

**Sunday 16 June 2019, 19.00 hrs**  
**Bournville Community Hub**  
**27 Sycamore Road**  
**B30 2AA**

**Officers present:**

Simon Linford (Master), Arthur Reeves (Ringing Master), Clare McArdle (Secretary), Tracy Stevens (Treasurer), Mark Eccleston (Archivist).

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

The meeting started at 19.00

**Minutes**

	<b>Actions</b>
<p><b>1. Apologies for absence (Officers)</b>            Trish Everett</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of the business meeting held on 24 February 2019</b>            The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p>Andrew Stubbs sought clarification of the status of the AGM. It was stated at that meeting, and subsequently in its minutes, that it was not quorate and hence was not an AGM. He reported that there was some confusion amongst the membership.</p> <p>The Master reported that he had taken advice from Stephanie Warboys (a charity accounting professional) and a lawyer specialising in company administration. Both confirmed that the effect of an inquorate AGM was not to invalidate the meeting's status as an AGM, but just meant that the meeting could not make decisions such as the election of Officers. It was noted that this meant the Officers would all have to continue in post until the Guild has a quorate AGM, providing some incentive to ensure future attendance.</p>	
<p><b>3. Matters arising not on the agenda</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Peal for Andy Carr</b>            The Ringing Master reported that he had been in touch with Sarah Vernon at Northfield, but no arrangements had been made as yet. He agreed to discuss further. The Secretary reported that she had received an email from Anthea Edwards stating that she and Maurice Edwards would be interested in taking part.</p> <p><b>3.2 Contribution towards RWNYC expenses for Brumdingers</b>            It was agreed that the Guild would make a contribution of £100 towards travel and subsistence costs from the Training Fund.</p>	<p>Arthur Reeves</p> <p>Tracy Stevens</p>

<p><b>3.3 Henry Johnson Dinner</b> After refunds to those adversely affected by the poor service at the 2017 dinner, the 2018 HJ Dinner had recorded a surplus of £10.</p> <p><b>3.4 Handsworth ringing room</b> Good progress had been made towards the refurbishment of Handsworth ringing room. Special mention was made of Gary Peynado and Steve Horton who had installed a new ceiling. Other work was scheduled and a new carpet would be ordered.</p>	
<p><b>4. Election of new members</b></p> <p><b>Full members:</b> Lucy Gwynne (Warwick) Lex Earthquake (Harborne) Phoebe House (USA) Tim Barnes (USA) Michael Harrison (USA) Jeremy Bates (USA) Austin Paul (USA)</p> <p><b>Associate members:</b> Susan Boston (BSoBR) Susan Webb (Brumdingers)</p>	
<p><b>5. Bell Restoration Fund</b></p> <p><b>5.1 BRF total</b> The BRF total currently stands at £10,850</p> <p><b>5.2 Coleshill</b> No further progress had been made at Coleshill towards the installation of rope guides. It was understood that the project had been approved by the ringers and clergy and the delay was the application for the faculty.</p> <p><b>5.3 Harborne</b> Clare reported that modifications had been made to the sound management system installed at Harborne after complaints from some members of the congregation that the bells were too quiet when the system was in the “open” position. The adjustments have now been made and all parties are satisfied.</p> <p><b>5.4 Handsworth and Edgbaston</b> The Master reported that Michael Wilby at Taylors had contacted him to inform him that inspections at Handsworth and Edgbaston would be taking place. Feasibility of replacing the hastings stays with normal stays would be looked at.</p> <p>The secretary reported that she had had a conversation with one of the churchwardens at Edgbaston who had expressed concern that he was often unaware that ringers would be using the bells. It was clarified that permission had always been granted by Linda Caswell and it was suggested that this was a communication problem concerning the church. Clare further reported that she was aware that, because of term-time only ringing, members of the church regretted that there was never any ringing for important services such as Christmas and Easter services. Given the availability of the bells at short notice, it seems a shame that this should be the case. The Master agreed that he would contact the vicar and talk about some of the issues.</p>	<p>Simon Linford</p>

<p><b>6. 2020 AGM</b></p> <p>The Secretary reported that she had not received any reply from Aston about hosting the 2020 AGM on 11 January 2020. Having established that a home match was scheduled that day at Villa Park, it was agreed that she should not pursue the request.</p> <p>Handsworth was suggested as an alternative venue as they are due to complete refurbishment of the church by October, and it would be an opportunity to showcase the newly decorated ringing room.</p>	Clare McArdle
<p><b>7. Programme of events for 2019</b></p> <p><b>7.1 Events so far</b></p> <p>X-Practices have proved popular and have been well supported. Midweek practices and workshops continue to be well attended. 10-bell quarter peals are no longer being organised on a regular basis.</p> <p>The 6-bell striking contest in May had not gone as well as had been hoped. There were fewer entries than usual and some feeling that the spirit of the competition had been lost somewhat with teams being made up on the day. It was acknowledged that some towers did not enter because of the abrasive nature of the judging in 2018. On a lighter note, the bake-off, although with fewer entries, had gone well. It was agreed that as a traditional event for associations to hold, we should try to continue to hold one striking contest per year. It was agreed that the date for next year's competition would be Saturday 16 May and judges would be sourced from within the Guild.</p> <p><b>7.2 Future events</b></p> <p>Tracy stated there was a need for more and better mentoring of teachers who had attended the ART Module 1 and suggested an X-Practice could be a focus for it.</p> <p>13 July – Guild walking/ringing tour  27 July – X-Practice focusing on Foundation Skills for learners and those teaching at that level.  21 September – X-Practice, Coleshill  12 October – Guild outing to York  7 December – Guild Challenge, Moseley</p> <p>2020  11 January – AGM, Handsworth (tbc)  29 February – Henry Johnson Dinner  2 May – School away day  16 May – 6-bell striking contest and bake off</p> <p>Arthur agreed to publicise the future dates in his monthly digest email to the e-list.</p>	Arthur Reeves
<p><b>8. Budget review</b></p> <p>The Treasurer reported that 21 members had yet to pay their subscriptions.</p> <p>Tracy had produced a budget forecast which, after being bolstered by sundry surpluses, was on target to break even.</p>	
<p><b>9. Handbells</b></p> <p>The Treasurer reported that the Guild's handbells were now insured with Balens. They are currently being kept at the Master's house, but are insured anywhere in the UK.</p>	
<p><b>10. 2020 12-bell eliminator, Aston</b></p>	

<p>The Master reported that there was some concern over the state of Aston's bells. It was suggested that one of the Guild's practices/events be organised at Aston so an appraisal can be made.</p> <p>Nigel Cripps at Aston had been in communication with Simon about organising the eliminator. It was agreed that the Guild would need to provide help with some of the organisational planning and the running of the event.</p>	<p>Arthur Reeves</p> <p>Simon Linford</p>
<p><b>11. AOB</b></p> <p><b>11.1 Operation London Bridge</b></p> <p>The Master had been contacted by Birmingham Council's Resilience Team with regard to ringing in the event of the death of the Sovereign. It had been agreed that a single bell would toll at an agreed time (tbc) at the 5 city-centre churches and as many other churches as possible on D+1. Simon and Clare's details have been submitted as contacts. Simon agreed to clarify the time and confirm whether churches had been contacted by the Resilience Team.</p> <p>Clare reported that she had been contacted by Clive Day from Solihull for advice regarding ringing for the death of senior members of the Royal Family. Clare to respond to Clive.</p> <p><b>11.2 Restoration of Shifnal peal boards</b></p> <p>As part of the commemoration of the historic link between ringers from Birmingham and Shifnal from 200 years ago, restoration of two peal boards and commissioning of a third, detailing the historic peal of Stedman Triples in 1819 and the marking of its bicentenary is to be undertaken by Richard Jones. An article he is writing for the Ringing World will appeal to readers to subscribe towards the cost of the peal boards. Richard requested that monies raised might be channeled through the Guild's bank account. The Treasurer agreed to contact Richard to discuss the logistics.</p> <p><b>11.3 Membership categories</b></p> <p>The current requirement for peal bands to comprise 75% full members is proving to be difficult to achieve without knock-on effects – although regular peal ringers have been elected as members, some have declined to renew membership. An additional problem arises with the increase of members who only join to ring a peal, in that the risk of the AGM being inquorate increases. It is also felt that the membership system lacks recognition for those who no longer reside as members but have longstanding links with the Guild.</p> <p>It was agreed that we did not want to go back to the Non Resident Life Membership category.</p> <p>It was agreed that changes should be discussed and brought before the membership for discussion.</p> <p><b>11.4 AGM workshops</b></p> <p>The Ringing Master asked for suggestions for workshops to run at the AGM. "How to" workshops on organising quarter peals and practices and running practices were suggested.</p>	<p>Simon Linford</p> <p>Clare McArdle</p> <p>Tracy Stevens</p> <p>Arthur Reeves</p>
<p><b>12 Date of the next meeting</b> Sunday 29 September 2019</p>	

The meeting ended at 21.00