

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 1974, at 5pm in Committee room 3 of the Students Union

The meeting was opened by the master Mr D.J. Attley at 5.02pm. There were twelve members present. Apologies for absence were received from Miss. A. Deebank, Miss L Wild, Mr J.S. Hopwood, Mr S. Barton and Mr P.J. Loxston. Mr J Loveless arrived at 5.03, Miss J Blake, Miss F Dodds and Mr C.R. Menhinick arrived at 5.06, making the number present sixteen.

The minutes from the last A.G.M. were read by Miss G.M. Barter and signed by the master after they had been accepted by those present at that meeting as a true record of the proceedings.

Matters arising:

Mr. C.A. Greatrex mentioned that Mr. J.S. Hopwood had reached 1970 of the record he is compiling of the Peals rung by the society but has had to stop because the library of Ringing Worlds at St Martins has been closed while they are bound.

Mr M.G. Reed proposed that if the master leaves during his year of office, as two years ago, an emergency meeting should be called to elect a new master, this was seconded by Mr D.J. Attley and carried unanimously. Mr M.G. Reed had previously asked for clarification of what had occurred during the 72/73 session.

Master's Report

The Master, Mr D.J. Attley began his report by thanking the rest of the committee for their help during the year. He continued by saying that quarter peals had been attempted nearly every Sunday and only two had been lost during the year. Seven of the standard eight methods had been rung to quarter peals, all except Bristol. Three peals had also been rung for the society during the year, these being Yorkshire at Yardley in October, 4 minor methods at Rowington in December and one of Cambridge at Loughborough also in December. Mr. D.J. Attley mentioned that various members of the society had rung several peals for other societies. More complicated methods are now being rung by the society, and ringers on six bell towers are now ringing on eight. Two learners are being taught.

Last years Dinner was mentioned as having been the success as was the canal trip run by the society during the previous Easter vacation.

Mr D.J. Attley concluding his report by saying that the society would continue to flourish and be even stronger when he returned from his year in Spain.

Treasurer's Report

Mr N.W. Carter circulated several copies of the accounts and reported that there were eighteen paid up members of the society and that the Dinner overall had made a slight profit which was due to the money collected by having a draw and he suggested that this source of income was used again in the future. The treasurer said that as there had been no large expenditures during the year the amount in the current account had risen to £93.19, and as no money had been transferred to the Deposit account this remained at £11.89p. Mr N.W. Cater mentioned that the bank was still unwilling to send statements, this may be as they still have the name of the treasurer of several years ago.

The accounts were accepted as true and signed by the treasurer.

### Matters arising from the Reports

It was suggested that some of the money in the current account should be used to re-strap the handbells. Mr S. Barton was said to know somewhere this could be done, possibly during the summer. Mr D.J. Attley suggested that some of the money should be used for a party but Mr M.G. Reed did not think that this was a good idea. Miss G.M. Barter suggested that some money should be used to subsidise this years canal tour or at least for paying the donations to the towers.

However the general feeling of the meeting was that the money should be used for the handbells only.

Mr M.G. Reed then proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring committee.

### Election of Officers

Canon Norburn was re-elected unopposed to the post of President having been nominated by Miss G.M. Barter and seconded by Mr C.A. Greatrex.

Mr C.A. Greatrex was proposed for the post of Master by Miss F. Dodds and seconded by Miss J.L. Hadow. He was elected unopposed and took over the chair vacated by the retiring master, Mr. D.J. Attley.

Miss V.J. Vere was proposed by Miss L.G. Powell and seconded by Mr J.P. Loveless for the post of secretary as was Mr J.G. Burton who was proposed by Mr D.J. Attley and seconded by Miss G.M. Barter. The nominees left the room and Mr M.G. Reed suggested there should be proposal speeches, this was acted upon before a vote was taken. There were thirteen votes cast and one abstention, eight for Miss V.J. Vere and five for Mr J.G. Burton, Miss, V.J. Vere was duly elected to the post of secretary.

There were two nominations for Treasurer, Miss L.E. Owen proposed by Miss L.G. Powell and seconded by Mr D.J. Attley and Mr J.G. Burton proposed by Miss G.M. Barter and seconded by Miss J.L. Hadow. The same procedure as before was carried out, again thirteen votes were cast ten for Mr J.G. Burton and three for Miss L.G. Owen, Mr J.G. Burton was declared elected as treasurer.

### Proposed constitutional changes

Mr. C.A. Greatrex proposed the following addition to the membership rules:-

Honorary Members:- These shall be people who attend practices and Sunday service ringing regularly. They must have attended a college of university and been a member of a society there. They must now reside in Birmingham. They can only be voted in at an AGM and must be proposed and seconded. They may not vote at a meeting of the society or hold any office.

Mr M.G. Reed objected to the amendment and general discussion ensued. Miss G.M. Barter asked whether the Honorary members would pay a subscription to which Mr C.A. Greatrex answered no. Mr D.J. Attley said the amendment must be worded carefully. Miss GM. Barter said they should be associate members if at all. Mr D.J. Attley suggested that this amendment was for a special case, Mr C.A. Greatrex did not agree.

It was then discussed whether Canon Norburn was a member but it was decided to postpone this until the present amendment had been finished.

Several amendments were proposed.

Miss G.M. Barter proposed that they should be Associate and not Honorary members and should be a subscription.

Mr D.J. Attley proposed that the clause 'They must have attended a college or university and been a member of a society there. They must now reside in Birmingham.' Should be deleted, Mr D.J. Attley also proposed that they should be reconsidered every year.

Mr M.G. Reed proposed that the number should be limited to two or three, by a show of hands it was decided on two.

The amendments were taken as a whole.

The new addition to the membership rule was proposed by Mr C.A. Greatrex and seconded by Mr J.P. Loveless. The new addition being:-

Associate members:-

These shall be people who attend practices and Sunday service ringing frequently. They can only be voted in at an AGM and must be proposed and seconded. They may not vote at a meeting of the society or hold any office. There shall be only two associate members who shall be reconsidered every year. They shall pay the same subscription as ordinary members,

A vote was taken, eleven in favour, two against and one abstention so the amendment to the constitution was passed.

Mr M.G. Reed proposed that there should be Honorary members who have given invaluable service to the society. They must be elected at an AGM, being proposed and seconded, Miss G.M. Barter seconded this. A vote was taken and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. D.J. Attley proposed that the committee should have a power to co-opt. extra members if necessary, seconded by Miss G.M. Barter. Fourteen voted in favour of this, there being one abstention.

#### Any Other Business

Mr C.A. Greatrex proposed Canon Norburn as an Honorary member seconded by Miss J. Blake. This was carried unanimously.

Mr. C.A. Greatrex proposed Mr P.J. Simmonds as an associate member seconded by Miss F. Dodds, ten voted in favour, there being six abstentions.

Mr N.W. Carter proposed that the Master should buy the traditional round of drinks, seconded by Miss J. Blake. However Mr M.G. Reed proposed that the Master should buy a drink for the freshers in October instead, seconded by Mr D.J. Attley. Mr M.G. Reed's proposal was carried by fifteen votes to one.

Mr C.A. Greatrex brought up the subject of the tour next summer suggesting that we went to Somerset on the weekend June 21-23 or June 28-30<sup>th</sup>. Mr M.G. Reed said that this should be left to the Master.

Mr D. Flint had been asked to look around for a good minibus.

Miss G.M. Barter suggested that an attempt should be made to keep a list of the names of the life members.

Venue of Dinner.

Mr N.W. Carter suggested Staff House as a possible alternative to the Union. Mr D.J. Attley pointed out that the Union gave us a grant. Miss L.G. Powell suggested that some form of gathering should be held to welcome the freshers such as a party.

As there was no other business the meeting was closed at 6.22pm. by Mr. C.A. Greatrex

Signed  
Valerie Vere (Sec)  
C Anthony Greatrex

Typed up by James Mundy, July 2023.