

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

The meeting was opened by Mr P. N. Harden (master) at 2.31 pm. Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr A.M.J. Young
Mr S. Stanford
Miss A. Barter
Mrs. J. Menhinick
Mr C. Horton
Miss R.A. Gardner

Election of officers

Mr P.N. Harden proposed that Rev E. Coombes should again be president; the motion was seconded by Miss Heather Gibbs.

At this stage, the chair was passed over to Rev Coombes for the election of officers. It was noted that a gift of £2 had been received from a "grateful somebody".

Mr P.S. Oldfield proposed Miss Heather Gibbs as Master of the B.U.S.C.R. The motion was seconded by Mr P.N. Harden.

Mr P.S. Oldfield was proposed as deputy master by Miss Heather Gibbs and Mr P.N. Harden was again seconder.

Mr P.N. Harden proposed Miss Rachel Gardner for the post of secretary; this was seconded by Mr A.M.J. Young.

Mr. R.F. Knights was proposed as treasurer by Mr A.M.J. Young, Mr P.N. Harden was seconder.

The post of General Secretary was filled by Miss Valerie Vere who was proposed by Mr P.N. Harden and seconded by Miss Heather Gibbs.

The minutes of the previous AGM were then read by Miss Gibbs.

Matters arising

The section marked in red in last year's AGM minutes was withdrawn.

It was proposed that written nominations for a post should be received at least two weeks in advance, and that no written votes should be allowed. The motion was carried.

Miss S. Redmond asked what had happened to the written record of B.U.S.C.R. members. It was recommended that the committee keep a list of names and addresses of those in the society. There were none against this suggestion.

Next, the minutes of the E.G.M. were read by Miss Heather Gibbs.

Matters arising from EGM

A proposed amendment to the constitution was read by Paul Harden; a discussion on the wording followed. The amendment is

- a) While members are registered at a university or college affiliated to Birmingham N.U.S. they shall be termed “ordinary members” and shall pay an annual subscription to the society
- b) Annual members having paid 3 annual subscriptions, one of which in their final year of registration, shall become a “life member” with the same privileges as an ordinary member.
- c) Membership of the society does not itself confer any privilege pertaining to the membership of the Guild of Undergraduates.

Master’s Report

Paul Harden opened his report by remarking that the year had been an exciting one for the society; he reminisced about the social events, including the Leicestershire canal trip, the EGM and “tower grab” in the Kenilworth area, and the Rainy May day trip to Shropshire when B.U.S.C.R. experienced their first ever indoor Bar-b-Q.

He continued by mentioning the successful intra-society striking competition at Hanley Castle in Worcestershire, the Milton Keynes and the Dartmoor trip.

Paul next mentioned the new members of the society, remarking upon the fortuitous mixture of experience and enthusiasm; the N.U.A. was held at Liverpool – a good time was had by all, but Paul hoped that there would be more support from other universities in future, as in the reign of Sue Redmond.

The annual dinner was held for the first time ever, at the Grand Hotel, rather than Priestly Hall: the meal was enjoyable, the speeches of Richard Grimmett and John Anderson were audible and the Barn Dance proved to be popular.

Having entered three striking competitions, the society had won two, which Paul found very encouraging, although he was discouraged by apathy on a Wednesday evening, when experienced ringers seemed reluctant to join in with the simpler touches and by poor striking while visiting towers.

To conclude, Paul made special mention of a few individuals: the other three committee members, Heather, or “shortie” who had been a “right hand man”, Megan, a very efficient treasurer, and Rachel Smith, always there when needed.

Peter (Sammy) was commended for his progress, as was Alan for his and also for his flair for organisation.

Finally there was a special “thank you” to John Anderson, who although a non-member had been of great help in many ways.

Treasurer’s Report

It was reported that a loss had been made on the dinner of between four and five pounds; the guild grant had not yet been received, secretarial expenses were up, £35 pounds had been spent on stays and that the self-financing of society events was working well.

Newsletter for the EGM

Valerie Vere reported that one newsletter had just gone out, asking for information from life members. She requested that people let her know by the next AGM if they wanted to receive the next newsletter.

Sponsored event

The vicar asked how much money had been raised from the sponsored event. (watch in a cupboard)
The amount was around £100.

Refurbishing

James Gamble enquired about refurbishing the bells. John Anderson is to inspect the bells, having read the Taylor report. He suggests a D.I.Y. effort. The cost is unknown, but should be paid by the church and St Martin's Guild.

Finances

James also enquired about the amount received from subscriptions and steeplage; this worked out to be £51 subscriptions and £18.93 steeplage.

Annual Dinner

It was asked if people wanted to hold the Annual Dinner in a hotel next year.

Colin Bramich felt that the seating plan left something to be desired and thought that the meal was lacking, although Paul Harden, Alan Jenner and Chris Horseman thought that it was a good arrangement.

Future events

A camping weekend was discussed. The venues suggested were the Peak district, and Suckley, Worcestershire. It was decided to go to Suckley on either the 18/19/20th June or 25th/26th/27th June.

Election of new associate members

Paul Harden proposed Roger Haynes, who was seconded by Wendy Thomas; Anna Beever was proposed by Alan Jenner and seconded by Robin P. Middleton. There was no one against.

Any Other Business

- a) The vicar mentioned the heritage festival, on June 30th-July 3rd and hoped that we could perhaps put a display in the tower. Robin Middleton suggested that St Martins Guild might be able to help.
- b) Alan Jenner was concerned that beginners were not present on many of the outings – others commented that this had not actually been observed, perhaps because there were not many actual beginners. It was suggested that learners might be allowed to ring the backstrokes, but this would be left to the discretion of the person in charge of the "qaub".
- c) Insurance was discussed with reference to John Anderson looking at the bells; Rev E. Coombes affirmed that we were insured for this.

A small gift was given to Paul Harden to show appreciation of his work as Ringing Master.

The meeting closed at 4.20 p.m.

Signed
Heather Gibbs

Typed up by James Mundy, July 2023.