

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 1967 at 5 p.m. in Committee Room 2 of the Students Union

The meeting was opened by the chairman and ringing master Mr. Rupert A. Clarke there being fourteen members present. There were no apologies for absence. The minutes were read by the secretary and signed by the master Mr. Clarke. There were no matters arising.

### Master's Report

Mr. Clarke said that the past year had been one in which the society had consolidated its position rather than advance in any particular direction. Regular practices had been held on the bells at Saint Bartholomew's Church, Edgbaston and also on the society's handbells in the students' union. Mr. Clarke mentioned that the standard of ringing in the society now compared very favourably with other university societies. Then followed a report on the tour held the previous Easter vacation in the Devon area. The master expressed his thanks to Mr. Paul Evans for his work in organising this tour. The report was concluded by saying that the society had held its first annual dinner in the autumn term of 1966 which he considered had been a success and he hoped that the dinner would become a truly annual society function.

### Treasurer's Report

The treasurer Miss Carol Johnson reported that the balance was slightly increased over last year's despite the £8 spent on the repair of the handbells. The balance sheet was available to members of the society. (See end of minutes)

### Changes to Rules

It was proposed by Mr. Graham C. Paul and seconded by Mr. M.J. [Alletson] that the positions of secretary and treasurer to be combined. There was some doubt as to whether in fact the two posts were already combined according to the rules. However after the secretary Mr. J.R. White had expressed his view that to combine the positions would involve too much work for one person the motion was defeated by nine votes to two. With regard to the question of rules it was found that the exact constitution was unknown and only references to changes of rules was to be found in the minute book. Therefore it was decided that if anyone should care to draw up a new constitution over the coming vacation it would be considered at a meeting the following term.

It was proposed by Miss C.M.E. Johnson that the new post of steeple keeper to be introduced for the supervision of maintenance to the bells and ropes. The steeple keeper would be assisted by any willing members of the society. It was decided that the opinion of the vicar might be sought before the matter was pursued further.

### Election of Officers

There were two nominations for president, namely, the Rev. Cannon. G. Norburn proposed by Mr. J.R. White and seconded by Mr. R.A. Clarke, and Mr. G. Fearn proposed by Mr. J.A. Ainsworth and seconded by Mr. S.W. Barton. However the second nominee could not unfortunately be considered as neither the proposer nor the seconder were members of the society! Therefore it was decided that the Rev. Canon G. Norburn be re-elected as president.

Mr. J.R. White was proposed for the position of Master by Mr. G.C. Paul and seconded by Mr. N.C. Perrins. He was elected, unopposed.

There were two nominations for the post of secretary. Mr. H.J. Baker was proposed by Mr. G.C. Paul and seconded by Mr. J.R. White and Mr. R.M. Chambers was proposed by Mr. R.A. Clarke and seconded by Mr. R.J. Parker. Mr. R.M. Chambers was elected by seven votes to four.

Mr. H.J. Baker was proposed for the position of treasurer by Miss C.M.E. Johnson and seconded by Mr. R.A. Clarke. He was elected, unopposed.

#### Report on the Tour

Mr. J.R. White and Mr. R.A. Clarke reported on the progress of the organisation of the proposed tour in South Wales to be held in the coming Easter vacation. There were no difficulties arising.

#### Any Other Business

Mr. R.A. Clarke asked if any action would be taken to prevent the St. Martin's Guild from organising peals on the Edgbaston bells on what was normally regarded as the university society's practice night. This had occurred twice so far in the present academic year. It was said that Miss Ruth Gay was writing a letter to the Ringing World about the matter. It was decided that the president, the vicar of Edgbaston, be approached on the subject.

A question was also raised by Mr. R.A. Clarke as to whether it would be possible to obtain subsidies from the Guild of Undergraduates to help cover the cost of society functions such as the tour and to send representatives to the Northern Universities' meeting. It was understood that other societies did receive such subsidies and the chess society was named as one. It was said that an approach had already been made to the Guild and it was agreed that this should be pursued further.

Signed  
R M Chambers (Hon. Sec)  
James R. White (Master)  
13 March 1968

Annual dinner 1966: 47 people attended and the guest speaker was Mr David Marshall Master of Durham University Society of Change Ringers

Typed up by James Mundy, July 2023.