

**Sunday 15 July 2018, 19.30 hrs**  
**Bournville Community Hub**  
**27 Sycamore Road**  
**B30 2AA**

**Officers present:**

Simon Linford (Master), Arthur Reeves (Ringing Master), Clare McArdle (Secretary), Tracy Stevens (Treasurer), Mark Eccleston (Archivist) Trish Everett (Safeguarding Officer).

Eleven members attended, including the above-mentioned Officers.

The meeting started at 19.30

**Minutes**

	<b>Actions</b>
<p><b>1. Apologies for absence (Officers)</b>            Jenny Sunter.</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 22 April 2018</b></p>	
<p><b>3. Matters arising not on the agenda</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Castle Bromwich</b>            Simon reported that the peal at Castle Bromwich had been rung successfully, but that the experience highlighted the problems with the installation. It had been an informative experience for Andrew Ogden, Taylor's bell hanger.</p> <p><b>3.2 GDPR and data privacy</b>            Clare reported that this is still a work in progress.</p> <p>Tracy reported that the website had been updated with the privacy notice and GDPR statement.</p> <p>It was agreed that it was unlikely that would be a problem with the Guild's e-list. Members receive a monthly reminder that they can unsubscribe.</p> <p><b>3.3 Badges</b>            Clare reported that the new Guild badges had arrived. It was agreed that badges will be given to new members and would be sold for £3.00.</p> <p><b>3.4 Tower Maintenance Workshop</b>            Clare had been in touch with Jennie Higson to enquire about running a Tower Maintenance Workshop. The workshop would take a full day and participants would need to travel to Northampton. Cost per person is £10.00 plus £8.00 for lunch. The workshop can accommodate 10–15 places. Jennie advised that the course could be opened up to others if the places were not all filled by Guild members.</p>	

<p>It was agreed that Clare would invite expressions of interest and suggest a suitable date depending on the response.</p> <p><b>3.5 Tanworth-in-Arden</b> Arthur reported that he would be visiting Tanworth-in-Arden to offer advice and support for the new leadership.</p> <p><b>3.6 6-bell Contest</b> Arthur reported that the 6-bell Striking Contest had taken place in May. He said that the “Bake-Off” contest running alongside had proved a popular event.</p>	Clare McArdle
<p><b>4. Election of new members</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Full members:</b> Clare Townsend (Lichfield) Marianne Fisher (Pershore) Andrew Brown (Worcester) John Tolley (Packwood) David Baker (Sheldon) David Baverstock (Liverpool)</p> <p><b>4.2 Associate members:</b> Liz Oakes (BSoBR) Isla Knight-Markiegi (Brumdingers) Cian Brophy (Brumdingers)</p>	
<p><b>5. Bell Restoration Fund</b></p> <p><b>5.1 BRF total</b> The BRF total currently stands at £9,808, with £250 committed to Knowle.</p> <p><b>5.2 Coleshill</b> A request had been received from Coleshill for a grant towards installing a rope guide. The project will cost circa £2,000 plus VAT. It was agreed that the suggestion of a donation of £500 would be put to the BRF Trustees for approval.</p>	Simon Linford
<p><b>6. Membership</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Membership form</b> Clare had produced a new membership form to comply with GDPR. It was agreed that we should be tracking members who are under 18. The date of legislation needed to be amended to 2018. Clare agreed to make the necessary changes.</p> <p>Membership will not be confirmed until completed membership forms and annual subscriptions have been received.</p> <p><b>6.2 Peals</b> Simon reported that managing 75% membership for peal bands was proving difficult in practice. It was agreed that introducing any other sort of membership would be too difficult to administer.</p> <p>A suggestion that peals not complying with the 75% membership, but still having at least 50% members could be referred to general meetings for ratification met with approval from the members present. It was acknowledged that the role of Peal Secretary would probably have to be reinstated.</p>	Clare McArdle

<p><b>7. Tower contact information</b></p> <p><b>7.1 Towers</b></p> <p>Tower contacts had been asked to update and confirm details and give permission to publish data so that information can be standardised on the website. There are still a significant number of contacts yet to respond (15). Efforts will continue to gather the information. If no details are forthcoming from towers that do not engage with Guild activities and have no members the towers may be removed from the website.</p> <p><b>7.2 Tower listed on the website</b></p> <p>Following on from the discussion about possibly removing some towers from the website, it was suggested that there are towers in the greater Birmingham area, that hold regular practices and where there are Guild members, that could be added to the Guild website. Affiliation to other associations would be noted. Simon agreed to contact towers such as, Walsall, Great Barr, Lichfield and Tamworth to discuss.</p>	<p>Simon Linford</p>
<p><b>8. Review of Guild organised practices</b></p> <p>Arthur reported that on the whole the conveyer belt approach, with practices targeting different skill levels, is working. Recently, however, the focused 8-bell practices have faltered somewhat and attendance has declined.</p> <p>A suggestion was made that new initiatives could be progressive, focusing on each stage for 3–4 months, rather than trying to focus on a single stage indefinitely.</p> <p>Recent theory sessions at the Doubles/Minor stage had proved popular. Arthur felt that 8-bell theory sessions would be useful too. Theory sessions could lead to practice opportunities.</p> <p>Arthur agreed to focus on 3 initiatives for the next 6 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Open mike” events – opportunities for members to organise ringing at specific levels to be supported by the Guild.</li> <li>• Ringing up and down in peal and or, leading up and down in peal.</li> <li>• Project Pickled Egg.</li> </ul>	<p>Arthur Reeves</p>
<p><b>9. AOB</b></p> <p><b>11.1 Membership elections</b></p> <p>Clare noted that 32 new members had been elected so far in 2018, but that, only 4, elected at the AGM, had attended the meeting at which they were elected.</p> <p><b>11.2 Website communication</b></p> <p>Tracy reported that currently she receives information about forthcoming events at the same time as the membership via the e-list. She requested that she should receive notice in time to put the information on the website before it is sent out to members, so it is there when people look.</p> <p>Tracy also requested that reports about events are sent to her promptly to go on the website with permissions for photographs etc. have already been confirmed.</p> <p>Simon stated he had a number of suggested alterations for the website. Tracy agreed to implement them.</p>	<p>Tracy Stevens</p>

<p><b>11.3 Method structure/ringing theory</b> Phil Ramsbottom noted that there is considerable lack of basic theoretical knowledge amongst many of the members.</p> <p><b>11.4 Shirley Surprise Major Practice</b> Richard Andrew gave details of the Shirley Surprise Major Practice to be held on 19 July. He requested that details could be published more widely. Tracy agreed to add the details to the website and Arthur agreed to include future practices in the monthly digest sent out to the e-list.</p>	<p>Tracy Stevens Arthur Reeves</p>
<p><b>10. Date of next meeting</b> Sunday 23 September, 7.30 pm at Bournville Community Hub.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21.15</p>	