

# **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Boys Smith Room, St. John's College on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2008**

## **Members Present**

President: C Y Barlow  
Master: L T W Smith  
Secretary: T K Beadman

R T Backhouse	D F Hagon	P A B Saddleton
J E Butler	C M P Johnson	L D G Simpson
R E Brown	F H King	R A Smith
P J Earis	E R Russell	S C Walters
H A-M Ingram	C H Northeast	

The president was in the chair and the meeting opened at 14.06.

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

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Apologies were received from:

P L H Brooke  
K Langley  
A W T Gooch  
R Hall  
A Johnson  
J D Shanklin  
J Suett

## **2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2007**

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The minutes of the Michaelmas term business meeting were read out by the Secretary. The meeting accepted the minutes as a true and correct record and they were signed by the President.

## **3. Matters Arising**

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The President informed the meeting that since there had been no nominations at the last AGM, D H Hagon was elected librarian at the Michaelmas meeting in 2007. He has been a very active librarian and the library has now been moved from St. John's College to Newnham College. No progress has yet been made regarding the selling of duplicate books the guild possesses.

Following a discussion at last year's meeting regarding low undergraduate numbers, the President informed the meeting that this year 7 new members had been elected to the guild. Although many people expressed interest at the fresher's fair, it has proved difficult to persuade them to come along.

S C Walters asked if any progress had been made replacing the photo album that has been lost. The Secretary stated that no progress had been made. It was agreed that another email should be sent out, stating the dates for which replacement photos are needed and requesting copies of old photos from members of the guild.

## **4. Relevant matters from Lent Term Business Meeting**

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The President explained that no relevant points from the Lent Term business meeting needed discussing that didn't appear elsewhere on the agenda.

## **5. Cambridge Towers**

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R A Smith was invited to update the meeting about work going on at Great St. Mary's. He explained that the Cambridge Youths had been investigating possible ways to make the go of the bells easier and had concluded that a new, lighter ring of bells should be installed in a new frame. Plans are now well advanced and a donor has been located. A 23 cwt 12 with a flat 6th will hopefully be installed in time for the University's 800th anniversary at the end of November, 2009.

L T W Smith informed the meeting that work had recently been carried out on the bells in St. Bene't's. He explained that the tenor is now odd-struck the wrong way but that in general the bells go better.

The President said that at the Lent term meeting it was decided not to take the Michaelhouse project further at the moment. The possibility of putting bells into the tower in St. John's college has reemerged and it was felt that pursuing this would be more beneficial to the guild.

C M P Johnson explained that a proposal will be put forward to the committee at St. John's in due course and that the Master of the College was keen to install them for their 500th anniversary in 2011. The project had previously been put forward to the committee in 1983 and was defeated by 26 votes to 25.

## **6. Election of new members**

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There were no new members put forward for election.

## **7. Presentation of Accounts**

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T K Beadman referred the meeting to the accounts summary sheet that had been passed round. She explained that the guild had made a loss of around £700 this year, mainly due to the purchasing of a peal board and investigations regarding the Michaelhouse project. The only notable source of income was £149 from the guild dinner. There was a slight error on the accounts summary sheet regarding the distribution on the interest between accounts and this would be rectified before being put in the book.

L T W Smith pointed out that since moving the money to a new bank the guild had made over £100 extra in interest.

F H King highlighted the fact that if the two big expenditures were ignored from the accounts, the guild has made a small but healthy profit this year. It was agreed that the dinner balance should routinely be transferred into the general account each year.

P J Earis suggested that the records relating to the Michaelhouse project should be stored safely in case the Guild wishes to investigate the possibility of putting bells in the tower in the future. The President agreed that this would be done.

R A Smith asked if it was worth insuring the handbells. The President pointed out that if they were not insured, students may not feel comfortable borrowing and storing them. A discussion followed regarding the merits of insuring the handbells. The President stated that the newly acquired Barnett bells were not currently covered by insurance but needed some work doing on them. P J Earis felt that a light ring of 12 would be useful to the Guild, and the bells could be restored without spending much money. C M P Johnson suggested that the heavy 8 could be sold, however P J Earis argued that the set was part of the guild's history and there was no need to sell them. It was agreed by the meeting that we should continue to insure the sets of bells that are currently used.

The accounts were proposed by R A Smith and seconded by P J Earis. The meeting accepted the accounts and the President thanked the Secretary and Auditor for all their efforts.

E R Russell proposed that the cookies should be passed round. This was agreed by the meeting.

## **8. Master's Report**

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This report had been distributed to the meeting prior to commencement of business and the Master highlighted the main points. He explained that the weekly practices at St. Andrew's would benefit from a few more people turning up and that this had proved frustrating at times because it made progress difficult. Practices at Our Lady & the English Martyrs had been even more poorly attended and he felt that the bells put a number of people off. Sunday evening ringing at Great St. Mary's had been supported by a number of local people, without whom we would have been quite short.

C M P Johnson added that a 10 bell peal by Selwyn members at Peterborough Cathedral had been rung for the college's 125th anniversary.

C Y Barlow thanked the Master for all his hard work.

## **9. Steeplekeeper's Report**

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The Master reported that unfortunately we didn't have a steeplekeeper's report and that no steeplekeeping had been done. The ropes had been checked before a peal and the ropes appeared to be in good order.

## **10. Librarian's Report**

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The Librarian explained that a full audit of the books had been carried out this year, and a database had been put together. Missing books had been identified and an email had been sent out to the Guild to locate these. A number of books had been returned. The Guild is still missing one volume of the Ringing World and many others currently needed binding. It was still undecided what to do with the duplicate books. The President thanked the Librarian for all his hard work and encouraged him to see the jobs through to completion.

## **11. Election of Officers**

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

### **President**

C Y Barlow	Prop: D A Winter	Sec: T K Beadman
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### **Senior Treasurer**

M S Edwards	Prop: L T W Smith	Sec: R A Smith
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### **Auditor**

F H King	Prop: L D G Simpson	Sec: L T W Smith
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With no other nominations, the above were elected by the meeting.

The following nominations were read for Junior Officers:

### **Master**

D A Winter	Prop: L T W Smith	Sec: J E Butler
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### **Secretary**

R T Backhouse	Prop: J Suett	Sec: L T W Smith
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### **Assistant Master**

E R Russell	Prop: F H King	Sec: L D G Simpson
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**Steeplekeeper**

J Suett                                      Prop: R T Backhouse                                      Sec: T K Beadman

**Librarian**

H A-M Ingram                                      Prop: L T W Smith                                      Sec. J Suett

**Webmaster**

L T W Smith and L D G Simpson      Prop: T K Beadman      Sec. J E Butler

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

It was noted that D A Winter was in Germany until next term and L T W Smith had agreed to carry on as Master until the end of term. E R Russell would also not be in Cambridge after the end of term so it was agreed that the officers would be entrusted to appoint a new Assistant Master at the start of next year.

S C Walters thanked the President and all the officers for their hand work throughout the year.

**12. Diary Dates**

L T W Smith drew the meetings attention to the dates on the agenda. He mentioned that the band for the Ridgman Trophy is starting to come together. The date for the Guild peal slot next year at Great St. Mary's is known and all efforts should be made to ensure that the date for the Ridgman Trophy does not coincide.

C H Northeast announced that the arrangements for this year's Guild Week have been finalised, and that details will be sent out soon. This year's Guild Week will be held in Cornwall from the 14th-21th August. While camping is not available, she explained that the halls have agreed to offer a reduced rate to students, excluding breakfast.

The President stated that J D Shanklin was organising next year's guild week, to be held in Chester.

**13. Any Other Business**

P J Earis explained that Central Council representatives travel across the country to attend meetings and suggested that the Guild should offer to pay expenses up to an agreed fixed amount. S C Walters supported this proposal and further explained that it was advantageous for representatives to attend the whole weekend which made it rather expensive. P J Earis further suggested that a verbal or written report of what had been agreed at the Central Council meeting could be presented to the Lent term meeting. R A Smith pointed out that this would be a significant increase to the Guild's routine annual expenditure and suggested that the Guild gets relatively little out of sending representatives to the meeting. Various members responded stating that the Guild receives good publicity from attending the meeting and that past representatives have done some good work. The President thanked P J Earis for highlighting this point and proposed a fixed amount of £75 for each representative to be able to claim back. This proposal was passed by the meeting.

P A B Saddleton enquired if anyone present knew if R O Hall was joining any committees, but no-one knew. L D G Simpson announced that he hoped to stand for the methods committee.

F H King highlighted the fact that we are still failing on recruitment and asked how we can rectify this. J E Bulter said that other university societies are suffering in the same way, and that most of their support comes from graduates. P J Earis encouraged the master and officers to seek out freshers that can ring and encourage them to get involved right at the start of the year. It was suggested that a message should be sent to the global list to ask if any members were aware of anyone coming to Cambridge next year, as an undergraduate or graqduate student.

With no further business, the President closed the meeting at 15.46.

