

Minutes of the A.G.M. held on Saturday 9th March 1985 in S. Monica's Hall, Edgbaston Old Church

The meeting was opened at 5.00pm by Miss Rowan Wilson. Apologies for absence were received from Miss E. Agg and Mrs Valerie Simmonds.

The minutes of the last AGM were ready by Miss Sarah Barker.

Matters arising

- i) The masters board – This is now in the process of being done by Sue Haslam.
- ii) Ringing Worlds – The 1983 copies have now been bound and are now in the music library in the Barber Institute.
- iii) Dinner – a provisional venue has been booked in advance for the coming year.

The minutes acceptance was proposed by Miss Heather Gibbs and seconded by Mr Andrew Higson.

Amendment to the constitution

Mr Paul Harden proposed the following amendment to the constitution. Section 4 'c' to read "c. Social Secretary" to replace "c. Deputy ringing master". The Social Secretary should be expected to organise social events when the rest of the committee can't or haven't time. This proposal was seconded by Miss Rowan Wilson and was duly accepted.

Election of Officers

Miss Rowan Wilson proposed that the Rev. Coombes should again be our president. This was seconded by Richard Knights and was duly carried. The Rev. Coombes then took the chair and thanked us for ringing and Rowan for her hard work.

The following nominations were then put forward.

Master – Fiona Brocklehurst, proposed Miss Rowan Wilson, seconded Andrew Higson. Rosemary Cleave, proposed Peter Oldfield, seconded John Illingworth. Fiona was elected.

Social Secretary – Ruth Waterhouse, proposed by Andrew Higson, seconded by Miss Heather Gibbs. Ruth was elected unopposed.

Secretary – Rosemary Cleave, proposed by Miss Rowan Wilson, seconded by Adrian Sharples. Rosemary was elected unopposed.

Treasurer – Adrian Sharples – proposed by Andrew Higson, seconded by Rowan Wilson. Adrian was elected unopposed.

General Secretary – Peter Oldfield, proposed by Rosemary Cleave, seconded by Chris Horseman. Miss Sue Falconer, proposed by Miss Heather Gibbs, seconded by Miss Megan Griffiths. Sue was elected.

Masters Report

Miss Rowan Wilson opened her report saying that 1984-5 had been a good year for the Society regarding ringing achievements. This could be seen by carrying away the St Martins 6 bell striking competition shield, winning the Northern Universities striking competition, and the Society's first peal of Surprise Royal (Cambridge).

Of the years events Rowan mentioned the traditional camping weekend, the Freshers tour to Derby and the annual dinner as well as a picnic on the banks of the River Severn to choose a tower for the N.U.A. striking competition.

Rowan went on to talk about the NUA in Birmingham. The Saturday was spent with a tour around Worcester and the striking competition in the afternoon, to finish the day with a barn dance. The Sunday was spent ringing for services throughout Birmingham, with lunch being held in the Clent Hills. Rowan then thanked Paul for organising a successful weekend.

Rowan expressed concern for the lack of enthusiasm regarding social events within the society. This was emphasised by the fact that only 7 current members had turned up for the Saturday NUA and only 9 current members had joined in with the camping weekend. Rowan said that the health of the society was dependant on the enthusiasm of all the members and more effort could be made by all members.

The report was brought to a close by Rowan thanking all the touch callers and the committee for their assistance. She then wished the society all the best for the future.

Treasurers Report

Mr Adrian Sharples drew the attention of those present to the fact that the Grant from the Union had been cut, but this seemed to be the general trend to other societies. There was quite a substantial gain from the NUA which was to be kept in BUSCR funds. The officers expenses seemed large because some expenses had been carried over from the previous years committee. The dinner loss shown on the short account was in fact a gain as one member had not yet paid for his ticket. The loss from the camping weekend was caused by the minibus hire.

Annual Dinner

The new Imperial hotel had been provisionally booked, but due to some dissatisfaction with last years dinner, it was decided to look around for new alternatives. Mr John Illingworth suggested looking into three venues a) New Imperial, b) University meals c) one other place. The general consensus of opinion regarding the matter was to hold it in a hotel. This was to keep up the standards for life-members whose attendance had dropped over the last five years.

Mr Paul Harden proposed a non-committee post of Dinner Secretary to be nominated to organise the dinner. This was seconded by Mr Chris Horseman. The position was to be selected by the committee and was responsible to the committee. Paul then asked Sue to make a special effort to find out what the life members wanted.

Camping weekend

The proposed date for the camping weekend was 14th – 16th June. There were three places suggested: Kent, Newbury, and Bridgewater area. This was left for the new committee.

Tower maintenance

As Mr Andy Higson was leaving in June a new steeple keeper was needed. Andy informed those present that the job involved checking that the tower and bells were in good order and in the event of a break, help could be sought from St Martin's Guild. Mr Alan Jenner volunteered to be steeple keeper. Thanks went to Andy for his past work.

Other Matters

- i) Canal Holiday – Miss Rowan Wilson brought to the attention of those present the fact that the canal holiday again had not materialised; Therefore an enthusiastic person would be needed to organise next years holiday. Mr Paul Harden suggested the social

secretary should organise it. Mr John Illingworth suggested combining with the Harborne ringers. This was left to the new committee.

- ii) Binding of the Ringing Worlds – Mr Andy Higson proposed that the 1984 copies should be bound out of society funds. This was seconded by Miss Rowan Wilson. The official proposal was that the society should bind all the copies of future years out of society funds. This was carried unanimously.
- iii) Handbells – The handbells had not been rung by the society over the past year. This was possibly because people did not know of their existence. It was suggested that the committee should have them over the summer holidays.
- iv) Beginners:- As there was a large number of beginners at “Freshers Fayre” it was suggested to concentrate more on those ringers who could ring “basics”. It would be better to lose complete beginners than to lose these ringers. It was also suggested to integrate the beginners into the social side of the society. This was left for the new committee to discuss.

Any other business

Miss Rowan Wilson was presented with a card on behalf of the society. Rowan thanked us.

The meeting was closed at 7.12 pm.

Signed
F.K. Brocklehurst (master)

Typed up by James Mundy, July 2023.