

Birmingham University Society of Change Ringers
Annual General Meeting
4th March 1995

The meeting opened 4.40 pm.

1. Apologies

Melissa Riley, Liz Harding, Abigail Norton, Jenny Sparling, Marie Monaghan, Ruth Atkin.

2. The Minutes of last AGM and EGM

Read by the secretary. Minutes accepted by the President of the Society.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

4. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer, Ruth Meadows, gave the Treasurers Report, see included sheet. She said the current account was looking healthy, we made £100 from the annual dinner, as the Guild didn't take V.A.T., however, this could be altered, and the balance drop.

The loan – the treasurer and Andy Dale (V.P. for finance) decided to agree to pay £50 back by the end of the summer term, and the other £50 by next Christmas.

2/1 stays need replacing, and possibly 2 ropes.

Expenses are still [] for NUA '93., travel costs for NUA '94 have been waived.

Grant Account; taking tower-donations **out** means we can buy new ropes/stays

Travel Account; not credited until 21/2/95.

Q – How do we up the grant?

A – Don't actually know when/how to apply yet, but a meeting is needed, to show the Guild we need an ongoing scheme to replace ropes etc. We don't know how much we'll get, so we need to [] the Guild. In the past, we have been given money for 2 ropes and a set number of stays – but last year we didn't get any money for this – but it is vital we get some this year.

Idea of raising subs. To £5, suggested to combat the fact that the Guild take V.A.T. off the subs. – there was no objection to this, and also to introducing a weekly steepage, and also on the quarter peals. The Rev. said that he felt it was very important that visiting bands paid steepage, however, he doesn't want it from BUSCR – unless we can claim in from the Guild! But we are allowed to 'charge' 20p per rope per quarter peal – 10p to the Ringing World – 10p to BUSCR. Compared to other societies we pay very little and get an awful lot out. The Rev. accepted the subs raise. No comment was made on the Treasurers report. Raise on subs and steepage, proposed, seconded, and accepted. Treasurers Report was accepted.

5. Master's Report

BUSCR is 40 yrs old this year and is still a good society even though the last two years yrs have been problematic – the Rev. feels that the society should learn from this. The Master has read everything in the Master's and Secretary's boxes, and quizzed longstanding members. Looking

back over the years it can be seen that there are many recurring problems - especially this year. The Master wants to address these problems properly – the committee has already made steps towards this. BUSCR has a wide spectrum of ringers – he thanked everyone for their patience, The Master also gave his thanks to Tim for all his hard work and for keeping BUSCR links with the St. Martin Guild.

There have been several peals already;

Quarter Peals – several successful ones rung already – several firsts – especially for the Devon ringers.

Scott – he left, and we shall all miss him and a card has been sent to him.

Richard rang a first quarter peal on the inside. – The Master was not sure about any others – possibly Angela.

The St Martins Guild 8 bell competition came early, at Northfield BUSCR came third – “very well done everyone.”

For Remembrance Sunday, a half-muffled quarter peal was rung – it was particularly memorable – things kept going wrong! Congratulations anyway!

At NUA '94, BUSCR came a close second to a good Sheffield band.

BUSCR itself has seven beginners – “Thank you” to both the instructors and the beginners – also “Thanks” to the committee and to the life members – all improving standards.

Freshers Tour – Thanks to Kelly and Richard for organise.

Dinner Tour – Thanks to Stuart for arranging a brilliant tour!

On the Social side...

The Dinner was a great success – thanks to Richard and Kelly for organising a great evening. Now volunteers are needed for next years Dinner committee, also we need a social secretary.

Thanks to the Rev. for the continued use of the bells – BUSCR is lucky to have its own tower.

A vote of thanks for Richard and Kelly for keeping BUSCR afloat.

The Master thanked his fellow officers, and also BUSCR for support – good foundations have been laid – now lets build!

The Rev thanked the Master for his report – it is good to be positive. The Rev. also added if BUSCR could possibly help out on Fete Day – 20th May – with possibly a quarter peal before and after, and also the handbells to be played during and tower tours?

Sunday ringing is still very important – the Rev requested that BUSCR carry on doing it regularly and well.

The Dinner – the Rev felt that it was very good, and that a date should be set for next years as soon as possible. The Rev. is worried that it is becoming increasingly expensive, and that it has become more domestic, less life members attend, but hopefully more should come next year.

The ropes.

The Rev. threatened legal action against Pritchards, and also BUSCR writing to the Ringing World. The general manager responded to Richard, and the Rev. suggested that BUSCR kept up the pressure. Pritchards are going to send samples, but we must set a time limit for a reply – Pritchards have also promised replacement.

The Rev. thanked the Master, officers and BUSCR for all their hard work to church.

Tim, the deputy Ringing Master, responded to Jon's, the Master, comments. The quarter peals have been good, the striking is improved and a balance needs to be found between the learners and the experienced ringers. The Rev. replied that it is important to make the beginners feel part of BUSCR.

6. Election of Officers

President:	Rev. E. Coombes	- unopposed
Master:	Jon Bint	- unopposed
Secretary:	Jo Guy	- unopposed
Treasurer:	Ruth Meadows	- unopposed
Deputy Master:	Tim Waller	- unopposed
Steeplekeeper:	Ben Farnsworth	- unopposed

7. Moving the AGM

To the weekend after NUA (Nov/Dec)

This seems the right thing to do – for both the Guild and officers. This time would bring it closer to Dinner – may draw the life members out and bring a sense of unity, and a purpose, for the new people. This would also benefit the General Secretary, as both the AGM and Dinner dates can be published at the same time and this would cut costs.

If the AGM was in Nov/Dec, then people would not be put off becoming an officer due to exams. The weekend after NUA – a nice outgoing for the old committee and a good time for the new committee, time to adjust and there is no need to organise the NUA.

A problem raised was that if the officers were elected in Nov, they might not be able to see BUSCR through the summer. The Master replied that he didn't see this as a problem, and if it did arise, there wouldn't be a long wait to get **the society of the lurch**.

The Master proposed changing the AGM to the weekend after the NUA and this was accepted, therefore the next AGM will be 25th November, assuming the AGM is the weekend before.

8. The Constitution

The Master said how he had seen other constitutions, there were many abnormalities in them, as many things do not tie in with the Guild and this would lead to problems. A new constitution would be part of starting anew.

The Rev. asked the committee to look at the abnormalities and bring it to the AGM.

The Master has already got a new version for the committee to work from. He also proposed a subcommittee of relevant people to be formed to devise a version for voting on at the next AGM, and to be taken to the Guild.

The Rev. said this was the best idea, also we should check with the Guild. It should also be kept as short, easy and fluid as possible, so we don't cut our own throats.

The Master said he had taken the Guilds and the St. Martins Guilds constitution as models.

The Rev. proposed that the Master took who he wanted to sort it out and to report back at the AGM.

All were in favour, the proposals were passed.

9. Dinner committee/social secretary

It was aid that it was a lot of work for two people, but it is an informal occasion and the social side needs to catch up. Volunteers are needed, also for the Dinner committee, which needs two or three people on it to spread the workload and needs to be sorted out soon.

The Rev. said that he committee needed to actively seek to appoint a social secretary in the next few days to start organising things. Tim proposed Jerry Burnham for social secretary and this was accepted. As the social secretary would be arranging all social events, he should head the Dinner committee.

Jerry was proposed, seconded and voted in.

Kelly offered her help to the social secretary for the Dinner – but said she wished to play a minor role.

The Master proposed Melissa as a help.

The Rev. said it might be an idea to get in touch with Lucas House.

10. Vote of thanks to the Dinner committee

Thanks to Richard and Kelly from BUSCR – it was great. But price is a worry.

11. Dinner Date

To be the first Saturday in February due to semesterisation, therefore – Feb. 3. It would be nice if life and past members could attend, therefore advance notice is to be given into the Ringing World and the Diary. Any suggestions for the Dinner to Jerry. The price is not likely to be under £20, - this is to be left to the social secretary who is to report at the AGM.

12. A. O. B.

Forthcoming tours need sorting out.

Mayday = 8th May – coincides with V.E. day and possibly a sponsored quarter peal. BUSCR would like to have a tour on that date and have a sponsored quarter peal on the following Wednesday afternoon.

Camping weekend, end of summer term, Fri 30th June – Mon -> Sat -> Tues. This would be a nice end to the year – especially as there might be some nice weather! The Master is to go ahead and make plans, possibly hire a minibus.

The Rev. thanked BUSCR for all its work over the years.

The Minutes were taken by Jo Guy, secretary.

Meeting Closed 6.05 pm.