

Birmingham University Society of Change Ringers
Annual General Meeting
Friday January 26th 2007, Edgbaston Old Church

The meeting was opened at 7.05pm by Canon Alison Joyce

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Sam Austin, Samantha Hunt, Kevin McManus and Becky Sugden.

2. Members Present

Alison Joyce, James Forster, Helen Roberts, Matthew Hardy, Robert Neal, Guy Darvill, Emily Tamhne, Will Bosworth, Katie Lane, Paul Chandler, Mike Strong, Chris Spencer, Jo Harper, Mark Eccleston
7.24pm – Eric Bumstead

3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The minutes from the previous AGM were nominated for approval by Mike Strong and seconded by Jo Harper. Everyone was in agreement.

4. Treasurer's Report – Read by Canon Joyce on behalf of Samantha Hunt.

Firstly, I'd like to apologise for not being able to present this to you all in person. The accounts are reasonably healthy and last year we made more use of our grant allocation by using the minibus for the May Day tour. However, I would like to point out to members that due to the condition the minibus was left in after use, we incurred a £2.50 cleaning fine. In future, I would like to suggest that people make a conscious effort in order to ensure that the minibus is returned in the condition it was found. As a society we do not have a lot of money but it would be nice if the money that would do have could be contributed towards BUSCR events rather than paying someone to clean up after us!

Moving on to more positive things; last year I secured a good grant allocation of £462.55 for our use this academic year. We have already used some of this for promotion during Fresher's week. A £30.00 contribution towards the Annual Dinner was also obtained plus £240 for bell maintenance this term. Mark is currently ascertaining how much we are going to need to spend on new ropes and so on and we will hopefully be placing the order for these very soon. Along with our Guild Accounts, we also have some money held in an account with the Church which will be used toward this, too.

For the final term we have £40.00 contribution for the hire of the minibus and £50.00 for the camping trip so we must make sure this is used.

We also obtained our usual subscription fees and handbell insurance money, along with £12.05 for travel to the CC meeting. Again, please remember that this money is here to be used!

In the past people have spent money for BUSCR related activities and then asked to be reimbursed afterwards. Please can I remind everyone that this is not possible unless you have a receipt for your expenditure. It is best to ask the treasurer what money (grant or current) is available for spending before you pay out.

5. Master's Report – James Forster gave out handouts of his Master's report to all people in attendance which contained the following:

This year there are, I believe, 15 current members. Attendance at Wednesday practices has been generally strong with almost always enough to ring 8, and then some. The standard of ringing has been fairly good, but as one would expect there is always room for improvement. Touches are often characterised by too many hesitations which tends to add a measure of syncopation to the rows. However, I do believe that people are improving. Practices have often been followed by social events such as bowling or curry.

This year we acquired 5 Freshers. Will Bosworth from Dorset, Eric Bumstead from Canada, Katie Lane from Stourbridge, Helen Roberts from Kent, and last but by no means least, Emily Tamhne from Leicester. It's been a pleasure of mine to have them join the society and I can categorically say that the society is lucky to have them all, not just in the ringing chamber but also in the pub too.

This year 2 peals were rung: 1 on tower bells and the other on handbells. 29 quarter peals were scored - the majority of which comprised handbell quarters at Maple Bank!

In October BUSCR won the SMG 8-bell striking contest trophy for Sunday service bands. Ironically though we came last out of three teams.

In early November a selection of BUSCR's members, both past and present, converged on Coventry for the Northern Universities Association weekend. It was good to catch up with old friends here and make new ones at the same time. A fun weekend of ringing, drinking and dancing was had by all. The "scratch" team won the contest and the "current" team came third. Two teams were entered into the annual "boat-race", neither team won.

The Mayday tour was organised by Paul and me. A day out in Hertfordshire including ringing at 4 towers and a very enjoyable lunch at Stevenage golf club made for a good day. I'd like to thank Steve for driving us around all day.

Our thanks go to Kevin for putting together a quality weekend in York over the summer. It was my first camping trip, and on that basis will certainly not be my last!

At the end of last year Emily organised us an evening out to Leicester Cathedral's 12 bell practice. It was a good chance for members of the society to have a go on higher numbers. Thank you, Emily.

I'd like to finish my report by thanking my committee, especially Bob - without whom I would have struggled.

My thanks also go to Reverend Joyce for all her support since joining the parish. I hope you have many happy years to come in Edgbaston.

6. Election of Officers

The following officers were proposed and elected with a vote for Central Council Representative. Both Paul Chandler and Emily Tamhne spoke on why they felt they

should be the Central Council Representative. After this a vote was held and Canon Joyce announced Paul Chandler as the elected officer for Central Council Representative.

Position	Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Master	Will Bosworth	James Forster	Paul Chandler
Deputy Ringing Master	Katie Lane	Paul Chandler	Matt Hardy
Secretary	Paul Chandler	Robert Neal	Samantha Hunt
Treasurer	Helen Roberts	James Forster	Emily Tamhne
Steeple Keeper	Katie Lane	Paul Chandler	Samantha Hunt
Social Secretary	Emily Tamhne	Chris Spencer	Paul Chandler
Life Member Secretary	Becky Sugden	Robert Neal	James Forster
Central Council Rep	Paul Chandler Emily Tamhne	Will Bosworth Guy Darvill	Jo Harper James Forster

7. Summer Camping Trip 2007

Will Bosworth and Emily Tamhne agreed to be the main organisers of the camping trip with the help of other current BUSCR members. Will and Emily are to look into the Isle of White as a possible venue for the camping trip with provisional dates set for 17th, 18th and 19th August.

8. Any Other Business

May Day Tour 2007

A provisional date of Monday 7th May was agreed. Will Bosworth is to decide on a location at a later date and agreed to organise the event with the help of current BUSCR members.

Bell Maintenance

Mark Eccleston reported that bells 1,2 and 4 require new ropes. It was discussed if it would be best to buy a complete new set of ropes or just three new ropes for the bells mentioned - no conclusion was made. Mark also mentioned the need to buy some new muffles. Mark recommends that BUSCR buy some muffles which fix to the clapper with velcro straps (about £23 each). It was also mentioned that some spare stays need to be bought. Mark is to pass on all these details to the new elected steeple keeper (Katie Lane).

Robert Neal motioned the importance of spending the BUGS bell maintenance grant (£240) by the end of term 2 (March/April 2007) otherwise BUSCR may not be allocated as much money in the grant next year.

Church Bell Fund

Canon Joyce stated that she thought there is roughly £600 in the church bell fund and that £30 is paid into this account after each wedding as part of the wedding bell fees. Canon Joyce mentioned that the church treasurer needs to receive requests for money (i.e. for new ropes) in writing and the relevant funds should be supplied after it has been approved by Edgbaston PCC.

The meeting was closed at 7.46pm