

Minutes of AGM held on Saturday 10th March 1984 in S. Monica's Hall, Edgbaston Old Church

The meeting was opened at 6.20pm by Mr Richard Knights (master). Apologies for absence were received from Miss Joanne Peakman, Mrs Valerie Simmonds and Miss Carolyn Farthing.

The minutes of the last AGM were read by Miss Rowan Wilson.

Matters arising

- i) Canal trip – in spite of a comment made at the last AGM as to the importance of maintaining this event, a BUSCR canal trip is going to be non-existent again this year due to lack of interest.
- ii) Dinner – yet again, members found the premature finish rather unsatisfactory. Members were informed however that the committee had done their best, having learnt their lesson from last year's dinner, and that the problem had been traced to a misunderstanding between the management and staff of the Midland Hotel.
- iii) Sweatshirts – there are still two sweatshirts left, both being small.
- iv) Audit – this was done overnight by Rev Coombes.
- v) Building Society – the £190 in the building society account raised from last year's sponsored event has been used to pay for rebushing the clappers. Rev Coombes expressed his thanks for our help in this matter.
- vi) 5th committee post – Mr Paul Harden pointed out that his proposal made last year had been to split the post of Deputy Master and Social Secretary into two separate posts and not to create a 5th post as suggested by the wording in the minutes.
- vii) Masters Board – this has not yet been updated so a request will be made to Mrs Sue Haslam to complete the board if and when she has the time.

Master's Report

Mr Richard Knights opened his report saying that the year had been one of mixed fortunes for the society, the standard of ringing varying from abominable to good.

Of the years events Richard mentioned the NUA striking competition in Sheffield (where our reign was put to an end by the hosts), the camping weekend in Buckinghamshire, the freshers tour to Lichfield and the traditional game of rounders at Griffin Close. A new event was that of the ringing course which, Richard felt, would be a useful event to include in next year's activities.

On the subject of peal attempts, Richard expressed his dissatisfaction with the way in which some of them were arranged. He was also critical of the high number of peal attempts saying that he had found it difficult to arrange peal attempts of his own due to block booking.

Richard then went on to tell us of the improvements which had been made to Edgbaston bells. These included new ropes, rebushing of the clappers and new bolts for the tenor.

Richard brought his report to a close by saying thank you to Rev Coombes for the use of S. Bartholomew's bells and to the committee for their help and finally wished the society 'all the best' for the future.

Treasurer's Report

Miss Nicki Barham drew the attention of those present to the fact that membership was down by £8 and suggested that the subscription should be raised to £5 and the steeplage axed. This was put to the vote and subsequently rejected, the view being that the subscription fees should not be used to

subsidise society events. Mr Richard Knights then proposed that the subscription should be increased to £2.50, this proposal was seconded by Mr Andrew Young and duly carried. A proposal to increase the steplage to 15p was however rejected.

Nicki also reported that there was still some money tied up in the two t-shirts which had not yet been sold and the treasurers and deputy masters' expenses had not been included in the short account.

Election of Officers

Mr Richard Knights proposed that Rev Coombes should again be our President, this was seconded by Miss Heather Gibbs and duly carried. Rev Coombes then took the chair.

The following nominations were then put forward:-

Master – Rowan Wilson was elected unopposed.

Secretary – Sarah Barker was elected unopposed.

There were two nominations for treasurer – Anthea Welch and Adrian Sharples. Adrian Sharples was duly elected.

There were two nominations for the post of deputy master:- Andrew Higson and Liz Agg. Liz Agg was elected.

Annual Dinner

The general consensus of opinion regarding the dinner was that whoever was organising it should ensure that the venue is booked well in advance (preferably soon after the previous year's dinner) as most of the problems encountered appeared to be due to leaving it too late in the year.

Peal Weekend

It was decided that the peal weekend should be shelved for the time being. The main problems were reported as being due to the fact that not enough people were taking part thus putting too much pressure on those that did; this was especially so in the case of the conductors.

Handbells

The lunch time meetings were reported to have ground to a halt, this probably being due to the fact that there were too many people eager to learn and not enough teachers. Anyone who wanted to become involved in handbell ringing was asked to contact Liz Agg who had the handbells in her possession.

Future events

Camping weekend – this would be on the 16th or 23rd June in Lancashire, the invitation coming from Mr John Illingworth.

NUA – this was to be held in B'ham on 16th Nov and would take the form of a weekend incorporating the striking competition, a tour and a social event, the emphasis being on the socialising with the members of other Northern Universities.

Canal trip – this was reported as being a non-event for the second year running mostly due to lack of interest. Mr Andrew Young suggested the a canal trip in the summer vacation might provoke more interest.

AOB

- i) Gen. Secretary's expenses – it was proposed that these should come out of the Society's funds as do the rest of the committees expenses.
- ii) Ringing Worlds – Mr John Illingworth proposed that the Society should have the R.W.'s bound and offered to provide the funding for the binding of the 1983 copies, this proposal was seconded by Mr Paul Harden and subsequently carried.

The meeting was closed at 8.15pm.

Signed
RP Wilson (master)

Typed up by James Mundy, July 2023.