

Minutes of the A.G.M. held on Wednesday, 12th March, 1980 in St. Monica's Hall, Edgbaston Old Church

The meeting was opened by Mr. R.P.D. Middleton (Master) at 7.55 pm.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. C. Horton and Miss J.M.D. Kimberley.

Minutes of the last A.G.M.

These were read by Mr. P. Rioch.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising. The minutes were proposed by Mr. J.E. Gamble, seconded by Miss S.E. Lord and duly signed by Mr. R.P.D. Middleton.

Master's Report

Mr. Robin Middleton began by commenting on the success of various ringing events during the last year, especially the Easter Canal Trip and outings to Suffolk, for which he expressed thanks to Miss Christine Hayes and her parents; to Stoke-on-Trent (thanks to Mr. John Burton); and to Cardiff.

At the start of the new academic year, the initially large number of members sorted itself out, with a regular group emerging.

In November, what is believed to be the first Northern Universities Association striking competition was hosted by Birmingham and we beat the other four 'teams' which entered of the original ten who expressed interest in the event. Mr. Middleton reported that London University had also held a competition in the south and it was hoped that a final would be held in the near future. He then thanked Miss Susan C. Redmond for undertaking the organisation of the event.

Mr. Middleton reported that a peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major was rung on Dinner Day (though unfortunately not for the Society) and thanked Mr. Paul N. Harden for involving some of the members of B.U.S.C.R. in a peal of Rutland Surprise Major at Christmas.

Attendance had been reasonably good, and especially encouraging on Sunday evening, progress being made in ringing in general, particularly in the hand-bell group which was re-incorporated last summer. He said that this year's beginners were progressing well and that a tied-bell practice would soon be superfluous. Mr. Middleton regretted that enthusiasm for surprise methods had led to neglect of striking, which ranged from bad upwards, and he pleaded on behalf of the many local residents that we should pay more heed to the sound we produce. Nevertheless, on occasions there had been some relatively good striking.

Seventeen quarter peals had been rung for the Society, and one peal for the birth of another Menhinick – possibly a future member?

The Society had begun this year to ring once a month on a Sunday morning at Smethwick Old Church where we have been made most welcome. On the 'home front', he reported that a new stay mechanism had been introduced on some bells, and although it had yet to prove its worth, we are indebted to Mr. Bryan Woolley for work done on the bells.

Mr. Middleton reminded the meeting that the Society was now entering its silver jubilee year and hoped that ideas would be forthcoming for celebratory events apart from those already underfoot, and he also encouraged everybody's help in the organisation of events.

Finally, Mr. Middleton thanked his committee members for their support and wished the Society luck for its next twenty-five years.

Treasurer's Report

Miss Charlotte Denwood reported a balance of £132-08.

General Secretary's Report

This was read by Mr. P. Rioch as Mr. Christopher Horton was unable to be present.

Mr. C. Horton wrote that although a year had passed, he had not yet done anything, mainly because of lack of contact with present members bar chance meetings that would happen whether or not he were General Secretary.

He suggested that some way be found to involve the General Secretary in committee meetings, of which he had heard nothing, so that everyone would know what was going on and what future plans were, and what needed to be done.

He therefore regretted that he was unable to offer more than this suggestion by way of a report.

Matters Arising from the Reports

Miss Caroline M. Pearson suggested that Mr. Horton should send round a list of events and Mr. R.P.D. Middleton agreed that there was not enough liaison. Mr. James E. Gamble said that there are links with the present society.

Elections

The following stood for posts on the committee:

Chairman & Ringing Master: Philip A.L. Rioch, proposed by Mr. R.P.D. Middleton and seconded by Mr. J.E. Gamble.

Secretary: Miss Jennie M.D. Kimberley, proposed by Mr. R.P.D. Middleton and seconded by Miss C.J. Provost.

Treasurer: Miss Rachel A. Smith, proposed by Miss C.M. Pearson and seconded by Mr. P. Rioch.

Deputy Master: Paul N. Harden, proposed by Miss C.J. Provost and seconded by Miss J.M.D. Kimberley.

All were duly elected by the meeting, unopposed, and the new committee took over proceedings.

Rev. E.D. Coombes was re-elected as President of the Society, and Mr. C. Horton as General secretary for his second year of office.

Election of Associate membership

After discussion as to how many associate members may be elected, and subsequent consultation of the current constitution and minute book, the following were elected, proposed by Mr. R.P.D. Middleton and seconded by Miss C.M. Pearson:

Katherine England

Juliet Graham

Nicola Harrison

Roger Haynes
Roger Lawson

Amendment to the constitution

The new Master, Mr. Philip Rioch, proposed the following amendment to the constitution:

Paragraph 4: Officers should be amended to read:

“The government of the Society shall be vested in a) President b) Ringing Master c) Deputy Ringing Master d) Secretary e) Treasurer, who shall be elected annually. A General Secretary may be elected every two years at the A.G.M. This officer should normally be responsible for co-ordinating the activities of life-members of the Society.”

The motion was carried and there followed a discussion as to the appropriate wording of the amendment.

Next Term's Activities

It was agreed to change the date of the Peal weekend from 21st June to 14th June and that of the Camping weekend from 28th June to 21st June. An invitation was received from Miss Jill Roden to base the camping weekend at her parents' farm in Herefordshire.

June 19th was fixed as the date for a skittles match between B.U.S.C.R. and the resident ringers from various local towers.

An outing to Worcester and a trip on the River Severn were suggested for the May Day Bank Holiday.

Any Other Business

1. It was suggested that a new bag be bought for the Society handbells as the present bag was falling apart.
2. Miss S.C. Redmond and Mr. R.P.D. Middleton agreed to assist the Committee in the organisation of the 25th Anniversary celebrations.
3. It was proposed and approved that as from Noon on April 15th, the subscription should be raised from 50p to £1.00.
4. Mr. R.P.D. Middleton proposed that the Master buy drinks for all 'Freshers' at the beginning of the Autumn Term.
5. A vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. R.P.D. Middleton and Miss Susan E. Lord presented him with a small gift.

The meeting was then closed.

Signed Jennie
M.D. Kimberley (Hon. Sec)
P. Rioch

Typed up by James Mundy, July 2023.