



Business Meeting

Saturday 16 May 2020

Meeting held via Zoom from 15.00 hrs

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

47 members were present, including the above-mentioned Officers.

15.07 hrs Results of the St Martin's Guild Lockdown Bake off

A fantastic sum of £1355 had been raised in support of Marie Curie West Midlands (Solihull Hospice in memory of Chris Everett – Trish Everett's husband.

Pauline Forster won the Adult Prize and Lex Earthquake won the Junior Category. All junior entries will receive certificates.

Minutes

The meeting started at 15.13 hrs

	Actions
<p>1 Apologies for absence (Officers) There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
<p>2 Remembrance of members who had died The meeting opened with tributes to the following ringers who had died within the months prior to the meeting.</p> <p>John Conduct Clare McArdle reported on the death of John Conduct whose death in Autumn 2019 had not been known about at the time of the AGM in January 2020. A transcript of the tribute is attached to the minutes (Attachment 1).</p> <p>Andrew Stubbs Arthur Reeves read a tribute to Andrew Stubbs who had sadly died of Covid 19 in April. The transcript of the tribute is attached to the minutes. (Attachment 2)</p> <p>A minute's silence was held by all members in attendance.</p>	
<p>3 Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 11 January 2020 (Enclosure 1) Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on the above date were proposed and seconded by Simon Linford and Elaine Cheeseman respectively.</p>	

<p>4 Matters Arising</p> <p>i) Shifnal Peal Board Restoration Richard Jones had provided an update to Clare McArdle. The work to commemorate the 1819 peal at Shifnal and St Martin’s Guild role in performing this, was now in the hands of the conservator and scheduled for completion by September 2020, following which the board will be hung. Thanks to all who have kindly made contributions to make this conservation work possible.</p> <p>ii) Bell Restoration Fund rules This would be covered under Item 5 of the agenda (item 6iii below).</p>	
<p>5 Standing Committee Report (Enclosure 2) The above report had been circulated for information as Enclosure 2 with the agenda. No queries were raised by members on the content.</p>	
<p>6 Bell Restoration Fund</p> <p>i) Update Tracy Stevens gave a brief verbal report on the key issues covered in the Treasurer’s section of the Standing Committee Report (Enclosure 2).</p> <p>Significant growth of £23,234 had occurred with funds bolstered by an £11,000 gift from Castle Bromwich from the remaining funds in their Bell Restoration Project Charity. This was given ‘in recognition of the invaluable support that the Guild and its members have given to the project.’</p> <p>A grant of £400 had been provided to Aston (agreed by Andrew Stubbs) towards essential maintenance in advance of the Aston Eliminator for the 12 Bell Contest – the contest had subsequently been cancelled due to Covid-19 lockdown.</p> <p>Support to Coleshill was outstanding for the installation of a rope guide. John Rogers indicated that this work was unfortunately at a standstill as a result of lockdown and the Vicar was also considering options such as raising the floor. Tracy advised John to contact the Standing Committee to progress this at the appropriate time in the future.</p> <p>Simon Linford reported that the Central Council (CCCB) was planning to encourage any work that could take place at this time in order to support the bell foundry and hanging industry as millions was tied up by lockdown within this sector at present.</p> <p>ii) Appointment of new BRF Trustee As a result of Andrew Stubbs’ death, there was now a vacancy for the role of BRF Trustee. This Trustee plays a key part in considering the issues referred</p>	<p>John Rogers</p>

<p>to them after initial consideration by the Standing Committee. Clare McArdle and Tracy Stevens are currently the two remaining Trustees.</p> <p>Rule 3.4 of the Guild rules states that officer nomination/ election can only take place 6 weeks before the next AGM in January 2021.</p> <p>In this interim period, it was proposed that Tony Daw fill the role. Tony is a longstanding Guild member, is Tower Keeper at St Paul's and is willing to undertake the interim Trustee role until the AGM.</p> <p>This proposal was agreed by those present.</p> <p>iii) BRF rules</p> <p>Following agreed BRF rule changes at the 11 January AGM, Andrew Stubbs and Simon Linford had exchanged correspondence in relation to some final tidying of Section 2 of the BRF rules.</p> <p>Clare McArdle requested that Simon Linford and Tony Daw undertake to complete this work and report back to the next AGM, bringing forward any rule changes if required.</p>	<p>Tony Daw</p> <p>Simon Linford/ Tony Daw</p>																																								
<p>7 Approval of New Members</p> <p>Stella Tew ran through the nominations for 9 new members – 7 full members and 2 associate members, some of whom were present at the meeting. Information had kindly been provided on each nominee by their proposer and seconder.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="167 1086 1220 1429"> <thead> <tr> <th>Member</th> <th>Tower</th> <th>Proposer</th> <th>Seconder</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Heather Griffiths</td> <td>Lichfield</td> <td>Jon Townsend</td> <td>Phil Ramsbottom</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thomas Healy -Associate</td> <td>Aldridge</td> <td>Clare McArdle</td> <td>Arthur Reeves</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Matthew Healy-Associate</td> <td>Aldridge</td> <td>Clare McArdle</td> <td>Arthur Reeves</td> </tr> <tr> <td>David Pipe</td> <td>Cambridge</td> <td>Stephanie Warboys</td> <td>Alistair Cherry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Katherine Price-Feraud</td> <td>Solihull</td> <td>Sandra Cooper</td> <td>Malcolm Paulson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Shaw</td> <td>Fairwarp, E Sussex</td> <td>Stephanie Warboys</td> <td>Alistair Cherry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Michael Shaw</td> <td>Fairwarp, E Sussex</td> <td>Stephanie Warboys</td> <td>Alistair Cherry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gillian Stead</td> <td>Solihull</td> <td>Malcolm Paulson</td> <td>Sandra Cooper</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jimmy Yeoman</td> <td>Exning</td> <td>Stephanie Warboys</td> <td>Alistair Cherry</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All nominees were approved and certificates and badges will be provided in due course to welcome these as new members to the Guild.</p>	Member	Tower	Proposer	Seconder	Heather Griffiths	Lichfield	Jon Townsend	Phil Ramsbottom	Thomas Healy -Associate	Aldridge	Clare McArdle	Arthur Reeves	Matthew Healy-Associate	Aldridge	Clare McArdle	Arthur Reeves	David Pipe	Cambridge	Stephanie Warboys	Alistair Cherry	Katherine Price-Feraud	Solihull	Sandra Cooper	Malcolm Paulson	Chris Shaw	Fairwarp, E Sussex	Stephanie Warboys	Alistair Cherry	Michael Shaw	Fairwarp, E Sussex	Stephanie Warboys	Alistair Cherry	Gillian Stead	Solihull	Malcolm Paulson	Sandra Cooper	Jimmy Yeoman	Exning	Stephanie Warboys	Alistair Cherry	<p>Stella Tew</p>
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<p>8 Future Events</p> <p>Arthur Reeves gave an update on the twice weekly programme of online theory events that had quickly been established upon commencement of lockdown. These were proving to be popular sessions and were recorded and stored on the Guild website afterwards for reference and subsequent viewings.</p> <p>A Q&A session was planned for Wednesday 20 May with a panel including Simon Linford, Stephanie Warboys, David Baverstock and Alison Edmonds. Members were encouraged to submit questions, ideas or comments in advance of this event for consideration by panel members.</p>																																									

<p>Although the Guild usually holds an annual walking and ringing tour, Arthur reported that thought was being given to a different format for this year, though everyone was encouraged to save 11 July in their diaries. Arthur will be in touch with further information at a later date.</p>	<p>Arthur Reeves</p>
<p>9 Any Other Business</p> <p>i) Secular Ringing Centre Simon Linford reported on work over recent years to explore the potential location for a secular ringing centre in Birmingham. These had included a lock keepers' cottage and Brandwood End Cemetery Chapels, neither of which had yielded positive results, the latter of which was largely due to evening access issues.</p> <p>Simon went on to describe the more recent developments through Clare McArdle and Simon engaging with the Leader of BCC and Head of Parks. This had led to an interest in Manor Park Farm, Cadbury Barn on the Bristol Road opposite the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital. The current focus is on exploring the feasibility of setting up a ring of 8 along with dumbbells etc in a house at the front of the site adjacent to the access from Bristol Road (The Lodge). The idea would be to have a contemporary tower on this building visible from Bristol Road. The CEO of the park and site has aspirations to build a barn / community room for local use/ refreshments beside the car park just behind The Lodge.</p> <p>Further reports will be provided as discussions develop. This initiative would clearly require a large amount of capital/ fundraising to realise the development.</p> <p>ii) Books Tracy Stevens indicated that the Guild had a stock of books for sale. She would endeavour to list these and post on the website within the next week for sale at discounted prices. In view of the numbers of publications available, she may also pursue sale of these through the CCCBR and/ or the Whiting Society.</p> <p>iii) Merchandise Stephanie Warboys enquired whether merchandise was still available. Clare McArdle indicated that she would check this out with the printer used by the Guild (Printigo, Stirchley) and advise whether they are still operating under lockdown. Further information will be provided to members.</p> <p>iv) New Guild Peal Book Clare McArdle reported that historically, all peals had been recorded in special peal books with calligraphy and held in the Guild Library. However, the last book was printed and bound 10 years ago. The next Peal Book would therefore be due for production at the end of 2020.</p>	<p>Simon Linford/ Clare McArdle</p> <p>Tracy Stevens</p> <p>Clare McArdle</p>

<p>Mark Eccleston has agreed to organise a small group to plan the production of the next Peal Book. Anyone interested in this work should contact Mark.</p>	<p>Mark Eccleston</p>
<p>10 Next Meeting To take place in October – date and time to be arranged.</p>	
<p>15.56 hrs Meeting Closed</p>	
<p>Quiz – This was organised by Arthur Reeves following a short break after the meeting.</p>	