

Minutes of the A.G.M. held on Wednesday 10th March 1976 in St Monica's Hall, Edgbaston Parish Church

The meeting was opened at 6.55 pm by Mrs. J.E. Menhinck. 12 members were present, and 5 more arrived later. Apologies for absence were received from Miss K.M. Burton, Miss F. Dodds, Miss J.M. Evans, Miss L.E. Owen, and Mr. M.G. Reed. The minutes of the previous A.G.M. were read, approved, and signed.

Matters Arising

A set of new ropes has recently been ordered for Edgbaston, Dr. S.W. Barton had said the society need not make a contribution to the cost; and in fact the church is to pay for the ropes.

Master's Report

Mrs J.E. Menhinick gave a brief report of the year's activities. She said that the standard of ringing had improved over the year, with peals and quarter peals scored. But she felt that there were many able ringers in the society, and we could do more to show the society's strength. Social activities over the year had also been successful.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. C.D. Horton reported that the balance at the start of the year was £57.75, and is now £72.10. The main sources of income were the grant from the Union, steeplage, and subscriptions. The main expense was secretarial expenses including advertising in "The Ringing World". Some stays had been replaced, the handbell straps were renewed, and the bells insured.

The Dinner made a small profit, but the coach trip and party a loss. A loss was also made on the Fresher's Party.

Mr. Horton finished by saying that he was in favour of retaining the steeplage, because of increasing costs.

Election of Officers

Mr. J.P. Loveless was proposed as Master by Miss A.L. Barter, and seconded by Miss V.J. Vere. Miss A.L. Barter was proposed as secretary by Miss H.M. Cooper, seconded by Miss S.M. Stafford. Both were elected unopposed.

There were two nominations for Treasurer; Miss H.L.E. Davis, proposed by Mrs. J.E. Menhinick and seconded by Miss H.M. Cooper; and Miss S.C. Redmond, proposed by Miss J.M. Evans and seconded by Mr. C.A. Greatrex. Miss Redmond was elected by 8 votes to 4.

The new Master then took over the chair, and expressed his thanks to the retiring committee.

Amendments to constitution

Amendments were suggested by the retiring committee. There was much discussion, and the amendments were amended and then agreed. The membership clause now reads as follows:-

1. Members must be staff or fulltime student members of a university or college affiliated to Birmingham Area N.U.S.
2. While they are undergraduate members they shall be termed "Ordinary members"; however,
3. An Ordinary member who has paid 3 consecutive annual subscriptions shall become a "life member", with the same privileges as an ordinary member.

4. Membership of the Society does not itself confer any privileges pertaining to membership of the Guild of Undergraduates.
5. Associate Members:- These shall be people who attend practices and Sunday service ringing frequently. They must be elected at an A.G.M. being proposed and seconded and reconsidered annually. They may not vote at a meeting of the Society or hold any office. They shall not be resident members of any other university society.
6. All classes of member, and no-one else, shall be eligible to ring peals for the Society.
7. Ex-officio members:- This shall be the Incumbent of the society's practice night tower.

Tower – painting the frame

Mrs. J.E. Menhinick told the meeting that Mr. J.G. Burton and Mr. C.R. Menhinick had done some maintenance work on the frame, at St Bartholomew's, and had thought about painting it. Canon G. Norburn had suggested that the society be responsible for this, and the church would provide the paint. Mrs. Menhinick proposed that members of the society should paint the frame, this was seconded by Mr. C.A. Greatrex, and carried. Mrs Menhinick also said that Taylor's are to look at the bells in the near future, and they are likely to find other work that should be done. It was decided that the committee would organise the work for the beginning of the Autumn Term.

Any Other Business

- I. Mr. C.A. Greatrex pointed out that the election of President had been omitted from the agenda. He proposed that Canon G. Norburn be elected for the coming year, this was seconded by Mrs J.E. Menhinick, and carried.
- II. Deputy Ringing Master. Mrs Menhinick asked whether this office should continue. Mr. C.A. Greatrex did not think it was necessary, but Mr. J.P. Loveless proposed that it should be permanent. Mrs. Menhinick seconded this, it was carried, and the constitution suitably amended. Mr S.H. Stanford was proposed as Deputy Ringing Master by Mr. D.C. Everett, and seconded by Mr. C.A. Greatrex. Miss H.L.E. Davis was proposed by Mr. C.D. Horton and seconded by Mrs. J.E. Menhinick.
Mr Stanford was elected by 6 votes to 5.
- III. Associate members.
Mr. M. Regan and Mr. S.G. Everett were proposed by Mr. D.C. Everett and seconded by Mr. J.P. Loveless. In view of the constitution changes earlier in the meeting; Mr Regan was asked to clarify the present situation with the Coventry Colleges Guild. He said that the Guild existed but has now folded up through lack of support, and so he and Mr S. Everett were not in fact members. Mrs. J.E. Menhinick said that it should be understood that their membership of B.U.S.C.R. would immediately cease if the Coventry Colleges Guild was reformed, and Mr. S.H. Stanford hoped that this would not discourage reforming the Guild. On this understanding, Mr Regan and Mr Everett were elected Associate Members.
Miss E.M. Pugh was proposed by Mr C.D. Horton, seconded by Mrs. J.E. Menhinick, and duly elected.
Mr. P.J. Simmonds was proposed for re-election by Mr. C.A. Greatrex, seconded by Mr D.J. Attley, and carried.
Mr. D.R. Dewar was proposed by Mr. C.A. Greatrex and seconded by Miss H.L.E. Davis. After discussion, Mr Dewar was elected.
- IV. Camping weekend, June 25th-27th. Two venues were proposed; North Oxfordshire, and Lincolnshire. North Oxfordshire was chosen by vote.

- V. Forthcoming events, for the rest of 1976, were announced.
- VI. Mrs. Menhinick suggested that members of the society ring three quarter peals simultaneously. The idea was approved and May 20th suggested.
- VII. Mr. C.A. Greatrex proposed that the Master buy drinks for the Freshers; and the Master himself seconded this.
- VIII. Mrs. J.E. Menhinick asked the meeting for any suggestions as to how to improve the handbell practices. Several points were put forward, particularly my Mr. D.C. Everett.
- IX. Miss V.J. Vere was thanked for compiling a complete record of the society's peals.

The meeting was closed at 8.43 pm.

Signed
John P. Loveless
Anne L. Barter (sec.)

Typed up by James Mundy, July 2023.