



BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITIES
SOCIETY OF CHANGE RINGERS

Birmingham Universities Society of Change Ringers

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 17th February 2016

Edgbaston Old Church

Minutes

The meeting was opened at 6.40pm with Rev Nick Tucker in the Chair. Nick thanked the members for their efforts in ringing the bells over the last year and reported that it is greatly appreciated by the members of the church.

Apologies for absence were received from Daniel Calvert, Toby Dando and Emily Tamhne.

The following members were present: Laura Beveridge, Hannah Bristow, Alistair Cherry, Alex Deam, Helena Dodd, Natalie Mussington, Jack Page, Andrew Piggin, Jenny Robertson, Michael Woolley.

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

Matters arising from the 2015 AGM

Society's status as a Guild of Students society

The society has decided to remain a Guild society. Alistair Cherry, Helen Roberts and Alex Deam went to see Steve Streatfield at Easter 2015. The Guild has been very helpful in resolving some of the issues that the society was previously experiencing and the general feeling among members is that continuing membership is in the society's interests.

Central Council Representative Update

Michael has exchanged a series of emails with Mary Bone at the Central Council in relation to our membership and the payment of our affiliation fee. There is a bit of confusion as to what money has been sent to the CC – it appears that we have paid the 2014 fee but the 2015 fee is outstanding, as will the 2016 fee be shortly.

Michael reported that the CC rules will not allow us to leave until 2017 at the earliest. It was decided that it would be useful to have someone for them to contact this year to organise this. None of the members present could think of any reasons why we should continue our membership.

Action decided:

Michael will look into the rules about leaving.

It was decided to organise a vote on the Society's Facebook group as to whether the Society should continue its membership of the CC and then contact the CC to sort out our membership and outstanding fees.

This action was proposed by Alistair and seconded by Michael, and accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Alex Deam

Alex reported that the Society is in a strong financial position. A printed copy of the accounts has been sent to the members.

Alex noted that the money for the dinner tickets is going straight into the BUSCR guild account, and payment to the venue will go from this account before the day.

Master's Report: Hannah Bristow

Hannah reported that the Society has had a very successful year.

Continuing to be a Guild of Students Society has been beneficial in getting grant money, which paid for the hire of the Lichfield Mobile Belfry during the Freshers Fair. This attracted more interest than normal, resulting in a good intake of new students.

The society has rung a handbell peal in Alistair's house, and a Tower Bell peal at Edgbaston with a band composed entirely of undergraduate students for the first time in a number of years.

It was also noted that members passing through Heathrow Airport rang 180 handbell changes in the Departure Lounge.

There have been a good number of socials and a successful city centre tour.

Constitutional Reform vote

One of the action points that was recommended during the discussions last year about the Society's continued membership of the Guild of Students was to reduce the size of the Committee, which currently stands at 6 members. It was felt that while the Society struggles most years to achieve the minimum Guild-prescribed membership of 20 members, having a committee that comprises over a quarter of the membership was disproportionate and unnecessary. This change was approved in principle by Student Groups by email before the meeting.

Andrew explained the process necessary to enact this change. The proposed change was to clause 10.0.1 of the Society's Constitution. In the current constitution, the clause reads as follows:

10.0.1 Other committee members shall be:

10.1 Social Secretary

10.2 Steeple Keeper

10.3 Vice-Chair

In the proposed constitution, the clause would read:

10.0.1 Other committee members shall be:

10.1 Steeple Keeper

This change was proposed by Andrew and seconded by Alistair.

Following discussion it was decided to vote by show of hands, with results as follows:

Votes for: 10

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Election of Officers

Following the successful reform to the Society's constitution, the officers were elected as follows:

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Secunder	Voting		
				For	RON	Result
Ringing Master	Jack Page	Hannah	Jenny	10	0	Jack elected
Treasurer	Alex Deam	Michael	Hannah	10	0	Alex elected
Secretary	Jenny Robertson	Alistair	Jack	10	0	Jenny elected
Steeple Keeper	Hannah Bristow	Jenny	Alex	10	0	Hannah elected

Summer Camping Trip and May Day Tour

Following discussion it was decided to combining the summer camping trip and May Day Tour into one annual tour.

Jack volunteered to organise this, with a provisional date being the weekend of the 10th- 12th June and a provisional location of Nottingham or Loughborough.

Any Other Business

- Dinner day peal – 5th March. This is to be arranged – the tower is available from 2.00pm on the day.
- BUSCR t-shirts. Some discussion has taken place during the year about producing some Society t-shirts, but there has been insufficient interest to make a large enough order to bring the price down to a reasonable level.
- BUSCR dinner. The ticket sales on the guild website are working well but only a small number have been sold. It was unclear whether the life members had been contacted and Alistair agreed to investigate this.
- Steeple keeping – the bells were inspected before Easter. Another inspection by Taylor's then took place unknown to Alistair. There is a list of work that needs to be done to the bells, which is posted on the Society's facebook group and includes lifting the bells and refurbishing their bearings. It was noted that the St Martin's Guild of Bellringers have a bell repair fund which may be available to the Society to contribute to the cost of this. New ropes organised by the Church are on their way.