

Minutes of the AGM Held On March 12th 1988 in St. Monica's Hall, Edgbaston

The meeting was opened at 5.00 p.m. by Reverend Coombes. Apologies for absence were received from Stuart Hutchieson, Deborah Corrigan, Alena Denning, Alan Jenner and Sue Falconer. The Reverend Coombes was proposed as President by Rachel Boon and took the chair.

The minutes for the last meeting were read and accepted. There were no matters arising.

Changes to the constitution

Several changes to the constitution were proposed. David Hull proposed that the name of the society, given in section 1 of the constitution, should be changed to "The Birmingham Universities Society of Change Ringers". This name would include the ringers from Aston who were members of the society. Rachel Boon pointed out that members of other educational establishments are eligible to be members of the society and that these would still not be included. Andrew Twineham suggested that this change of name may lead to difficulties with the Guild. After further discussion a vote was taken and the motion was defeated.

Stuart Hutchieson proposed that section 2 of the constitution should be amended to read "The objects of the society shall be to further the work of the church by the ringing of bells and to promote all aspects of the same. No objections were raised to this amendment which was duly accepted.

David Hull proposed that section 3a be amended to the effect that the term "ordinary member" should be replaced by "Ringing Member". Adrian Sharples said that this implied that all other classes of member did not ring. David replied that it was the term "ordinary" that he was objecting to and proposed that this could be dropped leaving the term "Member". The proposal that the term "ordinary member" to be replaced by "Member" was voted on and accepted.

David Hull proposed that an addition be made to the constitution requiring that the committee should hold meetings at monthly intervals. Rachel Boon objected to this motion stating that in the past the committee has met when it was deemed to be necessary and that this had been a satisfactory arrangement. David replied that the motion had been proposed because members of the committee living away from the campus may not know when the meetings are to be held. After further discussion a vote was taken and the motion was defeated.

Alex Nash proposed that section 4 of the constitution should be changed with the post of Deputy Master/Social Secretary being split into two separate posts. In the event that there are not enough members to fill these posts then the Deputy Master and Social Secretary's responsibilities could once again be assumed by a single person. Rachel Boon objected to this motion on the grounds that the Deputy Master only had responsibilities when the Master was not present and so this need not be an individual post. Alex argued that a larger committee would be more representative and that there would be more people to help with the NUA competition which is to be held in Birmingham later this year. Rachel replied that volunteers would help in this work. A vote was taken and the motion was defeated.

Alex Nash proposed an amendment to section 5 of the constitution to the effect that "c) In the event of more than one nomination for any committee post the proposer of each candidate shall speak on their behalf prior to a secret ballot to fill the post." No objection was raised and the motion was accepted.

Alex Nash proposed that a further addition to section 5 should read “d) If all other members of the committee pass a vote of no confidence in any officer a special meeting shall be called at two weeks notice by the committee to put the vote to the society as a whole.” The Reverend Coombes pointed out that since the term of office of the committee was only one year it was unlikely that confidence in a committee member would deteriorate sufficiently within this time. A vote was taken and the motion was defeated.

Alex Nash proposed that the following addition be made to the constitution. “At any time one third of the current “Members” may require the Secretary to call a Special Meeting at two weeks notice. At a Special Meeting there may be discussion and where necessary, voting on any issues pertaining to the society.” It was pointed out that, at present, the constitution contains no facility for the calling of a Special Meeting but that other rules, concerning these meetings, did exist. David Hull proposed that the first sentence of this amendment should be accepted. This proposal was voted on and accepted.

Election of Officers

Andrew Twineham proposed that the accepted amendment to the constitution, that proposers should speak before any election, should be implemented at this meeting. This proposal was accepted.

Master

David Hull, proposed by Rachel Boon, seconded by Stuart Hutchieson.

Rachel felt that David could bring a lot to the society. He is an experienced ringer who can devote time to the society since his degree course is not very demanding. David has also forged links with St. Martin’s Guild and will work well with the other committee members.

Alex Nash, proposed by Helen Nix, seconded by Richard Stretton.

Helen said that Alex had a very good record of attendance and had put in a lot of time teaching learners. He will also be living on the Vale next year and so will be available for practices and service ringing. He is the vice captain at his home tower and so has relevant experience.

Following a vote David Hull was elected as Master.

Deputy Master/Social Secretary

Stuart Hutchieson, proposed by David Hull, seconded by Liz Sheard. Elected unopposed.

Secretary

Helen Nix, proposed by Adrian Sharples, seconded by Alena Denning. Elected unopposed.

Treasurer

Richard Stretton, proposed by Liz Sheard, seconded by Andrew Baker. Elected unopposed.

Master’s Report

Rachel’s term of office started with the May Day tour to Worcester. It was the first tour which Rachel had ever organised but, despite this, went well. This was followed by a weekend in Bath which was organised by Alan Jenner and thanks went to him. During the summer vacation a weekend in

Yorkshire had been organised by Rachel, Liz Sheard and Andrew Twineham. This had been a great success and a canal holiday has been proposed for same time this year.

There had been a good recruitment campaign at the Fresher's Fair. As a result we have several new active members. Thanks went to Alex Nash and David Hull for teaching the learners.

The society won the NUA six bell striking competition. This year's competition will be held in Birmingham and should be an enjoyable experience, especially if we win again. Some arrangements for the competition have already been made and Rachel wished the new committee luck in the organisation of this event.

More quarter peals have been rung this term. Thanks are due to Stuart Hutchieson, David Hull and Alex Nash for arranging and calling these quarters. A peal has also been rung this year after several attempts.

In Autumn a ten-pin bowling evening, the Fresher's tour and a mini-tour to Staffordshire were arranged. The Dinner this year was at the Berrow Court Hotel. However, due to the sale of this hotel, a provisional booking for the next dinner cannot be confirmed until October.

More members are going to St. Martin's Guild practices and Rachel hoped that this would continue.

Rachel expressed regret at having taken the post of Master and suggested that anyone enrolled on a course which involves a lot of work should think twice about taking on the post. She thanked the members of her committee and wished the best of luck to the new committee.

Reverend Coombes thanked Rachel for all her hard work.

Comments on the Master's Report

Alex Nash asked why the learners have stopped attending recently. He suggested that the society should also make an effort to recruit members from the church congregation.

Rachel replied that learners were always welcome however it was difficult to teach learners in a university society.

The Reverend Coombes said that he was sure that any members of the congregation expressing an interest in bell ringing would contact either himself or the master.

Treasurer's Report

The society has made a loss of £30 over the year. However we have received no Guild grant, primarily due to the Guild losing our first grant application. The handbell insurance is now £6-30 since a specialised handbell policy has been found. The loss incurred on the dinner is due to refunds being made on tickets for the previous year's dinner in addition to one of this year's tickets not being paid for. A loss of 11p had been made on the NUA competition weekend.

Comments On The Treasurer's Report

Alex Nash asked how the purchase of a bottle of champagne following the NUA weekend was justified. Elizabeth Sheard replied that the champagne had been bought to celebrate the society's success.

Reverend Coombes called for a vote to endorse the buying of the champagne. This resulted in a vote in favour of the purchase.

Heather Gibbs suggested that instead of collecting steepage every week the treasurer could keep a register of attendance and collect the money at the end of each term. This was left for the incoming Treasurer to consider.

Heather Gibbs proposed acceptance of the accounts and this was seconded by Andrew Twineham. The accounts were accepted.

Any Other Business

Roger Lawson was proposed as an Associate Member by Mark Gilthorpe and seconded by Andrew Twineham. He was duly elected.

Rachel was presented with a book on stress on behalf of the society.

Meeting closed at 6-25 p.m.

Signed
David G. Hull
Edward D Coombes
Vicar of Edgbaston
11-3-89

Typed up by James Mundy, July 2023.