

Society of Cambridge Youths AGM

Monday 9th March 2020, 8.05pm in the Ringing Chamber with Vicar, The Rev'd Canon Adrian Daffern, in the chair

Adrian opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Jonathan Agg, Helen Atkins, Claire Barlow, Alison Brooke, Patrick Brooke, Frank King, Alessandra Learmount, William Learmount, Mark Norris, Akiko Saito, Catriona Shearer, John Sherwood and George Unsworth.

2. Minutes of previous general meetings

a. AGM 2019

The minutes were proposed by Liz Orme, seconded by Richard Smith and accepted nem. con.

b. EGM June 2019

The minutes were proposed by Jonathan Shanklin, seconded by Barry Johnson and accepted nem. con.

c. EGM October 2019

The minutes were proposed by Liz Orme, seconded by Luke Smith and accepted nem. con.

3. Matters Arising

a. Quark peal board

Liz is delighted that the peal board for the 22 November 2012 performance has been received, and there is an explanation of the board in the reports sent out before the meeting. Adrian notes that the performance was aptly rung on St Cecilia's day. Liz Orme comments that it was a very innovative performance and David Pipe notes it was particularly pleasing to score it with a local band.

A photo of the board has been requested which could be used for the church newsletter or similar. Adrian extends his thanks to those all involved.

b. Antenna Installation

The project is ongoing. Adrian records his thanks to Richard Summers, who is keeping the officers in the loop.

4. Election of New Members

Michael Williams is proposed by Liz Orme and seconded by David Richards and accepted nem. con.

5. Master's Report

The Master's report was circulated three weeks in advance hopefully giving everyone a chance to read it. Liz comments that it has been enjoyable, with the Society involved in many different activities which will be discussed in later agenda items.

Jonathan Shanklin thanks Liz for the monthly updates circulated by email – they have been very useful for keeping the ringers in the loop.

John Peverett notes that the Master's report implies that this was his first 12-bell, but actually his first this millennium.

Adrian notes his thanks to Liz Orme and has asked her to join the Great St Mary's Vision group, comprising brilliant people from around the church.

6. Treasurer's Report

a. Accounts

Copies of the accounts were circulated prior to the meeting. Donations to the box are down this year, but mainly due to comparison with 2018, which was a busy year for visitors (including 12-bell donations). The tower has spent a lot more on ropes recently. There will be a further claim for £1,380 made to the Faulkes fund for maintenance in December. As per recent practice, the entire rope cost has been born by the Society and reimbursed from the Faulkes Fund.

Changing signatories on the account as requested at the meeting last year has proven to be more difficult than anticipated.

The Society still wishes Rowena M Unsworth to be removed from the account and the Secretary (David Richards) to be added to the account.

It was clarified that one of the early circulations of the account had some incorrect numbers, but the copies present in the ringing room immediately prior to the meeting are correct.

b. Statement from the Independent Examiner

Michael O'Callaghan comments that there is nothing further to add to the report which has been published.

c. MCF Bell Fund

The report prepared by Frank King is accepted by the Society.

Financial matters having been discussed, adoption of the accounts is proposed by Barry Johnson and seconded by Jonathan Shanklin. The accounts are accepted nem. con.

7. Belfry Maintenance Officer's Report

Thanks are given for preparing the report in a timely fashion. Ropes have been the focus for the year, reaching a point in September where they all needed replacing. The goal is to reach a position to have two spares per bell. Work has started on the oddstruckness and thanks is given to all those who've helped with adjustments over the year.

Luke is asked to clarify what is meant by 'the trebuchet' in his report. It is an apparatus installed in the void designed to excite tower movement for measurement purposes.

Michael O'Callaghan asks for clarification on the work on the 7th bell for the simulator. David Bagley has offered to replace damaged sensors for bells for just the cost of postage.

Adrian thanks Luke for the work and the report.

8. Election of Officers

Post	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Independent Examiner	Michael O'Callaghan	Luke Smith	Liz Orme
Belfry Maintenance Officer	Luke Smith	Jonathan Agg	David Richards
Master	Liz Orme	Barry Johnson	Jonathan Shanklin
President	Adrian Daffern	Liz Orme	David Richards
Secretary	David Richards	Liz Orme	Jonathan Agg
Treasurer	Phil Orme	Richard A Smith	Hannah Campbell

Cecilia Pipe notes that no discussion is required on this topic. There being no contested posts, the election proceeds en bloc and is passed unanimously.

Adrian thanks the officers for their work.

9. Report on St Clement's

Barry Johnson has provided a written report. The faculty application has been very difficult, and he is grateful to the Society for supporting it. There was also good progress whilst Melissa was working on the project, and that might be a model to repeat in the future. The letter attached to the written report is the agreement between the church and those who provide money. It avoids the issue of an agreement between the SCY and St Clements.

It is proposed that the SCY continues its support until the next general meeting.

Motion: As a declaration of intent that the Society is willing to give their full support to the establishment of a new ringing centre at St Clement's until the next AGM

Proposed by Liz Orme and seconded by Hannah Campbell. The motion is accepted nem con.

Adrian comments that Barry's tenacity is an example to us all.

10. Report on HawkEar

David Pipe is invited to speak in relation to his report. The 'star' rating system for touches is explained. It may be telling that George only thought it went up to 5 (7 stars are technically achievable).

The tool has proved useful and lots of people have engaged with it and that, in turn, seems to have had a beneficial effect. There is an open question about where the tool should go from here and how it should be used at practices.

David Pipe thanks David Richards and Jonathan Agg for the 'wrapper' around the core of HawkEar which has improved its utility.

Barry Johnson notes that the 'wrapper' has revolutionised HawkEar usage and asks if we are offering it to other towers. David Richards comments that the tool is quite bespoke to how we work at Great St Mary's, but we are open to the idea of extending it to other towers.

11. Plans for ringing in 2020

a. Training arrangements

Jonathan Shanklin runs a teaching session from 6.30 to 7pm at which attendance is quite variable. The proposal is to set up a small working group to decide how that time is best focused. In particular, the factors to consider are engagement with the wider area and the involvement of St Clement, which will be set up for training in due course.

The proposed working group is Liz Orme, Jonathan Shanklin, Lesley Boyle and Barry Johnson.

There is a proposal to link in with HawkEar, and in particular it is noted that the simulator can be used and some of the same analysis tools can be used to look at the output. People are welcome to make suggestions.

Jonathan Shanklin notes there are very often there are learners at 6.30pm. A few extra experienced ringers would be good. Similar comments apply for Guild evensong.

b. Use of HawkEar

The first goal was to try and get HawkEar to near real-time performance, and we had the first trials in July 2019. It was useful in preparation for the Robert B Smith trophy, despite GSM not finally fielding an entry.

c. Peals and quarter-peals

There have been quite a few peals and quarters during the year. Some have been celebratory, for example, 20th anniversaries, 60th and 70th birthdays celebrations. For the coming year, the plan is for further peals of cyclic 6 in the July timeframe. There is an intention to ring more peals of particles and the Star Wars methods. Jimmy Yeoman is organising some of the peal slots for the Society.

Thursday night peals tend to be in a single method and the plan is to keep those going.

It is noted that 347 tower bell peals have been rung to-date. If all the peals in the diary are scored, then the 350th will fall on the Jonathan and Catriona's wedding day which, at the moment, is a non-Society peal. The feeling is that this doesn't particularly matter – there is no established precedent of particular Society peal milestones.

12. Wider considerations

a. Website revamp

Enjoying his retirement, Phil Orme can help with the revamp. Liz Orme would like it to be a live site and used for communication with the members and wider ringing community.

b. Void tidy-up

The void is dirty and grubby. Liz Orme is pleased that Luke Smith would like to clean the void. In the longer term there are thoughts for how the space could be use more fruitfully, however, the immediate focus is on cleaning the tower on the Monday of Holy week.

c. Safeguarding

It is noted that there are new procedures which affect the officers. Cecilia Pipe reminds the meeting that previously completed courses will need renewal. Adrian confirms that training is valid for 3 years after which it will need to be renewed. Email reminders will be received.

d. Health and Safety

There are procedures on the noticeboard that need updating. Thanks are given to Jonathan Shanklin for providing a real emergency in which they were tested.

In relation to COVID-19, the government is advising no change in behaviour. If the government does change advice and state that people should avoid going to work or avoid meeting people, how would that apply to ringing? Great St Mary's typically has more visitors than Ely cathedral, many of them international visitors. What would the impact be if Public Health England advise the tower to be closed?

Liz Orme state that the officers will consider these questions and respond to new requirements.

e. 2024 (300th Anniversary)

There is a working group for the 300th anniversary in 2024. There is certainly a core idea of holding a dinner and ringing events throughout the anniversary year.

As an item arising from the research done by Gareth Davies, Phil Orme is looking at the connections between Cambridge ringers of the 18th century. The idea is to try and bring membership information up to date for the 300th anniversary including biographies for ringers and a timeline of events.

The 300th Anniversary working group comprises Gareth Davies, George Unsworth and Phil Orme.

f. Rules of the Society

The Society should consider a rule change. One particular issue relates to voting member rights – it is clear that there are members who make a significant contribution to the society but cannot come on Sundays, and currently have no voting rights.

It will also be considered whether Society involvement in St Clement requires a rule change, or whether a guidance note would be sufficient.

13. AOB

Michael O'Callaghan notes that there has been a plan to mount all the pealboards and have a glass door in the void. It seems possible to go further and box in the ropes to allow people to enter the room. Michael asks if there is any update on this topic.

There are no explicit plans and there needs to be a resolution of the antenna project before any planning is possible. The 300th anniversary is a focus and there have been lots of good ideas forthcoming.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9.18pm

Those in attendance:

Michael Williams, Cecilia Pipe, David Richards, Catriona Shearer, Liz Orme, Hannah Campbell, Alf Pipe, Jonathan Nash, Barry Johnson, Jonathan Shanklin, Michael O'Callaghan, John Peverett, Richard A Smith, Phil Orme, David Pipe, Phil Wilding. Ben Ricketts and Luke Smith.