

Minutes of Birmingham University Society of Change Ringers Annual General Meeting

Friday 28th January 2005

The meeting was opened by Richard Grimmit at 7.00pm in Edgbaston Old Church.

1. Apologies

Jo Harper
Mike Strong
Emily Akesson

2. Members Present

Andy Clark
Dave Matthews
Sarah Crabtree
Sam Austin
James Forster
Robert Neal
Alban Forster
Matt Hardy
Simon Felton
Matthew Franklin
Samantha Hunt
Katie Lucas
Mark Eccleston

3. Treasurer's report; Matthew Franklin

Matthew clarified the amount of money in both the grant and the current accounts. There is no grant money to spend this term although next term the society has been allocated £100 for stays. The state of the current accounts can be seen at the end of the minutes.

4. Master's Report; Sarah Crabtree

This year has been very successful. Although we lost 4 members (Kevin, Becky, Guy and Edwin) we have gained 4 members (James, Sam, Rob, Emily) and regained Alban! The graduates we lost last year were all experienced ringers but nevertheless we have maintained an excellent standard of ringing. Our new members are of varying ability but its great have some less experienced ringers so we ring simpler methods and rounds and call changes on practise night. It's very exciting to have a brand new learner, Emily who is coming along very well, ringing rounds after only starting last term.

In the last year we have competed in the Guild 6 and 8 bell striking competitions and in the NUA striking competition. We won the Sunday service band trophy at the Guild 8 bell and the NUA 6 bell (although v achievements showing that although we are young (ish) we lost the trophy) (twice)! These are both excellent much more experienced teams in the Guild and against the other universities. We also SHOULD have won the NUA boat race but were disqualified due to Dave's excessive spillage! we can hold our own against

This year we have rung 29 peals, a 967% increase on last years 3 due to some over zealous peal ringers! Of these, 7 were on handbells, I was of Cambridge Surprise Royal, 1 was at St. Buryan, the heaviest six in the country and I was of 478 minor methods which brought the Birmingham University Society to the attention of ringers all over the country, if, for no other reason than managing to take up 7 columns of the ringing world peals section! We have also rung 79 peals, 9 of which were on handbells and 19 of which were of surprise. Some notable ones of these were 2 of Belfast Surprise major, 2 of Bristol Major and I of Bristol Max. These, again, confirm the high standard of our ringing and the calibre of the ringers.

There have been several tours this year, the freshers tour last team to Kidderminster organised by Sam was a good day, albeit a bit wet! The camping trip this year was in Cornwall. This was a great 5 days, where we rang at 29 towers, 1 peal and a few quarter peals. We managed to fit in a quick swim in the sea (although only Andy, Edwin and I were brave enough!) and about a hundred games of 'go long' which became the catch phrase of the tour. Thank you to Dove, Tim and Claire for organising it. The may-day tour, if you can remember that long ago, was to Burton on Trent with Warwick University. About 30 ringers came making it a very successful day. The NUA took place last term in Sheffield. This was a fun weekend with lots of ringing around Sheffield and lots of drinking as well as the annual striking contest and the legendary boat race! There have been other social events like curries and weekly visits to the pub after ringing.

This year the vicar of Edgbaston, Rev. Edward Coombes retired. He had been the president of BUSCR for 27 years, over half the life of the society. He has been very supportive of the society letting us ring here an obscene amount and not being too annoyed when we set off the burglar alarm and he has to come down and turn it off! We rang a past members peal to mark this and rang a quarter peal and handbells in his last service.

Thank you very much to Sam for all his help this year and to Andy and Dave as committee members and house mates who have been very supportive and helpful, especially last year when I was ill. Thank you very much to Matt, Steve, Dave, Andy and Sam Hunt as well for turning up on Sundays when most people don't. Good luck to Sam for next year and I hope it is even more successful than this year has been.

6.

Position	Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Master	Sam Austin	Matthew Hardy	Sarah Crabtree
Deputy Master	Matthew Hardy	Sam Austin	Andy Clark
Secretary	Matthew Franklin	Emily Ekesson	Samantha Hunt
Social Secretary	Katie Lucas	Dave Matthews	Matthew Hardy
Treasurer	Samantha Hunt	Andy Clark	Sarah Crabtree
Steeple Keeper	Sam Austin	Katie Lucas	Dave Matthews

All elected to positions, unopposed.

7. President: The Rev. Edward Coombes has agreed to continue being the President of BUSCR for the foreseeable future. It is hoped that when the new Vicar arrives at Edgbaston that he/she will then take up the role of President.

8. Camping Trip 2005: The provisional dates have been set as 16-17th July. Dave Matthews agreed to organise the towers and Andy Clark and Mark Eccleston agreed to be in charge of organising the accommodation. The tours expected to be held in the Bude area of north Cornwall. Accommodation is likely to be a combination of camping and staying in a Youth Hostel.

9. Money for ropes: It was agreed that some form of fund raising will need to be conducted in order to replace the ropes, which have recently been in a poor state. It was agreed that a bag would be passed round at the BUSCR dinner, and also that the secretary would write to the Edgbaston PCC in order to try and raise some funding. Sam Austin also suggested that peals be limited in order to prolong the lifetime of the ropes. It was noted that the poor state of ropes has coincided with high numbers of peals recently and hence usage must be addressed.

10. Any other business: Sam Austin raised the point as to whether the society should have a Central Council rep. Sam agreed to check the feasibility and to take on the position if necessary.

Sam Austin also apologised in advance for his non-attendance on some Sunday mornings – this is due to his organ playing. It was suggested that quarter peals should be rung on Sunday mornings to assure good attendance on Sundays.

Meeting closed at 7.33pm by Richard Grimmit.