevant matters from the Lent Meeting could best be discussed elsewhere in the meeting.

#### **5. Election of New Members**

There were two nominations for life membership of the Guild:

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Robert T Backhouse (Downing) | Proposed: L T W Smith<br>Seconded: D A Winter |
|------------------------------|---|

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Eleanor C R Green | Proposed: J E Butler<br>Seconded: D A Winter |
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The meeting voted in favour of these candidates and they were duly declared members of the Guild.

#### **6. Presentation of Accounts**

The Senior Treasurer started by summarising the new presentation format of the accounts. He hoped that this would provide members with a clearer picture of the financial position of the Guild. Attention was paid to the surplus of £493 for the year, highlighting that a surplus was important, but most of this came from the dinner. He further commented that the Handbell Account had performed better this year but still required more attention, and also recommended transferring the balance of the Dinner Account to the General Account.

The Master noted that she had taken considerable care with the ticket prices and had liaised with St John's to draw on their experience in these matters. Some aspects turned out to be cheaper than planned hence causing the large surplus. The President felt that this was not a problem since the Dinner had been excellent value for money, which was a view shared by the meeting. She suggested that the dinner surplus be used to pay for the upkeep costs of the handbells since they are an integral part of the dinner. R O Hall pointed out that the dinner would therefore effectively pay for the handbells, which he did not consider to be a good position to be in.

P L H Brooke recommended merging the Handbell Account and the General Account, but F H King objected on the basis that this would disguise the problem. The Senior Treasurer suggested that one solution would be for the meeting to agree a set level of transfer from the General Account to the Handbell Account. Various discussion amongst those present focussed on the reasons and

benefits of there being a separate Handbell Account and Dinner Account. P L H Brooke explained that dinner transactions were kept separate because of the significant amount of money involved. In comparison, he felt that the handbells did not warrant a separate account.

P L H Brooke proposed that the Handbell Account cease to exist, with the balance being transferred to the General Account. This motion was seconded by R O Hall and agreed by the meeting.

S C Walters thought it a good idea to transfer the balance of the Dinner Account to the General Account. R O Hall agreed, although he felt that this should be a decision made each year.

The Senior Treasurer proposed that the balance of the Dinner Account should be transferred to the General Account. This motion was seconded by P L H Brooke and agreed by the meeting.

F K King enquired how many new members had been elected during the year and thought that an annual summary of new members would be beneficial. The Secretary confirmed that seven had been elected over the past year.

The Master felt that the Freshers' Fair was worthwhile, but there was mixed feeling from the meeting on this issue. J E A Lewis was in support and commented that not everyone sees the Ringing World notice. D F Hagon was also in support, stating that the start of Michaelmas Term is very busy, so the Guild needs to be active in making itself known to prospective members. The President encouraged a large effort being made at the next Fresher's Fair.

The accounts were proposed by P L H Brooke and accepted by the meeting.

## **7. Master's Report**

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This report had been distributed to the meeting prior to commencement of business and the Master chose to highlight the main points.

She mentioned the high standard of ringing that had been achieved at St Andrew's, but felt that the attendance levels were too finely balanced and would benefit from just two or three more ringers. The St Andrew's practice needs to be appreciated for the opportunities it can provide. The Master gave mention to the several peals and quarter peals rung throughout the year and noted that several 'firsts' had been achieved. The lack of a regular quarter peal slot at St Andrew's was unfortunate, but the opportunity had been taken to ring a quarter at Our Lady & the English Martyrs. Efforts had been made to use the simulator at St Mary the Great for lunchtime quarter peals, but progress had been hindered by the continued failure of the clapper ties.

The Master recalled the SUA which had been a success and enjoyed by all attendees. She felt that the Guild was strong socially, with numerous outings and activities having taken place. The dinner went well, with all peals being scored. T K Beadman and T P Melen were congratulated on their first appearance in the dinner touch band.

Thanks were expressed to the Librarian who had done much good work on the Guild Library and touch book, and to the Senior Treasurer and the Secretary who had changed the bank account and also the format of the presentation of the accounts.

The President paid tribute to the Master, who had worked very hard this year.

## **8. Steeplekeeper's Report**

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The steeplekeeper was not yet present, so it was agreed not to wait for his arrival.

## **9. Election of Officers**

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The President thanked the officers for their work during the year.

The Master took the chair for the election of the Senior Officers and read the following nominations:

### **President**

C Y Barlow                      Prop: M S Edwards                      Sec: L T W Smith

### **Senior Treasurer**

M S Edwards                      Prop: L T W Smith                      Sec: J E Butler

### **Auditor**

F H King                      Prop: M S Edwards                      Sec: M D Dawson

With no other nominations, the above were elected by the meeting.

The President thanked the Senior Treasurer for rearranging the accounts and thanked the Auditor for forbearance. She read the following nominations for the two Central Council representatives.

### **Central Council Representatives**

L D G Simpson                      Prop: J E Butler                      Sec: P L H Brooke  
R O Hall                      Prop: P J Earis                      Sec: C H Isitt

The above were elected by the meeting. The President said that she looked forward to them representing the Guild. S C Walters enquired if these elections had been carried out one year in advance, to the effect that the first meeting attended by the new representatives would be in 2008. It was agreed that this was indeed the case.

The President read the following nominations for the Junior Officers.

### **Master**

L T W Smith                      Prop: D A Winter                      Sec: T P Melen

### **Secretary**

T K Beadman                      Prop: L T W Smith                      Sec: D A Winter

### **Assistant Master**

R T Backhouse                      Prop: J E Butler                      Sec: L T W Smith

### **Steeplekeeper**

R L Melen                      Prop: L T W Smith                      Sec: D A Winter

### **Librarian**

No nominations.

## **Webmaster**

No nominations.

With no other nominations, the above were elected by the meeting.

It was noted that L D G Simpson was happy to continue in his role as Webmaster.

The President thanked all the junior officers for their hard work during the year.

She noted that the position of Librarian has in recent years been rather dormant, but has now become active. People are apprehensive about standing for the post since they have little knowledge of what is involved.

F H King proposed C M P Johnson for the position, since he has custody of the library. R O Hall felt that it was D R Love who turned being Librarian into an artform. The Senior Treasurer's opinion was that the recent re-introduction of the touch book had increased the workload of the Librarian. He suggested separating the role, with one person looking after the library of current interest and the touch book, and another looking after the older items. The President asked if a job description would be helpful, which T K Beadman agreed to provide. Both the President and C M P Johnson recommended that the committee should arrange for the vacancy to be filled.

## **10. Diary Dates**

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The new Master briefly mentioned the diary dates which were publicised on the agenda and asked for plenty of support at these. S C Walters made a correction – the photo was to be taken on 11<sup>th</sup> May, not 11<sup>th</sup> June.

The President spoke about Guild Week, being organised by C H Rogers. The accommodation had been booked and inspected, and the programme was almost finalised. The caretaker had been anxious about camping in the grounds. An arrangement had therefore been reached with the University of Hull, whereby there would be no camping but undergraduates would pay a much reduced sum. This generous offer met with great approval.

J E Butler encouraged people to attend ringing at St Andrew's for the mayor on 8<sup>th</sup> May as more ringers were needed. F H King mentioned that he had 10  $\frac{1}{4}$  ringers for the same purpose at St Mary the Great, but he would appreciate 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  more.

## **11. Any Other Business**

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The President mentioned the Guild library, housed in C M P Johnson's room in St John's. However, he was to soon be temporarily evicted and it was felt that this would be an ideal opportunity to enact the long discussed changes. The College Youths Librarian had valued some of the books and many were found to be valuable. She suggested asking the University Library to take the valuable books, and the Guild selling the ones it does not want. Other books in the library could be temporarily stored in her room in Newnham College.

C M P Johnson noted that a significant proportion of the library was old Victorian county bell books, which at the current moment in time are seldom consulted. He felt that more useful reference books were needed. The bound Ringing Worlds are the most heaviest and extensive part

of the library and are used well. Since the University Library is likely to have copies of the Ringing World, but not bound, he proposed that we offer our bound copies to them.

J Pratt arrived at 2pm.

The President said that the Guild's Ringing World collection spanned 40-50 years. She suggested exploring whether the University Library would accept our bound copies, but advised the Guild keeping the most recent year's editions. D F Hagon recommended including the valuable books on the list of assets. S C Walters advised advertising any books for sale to the Guild as a whole, both for approval and possible purchase by members.

C M P Johnson reminded the meeting that the Pendlebury Library houses some Guild books, which they are no doubt keen to get rid of. He noted that the Guild has twice in the past presented collections to the University Library, and advised that a list of all ringing books there would be a useful resource.

The President asked for help when the library was to be moved and speculated that the end or term would be the best time to do this. It was suggested that this could form part of the Guild's May Week activities. Combining this with the punt outing was suggested as a possibility, however it was soon realised that punts are unable to get to Newnham from St John's.

J E A Lewis stated that the old touch book was currently in her possession and enquired what she should do with it. T K Beadman noted that we now have a new touch book. C M P Johnson recommended filling the old book with any appropriately dated material that was available.

The President turned the discussion to Michaelhouse and mentioned that a report from Whites of Appleton had been received following their recent inspection. She was due to meet Andreas Loewe to further discuss the project. An explanation for seeking a new ring of bells in Cambridge was given, in that the Guild currently has a weekly practice and occasional peal and quarter peal slots at St Andrew's, but there is little prospect of anything more. C M P Johnson recalled efforts made to install a new floor in the St Andrew's ringing chamber, but this did not come to fruition.

P L H Brooke felt that despite ringing at St Andrew's being limited the bells should stay in the tower since the situation may change in time. He suggested St Luke's as an alternative to Michaelhouse because it is known that the church is keen to have bells.

F H King stated that the Michaelhouse project would definitely be possible, although daytime ringing may be limited due to the café. P L H Brooke realised that the old bell frame was the main hindrance to proceeding. However, F H King said that the bells could be housed in the current ringing chamber, with a false floor constructed in the porch to act as a ringing platform. There is a gallery on the other side of the church, and a ringing gallery could be designed to match this existing one. He pointed out that a particular benefit of housing the bells in the ringing chamber was that the result would be far better from a soundproofing point of view.

C M P Johnson asked for clarification of the proposal. It was explained that a new ring of 8 weighing approximately 7cwt was suggested. He asked whether this would provide the Guild with its own private area, which he felt to be an important facility, one which could even house a small working library.

C M P Johnson speculated about other possible locations for a new ring of bells, giving particular mention to All Saints, Jesus Lane. It is large enough to house bells and is soon going to be open every day. He recommended it as a good option that was worth exploring. S C Walters advised the

meeting that the Guild should pursue all possibilities. M S Edwards was cautious about putting bells in All Saints due the close proximity of certain ecclesiastical property. Nevertheless, C M P Johnson found the prospect rather appealing.

R O Hall stated that as he had one year before taking up his post as a Central Council Representative he had not yet gathered his thoughts on what his plans were. However, he hoped to represent the Guild to the best of his ability and take S C Walters as his role model. F H King reminisced about S C Walter's tenure as a representative, and hoped R O Hall would be similar. J E Butler mentioned that P J Earis was, as always, happy to raise at Central Council meetings any points made by Guild members, giving particular mention to the recent Central Council supplement in the Ringing World.

With the Steeplekeeper now present, it was agreed to receive the Steeplekeeper's report. J Pratt then cut up and distributed his reports.

He summarised his report, stating that there had been little steeplekeeping activity over the year, mainly due to there being no broken stays. A log book had been set up, which would be useful reference material during any discussions with St Andrew's. He had gained knowledge as to how to wash bell ropes, and would pass this on to the new Steeplekeeper. J E Butler pointed out that the ringing chamber at St Andrew's had been repainted, and so too had the padlock for the spider.

With no other business, the President closed the meeting at 14:33.