

**Birmingham University Society of Change Ringers**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009, Edgbaston Old Church**

The meeting was opened by Canon Alison Joyce at 7.35pm.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Rebecca Taylor, Rebecca Sugden, Matthew Franklin and Tom Newman.

**2. Members Present**

Alison Joyce, Zoë Sivelse, Elizabeth Marsh, Will Bosworth, Ralph Bird, Eric Bumstead, Katie Lane, Helen Roberts. Helen Herriott. Catherine Smith, Mark Eccleston, Matthew Hardy, Chris Spencer, James Forster, Emily Tamhne, Jenny Hunt, Steve Collison, Adam Slack and Rebecca Butler.

**3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**

The minutes from the previous AGM were proposed for approval by Emily Tamhne and seconded by Matthew Hardy. They were accepted with the amendments to the date and the seventh line of the second page.

**4. Matters arising from the last minutes**

(a) progress on the ropes being re-spliced

Katie Lane mentioned that the ropes have been spliced and need collecting by her from Tewkesbury. She quoted a price of £100 for materials as the labour was given for free. It was noted that the remaining maintenance grant could be used and Elizabeth enquired as to whether the person splicing them was VAT registered so the Society could claim the VAT back off the Guild.

(b) Lights in the Tower

Will noted that the lights in the tower had been replaced.

(c) New ropes

Katie Lane proposed that the Society bought one rope per year in order to aid cash-flow and to avoid a large outlay in one lump sum when all the ropes need replacing. She noted that ropes are quite expensive to buy but that the Society's yearly income from peals would probably cover it. It was noted that ropes could be as much as £1000 for a full set and there is a waiting list of about a year. Canon Joyce stated that the amount in the Bell fund is currently £1481.61. Please see paragraph (c) under Any Other Business for further discussion and conclusion of this matter.

**5. Treasurer's report**

To be appended to these minutes.

## **6. Master's Report**

To be appended to these minutes

## **7. Election of Officers**

The following members were elected to the following positions:

Master	Elizabeth Marsh
Deputy Master	Will Bosworth
Secretary	Rebecca Taylor
Treasurer	Helen Roberts
Social Secretary	Zoë Sivelle
Steeple Keeper	Adam Slack (and Catherine Smith)
Life Members' Secretary	Paul Chandler
Central Council Representative	Paul Chandler currently holds this position. As it has a term of 3 years, no election took place

Will Bosworth gave a special thanks to Becky Sugden for all her work as Life Members Secretary last year.

## **8. The Summer camping trip**

Catherine Smith volunteered to organise this years camping trip near her hometown in Cambridge. The weekend of 25/26th July 2009 was agreed as a provisional date.

## **9. Any other Business**

### **(a) The Mayday tour**

Elizabeth Marsh volunteered to organise the Mayday tour near her hometown in Northamptonshire. Monday 4th May was agreed as the date.

### **(b) Bell maintenance**

Adam Slack reported that lots of work is needed on the bells as some of them are in desperate need of repair. The frames and metalwork needs painting as there is rust on them and the clappers are turning round in the bells. Adam requested a team to help him clean and repair the bells on Saturday 7th March. Helen Roberts, Will Bosworth, Eric Bumstead and Katie Lane all offered to help. Adam also noted that the ropes are all fine. There are currently 3 missing but when they come back from being repaired there will be a full set of spares. There is currently no desperate need for new ropes.

Eric proposed a budget for Adam to have control over in order to buy paint and a new Stay for the third. Adam is to give Helen a quotation for the cost of all the items so that when the new grant comes in he can claim the money back.

Will proposed changing the use of the Rope Fund to general bell maintenance fund. Canon Joyce said she would ask the Treasurer but that she didn't think it was a fund that was restricted to use only for the ropes. She said she would suggest that money for the bells

comes out of the Church Fund and money for socials/camping trip etc to come out of the Guild account.

(c) The Church Bell fund

Canon Joyce said she was not aware of any restriction on its use but that she would check with the treasurer. Katie Lane proposed buying one rope per year. Ralph Bird suggested setting aside the equivalent money each year in a separate account and letting it accrue interest for the period until ropes need to be bought. He also enquired as to whether there was any discount for buying 8 ropes in one transaction. Katie thought that any discount would be negligible. She also felt that the money could accrue interest in an account provided that there was a formal notice stating that in 6 years time a new set of ropes would be bought. This would avoid the problem of the long waiting list. The Society can then hang them as and when they are needed. As mentioned before, there is currently nearly a full set of ropes that can be hung at the Society's discretion. Canon Joyce said she would need to find out how much interest (if any) the Church Bell fund gets and whether this is passed on to BUSCR. A vote will be taken on this matter at an EGM at a later date and the resulting resolution will be appended to these minutes.

(d) Working party to deal with the BUSCR constitution

Will Bosworth had noticed that the BUSCR constitution is quite vague and ambiguous and no longer meets the Society's requirements. He proposed to lead a working party to liaise with the Guild and tighten up the constitution. Will has already asked Mark Eccleston to help and would welcome any other assistance. Will also noted that the Society leads a dual life as it includes students from other universities in Birmingham and this should possibly be reflected in the constitution. The new constitution would be adopted at the next AGM. Helen Roberts formally proposed that Will be authorised to constitute a working party and liaise with the Guild. It was seconded by Emily Tamhne. The resolution was carried.

(e) Any other any other business

- Eric Bumstead enquired as to the state of the Ringing World collection and back copies. Katie Lane said she had some that she would pass on to the next master (Elizabeth Marsh). Mark Eccleston said there was a store in the Birmingham University Library and noted that pre-1993 there are sets that are bound. However, post-1993 there are very few issues and so they are not bound. There are not any from the late 1990s at the university. James Forster suggested that they should be available for everyone to read at each Wednesday night practice otherwise the subscription is not a good use of the Society's money. Mark suggested that it should become habit that the latest copy of Ringing World is brought to the practice each week and that the copies for that year are stored at the Church. Helen Roberts noted that as the money for the subscription comes from the Guild it would be a good gesture to give them back to the university for store in the library. Mark Said he was unsure whether the university would bind them but Will noted that Ringing World folder for storage of back copies could easily be bought.
- Eric also asked about the inconsistency in the rope fee for wedding ringers. Canon Joyce clarified that the old fixed fee did not include money put aside for the maintenance of the bells. Currently, the fixed amount is £160, of which the Church retains £40 and the remaining £120 goes to the treasurer of the Society. The fee had been previously raised to put money into the bell fund. Canon Joyce said that

she was unable to charge wedding couples more money and Elizabeth commented that it would not be practical if the cost to the wedding couple depended on the number of ringers. Will also said that it would be a shame to permanently limit the number of ringers to 6 when we have the potential to ring 8 bells. The following proposals were made:

1. to keep the current situation, where the less ringers there are, the more money per ringer
2. Eric proposed to always have 6 ringers earning £20 each
3. Elizabeth proposed to always pay each ringer £15 and put the remaining money in the Church Bell fund

There was a vote and the first proposal was maintained.

- Matthew Hardy noted that the hook on the wall that the rope spider goes round is coming out of the wall. It needs fixing.
- Canon Joyce noted the following:
  1. Thank you to Elizabeth for spotting the dry rot
  2. PCC wants Will to give them a proposal as to the layout and wording of a new peal board. Will asked whether the new peal board will go over the top of, or sit underneath the current one. This is to be decided later.
  3. A special thank you to all those who rang at Jackie's funeral in September. It meant a lot to both the family and to Canon Joyce. The family asked Canon Joyce to give a special thanks to the band.
  4. Thank you to Katie, Elizabeth and Becci for all their hard work and for getting ringers at short notice. Mark thanked Canon Joyce for being so accommodating with the Society. James also extended his thanks to Canon Joyce for being a great interface between the church and the Society.

The meeting was closed at 9.10pm.