

Minutes of AGM held on Saturday 12th March 1983 in St Monica's Hall, Edgbaston Old Church

The meeting was opened at 5.34pm by Miss Heather Gibbs (master). Apologies for absence were received from Miss Susan Lord, Mr Robin Middleton, Miss Wendy Thomas, Mr Paul Harden, Mr Andrew Young and Miss Joanne Peakman.

The minutes of the last AGM were read by Miss R Gardner.

Matters Arising

Miss H Gibbs mentioned that Edgbaston bells had been rung for the Heritage Festival held from June 30th to July 3rd 1982 and that much interest had been shown by the public, especially for the handbell ringing display.

Treasurer's Report

Mr R Knights referred those present to the balance sheet saying that Mr A Warren should be added to the list of members thus making the subscriptions £48 instead of £46. Richard reported that subscriptions were down by £5 (ie £3 with the extra subscription) and that steepage was up to £14, although this figure did not represent a great increase in attendance since the steepage had gone up from 5p to 10p. The attendance figures had in fact not been very good especially during the summer term of 1982. He also reported that the 2nd and 3rd parts of the loan for the sweatshirts (£41 each) had yet to be paid and would be paid off in the future and that six sweatshirts were left in which £42 was tied up. Reference was then made as to the easiness with which mistakes could be made in the keeping of the accounts and it was suggested that some kind of audit may be done; no mention of an audit could be found in the constitution. Miss S. Redmond asked if the mistakes could be due to a lack of promptness in filling in the books; Richard answered that it was very important to keep the books up to date and that the writing of receipts was especially important. Rev Coombes suggested the appointment of someone outside the society to audit the books, a job which could be done overnight. This idea was then proposed by Richard and seconded by Rev Coombes. The whereabouts of the money from this academic year's sponsored event was then questioned and Richard explained that some £190 had been raised and that it was in a building society account since it was not included in the society's accounts. The treasurer's report was duly accepted by those present.

Election of Officers

Miss H Gibbs proposed that Rev Coombes should again be president and the motion was carried. Rev Coombes then took the chair expressing his thanks to Heather and the other officers for their help in cleaning and 'demolishing' parts of the tower.

The following stood for posts on the committee.

Master – Richard Knights, proposed by Jennie Kimberley, seconded Peter Oldfield

Deputy master & social sec – Simon Girt, proposed by Sue Falconer, seconded Alan Jenner

Secretary – Rowan Wilson, proposed Heather Gibbs, seconded Andy Young

Treasurer – Nicki Barham, proposed Heather Gibbs, seconded Sue Falconer

Gen Secretary – Valerie Simmonds was re-elected, proposed Heather Gibbs, seconded Sue Falconer.

All were duly elected.

Master's Report

Heather opened her report saying that she was not sorry to be giving up her post as master and that she would be quite happy to sit back and let somebody else run things. She had found some parts of the job enjoyable especially having top table service at the dinner. Of the year's activities she mentioned the canal trip and expressed the importance of maintaining this event which due to lack of interest had been cancelled this year. Also mentioned was the camping weekend held in Colin's dad's garage and the disappointing peal weekend when only one was scored that being Richard's first as conductor and Sue Lord's first peal; a second peal weekend also failed due to lack of support. Two events which had met with success were the annual dinner, held once again in the Grand Hotel, and Rachel's progressive/regressive/permissive day; a first for the society, which started with breakfast at Heathers, who put on a fine display of floor washing for us, then continued with ringing around the city, lunch at Sammy's and finally a silly evening at Richard's.

Coming around to the subject of ringing, Heather said that her policy of alternating surprise methods with simpler ones for the Sunday morning quarters had been fairly successful with varying standards of striking. Various firsts had been scored, Nicki, Andrew and Tony ringing their first quarters and other firsts being achieved in various methods or as conductors. The word diabolical was however heard in connection with the general standard of striking.

In closing Heather wished the society well in the coming future especially in its domination of the Northern Universities striking competition. She thanked Rev Coombes for the use of Edgbaston bells and expressed her hopes for the continuation of the good relationship between the church and the society.

Election of new associate members

No nominations were made.

Annual Dinner

This year's dinner had generally been enjoyed although the ending had left much to be desired and it was suggested that in future we stipulate the time at which we would like to finish and not leave it to the hotel staff. It was hoped that the life members would finally take it for granted that they can no longer go to Priestley's and that more of them would come next time.

Future events

Camping weekend – this year's camping weekend will be held on 24th – 26th June in the Buckingham area.

Peal weekend – due to past failures its method of arrangement was questioned and it was decided that we should give it one more try. The dates decided upon were 17th – 19th June.

Any other business

- 1) A letter suggesting the creation of a fifth committee post of social secretary was received from Mr P Harden, seconded by Mr A Young. After much discussion and some confusion, the proposal was thrown out on the grounds that if a fifth post were created, the deputy master would have practically nothing to do.
- 2) T shirts – it was suggested that the society should invest in some T shirts instead of sweatshirts since they are cheaper and probably more useful considering the physical nature of bell-ringing. Various thoughts were aired as to a new design but it was finally decided to keep the old design due to the time involved in choosing a new design. Only one objection was heard, a bearded member of the committee complaining that a tie could not be worn

with a T shirt; he was subsequently bombarded with several suggestions as to what he could do.

- 3) Val Simmonds' (General Secretary's) report – Val asked for contributions from present members to enable her to write a newsletter. She also suggested that when members left the University they should send a contribution to her to cover the cost of the newsletters they would subsequently receive from her.
- 4) May day tour – it was assumed that people would be coming back to B'ham on the Sunday before May day although term doesn't start until the Tuesday.
- 5) St Martins – Sammy reminded those present that St Martin Guild held several events to which the members of the society were welcome to come and that much could be learnt from such events.
- 6) Val Simmonds said that she had received a letter from a Mr Geoff Davies who was master of the society about 20 yrs ago and now lived in America; he had mentioned that he would be only too happy to come over to speak about the society at a future annual dinner.
- 7) Sue Falconer asked if it would be possible for all the members of the society to see the minutes of the committee meetings that took place; it was subsequently decided that the secretary should bring the minute book to the Wednesday night practise whenever appropriate.
- 8) Sue Redmond said she was chuffed to see her pictures up in the ringing chamber and that she would update the masters award when she had the time.
- 9) A feeling was expressed as to the standard of recent Masters Peals in that they were a shamble; further discussion occurred during which Sue Redmond said that she thought that most life members would be more prepared to come to B'ham for both the dinner and the peal rather than just the dinner or the peal.
- 10) Alan presented Heather with a pint mug on behalf of the society in gratitude for all of her hard work over the past year. Heather was then seen to christen her mug with beer from a can and was heard to say that it was quite good seeing as it came from a mere can.

The meeting was closed at about 7pm.

Signed
R.F. Knights

Typed up by James Mundy, July 2023.