

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for the year ¹⁹³⁰ 1929 was held at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on Saturday, January 11th, and proved to be one of the most interesting and best attended meetings in the history of the Society, when most of our country members met for the first time the Rev. Pat McCormack, who had specially attended to perform two very pleasing ceremonies in connection with the Society's welfare; the first being the opening of the Pearl Tablet in St. Martin's Chapel recording the first pearl of Cambridge Surprise Maximus on the bells; the second being a presentation to the Master, Mr J. D. Matthews, from the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. Martin's and St. Leonards, Shoreditch, and the Members of the Society for his great work to the Society during the past 20 years as Ringing Master.

In opening the Pearl Tablet the Rev. McCormack said he had been asked to perform a duty he was afraid he knew little about, but the

right of such a large gathering of ringers from many parts of the country around him that something really big had been done in ringing that peal of Cambridge Maximus, for all the members were obviously most enthusiastic over it, and he therefore congratulated us on such an achievement.

Mr. E. Barnett, sen., in replying, said the fortunate and almost envious position of the Society in the Ringing Exercise was undoubtedly due to our very capable, conscientious and hard-working Ringing Master, whom we all knew had been faced with many obstacles and disappointments. He had at long last overcome all difficulties and brought us to the top of the ladder, and it gave him (Mr. Barnett) great pleasure to see that his efforts had been so widely appreciated.

He then asked the Vicar to present to Mr. Matthews on behalf of the members an 8-day Westminster Chiming Clock, in Mahogany and to Mrs. Matthews a Gold Wrist Watch

nicely inscribed

Mr. Matthews, in thanking the members, said he thought his services had been rather overestimated; he had only done what he considered his duty, and the resultant peal more than compensated him for the many difficulties with which he had been faced. He had at last achieved his aim, and he sincerely hoped the members would do their duty and maintain the position they now held.

This concluded the business in the belfry, and after a course of Stedman Cinque for the six o'clock service we adjourned to the Crypt for tea, after which the Master expressed his thanks to Miss Magniac and the other ladies for their kind help and co-operation in making our meeting such a successful one.

^{BUSINESS MEETING}
The business meeting took place in the Church House, with the Rev. McCumack in the Chair; the first item on the Agenda being the Minutes of the last meeting. These were read by the Secretary, and Mr. Norman proposed and Mr. D. Bowen seconded that they be signed.

The Treasurer then presented the Balance Sheet, which showed a balance in hand of £7-2-0. Mr. Neale proposed and Mr. Baybutt seconded that same be passed - Carried.

The Secretary then gave his report for the year, and stated that although great progress had been made in the advancement of the exercise, the ^{number} amount of peals rung for the year was very small indeed, and expressed the wish that country members would in future bear the Society's Post Book in mind and thus make up the deficiency in six, eight or ten bell peals.

Election of Officers.

Master - Mr. Neale proposed and Mr. Newman seconded that Mr. J. D. Matthews be re-elected - Carried unanimously.

Secretary - Mr. Baybutt proposed and Mr. Parker seconded that Mr. J. Sparrow be re-elected - Carried.

Treasurer - Mr. Ayle proposed and Mr. Pulling seconded that Mr. G. Stone be re-elected - Carried.

Turkeys - Mr. Parker proposed and Mr. G. Barnett, jun. seconded that Messrs. F. Smith and A. Hardy be re-elected - Carried.

Auditors - Mr. Parker proposed and Mr. Neale seconded that Messrs. R. Bevan and J. Newman be re-elected - Carried.

Stewards - Mr. Ayle proposed and Mr. Pullen seconded that Messrs. C. Matthews and J. Bevan be re-elected senior and junior stewards respectively - Carried.

Central Council - Mr. Pullen stated that he thought we ought to improve our position on the Council by electing five members instead of the usual three, and after a short discussion this was agreed upon, whereupon Mr. Pulling proposed and Mr. ~~Parker~~^{Baybutt} seconded that Messrs. W. Ayle, F. Smith, J. Parker, and the Master and Secretary be elected as representatives on the Council.

Ratifications - Mr. Shemmings, Ipswich
Mr. Wilfred Williams, London
Mr. Albert Disruss, London
Mr. W. W. Stone, Woking

Mr. Parker proposed and Mr. Barnett, jun., seconded that all be ratified - carried.

New Members - Mr. A. Pye proposed and Mr. Smith seconded that Mr. E. Furbank, of Chadwell Heath, be elected - Carried

Mr. R. Bevan proposed and Mr. J. Matthews seconded that Mr. F. Bonfield, of Rentsh Town, be elected - Carried.

Booking Peals - Mr. J. Matthews proposed and Mr. R. Bevan seconded that same be booked and paid - Carried.

Peal Tablet (Sharditch) - Mr. Pulling proposed and Mr. Parker seconded that the sum of £6-10-0 which had been paid from the Society's funds for that tablet be confirmed. Carried.

Rule Books - The Secretary informed the meeting that he had no rule books to send new members and suggested that new and revised rules be printed. This was left in the hands of the Officers.

Ringers Directory - The Secretary read a letter from the Editor of this new publication asking for more substantial support from the Society, but after discussion it was agreed to discontinue supporting it, Mr. Parker reminding us of the splendid assistance we had been given by our ~~own~~ ^{old} Ringing publication "The Ringing World." This appreciation was shown by all by cries of "Next Business."

Accounts - Mr. Parker proposed and Mr. Barnett seconded that these be paid - Carried.

Summer Meeting - The Secretary asked the meeting if it was their wish to hold a summer meeting again this year, but it was agreed not to embark on any arrangements, owing to the many failures of past years, due, it is thought, to the holiday arrangement of the members.

Vote of thanks - The ^{proposed a vote of} ~~Meeting~~ ^{Meeting} thanked to the Rev. McCormack for all his kindness and assistance to us at the meeting and in the bellry, stating it was the

first time he had ever taken the Chair at one of our Annual Meetings and he (the Master) sincerely hoped it would be our good fortune to have him amongst us again on many future occasions; this remark being heartily applauded by all.

A vote of thanks to the Officers ended the business and members returned to the bell for further ringing until 9 p.m.

John D. Matthews