

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society
held in the Vestry Hall of St Martin-in-the-Fields on
January 30 1962

The meeting was presided over by the Warden, Mr. Dennis Beesford and in his opening remarks he welcomed the large number of members who were present. Apologies for absence had been received from Messrs. H. E. Audsley, A. B. Mason & P. N. Bond and from Miss J. R. Cox.

The minutes of the last annual general meeting were read and after a minor correction, confirmed by the meeting. There were no matters arising and the secretary then presented his report.

During the year 11 new members had been elected as against 16 in the previous year. Three of these had been elected prior to ringing peals for the Society. Seven peals had been rung during the year:

Eight-spliced Surprise Major (Gravesend), four-spliced Surprise Major (Eritk), Yorkshire Surprise Royal (Bedford), Stedman Triples (Eritk), Pudsey Surprise ~~Major~~ Royal (Reading), Glasgow Surprise Major (Great Baddow), London Surprise Major (Gaythorpe).

The peals of Glasgow & Pudsey Surprise ~~Major~~ ^{Royal} were the first of such for the Society. The Yorkshire Royal at St. Pauls, Bedford, was rung to commemorate the peal of Bob Major rung there by the Society on May 11, 1761, and was rung at the invitation of the Vicar & local ringers.

During the year the Society lost through death Mr. L. Baybutt, who was a past member of St. Martin's band & a member of the Society for 36 years. Having only recently returned from a number of years in India and looking forward to joining the Society's activities again, his death was particularly regretted. Another stalwart member of the Society was Mr. T. Newman,

who had been a member of St. Martin's band and a member of the Society for 42 years. Both of these gentlemen took part in the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus for the Society. Mention was also made of the death of Mr. R.F. Deal, who although not a member of the Society had attended many of its meetings and functions. The meeting stood in silence to their memory.

The meeting held during 1961 had been generally better attended than in previous years. The April meeting was held at St. John, Waterloo Road, & St. Margaret's, Westminster with Marlborough & Putney & July; Southgate in September & a very well attended joint meeting with the Middlesex County Association at St. Giles, Cripplegate & St. Botolph, Bishopsgate.

Owing to various structural repairs being carried out at St. Martin's, no practices could be held there, but practices had been held at various Towns and had been very successful in the remarkable progress being made by the band. The marked increase in the number of methods being rung, the high standard of striking which had been achieved, plus the esprit de corps which had developed were very welcome signs and augured well for the future of the Society.

The matter of republicating the Rules of the Society and of publishing a history of the Society had continued to receive attention. In connection with the Society's history a visit to the British Museum disclosed little more than had been published by J. A. Trollope when writing his History of London Societies, but this could only be considered as forming a basis for a history.

The secretary then moved the adoption of his report, this was seconded by Mr. T. H. Francis & carried.

In presenting his report the treasurer said that the accounts for the year showed a loss, due to the main

non-recurring expenses. Comparison was made with the previous years of income and expenditure & the disparities noted. Although it was felt that the finances of the Society would improve in 1962, the trend was nevertheless disturbing. The treasurer moved the adoption of his report which was seconded by Mr. A. R. King and after considerable detailed discussion, was carried.

During the discussion members expressed uneasiness at the financial trend of the Society. A suggestion that a 5s. annual subscription be imposed was withdrawn when the difficulties were pointed out. It was then suggested that steepage should be increased to 6d. and it was pointed out that although it would be borne mainly by the regular practice-goers it was good value for money. The necessary amendment to Rule 5 was proposed by Mr. E. A. Barnett, seconded by Mr. A. R. King & carried.

The Master thanked the treasurer for his work reminding members that between the end of the Society's financial year & the annual meeting the accounts had been prepared & the audit had been completed by both auditors in time for the meeting.

The meeting then passed to the election of new members:

Messrs. A. Baldock, G. M. Fitzbush, & T. M. Barlow, Miss J. Kenner & Miss R. Earl, proposed by Mrs. O. D. Barnett & seconded by Mr. J. J. Matthews; Miss M. Gibbs, prop. Mr. M. Harbott & sec. by Mr. J. R. Hawthorne; Miss S. Rawlins and Mr. K. Newman, prop. by Miss J. Berglund, sec. by Mr. J. J. Matthews; Miss R. Snell, prop. Mr. I. H. Bran, sec. Mr. A. W. J. Butler; Mrs. R. E. Room & Miss A. George, prop. by Mr. B. E. Jefferies, sec. Mr. G. Room; Miss H. Griffiths, prop. Mr. I. Zass Gilvie, sec. Mr. A. W. J. Butler; these elections were confirmed by the meeting.

Before proceeding to the election of officers the Master said he wished to thank members for their support during the year, and said he was most gratified by the large attendance at the meeting. He wished particularly to thank Mr. T. H. Francis for his help in arranging services going through out the year, & Mrs J. Beresford for her considerable assistance with the many other arrangements required during the year.

The Master, having vacated the chair, the election of officers took place as follows:

Worshipful Master: Mr. D. Beresford. p. Mr. M. Harbott. s. Mrs O.D. Barnett

Secretary: Mr. F. J. Matthews. p. Mr. I. H. Oram. s. Mr. R. Caporn

Treasurer: Mr. F. E. Hawthorne. p. Mr. T. H. Francis. s. Mr. A. W. J. Butler

Sen. Steward: Miss D. A. Devereil. p. Mr. E. A. Barnett. s. Mr. F. E. Hawthorne.

Jun. Steward: Mr. P. Beresford. p. Mr. E. A. Barnett. s. Mrs. O. D. Barnett

Worshipful Trustees: Mr. T. H. Francis p. Mr. F. E. Hawthorne. s. Mr. A. H. Kirkby
Mr. P. Beresford

Worshipful Anchors: Mrs F. Deal p. Mr. M. Harbott. s. Mr. F. J. Matthews
Miss M. Procksa

It was proposed by Mr. T. H. Francis & seconded by Mr. A. H. Kirkby that the office of Dinner Secretary should lapse and the duties again be combined in the office of Secretary. The motion was carried.

In the nature of quarterly meetings, it was proposed by Mr. E. A. Barnett and seconded by Mr. A. R. King and carried that the arrangements be in the hands of the Master, the dates being April 14, July 14 September 15 and the joint meeting with the Middlesex County Association on December 1.

An approach had been made to the Society by the London County Association with a suggestion of a joint meeting in June with of the two societies with the Middlesex Association. In view of the Society's present meeting commitments and the

fact that the Society has already a joint meeting annually with the Middlesex Association it was proposed by Mr. T. H. Francis seconded by Mr. A. R. King and carried that the Society should respectfully decline the invitation.

It was dealt with under any other business included a report on the present situation of the towers at St. Martin's & Shoreditch when it was mentioned that singing would shortly be resumed at Shoreditch. Arrangements for the annual dinner were well in hand. Tickets were selling well and a successful function was anticipated. The thanks of the meeting were expressed to Mr. I. D. Fass-Gilvie for his efforts in this connection. A request was made that copies of the agenda and accounts should be circulated before the meeting, and it was agreed that if possible this should be arranged.

Under discussion of the reprinting of the rules and publishing the history of the Society it was proposed by Mr. F. E. Hawthorne seconded by Mr. I. H. Oram that consideration should be given to publishing the rules separately and that the secretary be asked to report back to the next quarterly meeting.

A Vote of thanks to the ladies of the St. Martin's canteen for the excellent tea was proposed by Mr. E. A. Barnett and the Master accorded his thanks to the Vicar of St. Martin's for the use of the Vestry Hall, the incumbents of St. Jak's, Waterloo Road, and St. Giles-in-the-Fields for permission to ring on the bells, and the respective tower captains for their assistance.

Dennis Beresford.

19.11.1963.

Minutes of quarterly meeting held at ~~All Saints~~
~~Ropton~~, on April 14, 1962

After the minutes of the last quarterly meeting were read and confirmed the secretary proposed two new members. They were both from Wisbech and had rung with the Society on the occasion of the last annual dinner. They were: Mr. J. C. Wigmore + Mr. M. R. Reed (both of Wisbech) They were seconded by Mr. J. E. Hawthorne.

The meeting was also asked to ratify the belfry election of Miss S. Jackson and Messrs. R. Large and G. Drew. Proposed by the secretary and Miss Jackson + Mr. G. Drew seconded by Miss J. Beresford and Mr. R. Large by Mr. W. Dobby.

Regarding the date and venue for the next meeting the Master regretted that we had been unable to accept Mr. P. Corby's invitation to Sevenoaks for the April meeting (it being the both anniversary of Mr. P. Turley's election to the Society in that month) but hoped that the Society would consider going there as an extra meeting in June. The feeling of the members, however, was that a meeting be arranged at Sevenoaks as the next quarterly meeting. Miss J. Beresford proposed + Mrs S. Dobby seconded and this was carried. The date to be July 14.

Under the item the rules of the Society, the Master pointed out that at the annual meeting notice had been given to raise the steepage to 6d. Mr F. E. Hawthorne proposed and Mr. E. A. Barnett seconded that Rule 5 be amended accordingly.

Before the Secretary presented the estimate for reprinting of the rules (as requested at the A.G.M.) he mentioned that he had been able to pass to the Treasurer a sum which had been paid into the Society's account and represented the first amount to be paid in for many months, showing a profit of over £7 for the first quarter of the year.

The estimate for reprinting of the Rules was as follows: £14 for the first 100; and £5 10s. for every 100 thereafter. At this rate the Society could sell them at 1s 6d each.

After discussion it was proposed by Mr. R. A. Barnett and seconded by Mr. S. Dobby that a sum of £36 (the equivalent figure for 500 copies) be spent.

Mr. P. N. Bond proposed a vote of thanks be extended to the ^{respective} incumbents for the use of the bells of St John at Hackney and All Saints, Poplar.

D. Beresford

14. VII. 1962.

Minutes of quarterly meeting held at the church hall at St Nicholas, Sevenoaks, on July 14, 1962.

The chair was taken by the Master, Mr. D. Beresford. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. & Mrs. T. H. Francis, Messrs. F. E. Hawthorne, A. R. King, P. N. Bond, D. Sibson and the Misses D. Devereux and J. Cox.

The minutes of the last quarterly meeting were read and confirmed.

New members were as follows: Miss Brenda Foster, of Bexleyheath, proposed by the Master and seconded by Mr. F. J. Mantles; Mrs Lucille Corby, proposed by Mr. J. Cooper, seconded by Mr. F. T. Cullum; + Mr. E. R. Zobel + Mr. G. R. Zobel, proposed by Mr. A. G. Hill and seconded by Mr. G. Butcher.

The date of the next quarterly meeting was September 15; the place to be decided.

In closing the meeting the Master proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. E. M. T. Michellan, the Vicar of St. Nicholas, for permission to use the bells and he also thanked Mr. P. Corby and Miss D. Colgate for the tremendous effort of organising such a successful meeting. He accorded congratulations to the Rev. K. W. H. Felstead, on becoming Canon of Winchester Cathedral and also to Mr. A. J. Hill, who was awarded a British Empire Medal in the last Birthday Honours list. Lastly the Master congratulated Mr. P. G. Turley on his 60 years with the Society, his Golden wedding + 50 years with Sevenoaks band.

Dennis Beresford
15. VII. 1962

Minutes of quarterly meeting held in the Church Hall of St Giles, Camberwell, on September 15, 1962.

The chair was taken by the Master, Mr. Dennis Beresford.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. F. E. Hawthorne + ~~the~~ P. N. Bond.

The minutes of the last quarterly meeting were read and minor corrections were made before they were signatured.

Mr. J. Cooper proposed and Mr. I. Gram seconded that Mr. N. J. Davies be made a member. This was carried.

The Secretary reported that Mr. J. C. Baldwin had written asking to ~~resign~~ resign from the Society. This had been accepted.

The next meeting of the Society would be held in conjunction with the Middlesex County Association on December 2.

The dinner (booked for February 2 at the Euston Tavern) arrangements were going forward satisfactorily. Tickets were selling well + the Master pressed members to sell as many tickets as possible + looked forward to a very successful meeting.

A vote of thanks was proposed by the Secretary to the incumbents of St. George-in-the-Borough + St Giles, Camberwell, for ^{permission to} ~~the use of~~ the bells + of St Giles Church Hall + to Messrs N. Bayworth + J. Phillips, the respective tower captains for meeting the members.

D. Beresford.

20.10.1962