

Minutes of the AGM held on March 11th 1989 in St. Monica's Hall, Edgbaston

The meeting was opened at 5.05 pm by Reverend Coombes.

Apologies for absence were received from Penny Hill, Juliet Franklin, Mandy Skaff and Alex Nash. A letter of apology from Alex was read out.

The minutes of the last AGM were read out and accepted.

Matters Arising

David Hull said that committee meetings should have been stipulated for every month as it was difficult to get everyone together on an 'ad hoc' basis. Also, volunteers had not been forthcoming to help with the NUA competition. Deborah Corrigan suggested this was because no-one had asked for any volunteers.

The Reverend Coombes asked where the church handbells were as he felt they should really be stored in the church. David admitted their position and agreed to return them.

The Reverend Coombes also asked if the present arrangement for the belfry key was satisfactory. He explained that persons possessing the church keys could also get the belfry key and instructed David Hull to show the relevant people its location.

Proposal for the creation of a Dinner Committee

Heather Gibbs proposed the following:

"I hereby give notice that I wish to propose the creation of a Dinner Committee.

"I do not intend this proposal to be formally written into the society's constitution unless the meeting decides otherwise. In my opinion there have been far too many alterations to the constitution in the last nine years, most of which have been petty word changes, or have been reversed the following year.

The government of the society is vested in those persons mentioned in Clause 4 and my proposal is aimed only at relieving some of the pressure in organising one major event in the society's calendar. In my opinion the "committee", if adopted, should include two members of the society who are not on the committee (as defined in Clause 4), two members who are and in addition, a first year should be elected onto the Dinner Committee during the Autumn term. (This suggestion is included merely to fuel debate)".

It was agreed generally that a Dinner Committee was a good idea, as at present the officers of the society have a lot to do. The Reverend Coombes advised that this Committee should begin to organise things well in advance, preferably booking 12 months before. Adrian Sharples said that if lots of people left in the summer there could be no-one left so it may be better to organise the committee nearer the time.

Marion Welch asked if this committee would organise everything for the dinner including the tour. It was agreed that this would be sensible.

There was some discussion as to which committee members should form the dinner committee. Marion Welch suggested that the accounts be kept separate and therefore the treasurer needed to be involved. David Hull said that a deposit account for the dinner already existed though it was not used, and that if the Dinner Committee reported to the main committee there was no need to specifically involve the treasurer.

The final proposal was that a Dinner Committee be created, consisting of the Social Secretary, the General Secretary and a "Dinner Committee Member" who should be elected at the AGM. These three people should then find two other people in October, one of which at least should be a Fresher.

The proposal was accepted. The new post of Dinner Committee Member was then added to the list of elections.

Election of Officers

President – The Vicar of Edgbaston, Reverend Coombes
proposed by David Hull
seconded by Adrian Sharples
elected unopposed.

The Reverend Coombes then took the chair again.

Master – Helen Nix
proposed by David Hull
seconded by Heather Gibbs
elected unopposed.

Deputy Master/Social Secretary – Andrew Twineham
proposed by Heather Gibbs
seconded by Alena Denning
elected unopposed.

Secretary

There were two nominations for this post:

David James - proposed by Deborah Corrigan
seconded by Andrew Twineham

Deborah said that David had a distinguished career which included O level English. He could read, write and spell which would be invaluable skills for such a job. He was a regular attender at all BUSCR events and as a ringer of a reasonable standard could organise ringing if the Master and Deputy were absent. He had been Deputy Master of his home tower and in his words would "give 100% to the job".

Juliet Franklin - proposed by Adrian Sharples
seconded by Andrew Baker

Adrian said Juliet was apologetic for her absence as she was a competitor in the Lake Races. She has legible handwriting, can spell, likes taking minutes and in her words was a "cute and cuddly person". She was enthusiastic and came ringing regularly. Adrian felt it would be good to have an officer who was not there because of her ringing ability.

Following a vote, David James was elected.

Treasurer

There were two nominations for this post:

Clifford Nicholls - proposed by David Hull
seconded by David James

David Hull said that Clifford was a keen member of the society and had Maths O Level. Clifford was more qualified to balance the books than Richard Stretton, he did not have an overdraft nor was he an alcoholic. David thought Clifford would do the job well.

Alena Denning - proposed by Helen Nix
seconded by Penny Hill

Helen said that Alena has been treasurer for the youth club at home, and has also been secretary for them so she had experience of committee proceedings. She has so far been a rather 'latent' member of the society, just attending ringing regularly and joining in at social events, so she felt she would now like to get more involved in organisation. She also has A level maths.

Following a vote, Alena Denning was elected.

General Secretary - Heather Gibbs
proposed by Andrew Twineham
seconded by Juliet Franklin
elected unopposed.

Dinner Committee Member - Clifford Nicholls
proposed by David Hull
seconded by Adrian Sharples
elected unopposed.

Master's Report

David said that it had been a scintillating year for the society. The May Day tour to Loughborough, visiting ten towers, had been a success. A walking holiday after the exams had been enjoyable and thanks went to Stuart for organising this. A new adventure had been the summer canal trip, organised by Paul Harden, which had been entertaining.

There had been an influx of Freshers in October of all standards, most of whom had become regular service ringers. A 10-pin bowling evening, at the second attempt, was organised. The NUA competition had been a success with 11 teams entering. Next year the competition would be in Durham.

One learner had joined us in October but had reportedly given up. We have since been joined by Mandy Skaff, a learner from Aston.

The Dinner was held at a new venue this year. David had thought it good but some people had not agreed. This should be considered by the new Dinner Committee. A suggestion of the College of Food and Science for next year had been received.

A return trip to Nottingham had been organised by Roger Lawson. 7 people were there at different times and it was a pity more people could not go.

The Society had scored two peals during the year, one of 3 minor methods and the other of 8-spliced, the latter being a Society first. Twenty-three quarter peals had been ring, and many 1sts had been achieved.

Alex Nash had been given the Master's Award, which he deserved. Richard Stretton was made Romance Officer and hadn't done much about it.

There had not been enough interest in handbell practices nor could a suitable time be arranged. The attendance at St. Martin's meetings had dwindled and David reminded the Society that they were welcome to such practices.

Congratulations were due to Liz Sheard on her graduation in July and also to her and Stuart Hutchieson on their recent engagement.

David thanked the committee for their support during the year.

The Reverend Coombes thanked David on behalf of the Society for all his hard work.

It was suggested that the handbells be kept in the undercroft of the tower.

Treasurer's Report

Richard reported that finances were healthy with a profit of about £70 on the year, due to the large membership.

The YHA cost was due to overbooking the Youth Hostel for the walking holiday. There had been no reply about a Guild grant despite Richard pestering the Guild treasurer.

Steeplage collection on a termly basis had not proved satisfactory and Richard suggested returning to the original way of collecting 10pence per person per week.

The Dinner showed a profit due to one of last year's tickets being paid for and a large attendance this year. However, one ticket for this year had still not been paid for which will reduce the profit.

The NUA showed a profit eventually, despite fears at the time. It was thought that firemarshalls at the barndance would have to be paid for but in fact the cost of hiring the room had included this. A raffle had also contributed to the profit.

Comments on the Treasurer's Report

Liz Sheard asked why the expenses were so small. Richard replied that money collected for donations on tours had covered most expenses. Liz said she thought the Society should pay expenses and reduce tour costs for members.

Andy Twineham said that social events ought to be subsidised, not making a profit like the dinner and NUA weekends had. Reverend Coombes said he was sure the profits were an accident as it was necessary to allow a margin for error.

Deborah Corrigan suggested paying for the Freshers' Tour completely. Richard said the new committee should discuss this.

Deborah suggested buying a new stay for the 5th and new ropes if there was money available. Marion Welch suggested setting aside maintenance money each month as the finances allowed. Andrew Twineham suggested that a maintenance log be kept, especially as there is no official steeple-keeper.

Thanks were expressed to Heather Gibbs for donating frames for some of the boards.

The Reverend Coombes proposed that the accounts be accepted and it was seconded by Helen Nix. The accounts were accepted.

Any Other Business

Helen Nix said that the Minute Book was nearly full and would need replacing next year. It was agreed to buy a new book. The Reverend Coombes asked what happened to the book. Helen said that it went in the Secretary's box with the other items. The Reverend Coombes suggested donating the book to the library.

The meeting closed at 6.10pm.

Afterwards, David Hull was presented with the 1989 Good Beer Guide and a hangover pack.

Signed
Edward D Coombes
President,
B.U.S.C.R.
17.3.90

Helen J. Nix
Master

Typed up by James Mundy, July 2023.