

Society of Cambridge Youths AGM

Monday 7th March 2022, 8.03pm in the Nave

MINUTES

Devin opened with a prayer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Helen Atkins, Claire Barlow, Alison Brooke, Patrick Brooke, Adrian Daffern, Alessandra Learmount, William Learmount, June Mackay, Camilla Rhodes, Akiko Saito, Chris Seaman and John Sherwood.

2. Voting rules for this meeting

Devin reminded the meeting that a proposal for voting rights was made on 27th November and was:

- i) Members who had voting rights at the last AGM and have rung for at least one service since October
- ii) Members who do not satisfy (i), but have rung for at least three services since October
- iii) New members elected at the 2022 AGM

No counterproposals were made.

3. Minutes of AGM 2021

Proposed by Liz Orme, seconded by Barry Johnson and were accepted nem. con.

4. Matters Arising

No matters arising were identified which were no dealt with elsewhere.

5. Election of New Members

Liz Orme proposed Melissa Nash, Jonathan Nash and Jadd Virji as new members. Dave Richards seconded the proposals. The new members were elected nem con.

6. Master's Report

Liz refers to the report that was circulated three weeks in advance of the meeting. It has been an unusual three years. Net was a dominant feature of the first year and the pandemic has been dominant for the remaining two years. The fact that there are lower numbers tonight is perhaps symptomatic of the pandemic and the recovery that ringing in general is making. We will need to work hard at building the band back – there can't be a hiatus of 14 months without some impact, but there is a strong core.

Jonathan Shanklin proposes a vote of thanks to Liz for everything that has been done as master.

Devin gives thanks for the attention to detail and suggests that the health and safety risk

assessment may be the best example in the Church of England.

7. Treasurer's Report

a. Accounts

Phil Orme notes that there was not much income because there were not many peals or weddings. Donations to the box have been slow to get started again. Phil Orme notes that there is an option to pay by BACS with details available on demand.

George Unsworth asks whether it is possible to have contactless payment point in the tower. Phil Orme says that this can be investigated again.

b. Statement from the Independent Examiner

Michael O'Callaghan does not add to the statement contained in the accounts.

c. MCF Bell Fund

This year has seen another withdrawal to cover maintenance. The Faulkes fund is currently covering 100% of routine maintenance costs.

George Unsworth says that the fund has grown to a point that could not be imagined at the end of the installation project, and cannot conceivably be used in the current fashion. George asks the officers to look at how the terms of the fund could be changed.

Finance matters having been discussed, adoption of the accounts is proposed by George Unsworth and seconded by Luke Smith. Adopted nem con.

8. Belfry Maintenance Officer's Report

Luke Smith refers to the report which was made available before the meeting. There has been a balance of proactive and reactive maintenance, and thanks is given to all those who have helped with it. Please do let Luke know if there are issues which need looking at.

Jonathan Agg asks whether the simulator connection for the 8th can be investigated – the Guild have reported it as non-functional.

9. Election of Officers

Liz comments that the roles have grown significantly over a number of years, but specifically the last 3-4 years. One of the challenges of the next year is to work out how the roles could be divided. In particular, Liz has offered to take on church liaison activities. George comments that delegation of activities used to be more commonly, but seems to have been reduced recently.

Jonathan Agg agrees that additional assistance is desirable, but also asks that there are clear lines of communication for delegated roles. In particular, it is noted that the rules state that the Master has ultimate responsibility for ringing at the tower.

The following nominations were made prior to the meeting:

Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
President	Rev'd Canon Adrian Daffern	Liz Orme	David Richards
Master	David Richards	Liz Orme	Jonathan Agg
Secretary	Melissa Nash	Liz Orme	Jonathan Agg
Treasurer	Phil Orme	David Richards	David Pipe
Belfry Maintenance Officer	Luke Smith	Jonathan Shanklin	Jonathan Agg
Independent Examiner	Michael O'Callaghan	Phil Orme	Frank King

Elections were handled case-by-case, and all were elected nem. Con.

10. Events for 2022

The plan is to reinstate two peals per month (one on a weekday and one at a weekend).

The CUGCR social should happen as usual this year. There will also be a restaurant dinner on Saturday 17th September this year.

Jonathan Shanklin asks whether it will be possible to ring for Sunday services again – he has a clash given the new service times. Devin is asked to comment on the new service schedule. As of March 2022, the Sunday services will be 8am and 10am, with an additional 11.30am service on third Sundays of every month and additionally when there is a University Sermon. Evensong remains at 4pm GMT / 5pm BST all year round, and that should be stable for 2022-3.

Devin also notes that the University has requested a memorial service for Prince Philip.

11. St Clement's Update

Barry confirms that the report is up to date as he was asked to revise it last week. Barry would like to highlight thanks to Liz to organise donations to the Society bell – donations large and small have come from many members near and far. The total raised towards the Society bell comes to £10k which, combined with the £5k agreed at last year's meeting

should cover the cost.

The fundraising overall has been a great success, having raised over £250k. The majority has been from ringers. Thanks also go to the bell-hanging team. All the work has been done by the EDA bell team, a successor to the Huntingdonshire Bell Restoration group. Tom Ridgman and Graham Louth have been involved.

Attention is drawn to page 2 of the report, which contains the proposal for how the centre could move forward. Barry is hoping that people will come forward to help when called on. It will need some oversight by ringers to ensure they are used in the best way to promote bellringing. If management is going to be kept within Cambridge, then it is hoped that the SCY will take a leading role. If management isn't going to be kept within Cambridge, then Dee Smith (RATO) has an interest in how the tower will be run.

12. Void floor

Frank King gave the following report. The status is much as last year, in that Lodge will be asked to clean and stabilise the floor.

13. Wider considerations

a. Safeguarding

Dave Richards says that people may have read about changes to safeguarding procedures in the Ringing World. The implementation at GSM has potentially been slightly ahead of the curve and the message is that all ringers attending regularly are expected to complete the course formerly known as 'CO', but now labelled 'Basic Awareness'. A refresh is required every three years. The church is making contact with people who need to refresh it, but it would be good if people could be proactive and complete it before being reminded to do so. If you have not done it since 2018/19, then it will need to be done again. Dave Richards confirms that he is booked onto the Leadership safeguarding course, due to start on 8th March. Devin asks whether there are roles requiring DBS check, as there has recently been a change in the required frequency of check. Dave Richards confirms that everyone directly involved in teaching, plus Master and Secretary require DBS checks.

b. Health and safety

The question was raised last year as to whether there should be an incident log in the ringing chamber. Liz Orme says that, on balance, it is best to feed into the GSM incident log. The number of incidents within the tower is thankfully very small, so feeding into the GSM log will help with trend analysis. Risks in the tower were reviewed May last year, and will be due for review again in May this year. Liz Orme is happy to take this process on.

There was a question about escape routes at last year's AGM. There have been considerable improvements to the fire safety of the tower over the past few years and there are multiple routes of escape from the tower from the bottom of the staircase. Exit from the East window of the ringing chamber is not advised.

c. 2024 (300th anniversary)

Gareth Davies introduces himself to the meeting. He has been researching a PhD in bellringing in Cambridge, with the Youths taking a leading position. He intends to turn the research into a book. During the last year, the officers have asked whether he is happy to lead the tercentenary planning.

Gareth says that he will need help, and also isn't planning to organise any ringing. The plan is to produce an arc of events from 2024 through to November 2025 (being the tercentenary of first peal).

The initial ideas for events include:

- An exhibition combining the long ringing documentation of the SCY and excellent collection of ringing literature held by the UL.
- Mobile belfry at the folk festival
- Hold a concert and a service at GSM
- Potentially have a lightshow
- A formal dinner at a Cambridge College

Gareth notes that the Society survived 240 years with no Master (instead, a Steward would look after the ringing on a monthly rotating basis).

14. AOB

Barry asks for clarification whether the meeting has decided to spend £5k on the Society bell. Phil points out that it has already been agreed at a previous meeting. The bell is cast and has our name on it. The meeting affirms that it is happy for the money to be transferred.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 20.58.

Present Catriona Agg, Jonathan Agg, Gareth Davies, Barry Johnson, Jonathan Nash, Melissa Nash, Michael O'Callaghan, Liz Orme, Phil Orme, Alf Pipe, Cecilia Pipe, David Pipe, David Richards, Jonathan Shanklin, Luke Smith, George Unsworth, Jadd Virji and Michael Williams.