

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 1968 at 5pm in Committee Room 4 of the Students Union

The meeting was opened by the Ringing Master Mr J.R. White in the absence of the president, Canon Norburn, who had previously indicated that he might be unable to attend the meeting. There were thirteen members present, apologies for absence were received from Mr Rowson and Mr Insley. The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were ready by the Secretary and signed by the Ringing Master, there were two matters arising.

In answer to a question as to whether any progress had been made in acquiring any money from the Guild of Undergraduates to subsidise the meetings and outings of the society the Master said that the Guild treasurer had informed him that the Guild would only pay money to those societies who had matches or some other form of competition with other universities or clubs, since we did not we could obtain nothing.

The Master was also asked about the position of steeplekeeper and what maintenance the society undertook of the Edgbaston bells. He said that he considered that the society should be prepared to undertake minor repairs, as it had of late, but that anything major should be left to the resident band. General agreement was expressed in this view.

Mr Insley then arrived contrary to his previous apology for absence, thereby increasing the number present to fourteen.

Master's Report

Mr White said that the number of freshmen this year had been small, however they had fitted in well and had maintained a good standard. Regular weekly practices had been held on the bells at St Bartholomew's Edgbaston and also on the society's handbells in the Students' Union. Mr White complimented the society on the standard of its ringing and said he hoped that the standard reached could be maintained, particularly in view of the number of members leaving the next term. Four tower bell and seven handbell peals (3 of these were subsequently withdrawn because of a faulty composition, one because of 'certain irregularities') had been rung during the year. The Easter tour to Abergavenny had been a great success and had been enjoyed by those who went, unfortunately lack of numbers had made it quite a strenuous week. Finally Mr White commented on the success of the annual dinner which he felt was now an assured annual event and by combining it with a meeting of the Northern Universities Association whenever possible he was certain that we were sure to have good support for it.

Treasurer's Report

Mr Baker submitted a statement of accounts to the meeting [see end of minutes]. He pointed out that the surplus at the beginning of the year was just over £12, the surplus at the end just over £20. However, this was an inflated figure because we had received £8 from the Guild of Undergraduates towards the cost of repairing the handbells. Thus in fact our financial position was static.

Mr Baker then drew the attention of meeting to the small profit made on the tour. The annual dinner however had made a loss. Mr Baker said this was due firstly to the fact that two people dropped out at a late stage and their money had been refunded, secondly the unexpected addition of the barman's wages and thirdly the excessive number of menu cards printed. Without these three factors a small profit would have been made, he suggested that in future that people who withdraw at a late stage should forfeit their money.

In the discussion which followed no firm decision was reached as to what action should be taken against people who dropped out at a late stage and desired a refund of their money. A suggestion by Miss Johnson that the price of the tickets should be increased to ensure a greater profit against any unexpected expenditure was not generally accepted, unless, of course, the Union put up their price. It was thought that if we could continue to give a good dinner for the present price and not make a loss the present price of £1 should be maintained.

Election of Officers

There was one nomination for the post of President that of Canon G. Norburn. He was proposed by the Ringing Master, Mr J White, seconded by the Secretary Mr R M Chambers and elected by the meeting.

Mr C Nokes was proposed for the position of Ringing Master by Mr R.A. Clarke seconded by Mr R.M Chambers. Mr Nokes was declared elected there being no other nominations.

Mr R.A Clarke proposed and Mr J R White seconded the nomination of Mr S Gullick for the post of Secretary. Mr Gullick was declared elected no other nomination having been received.

Mr J Hopwood was proposed by Miss C M Johnson and seconded by Mr H.J Baker for the post of Treasurer. No other nomination having been received Mr Hopwood was declared elected.

The retiring Master Mr J R White then vacated the chair, Mr C Nokes taking over. Mr Nokes, before moving onto the next item on the agenda, assured the meeting that his new appointment would undoubtedly change his habits with regard to punctuality at meetings.

Any Other Business

Mr Gullick asked Mr Baker whether in view of the rapid devaluation of our currency it would not be possible to put some of the Society's funds into a deposit account at the bank and thereby make a bit of money. Mr Baker thought that this was a good idea and one which was possible in view of the size of the Society's funds. The other members thought this was a good idea and Mr Hopwood was instructed to take the matter up with Lloyds Bank.

Mr Clarke then drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that although some freshmen had become regular ringing members of the Society, there were in the University one or two people who had attended a few meetings that had not continued to attend. He thought that they had been discouraged by the unfriendliness of the Society and its lack of active interest in freshers so that instead of making them really welcome it had been indifferent towards them and they had felt unwelcome. Mr Clarke urged the Society to take greater care not to drive any freshers away, the Society could not afford to lose anyone who could ring a bell.

The Secretary was then instructed to include in the minutes of the Annual General Meeting a note of the numbers who attended the annual dinner and the name of the guest speaker. At the dinner held on 9th December 1967 there were 74 people present, the guest speaker being Mr Geoffrey Randall of Hull University.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 5.45. pm.

Typed up by James Mundy, July 2023.