

Minutes of the A.G.M. held on Wednesday 7th March 1979 in St Monica's Hall

The meeting was opened by Miss Christine Hayes (Master) at 7.43.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Kath Burton, Kathy Thomas, Meg. Harris, Liz Harris, and Mr Cliff Stanley.

2. Minutes of the Last AGM

These were read by Mr Robin Middleton, proposed by Miss Sue Redmond, approved by the floor, and signed by the Master and the Secretary.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

Thanks were expressed to those people who painted the bell frame. This task was now complete.

Miss Sue Redmond enquired as to the state of the library and was rewarded with a rendering of the current book list by Mr. Robin Middleton.

4. Master's Report

Miss Christine Hayes remarked in her report that the year had been one of steady progress, especially amongst beginners whose enthusiasm had been most encouraging. A large percentage of the society had been present on Wednesday evening practices and that most ringing advancement had been made on six bells although visitors had enabled surprise major to be rung. Miss Hayes emphasised the importance of good striking at all standards in change ringing.

On Sundays, regular quarters had been rung and there had been a good attendance for Sunday service ringing. Tied bell practices also took place on Sunday afternoons at the beginning of the academic year to give beginners an extra chance to practice. Overall, much individual progress had been made on Sundays.

At this point Miss Christine Hayes congratulated various people on their individual achievements and summarised the peals and quarter peals rung throughout the year. She also commented on the success of the regular annual events that had taken place including the dinner, the canal trip and the camping weekend, and said that she was pleased to see the increased social activity within the society.

Finally, Miss Hayes expressed her thanks to her committee and to Miss Sue Redmond for their continued support and she wished her successor and the society well for the future.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr James Gamble reported a balance of £295.45 + deposit.

6. Matters arising from the Reports

Miss Sue Redmond queried the subsidy for the Leeds N.U.A. trip. Mr Gamble confirmed the figure of £12.70.

Both reports were proposed and accepted.

7. The proposed New Office of General Secretary

Much discussion took place over the subject. Mr Robin Middleton pointed out the advantage of such a post that included keeping past members in touch with one another and with the present society. He also pointed out that he had received written support from several past members including Miss Anne Barter and Miss Valerie Vere.

Difficulties that presented themselves included the process of electing candidates and also the term of office they should serve. Eventually, it was agreed Mr C.D. Horton should be elected and Miss Christine Hayes proposed a motion to this effect. Miss Sue Redmond added that the post should be reviewed every two years.

8. Election of Officers

Mr Robin Middleton pointed out that the post of Vice master was not recognised officially in the constitution although it had 'existed' for several years past. Miss Christine Hayes advised that the constitution should therefore be amended to include this post and also that of General Secretary.

The following officers were duly elected unopposed to positions on the committee.

Chairman & Master – Mr Robin P.D. Middleton	Proposed by J.E.G.	Seconded by Mr. A. Storer.
Secretary – Mr Philip A.L. Rioch	R.P.D.M.	J.E.G.
Treasurer – Miss Charlotte Denwood	C.A.H.	S.C.R.
Vice Master – Mr James E. Gamble	A.S.	R.P.D.M.

The Rev. E.D. Coombes was re-elected to the post of President with 12 votes and 1 abstention.

The new committee took office and passed vote of thanks to C.A.H.

No Associate members were elected.

9. Next Term's activities

It was heard that the canal trip was definitely on.

Miss Christine Hayes suggested that the camping weekend should be held at her farm in Suffolk and all were in favour of this proposition. It was also decided that Miss Sue Redmond should drive the mini-bus.

It was proposed that the peal W/E should take place on 16th-17th June and this was agreed unanimously. It was proposed that the camping weekend should take place on 30th June (prop. – J.E.G., second. – C.A.H.) although it could clash with the N.U.A. peal W/E. This was passed with one abstention. The 23rd June was thus left free for the 12 bell striking competition in Reading.

Mr James Gamble proposed a trip up the Severn Valley railway earlier rather than later in the term.

Mr Robin Middleton proposed a trip up Joe later rather than earlier in the term.

Both propositions were received enthusiastically.

Any Other Business

- Inter-University striking competition.

Mr Robin Middleton said he thought this would be a good idea. Miss Sue Redmond agreed. Discussion took place as to whether it should be confined to Northern universities and whether an

entrance fee should be charged. It was decided that these and other practicalities should be discussed in committee – all were in favour.

- Carillon Ringing on Sunday Mornings.

Mr Robin Middleton proposed that this should be axed. Miss Sue Redmond and Miss Christine Hayes objected strongly. There was some doubt as to whether or not the society had actually undertaken to fulfil this task. It was agreed however that we should fill the gap.

- Handbells.

Mr Robin Middleton suggested that, if there was sufficient enthusiasm, a handbell practice should take place. Many were in favour and it was agreed that this would start immediately at Tuesday lunchtimes.

- Miss Sue Redmond also made three points
 - a) The Canon had died.
 - b) That winners of the Master's Cup should be recorded on a plaque.
 - c) That the master should buy drinks.

- Miss Christine Hayes brought up the subject of life membership. She put that it was not right that three years membership as a student should be a requirement for receiving life membership and that it was unfair on people who joined the society as 2nd years or later. It was agreed to consider this further in committee.

- At this point, votes of thanks were passed for the President's work over the year, the retiring committee and anyone who might have been left out.

Miss Sue Lord presented a present to Miss Christine Hayes on behalf of the society for all her hard work.

The meeting closed at 9.22 p.m.

Signed
Robin P.D. Middleton
P. Rioch

Typed up by James Mundy, July 2023.