

AGM of the Society of Change Ringers on Friday 30th January 2015,
Edgbaston Old Church

The meeting was opened at 18:00 with the Rev Catherine Shelley in the chair.

Members present: Catherine Shelley, Alistair Cherry, Michael Woolley, Daniel Calvert, Alex Deam, Hannah Bristow, Laura Davies, Iestyn Stead.

Apologies from: Andrew Piggin, Emily Tamhne

The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising:

- The moving of the Ringing World Collection had been completed and whilst not the ideal storage space, it was felt that keeping it in the tower was better and safer than at ground level.
- Peal board – a faculty has at last been applied for to hang the peal board; it is anticipated that this will be received before too long and a ceremony/peal to hang it can be arranged.
- Danger sign on the belfry door – the warning danger sign on the tower seems to be working well.

Treasurer's report: Alex Deam

- There is an estimated £150 in the Society's Guild account but this amount is not precise at present because of calculating costs of the annual dinner. The amount is likely to be bigger than this as more people attended the dinner than was initially budgeted for, providing additional funds.
- In addition Catherine reported that there was some £413 in the Tower Fund. The two combined sources of funds will be needed to do necessary repairs to the bells, including stays and a new set of ropes which are getting more urgently needed.

Master's report: Alistair Cherry

- Alistair questioned the utility of the Society's continued membership of the University of Birmingham Guild of Students is particularly in the light of recent problems getting access to the Society's money to pay the bill for the dinner. Guild procedures have meant that Alistair has had to pay from his own account and seek reimbursement from the hotel once the Guild paid them.
- The reasons raised for remaining in the Guild are attendance of the Societies Fair, which helps with recruiting new members each year and raising awareness of the Society, and possible work with the new university school, though that is likely to be at St Mary's Church, Selly Oak rather than Edgbaston Old Church because of the proposed location of the school. The matter will need to be discussed with a larger group but it is worth exploring. It is possible that BUSCR flyers could be put on AngSoc, MethSoc and related stalls at the societies fair.

- The reasons for not continuing our membership of the Guild include the bureaucratic problems detailed above, along with the annual struggle to gain 20 members for the Society as is required by Guild rules. As we only have 8 bells to ring it would be perfectly possible for the Society to continue with fewer than 20 members, if Guild membership requirements were no longer a problem. The vast majority of society practice nights are attended by fewer than 20 people, including visiting ringers.
- Action proposed: Catherine Shelly to investigate what needs to be done to leave the Guild, if it is decided that the Society should cease its membership.

Election of Officers

- The following people were nominated for each position, and ran unopposed. All were elected with a 100% majority, as detailed below:

Committee Position	Nominee	Proposer	Secunder	Voting		
				Nominee	RON	Result
Ringing Master	Alistair Cherry	Michael Woolley	Alex Deam	8	0	Alistair elected
Deputy Master	Daniel Calvert	Alistair Cherry	Michael Woolley	8	0	Daniel elected
Treasurer	Alex Deam	Michael Woolley	Daniel Calvert	8	0	Alex elected
Secretary	Andrew Piggin	Alistair Cherry	Michael Woolley	8	0	Andrew elected
Steeple Keeper	Alistair Cherry	Michael Woolley	Alex Deam	8	0	Alistair elected
Social Secretary	Hannah Bristow	Alistair Cherry	Michael Woolley	8	0	Hannah elected
Life Members' Secretary	Emily Tamhne	Alex Deam	Alistair Cherry	8	0	Emily elected
Web Master	Michael Woolley	Alistair Cherry	Alex Deam	8	0	Michael elected
Central Council Representative	Michael Woolley advised that there was little benefit in the Society continuing to belong to the Central Council and proposed that the post should be discontinued. This was deferred to allow for discussion with all interested parties.					

May Day Tour:

- There was some discussion about changing the date of this Tour. Bristol was suggested as a potential venue. It was agreed to canvas the opinions of more ringers from across Birmingham who normally join the tour before deciding on a date.

Summer Camping Trip:

- Discussion of the date and venue was deferred to allow for the preferences of absent members to be taken into account.

Any other business:

- St Martin's Guild Standing committee: the Ringing Master will attend the meetings of the standing committee of The St Martin's Guild of Church Bell Ringers for the Diocese of Birmingham. It was proposed that Laura Davies and Alistair Cherry would share this duty.