



Business Meeting

Saturday 9th October 2021

Meeting held via Zoom from 16.00 hrs

Officers present: Clare McArdle (CM, Master), Arthur Reeves (AR, Secretary), Phil Ramsbottom (Ringing Master), Tracy Stevens (TS, Treasurer), Mark Eccleston (ME, Archivist and Webmaster), Jonathan Townsend (JT, Public Relations Officer).

Approximately 18 members were present, including the above-mentioned Officers.

Minutes

	Actions
<p>1 Apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from Richard Andrew, Trish Everett, Gillian Stead and Alison Hodge</p> <p>CM thanked the Standing Committee for their work since the last meeting.</p>	
<p>2 Approval of minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 9th January 2021</p> <p>One amendment was raised in Section 10. "AGM" should read "Business Meeting". This has been amended.</p> <p>With that amendment, the minutes were approved by Phil Ramsbottom and seconded by Jonathan Townsend. The minutes were approved by the meeting.</p>	AR
<p>3 Matters Arising</p> <p>CM reported that there had been limited progress with the Cadbury Barn project because of legal aspects which need resolving.</p> <p>There were no other matters arising which will not feature in the meeting.</p>	
<p>4. Rule change proposal</p> <p>A rule change will be proposed by the Standing Committee at the next AGM regarding the number of meetings which will be held each year. This will impact on the two Business Meetings currently held. The Standing Committee felt that the purpose of Business Meetings is to pass information to members; with</p>	

<p>modern communication this is not required. The activity of the Guild is driven by the Standing Committee. This proposal is to re-introduce formal Standing Committee meetings. The AGM should be an adequate opportunity for members to hold the Standing Committee to account. Special General Meetings can be called for emergency business.</p> <p>The proposal is an amendment to rule 4. CM shared the rule proposal, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. This is enclosed to these minutes (enclosure 1).</p> <p>CM asked members to consider the rule proposal and urged members to contact one of the Officers should they have any questions or objections.</p>	<p>CM</p>
<p>5. Ringing master's report</p> <p>This is attached in enclosure 2.</p> <p>CM thanked PR for his report and congratulated him for the organisation of the weekly sessions.</p>	
<p>6. Financial reports</p> <p>TS reported back on matters arising from the previous meeting: TS has paid the Ringing Room Donation of £102.99 (this includes the Paypal transaction fee).</p> <p>TS also reported that the Bake Off Just Giving Page has now been closed and the May Bake Off raised £200 for the Trussell Trust</p> <p>Regarding the proposed BRF rule change, TS has reviewed this with the Standing Committee and feels this is not necessary. The rule change proposal relates to when the Guild changed from being territorial and specifically stopped using "for the Diocese of Birmingham" as part of its name. However, the current rules allow for this. TS asked members to contact her directly if they disagreed.</p> <p>TS confirmed that she had completed the Charity Commission report for the BRF and this was available online from the Charity Commission.</p> <p>TS reported that we had received £2147.55 from a Gift Trust set up by Andrew Stubbs. TS also reported that we had been recognised in Andrew's will, though are yet to receive the bequest.</p> <p>TS reported that the BRF now stood at £26974.97. TS stated that the BRF was in a very healthy position and urged members to put requests forward. This can include sound proofing work.</p> <p>Simon Linford asked whether the Standing Committee would consider applications for more than the current 10% proportion, given the healthy nature of the funds.</p>	

<p>TS replied positively, emphasising the 10% is a guideline and not a rule. She said it would depend on the project, on how many projects we had/ requests for and the funds available.</p> <p>Tony Daw, as one of the Trustees of the BRF, re-iterated that the 10% proportions were advisory and trustees were minded to be generous. Tony raised the query as to whether Aston could be a project. CM replied that this would be discussed at Standing Committee in November, and asked Tony for more clarity on what such a project would entail.</p> <p>CM thanked TS for all of her work as treasurer.</p>	<p>TD / TS</p>
<p>7. Safeguarding Officers report</p> <p>In TE's absence, a written report was submitted and read to the meeting. This is available in enclosure 3.</p>	
<p>8. Archivist Update</p> <p>ME reported that the 2019 and 2020 issues of the RW are still with the binders, but the Guild should have the bound volume back shortly.</p> <p>ME reported that he'd now started work arranging and cataloguing our non-printed book materials, the Guild's archive items. These are also in the process of being repackaged in acid-free archival quality enclosures.</p> <p>ME has received a few enquiries in recent months, mostly historical research enquiries.</p> <p>ME reminded all members that he'd be very happy to hear from them if they're interested in the Guild library. As well as historical research items, there are numerous current ringing theory books and these can be borrowed. Further information can be found on the Guild website</p> <p>CM reminded members of the Year Book, which has been printed. Alan Glover, CCCBR Librarian, had been in touch to offer praise on the design of the Year Book. There is a £5 charge, but CM noted that it was a very worthwhile charge! CM thanked Mark for his work as archivist.</p>	
<p>9. Update from Ringing Recovery Champion</p> <p>AJ Barnfield positively stated that the SMG was in a good place and he felt that in many ways was "recovered". He was feeling that the Recovery Champion role was largely redundant for our Guild. AJ Barnfield noted that one area he hadn't heard much at this meeting was how to encourage and support ringers to help</p>	

<p>themselves (for example, organising their own practices). He questioned how the Guild could support this.</p> <p>AJ Barnfield has recently attended a CCCBR Recovery Champion Zoom meeting. He noted attendance was lower, possibly reflecting that people were returning to ringing. The focus of meeting was: what can the CCCBR do to help. The key response was that the CCCBR should focus on recruitment, and possibly a national strategy. However, consensus was that there needed to be structures in place before this can occur and hence the CCCBR would be looking at 2022 before launching anything of this nature. There was general encouragement to run more courses to run of ART M1 and M2 to train new ringing teachers. The promotion of clusters and schools was also probably key to this.</p> <p>AJ Barnfield encouraged members to talk to him directly after the meeting about issues they were interested in relating to this.</p> <p>CM raised awareness of the Ringing Master’s Three Events Challenge, which is the Guild’s strategy of encouraging members to organise events for themselves.</p> <p>AR reminded people that the Guild Zoom account is open for members to use.</p>																	
<p>10. Update on Henry Johnson Dinner 2022</p> <p>Jenny Sunter, HJ Dinner Secretary, had organised a meeting earlier this week with certain officers to discuss arrangements for the 2022 dinner. A survey had been sent out to a significant number of previous attendees of Henry Johnson dinners seeking their views on whether they’d be prepared to attend a live event. Of those who replied, an overwhelming response was that an in-person event was preferable. However, there are concerns that the current venue booked, the Burlington, was on reserve with a stipulated number of attendees that could not be guaranteed. Jenny will enquire options with the Burlington and feedback at the next Standing Committee in November (and to the wider membership at the AGM).</p> <p>CM thanked Jenny for her work on preparations for the dinner and especially for thinking ahead to options for 2022.</p>	JS																
<p>11. Approval of New Members</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="153 1720 1203 1865"> <thead> <tr> <th>Member</th> <th>Tower</th> <th>Proposer</th> <th>Seconder</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Stella Smith</td> <td>Kidderminster</td> <td>Phil Ramsbottom</td> <td>Tony Daw</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Richard Hurst</td> <td>Stourbridge</td> <td>Phil Ramsbottom</td> <td>Tony Daw</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alex Parsons</td> <td>Stourbridge</td> <td>Phil Ramsbottom</td> <td>Tony Daw</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All nominees were approved. Certificates, year books and badges will be provided in due course to welcome these as new members to the Guild.</p>	Member	Tower	Proposer	Seconder	Stella Smith	Kidderminster	Phil Ramsbottom	Tony Daw	Richard Hurst	Stourbridge	Phil Ramsbottom	Tony Daw	Alex Parsons	Stourbridge	Phil Ramsbottom	Tony Daw	AR
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CM proposed the following as associate members to the Guild.

Associate Member	Tower	Proposer
Graham Stubbs	BSoR	Clare McArdle
Elizabeth Somerville	Coleshill	Clare McArdle

12. AOB

Young Change Ringers Association:

CM invited Charlie Linford to speak, as one of the founding members of the newly formed YCRA. Charlie reported that the YCRA is a mentoring scheme with the aim of creating a community for young ringers and especially those who live in areas with limited young people. There is an annual subscription of £15 a year, though this includes a book and a badge. Ringers can join once they can handle a bell up until the age of 30.

CM reported that the Standing Committee would like to offer to support any young ringers of the Guild with financial assistance if £15 is too expensive.

Jonathan Townsend asked Charlie what the Guild could do to help. Charlie replied that the Guild could support by encouraging young people they know to join. She also said members could help by supporting outings (including a planned one to Birmingham) and support the principles of the YCRA in general.

CM responded saying that the Guild would be proactive in their support.

December social:

CM advertised the December 4th social, which will be in person from 2.30-3.30pm. The event would include informal challenges and seasonally appropriate refreshments.

BSoR update:

CM reported that the School had re-started on the 18th September. Currently two towers run each week, which is an intentionally small re-opening of the school with the aim of re-building back up. So far, CM had comfortably been able to schedule both towers a week. Two new ringers had been recruited and more students are expected to return in the next few weeks. There were currently 7 students at St Paul's (bell handling) and 4 at Harborne (Foundation skills)

CM updated members with changes that had been implemented following the experience of running the school over the last few years. CM mentioned that these changes were introduced to manage expectations. From here-on, there would be no open ended courses. Each level would be limited to 16 sessions (the average time it took students to complete each level).

AR to advertise

PR / AR

<p>A third tower is planned to start in November.</p> <p>CM raised awareness of school both for students and teachers. CM said that the school offered a mentorship programme for teachers once they had completed their ART teaching course.</p> <p>7th-8th May 2022:</p> <p>CM raised awareness that Birmingham was hosting the ART conference. Saturday 7th would consist of workshops and presentations based at Erdington Academy. The 8th May was hosted by the CCCBR Stewardship Committee led by Alison Hodge. CM asked members to put the date in their diary; details to follow.</p> <p>Don Finnemore:</p> <p>CM updated members on Don Finnemore who has recently been unwell. Don is now home from hospital and is recovering. CM proposed sending best wishes to Don from the meeting.</p> <p>Social media</p> <p>Jonathan Townsend raised awareness of the Guild's Twitter and Instagram account. Jonathan said that this was a way of reaching over 300 people easily. He said this could be used to advertise what is happening or to celebrate what you've achieved! CM thanked JT for increasing the Guild's social media presence.</p>	<p>CM</p>
<p>13. Next Meeting</p> <p>.</p> <p>The next meeting will be the AGM on Jan 8th 2022. This will be in person at St Mary's Moseley. Meeting for lunch at 1pm with a 2pm start for the meeting.</p>	
<p>14. Meeting Close</p> <p>CM closed the meeting at 16.57 Members were invited to stay to speak to AJ Barnfield about Covid recovery.</p>	

Enclosure 1:

Meetings

- 4.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Guild shall normally be held on the second Saturday in January for the following purposes:
 - 4.1.1 the election of Life Vice Presidents, Life Members, Officers and Officials of the Guild,
 - 4.1.2 the presentation of the accounts and reports from Guild Officers,
 - 4.1.3 the determination and apportionment of subscriptions and fees,
 - 4.1.4 other appropriate business including the election of Central Council representatives.

- 4.2 Special General Meetings shall be held at a venue to be decided by the Officers within four weeks of either:
 - 4.2.1 such a meeting being called by the Officers, or
 - 4.2.2 receipt by the Secretary of a written notice specifying the business to be transacted at the meeting signed by at least one tenth of the Full Members of the Guild.
- 4.3 The quorum at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting shall be forty Full Members of the Guild.
- 4.4 All motions and proposals, unless otherwise provided for by the rules, shall be decided on a simple majority of those members voting. The Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.
- 4.5 Full Members, Life Vice Presidents and Life Members unable to attend an Annual or Special General Meeting and having tendered a written apology may register their views on the business of the meeting and vote by writing to the Secretary prior to the meeting. The number of such voting members shall not count towards the relevant quorum but their votes shall count equally with those of the members present.
- 4.6 In the absence of either the Master or Secretary from an Annual or Special General Meeting the members present shall elect a substitute for that meeting.
- 4.7 There will be at least two other General Meetings a year to review and organise ringing activities and conduct the regular business of the Guild.
- 4.8 Quorum for a General Meeting shall be ten, two of whom must be either the Master, Secretary, Ringing Master or Treasurer.
- 4.9 For the purpose of interpretation of these Rules, a 'Meeting' refers to a General Meeting, Special General Meeting or Annual General Meeting of the Guild.

Revised rule 4

- 4.7 The Officers will form a Standing Committee and hold Meetings during the year to conduct the business of the Guild.
- 4.8 Quorum for a Standing Committee Meeting shall be five, three of whom must be the Master, Secretary, Ringing Master or Treasurer.
- 4.9 The Officers shall transact urgent business and deal with matters referred to them by Meetings of the Guild, or by individual members.
- 4.10 The Officers can co-opt members to perform specific functions including organising events.
- 4.11 The Standing Committee shall consider and ratify all applications for Membership.
- 4.12 For the purpose of interpretation of these Rules, a 'Meeting' refers to a Standing Committee Meeting, Special General Meeting or Annual General Meeting of the Guild.

Enclosure 2:

Ringing Master's report

Looking through Bellboard and scanning the information that the recovery team have been collating, I think it's fair to say that just about all the towers which the Guild supports have returned to ringing in some form or another for both Sunday service and practice nights. Although some towers are 'open house' others by

necessity are operating a rota system to control numbers in the tower. What really matters though is that we are ringing bells again.

I feel it's quite noteworthy that whilst Bellboard doesn't reveal everything that's going on, of the eleven Guild entries on the platform in the last three months, six were peals of which four were on 12 bells. This ratio of entries to 12 bell peals was the same in the equivalent quarter in 2019, so although the overall number of performances is currently lower than previously (understandably so though not by much) this does indicate a promising quick return to 'normal' ringing at these levels. Also there were no Ringing Room performances during this time. Assuming that the ringers who had been using this on-line platform have transferred back to tower and handbell ringing (which I'm sure they have) then this is also a very good sign. That being said, I would still consider Ringing Room to be a useful tool in certain circumstances and not to be discarded now that we're once again getting that familiar feel of having a rope in our hands.

Whilst rummaging through Bellboard I noticed a Brumdingers quarter peal of grandsire doubles which included two 'firsts', so congratulations and well done to Susan Webb (first quarter) and Sara Paulson (first in method).

There have now been four Wednesday night workshops ranging in ability level from rounds and call changes up to grandsire (including variable hunt) and stedman caters. These have all been well enough attended (ie, not too many) and in two instances included potential new Guild members from elsewhere in the Midlands. My thanks must go to those who have kindly agreed to lead these events and also to the very necessary helpers who also come along to support. The long term plan is to run special practices/workshops every Wednesday and would be interested to hear from Guild members with any requests for these events, be they ringing, theory, or bell handling.

Phil Ramsbottom

Enclosure 3:

Safeguarding Officer's report

There is nothing new to report re Safeguarding.

I continue to work with the diocesan safeguarding training reference group maintaining good relationships !

We continue to encourage all ringers to undertake the basic on line safeguarding training accessed via the Cof E portal <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

You will need to create an account and then log on to access the training

I can be contacted at any time if anyone has any safeguarding queries

Trish Everett