

Minutes of AGM Held on March 8th 1986 in Edgbaston Old Church, Edgbaston

The meeting was opened at 5.03pm by Fiona Brocklehurst.

Apologies for absence were received from Valerie Simmonds, Peter and Rosey Oldfield, James and Charlotte Gamble, Alan Jenner, Julie Richards and Ruth Waterhouse.

The minutes of the last AGM were read by Deborah Corrigan.

Matters Arising

Heather Gibbs asked what was happening to the master's board, pointing out that Sue Haslam has had it for almost two years now. The new committee will follow this up.

Heather Gibbs also asked if the 1984 Ringing Worlds have been bound. They have not.

The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Fiona Brocklehurst and seconded by Heather Gibbs.

Election of Officers

Fiona Brocklehurst proposed that the Rev. Coombes should again be our president. This was seconded by Liz Agg and duly carried. The Rev. Coombes then took the chair and thanked those who had rung over the last year. He mentioned that it had been a difficult year and hoped for more enthusiasm in the future for both ringing and social events.

The following nominations were put forward.

- Master - Andrew Twineham
proposed by Fiona Brocklehurst
seconded by Liz Agg
Andrew was elected unopposed.
- Secretary - Deborah Corrigan
proposed by Fiona Brocklehurst
seconded by Julie Richards
Deborah was elected unopposed.
- Treasurer - Elizabeth Sheard
proposed by Adrian Sharples
seconded by Deborah Corrigan
Liz was elected unopposed.
- Social Secretary - Fiona Brocklehurst
proposed by Heather Gibbs
seconded by Julie Richards
Fiona was elected unopposed.

Rev. Coombes welcomed Andrew as Master.

Master's Report

Fiona opened her report by saying '85-'86 had been a difficult year to be master because a large number of very good ringers and keen members had left at the end of the previous academic year. At the beginning of the Autumn term she had felt unable to take on any complete beginners, and although there had been a good response at Freshers Fayre only three new members had continued

coming regularly. Appeals in BUGS and an additional Societies Fayre had brought no response. A few people had contacted Fiona during the year, but nothing had come of this. As a result of the reduction in membership ringing had suffered which meant that we were unable to enter any striking competitions. She expressed regret that after being instrumental in reviving the NUA competition last year we had been unable to send a band this year.

In spite of this the society had held some very enjoyable events including the camping weekend, which was blessed with excellent weather; a get together in Bristol in September, at which Fiona was the only undergraduate present; and the dinner which despite one or two last minute hitches was well attended and successful.

Fiona said that in spite of the difficulties she had enjoyed her year as master, and after asking for better attendance in future, thanked the committee and all the life members who had helped with the ringing and organisation.

Rev. Coombes thanked Fiona, offering his sympathy for her difficulties. He commented that the people of the Parish missed the Sunday morning ringing.

Treasurer's Report

Adrian told the meeting that the grant from the Guild had been reduced because the society held a large balance at the end of last year.

Membership and steepage had both fallen because of the small number of members.

Adrian pointed out that the increase in expenses was partly due to the fact Val Simmonds had claimed £14.00 expenses during this year. He suggested that expenses could be reduced by dropping life members who did not respond from the mailing list. There was some discussion of this. If and how it should be done was left for the next committee to discuss.

Several stays had been broken this year.

The handbell insurance was high because two year's insurance had been paid during this year, and after reassessment the premium has jumped from £8 to £18.00. He suggested that the new committee should look into the cost of specialised handbell insurance. The Rev. Coombes suggested that it might be possible to insure them under the church's policy.

The T-shirts are assets rather than a loss and the dinner had only made a small loss.

The vicar suggested that if we lost the grant because of having cash in hand it might be possible for us to pay for repairs to the bells and for the church to let us have the money in some other way. He also stressed that it was important for officers to incur no personal expense.

Andrew Twineham asked if the annual subscription could be raised. Adrian said that it could, but saw no reason to do so, although did say that ways of lowering officer's expenses should be considered.

Sue Falconer suggested that the expenses of tours could be covered in the cost of the tour. Deborah Corrigan said that to do that would mean that those who went on the tour were penalised.

The accounts were accepted by the Chairman.

Change to the constitution

Fiona Brocklehurst proposed that s6 should be amended to read.

“There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Society at a time decided by the Society’s Officers”

To replace

“There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Society within the last fortnight of the Spring term”

The Rev. Coombes explained that this was necessary to prevent to AGM coinciding with other church events. The ability to agree a date outside the last fortnight of the spring term would provide flexibility.

Heather Gibbs asked if the date could be set a year in advance. Rev. Coombes said no.

Fiona Brocklehurst pointed out that we would need to know by the deadline of entries to the ringing diary in June. The Rev. Coombes said that he hoped this would be possible.

The amendment was proposed by Heather Gibbs, seconded by Adrian Sharples and was duly accepted.

Guild Financing

Adrian Sharples explained that the Finance Committee of the Guild want to take the Guild Societies’ funds and prohibit external bank accounts. The societies would be forced to bank with the Guild and the Guild would control their finances.

He pointed that the system is likely to be put into operation in spite of the disapproval of all societies, and the difficulties of the scheme, because the guild already has a computer to do the job.

This scheme would mean that the Society would lose all surplus money at the end of the year.

Heather Gibbs suggested that the society could claim to be a special case.

The Rev. Coombes suggested that the Society should bank with the church.

Adrian Sharples suggested that it could be avoided by simply not applying for a grant from the Guild next year.

The consensus of opinion was that the Society should try to avoid the Guild controlling its finances.

Any Other Business

Election of Associate Member

Heather Gibbs proposed that Roger Haynes be elected as an associate member. This was seconded by Fiona Brocklehurst and Roger was duly elected.

Annual Dinner

No venue has yet been provisionally booked. It was suggested that we should make enquiries about several possible venues.

- 1) The Edgbaston Banqueting Centre
- 2) The Masonic Temple
- 3) Berrow Court
- 4) Strathallam Hotel

Adrian Sharples suggested that the date of the dinner should be altered so that it was not close to Christmas.

Rev. Coombes suggested that the venue should be fixed and provisionally booked two years in advance.

The matter was left for the new committee.

Sunday Ringing

Heather Gibbs suggested that more quarter peals on Sunday would encourage people to attend. The matter was left for Andrew.

Recruiting

Liz Agg suggested that an advert in the first Ringing World after the A-level results would be useful. We could invite people to get in touch in advance.

It was also suggested that the committee should fix some social events to tell new members about at Fresher's Fayre.

Fiona was presented with a book on behalf of the Society by Andrew Twineham.

The meeting was declared closed at 6.27pm.

Signed
Andrew D Twineham
14-Mar-89

Typed up by James Mundy, July 2023.