

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup> in committee room 3 of the Students' Union

The meeting was opened at 5.02 p.m. by Mr C.A. Greatrex, there being 12 members present. Apologies for absence were received from Miss F. Dodds, Mr P.J. Simmonds and Mr. M.G. Reed. Mr. C.R. Menhinick, Miss J.L. Hadow and Mr. C. Horton arrived later, bringing the number to fifteen.

The minutes of the previous A.G.M. were read and signed by the Master and Secretary, having been accepted by those present as a true record.

### Matters arising

Miss J. Stoy enquired whether Mr. Greatrex had bought drinks for the freshers. Mr Greatrex replied that he had. Mr J.G. Burton pointed out that there was a discrepancy in last years accounts. Miss L.E. Owen asked for an explanation. Miss V.J. Vere said that Mr. D. Flint had suggested we sign off the difference and start afresh. This was decided upon by a vote of the meeting.

### Master's Report

Mr. Greatrex reported a successful year, beginning with a superb week on the canal at Easter. During the same vacation Philip and Jenny Simmonds were married, Mr. Simmonds being an associate member of the society. The master went on to say that attendances during the exam. term, at both practices and services, had been excellent. Two out of three peals attempted for the peal weekend had been successful, both rung to congratulate Miss G.M. Barter and Miss L. Powell on obtaining their honours degrees. During the summer Mr. C.R. Menhinick and Miss J.E. Blake had been married, and Mr. Greatrex extended the society's congratulations to them.

The Autumn term had been busy, with many new members, four society peals and a record number of people at the annual dinner. No peals had been rung during the spring term, but several non-ringing activities, such as swimming had been arranged.

Twenty five quarter peals had been rung, ranging from Grandsire Doubles to 8-spliced Surprise Major. Handbell practices had been well attended, and relations with the St Martin's Guild were good. Mr. Greatrex congratulated two members, Miss F. Dodds and Mr. J.P. Loveless, on scoring over 100 peals each in 1974.

Mr. Greatrex urged members to attend Northern University Association meetings more frequently next year. He closed his report with thanks for the help and support of Miss Vere and Mr Burton throughout the year.

### Treasurer's Report

Mr. J.G. Burton reported that this year's dinner had made a profit of £4.71 and income from subscriptions had risen. The grant from the Union had fallen from £25 to £20. There was now £14.10 in the deposit and £42.85 in the current account, plus 80p each in hand, and Mr. Burton suggested that some more money should be transferred to the deposit account.

### Matters Arising from Reports

Miss V.J. Vere suggested that someone should check the accounts for us each year.

### Election of Officers

There were two nominations for the office of president. Canon G. Norburn was proposed by Miss V.J. Vere and seconded by Mr. C.A. Greatrex. Rev. T. Milward was proposed by Mr. A.F. Case and seconded by Miss. C. Blythe on the grounds that he showed more interest in the society. Miss Vere and Miss J. Stoy felt that this was not sufficient reason to change. Canon Norburn was re-elected by 9 votes to 3.

Mrs. J.E. Menhinick was proposed as Master by Mr. C.A. Greatrex and seconded by Miss V.J. Vere. Miss J. Stoy enquired whether Mrs Menhinick was eligible to stand, and it was explained that as a life member of the society she was. There were no other nominees and Mrs Menhinick was declared elected.

Miss H.M. Cooper was proposed as secretary by Miss V.J. Vere and seconded by Mrs J.E. Menhinick. Mr C. Horton was proposed as treasurer by Mr. J.G. Burton, seconded by Miss V.J. Vere. Both were duly elected unopposed.

### Review of Subscriptions

It was decided that the annual subscription should be raised from 40p to 50p in view of increased postal charges. 13 votes were cast in favour of the increase and one against.

Mr J.P. Loveless proposed a 5p steeplage on practice nights. Mr A. Case seconded this, saying that it should be given to St. Bartholomew's towards new ropes. Mr J.G. Burton suggested that half should be kept for society funds. Mr. Greatrex thought that the society ought to pay half the cost of the new ropes anyway.

12 votes were cast in favour of the steeplage.

### Deputy Master

A new office of deputy master was suggested by Mrs JE Menhinick, to alleviate the burden of both master and secretary and to take charge when the master was absent. Mr. J.G. Burton wondered whether it should be entered in the constitution, and if so, whether the words "may..." or "shall be elected" should be used. It was decided to defer consideration of this point until a later date. The introduction of the post of deputy master for this year only was proposed by Mrs Menhinick and seconded by Mr. Greatrex. 11 votes were cast in favour.

### Associate members

Mr. P.J. Simmonds was proposed as an associate member by Mr. C.A. Greatrex and seconded by Miss F. Dodds. It was pointed out that Mr Simmonds was moving to Great Barr but apparently he still intended to come to practices. 11 votes were cast in his favour.

Miss H.C. Taylor was suggested as an associate member, but she is eligible for life membership.

### Any Other Business

Mr. Greatrex told the meeting that Mr. J.S. Hopwood had left him his incomplete record of society peals. It was suggested that we obtain a peal book and Mr. J.P. Loveless said he would be pleased to donate his. It was decided that handwriting would be preferable to a letter set, and cheaper!

The Peak District was decided upon for this year's camping weekend.

Miss J.M. Smith complained on behalf of Mr. M.G. Reed that the time of the meeting was inconvenient for past members and should be changed to a weekend. Miss J. Stoy felt it would be

wrong for decisions to be influenced by past members who do not attend practices regularly. Miss L.E. Owen proposed 7 p.m. on a Wednesday as a good time for both past and present members. This was seconded by Mr C.A. Greatrex.

Miss J.M. Smith also objected to the large quantity of free wine provided for the top table at last year's dinner. After much discussion it was decided that less would be provided this year – half a bottle per person being considered adequate.

Miss V.J. Vere was proposed as Deputy Ringing Master by Mrs J.E. Menhinick and seconded by Miss J.L. Hadow and was elected by a unanimous vote.

Mr A.F. Case proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring committee.

The meeting was closed at 6.12 p.m.

Signed  
J Menhinick  
H.M. Cooper  
Secretary

Typed up by James Mundy, July 2023.