

Minutes of the 1st MCR Committee Meeting, 2005

*8 pm, 5 July 2005
MCR, St Catharine's College*

Present: Patrick Flack
Tom Law
Felicia Yap
Rebecca Gallagher
Lizzie Perdeaux
P. Iyngaran
Hiroki Shin

Absent with apologies: Michael Harfoot

1. Summer Social Events

1.1 Punt Trip

Patrick proposed a punt trip to Grantchester in late July. Weekends were decided as unsuitable; Rebecca suggested that the trip be held in the evening, and noted that punt hire may vary according to time of day and should be checked beforehand. It is likely that the trip will take place at 6 pm on Thursday July 29.

1.2 Pub Trips

Lizzie suggested a pub trip every fortnight.

1.3 Formal Hall in September

Patrick proposed a formal hall in September as one of the final events for MCR members who will be in Cambridge during the summer.

1.4 BBQ and Sports at South Green

Iyngaran suggested a sporting match in August between Russell Street and South Green Lodge. Patrick proposed a BBQ in conjunction with the games at South Green Lodge.

2. Early Planning for Freshers' Week

2.1 Ideas for Freshers' Week

Patrick invited ideas from the Committee for Freshers' Week, and suggested a Parents/Children's Formal on Thursday evening. Various other ideas were proposed; Saturday night drinks in the MCR at the beginning of Freshers' Week [Rebecca], a pudding party [Rebecca], a bowling trip [Tom], a trip to London during the weekend [Iyngaran], parties at South Green Lodge and Russell Street [Iyngaran], an MCR film night in conjunction with the Societies' Squash [Lizzie], and a trip to the Zoo to visit the (proposed) MCR's adopted tiger [Lizzie]. Rebecca also suggested a Quiz Night

(with suitable prizes), and Patrick noted that the Committee could enlist the help of the Graduate Tutors in organising this event, given the success of the previous Quiz Night. Tom suggested that drinking events be alternated with non-drinking events, and Hiroki proposed that the MCR be decorated for the week. Patrick commented that the Committee should be aware of our Graduate Tutors' plans for Freshers' Week (i.e. orientation briefings and the Matriculation Dinner), as well as JCR events, and plan accordingly. He mentioned that Jacqueline will organise a meeting for the Graduate Tutors and the MCR Committee shortly. Tom enquired about the number of new graduates; Patrick replied that the MCR could expect about 100 to 120 new members. Rebecca asked if the Committee could organise a charity-based event during Freshers' Week. Patrick responded that the MCR events do not turn a profit, and noted that this issue had presented problems in the past; the MCR, however, may support college members participating in the London Marathon for charity, and other events of a similar nature.

2.2 Parents/Children's Mentoring Scheme

Patrick mentioned the Committee should start getting MCR members to volunteer for the scheme. Tom commented that he had already been approached by a number of people. It was proposed that parents should receive free tickets to the Parents/Children's Formal, and the MCR will cover the costs. Tom suggested that the allocation of parents be done as early as possible, so that the parents will be able to help in the orientation of new graduates. Rebecca said that parents should be allocated according to nationality or background, while Patrick pointed out that Sarion, the previous MCR Secretary, allocated parents on the basis of similar accommodation sites last year.

2.3 Contact with New Graduates and Freshers' Pack

Hiroki enquired about contact with prospective MCR graduates. Patrick said that the Graduate Tutors would provide the Committee with a list. Tom noted out that some problems were faced with the distribution of the Freshers' Pack last year, and that many received it late. Patrick said that the Committee should look into sending out electronic links besides printing out hard copies of the Freshers' Pack, and the Graduate Union Handbook should be included in the Freshers' Pack (if available). Felicia suggested the inclusion of the entire MCR programme for Freshers' Week in the Pack.

3. Coffee Maker

Patrick said that Robin, the previous MCR president, had suggested the purchase of a new coffee maker due to faults in the present machine. The Committee unanimously voted for the purchase of a new coffee maker for the MCR. Patrick pointed out the machine need not be too expensive, while Rebecca suggested that the MCR purchase a bigger, more industrial coffee maker while retaining the use of the present machine. The Catering Manager could be approached for suggestions [**Action: Patrick**].

4. Any Other Business

4.1 Subscriptions to Newspapers/Journals

Hiroki enquired about the MCR's subscriptions. Patrick replied that the MCR currently subscribes to the Guardian, the Times, the Independent and possibly the New Scientist. Tom pointed out that these newspapers could be collected from the Porters Lodge if they are not in the MCR, and noted that most MCR members may be unaware of this. He will therefore put up a notice in the MCR to inform members [**Action: Tom**]. Hiroki suggested MCR subscriptions to the Times Literary and Education Supplements. Patrick said that he would have a word with the newsagent [**Action: Patrick**].

4.2 Drink Supplies in the MCR

Patrick noted that MCR members may obtain milk from the kitchen if the MCR is short of supplies, and the milk will be charged to the MCR. If the MCR is short of coffee and tea bags, members may purchase these items and present the receipts to him for a refund.

4.3 MCR Film Nights on Sunday

Patrick suggested that the duties involved in the organisation of fortnightly MCR Film Nights on Sundays be divided among Committee members. Iyngaran enquired about the condition of the TV and video player; Patrick replied that they are in good condition.

4.4 Fishes and Plants in the MCR

Patrick pointed out that although the fishes in the MCR are the responsibility of the Green Officer, everyone should help to feed the fishes (or water the plants) if necessary.

4.5 Committee Duties

Tom asked if any Committee members have been in contact with last year's Committee. He hoped that all Committee members are aware of their respective responsibilities.

4.6 Committee T-Shirts for Freshers' Week

The Committee unanimously voted for the purchase of claret coloured T-Shirts for Freshers' Week [**Action: Patrick**].

4.7 Cleaning Up After Events

Tom asked about the allocation of cleaning-up duties after MCR events. Lizzie said that all Committee members should help out, and specific duties should be allocated in advance.

4.8 Committee Photos

Tom would take photos of Committee members after the meeting for a poster [**Action: Tom**].

Felicia Yap
MCR Secretary