



## Business Meeting

Saturday 3 October 2020

Meeting held via Zoom from 10.00 hrs

**Officers present:** Clare McArdle (Master), Arthur Reeves (Ringing Master), Stella Tew (Secretary), Tracy Stevens (Treasurer), Mark Eccleston (Archivist), Trish Everett (Safeguarding Officer).

Approximately 40 members were present, including the above-mentioned Officers.

### Minutes

	Actions
<p><b>1 Apologies for absence</b> Apologies for absence were received from Rowena Shipley, Stephen Shipley, Gill Fielden and John Fielden.</p>	
<p><b>2 Approval of minutes of the last Business Meeting held on 16 May 2020 (Enclosure 1)</b> Approval of the minutes of the last Business Meeting held on the above date were proposed and seconded by Tony Daw and Trish Everett respectively.</p>	
<p><b>3 Matters Arising</b></p> <p>i) <b>Shifnal Peal Board Restoration</b> Clare McArdle provided an update on the restoration of two Peal Boards as well as a newly commissioned Peal Board to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first peal of Stedman Triples at Shifnal on 5 June 1819 and the Peal undertaken on the same date in 2019 by a Birmingham band of Guild members to commemorate that event. Richard Jones had raised the funds to undertake this work and was in the process of delivering and installing the new Board.</p> <p>A picture of the newly commissioned board was shared with the meeting.</p> <p>ii) <b>Secular ringing centre</b> Simon Linford gave a comprehensive update on the latest discussions surrounding a potential ringing centre at the Manor Farm Park site on the Bristol Road. Further to the information provided at the last meeting in relation to the possibility of The Lodge having potential to become a centre with a tower, a Memorandum of Understanding (not</p>	

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legally binding) has been drawn up declaring the partnership between the Cadbury Barn Trust (CBT) and the Birmingham School of Bellringing. This agreement is intended to outline the shared vision between the parties at this early stage. In November, certain legal changes will be enacted to alter the designation of the Cadbury Barn Trust as a new CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), to adjust the Trustees and for the City Council to dispose of the land on which The Lodge stands into the CIO.

Clare and Simon currently meet with the Friends of Manor Farm Park. In response to a question from John Anderson, Simon clarified that at this stage, only initial outline estimates of running costs have been undertaken. A capital budget cost has still to be worked up. Full access for a building inspection has not yet taken place. Car parking is sufficient for the initiative and the park and other related community facilities make this an attractive site to visit.

Both the Friends of the Manor Park Farm and planners from the City Council are keen on this idea as representing a positive joint development. The broad aim would be for this to proceed for completion by 2022 in line with the timing of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

**Action:** Clare and Simon invited anyone with an interest in getting involved in the planning of this exciting initiative to get in touch with them. The desired skills of interested individuals would ideally be those with experience of running a small business and the policies and procedures involved. Fundraising experience would also be very much welcomed.

**iii) Guild Merchandise**

In response to a query at the last meeting, Clare confirmed that Printigo was now open following lockdown so any requests for merchandise should be raised with her.

**iv) BRF Rule Change**

Section 2 of the BRF rules outlines aims of the fund. The current thinking is that this could be simplified but at the same time could potentially be made more permissive in terms of the coverage and application of BRF resources.

As the Standing Committee had not followed this action up with Simon and Tony Daw, it was agreed that they could bring proposals on this back to the AGM in January 2021.

Interested Guild Members

Tony Daw  
Simon Linford

**4 Standing Committee Report (Enclosure 2)**

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<p>The above report had been circulated for information with the agenda. No specific queries were raised by members on the content.</p> <p>Clare introduced key highlights of the report acknowledging the work of what has been a busy year despite the hiatus in live ringing. Highlights have included the Easter Bake Off fundraiser as well as the summer Photo Competition in lieu of the Summer Ringing Walk.</p> <p><u>Ringing programme</u></p> <p>Particular thanks were given to Arthur Reeves who has facilitated the exemplary programme of online ringing events, which have now been established as a rich and varied resource for ringers' reference in the future. Some events have attracted the interest and attendance of ringers from across the UK and even as far as Australia with David Smith offering his support in leading several events.</p> <p><u>Website and library resources</u></p> <p>Mark Eccleston was acknowledged for all his work to develop the website further along with the training resources now presented from the recordings of all the weekly Guild talks.</p> <p><u>Safeguarding</u></p> <p>Trish Everett highlighted the points relating to Safeguarding from the report. A Safeguarding Audit is to be circulated to Tower Captains in the next few weeks following the meeting. This will inform future Guild safeguarding training requirements.</p> <p>Trish reminded Guild members that Safeguarding Training was offered to ringers 3 years ago with C2 level training. This will now be on offer again to Tower Captains and people in leadership roles. A C2 leadership session will be available on zoom and Trish has negotiated with the Diocese that two sessions offered elsewhere will be combined into one session for the Guild. There will be a link to a workbook to be undertaken in advance of starting the course and Clare Wesley and Trish will be working to develop scenarios relevant to ringing to be incorporated into the training. 18 places will be available on these courses which are free of charge.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Audit to be circulated to Tower Captains Guild Tower Captains and others in leadership roles to request a place on the course</p>	<p>Trish Everett</p> <p>Trish Everett Tower Captains</p>
<p><b>5 Survey and Future Strategy of the Guild</b></p> <p>Clare introduced this item by explaining that the Standing Committee wished to gather evidence and gain further clarity on the impact of the Covid pandemic on Guild members, churches across St Martin's Guild and the ringing community in the future. To this end, a short survey has been designed for all members.</p> <p>The resultant data from the survey will then be used to inform a development strategy for the Guild and to agree what would be within scope as well as the capacity and capability of the Guild to address. It would also bring into focus the</p>	<p>Formatted: Font: (Default) +Headings (Calibri Light)</p>

<p>aspects that could not be addressed by the Guild in the short term. Clare hoped that people would be willing to participate in the survey which will be circulated during October.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Survey for all Guild members to be circulated in October. Members to complete and return survey</p>	<p>Stella Tew All</p>
<p><b>6 Bell Restoration Fund</b></p> <p>i) Tracy Stevens provided an update on the fund which stood at £23,273 at the time of the meeting. Tracy also reported that notice had been received that the Guild had been included as a beneficiary in Andrew Stubbs' Will although probate had not yet been completed.</p> <p>ii) <b>Tower Development proposal at All Saints, Kings Heath</b> Simon Linford reported on recent discussions that had been initiated between himself and Stan Hems (Butcher and entrepreneur who funded and was a driving force behind the All Saints Church community development in Kings Heath) and Church Wardens of All Saints' church regarding the potential for a 6-bell installation in the church. There is a 1<sup>st</sup> Floor room which could be a ringing chamber and access for a bell frame above. A structural engineer has already confirmed its suitability as an operational tower and two sets of bells are available. It is estimated that the scheme would be likely to cost £70, £23k of which would be required to cover the cost of the bells. The Keltec Trust has offered £10k leaving a funding requirement of £60k.</p> <p>The idea is that a lighter set of bells would suit learning ringers better than those currently used at St Mary's Moseley by the Brumdingers.</p> <p>Simon has still to present this to the church more formally and will be working up a proposal for the BRF.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Simon would welcome others from the Guild to join the team in planning this project.</p> <p>Proposal to be developed for the BRF.</p>	<p>All  Simon Linford</p>
<p><b>7 Henry Johnson Dinner – January 2021</b></p> <p>Jenny Sunter as HJ Dinner secretary provided an update on the position relating to planning next year's HJ dinner. The plan had been to move the event to take place in a hotel. However, the Standing Committee had recently agreed that, although regrettable, given the situation with the Covid pandemic, it would not be possible to hold a face to face event.</p> <p>As a result, planning was underway with a small sub group which had agreed to meet in October. The current thinking was to hold some sort of virtual event which would hopefully be both inspirational and inclusive. The Hortons as</p>	<p></p>

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Chairpersons of the event were keen and supportive of this approach so long as it was inclusive.  
 Jenny indicated that members would hear more in due course.  
 Clare thanked Jenny and the sub group for their work to organise an alternative event.

**Action:** Working group and further information to be disseminated on the event.

Jenny Sunter,  
 The Hortons and  
 sub group

**8 Approval of New Members**

Stella Tew ran through the nominations for 8 new proposals for full membership, some of whom were present at the meeting. Proposers and seconders present at the meeting introduced each proposal.

Member	Tower	Proposer	Secunder
Steve Askew	Brewood, Staffs	Phil Ramsbottom	James Ramsbottom
Peter Bennett	Newport Cathedral	Vicky Wilby	Michael Wilby
Denise Large	Great Barr	Mark Eccleston	Chris Mills
David Large	Great Barr	Mark Eccleston	Chris Mills
Alison Hodge	Malvern	Arthur Reeves	Clare McArdle
Oliver Bates	St Martin's	Stef Warboys	Andrew Brown
Rachel Mahoney	St Martin's	Stef Warboys	Andrew Brown
Elizabeth Wilby	St Paul's	Tony Daw	Clare McArdle

Stella Tew

All nominees were approved and certificates and badges will be provided in due course to welcome these as new members to the Guild.

**9 Ringing and training development**

Arthur Reeves reflected on the success of the programme of online events that had continued since lockdown. These were still proving to be popular sessions and were well attended.

Particular thanks was given to Jonathan Townsend who had recently provided useful guidance on risk assessments to assist towers in making their own assessments in advance of ringing resuming after closure.

Janet Horton was also acknowledged for her work in leading a handbell programme. Phil Ramsbottom was also thanked for developing the use of Ringing Room with a number of other participants.

Arthur recognises that the demand is there for a continued programme and indicated that he was confident of running talks until the end of the year.

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<p>Thanks were given to all who had agreed to present at the events in the weekly programme. As a Guild, Arthur considered that we had made the most of a difficult situation.</p>	
<p><b>10 Guild Officers for 2021</b>          Clare McArdle reported that officers are elected for a one-year term of office and that members can be nominated for any post, with closing date for nominations being 28 November 2020 which is six weeks prior to the AGM.</p> <p>Clare reported that the Guild Secretary role would be available due to Stella Tew standing down. Stella indicated that members of the Standing Committee had been very welcoming and supportive during her time in role but she needed to spend time in other voluntary organisations with whom she was involved.</p> <p>Clare also advised that Arthur Reeves had decided to stand down as Ringing Master.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Nominations for officers are invited by 28 November 2020          Nominations are invited for Ringing Master and Secretary.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>9 Any Other Business</b></p> <p>i) <b>Graham Kelly</b>          Best wishes were offered for Graham Kelly who was on the call and has been recovering from a recent cycling accident.</p> <p>ii) <b>Andrew Stubbs' Memorial Service</b>          The Memorial Service for Andrew Stubbs previously planned for 13 October has had to be cancelled as the family wish to have a service when restrictions on numbers will no longer apply. As 9 October would have been Andrew's birthday, Clare invited people to hold Andrew in their thoughts and raise a glass on that day to commemorate Andrew.</p>	
<p><b>10 Next Meeting</b>          AGM to be held at 10am on Saturday 9 January via zoom.</p>	
<p><b>11 Meeting Close</b>          The meeting closed at 11.15 hours</p>	
<p><b>Quiz</b> – This was organised by Clare and Tracy and undertaken after a 30-minute break after the meeting.</p>	

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