

# Annual General Meeting Minutes 2006

## Birmingham University Society of Change Ringers Annual General Meeting Friday 27 January 2006

The meeting was opened by Gaurang Patel at 7.00pm in Edgbaston Old Church.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Chris Spencer and Alban Forster.

### 2. Members Present

Matthew Franklin, Gaurang Patel, Tamsin Lane, Robert Neal, Samuel Austin, Paul Chandler, Mike Strong, Jo Harper, Becky Sugden, Kevin McManus, Mark Eccleston, James Forster, Katie Lucas, Samantha Hunt, Matthew Hardy, Paul Hunter, Sally Williams, David Kipling, Matthew Dawson.

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes from the previous AGM and EGM were nominated for approval by Matthew Hardy and seconded by James Forster. Everyone was in agreement.

### 4. Treasurer's report

Sam Hunt reported that the current balance for the society was £784.32. However the dinner had yet to be paid for and all the money for it had yet to be collected. Once all this had been done the society should have around £200 left in the account. Sam also clarified that there what was remaining in the grant account and when it had to be spent by.

### 5. Master's Report

Sam Austin reported that six peals and three hand bell peals had been rung during the year. In addition to this 102 quarter peals had been rung, 42 at Edgbaston. Unfortunately Knowle had rung 43 so Edgbaston was not the most quarter pealed tower in the West Midlands. During the year the society has won the St Martin's Guild six bell trophy as well as the NUA trophy and had also finished second in the St Martin's Guild eight bell. Also Sam reported that he felt that everyone had improved as ringers throughout the year but there was still room for improvement in the striking. Finally Sam apologised for not being present for the last two weeks, this was because of the high demands of his course.

### 6. Election of Officers - The following officers were proposed and elected.

Position	Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Master	James Forster	Sam Austin	Katie Lucas
Deputy Master	Paul Chandler	Matthew Hardy	Mike Strong
Secretary	Rob Neal	Mike Strong	Paul Chandler
Social Secretary	Chris Spencer	Paul Chandler	Matthew Hardy
Treasurer	Samantha Hunt	Matthew Hardy	James Forster
Steeple Keeper	Mark Eccleston	Jo Harper	Mike Strong
C.C. Rep	Sam Austin	Matthew Hardy	James Forster
Life Member Sec.	Becky Sugden	Mark Eccleston	Guy Darvill

Sam Austin questioned whether Mark Eccleston's motives for becoming steeple keeper were so that he could ring more peals on the bells. Mark then pointed out that it was for the Master and the Vicar to decide who was allowed access to the bells and so he would have no influence as steeple keeper. The majority were in favour of the appointment of Mark as Steeple Keeper.

Mike Strong questioned whether it was wise to appoint Sam Austin as Central Council rep as he has a habit of annoying people. Sam replied that he really wanted to continue as CC rep and would act in the best interests of the society. A majority of seven were in favour of retaining Sam as CC rep.

Tamsin Lane raised concerns about the re-appointment of Becky Sugden as Life Members Secretary due to a lack of activity and information that was being distributed. However as no other nomination was received in time Becky was elected unopposed with a majority in favour.

## **7. New President**

Two suggestions were heard. Sam Austin suggested the Provost be asked to be president of the society for a year in recognition of his support of bell ringing and especially his appreciation of the society during the interregnum. Mike Strong suggested that the Vicar should be asked as it is important to maintain strong links between the society and the church.

A Majority were in favour of Mike's plan and it was agreed that the new secretary would write to the vicar asking if she would like to take up the position.

## **8. Summer Camping Trip**

Kev agreed to organise it with the help of Matthew Hardy and Katie Lucas. The proposed area would be around Newcastle and the dates would be discussed at a later time when times of graduations etc would be known.

## **9. Any Other Business**

James wondered why the ringing world was no longer brought to the tower and said that when it was sent to him it would be brought up the tower for everyone to read.

Matthew Hardy raised the issue of contact details for the society and it was agreed that the contact address would be switched to the guild but a current phone number and e-mail address would be supplied.

The issue of the involvement of the life members within the society was discussed. Tamsin Lane complained that despite living in Birmingham she had very little idea of what was going on with the society. Gauraung also suggested that the involvement of life members would also be an opportunity to raise money through extra dinner ticket sales or just through donations. It was resolved that there would be a greater promotion of all the societies events, the contacts list will be updated and hard copies of information will be posted to life members who don't use e-mail.

**The meeting was closed at 7.42pm**