

Minutes of the AGM Held on March 14th 1987 in St. Monica's Hall Edgbaston

The meeting was opened at 5.35 pm by Reverend Coombes.

Apologies for absence were received from Colin Bramwich, Ann Hone, Roger Haynes, Chris Horseman, Rowan Wilson, Andrew Storer, Clark Walters, Brian Dalloway.

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

Matters Arising

Heather Gibbs asked what was the latest position on Guild financing. Andrew Twineham said that no more had been heard since the last AGM and presumed that the idea had been dropped.

Andrew Twineham pointed out that the Award Board and Master's Board have been retrieved from Sue Haslam and updated by Niki Barham. He extended his thanks to her for this.

Andrew also told those present that the Ringing Worlds are being bound and that the arrangement with the library in 1983 was that if BUSCR donated the Ringing Worlds the library would pay for the binding.

Change to the Constitution

Heather Gibbs proposed that there should be a change to the constitution which would allow people who have made a considerable contribution to the society but who are not eligible to become a life member should be able to become an honorary life member. As honorary life members they would not have to pay an annual subscription.

After some debate as to what conditions would have to be fulfilled in order to become an honorary life member the following wording was proposed as an addition to s ? of the constitution.

“Honorary Life Member of the Society – These shall be people who have been Associate Members of the Society for three years and are considered by the Society to have contributed sufficiently to the life of the Society to be elected as an Honorary Life Member with the same privileges as an Associate Member. They must be proposed and seconded and elected at an AGM of the Society by a majority of those present”.

The amendment was proposed by Heather Gibbs, seconded by Alan Jenner and duly accepted.

A second amendment was proposed by Andrew Twineham. He proposed that s4c be amended to read “... c Assistant Ringing Master/Social Secretary” instead of “... c Social Secretary”.

It was pointed out that the title was amended from Assistant Ringing Master 2 years ago and it was suggested that to alter it again was pointless. Deborah Corrigan pointed out that the dual title would avoid a need for future changes as regardless of which function the officer appeared to fulfil best the title would be appropriate.

The amendment was proposed by Andrew Twineham, seconded by Fiona Brocklehurst and duly passed.

Election of Officers

Andrew Twineham proposed that Reverend Coombes should again be our President. This was seconded by Deborah Corrigan and duly accepted. Reverend Coombes then took the chair and thanked Andrew and the other ringers.

The following nominations were put forward:-

Master – Rachel Boon.
Proposed by Andrew Twineham.
Seconded by Fiona Brocklehurst.
Elected unopposed.

Secretary – Adrian Sharples.
Proposed by Heather Gibbs.
Seconded by Fiona Brocklehurst.
Elected unopposed.

Treasurer – Elizabeth Sheard.
Proposed by Adrian Sharples.
Seconded by Deborah Corrigan.
Elected unopposed.

Social Secretary/Assistant Ringing Master –
Stuart Hutchieson.
Proposed by Liz Sheard.
Seconded by Rachel Boon.
Elected unopposed.

General Secretary – Sue Falconer.
Proposed by Heather Gibbs.
Seconded by Deborah Corrigan.
Elected unopposed.

The Rev. Coombes thanked the officers of the society, especially Andrew and there was an outbreak of spontaneous, enthusiastic applause!

Master's Report

Andrew described the events which had taken place during the year including the May Day Tour which was embarrassing because there were only seven people to ring ten bells and the Youth Hostelling weekend where there were 5 people to ring 6 bells.

He said there had been a concerted effort to recruit at Freshers and although there had been much interest only a few had ever made it to a practice, and even fewer remained. Of the beginners only Catherine Fuller stayed and she is making good progress. Several competent ringers also joined us and the members of the Society are generally enthusiastic.

Sunday attendance has improved and Andrew hastened to anticipate poor attendance and arrange a quarter peal to ensure a band.

The Society has also been ten-pin bowling, on a Fresher's tour and a quarter peal day. We have held several Trivial Pursuits evenings and have been skating. The Society also entered the St. Martin's striking competition and came 3rd out of 4.

Andrew expressed the hope that the Society would forge links with St. Martins. He also hoped we could do more for Carnival.

There have been two unsuccessful peal attempts this year and a peal of maximus has been offered by John Illingworth for next year's dinner.

The dinner, which was moved to January was a success, and January is acceptable to undergraduates and life members. Berrow Court Hotel has been provisionally booked for next year.

Andrew thanked the retiring committee and Alan, Roger Stuart, Sue Falconer, Heather Gibbs and the Harborne ringers for their contributions.

Andrew said it had been a hard year but an enjoyable one and wished the new committee good luck.

Rev. Coombes thanked Andrew and hoped Rachel would build on the foundation he had made.

There were no comments on the report.

Treasurer's Report

The Society has made a slight profit because there has been a large number of weddings. There has been a reduction in the guild grant but we were lucky to get one at all because we now have to prove we have 20 members by producing bank statements.

Steeplage has increased because membership has increased.

There was a slight profit on the dinner but the Middletons have asked for a refund because they were unable to attend so that will be turned into a small loss.

The handbell insurance is still £18 and any suggestions to reduce this would be welcome.

The Bicentennial bells appeal was an appeal by the Australian Guild to help renovate bells. We have £5 and the church gave £5.

Stuart Hutchieson said that there is a regular advert in the Ringing World about handbell insurance. We may be able to get that insurance cheaper than at present. The vicar suggested that the handbells could be stored in the church. The matter was left for Rachel to follow up.

The accounts were proposed by Rev. Coombes, seconded by Heather Gibbs and were duly accepted.

Any Other Business

Election of Associate Members

Roger Lawson was proposed by Sue Falconer, seconded by Andrew Twineham and duly elected.

Election of Honorary Life Members

Roger Haynes was proposed by Heather Gibbs, seconded by Fiona Brocklehurst and duly elected.

Andrew was presented with a model pig, a model dog and a model sheep on behalf of the society.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm.

Signed
Rachel R. Boon (master)
Edward D Coombes

12-3-88

Vicar of Edgbaston

Typed up by James Mundy, July 2023.