

Minutes of the 2nd MCR Committee Meeting

8 pm, 21 July 2005
MCR, St Catharine's College

Present: Patrick Flack
Tom Law
Felicia Yap
Lizzie Perdeaux
Robin Cassidy-Cain
Regina Sachers

Absent with apologies: Rebecca Gallagher
Michael Harfoot
P. Iyngaran
Hiroki Shin

1. Minutes of the Previous Committee Meeting

Tom chaired the meeting. He asked if everyone had read the minutes of the previous meeting, and there were no comments.

2. New Members of the Committee

Two new members of the MCR Committee were appointed: Robin Cassidy-Cain (ex-MCR President) as Academic Officer and Regina Sachers as Social Secretary (with P. Iyngaran).

3. Punt Trip to Grantchester

The punt trip to Grantchester will take place at 6 pm on Thursday 26 July. According to Patrick, the punts will be hired from Scudamore's at £30.00 per punt. The MCR will pay for the overnight punt hire, as well as the purchase of wine, crisps and soft drinks (these will not be advertised, and punters will be advised to bring their own food and drink). Punters will also be requested to bring their own torches or lamps [**Action: Patrick**].

4. Exchange BBQ/Football Match with Corpus MCR

Lizzie said that Corpus MCR has invited the MCRs of Catz and Queen's to an exchange BBQ/football match. It was proposed that people should bring their own drinks to the event, and the costs of food will be split between the MCRs. Sunday August 7 was proposed as a suitable date. Patrick will discuss the details with Andy Nelson from Corpus MCR (and a possible reciprocal invitation to a BBQ at Catz). [Action: **Lizzie and Patrick**].

5. Academic Notice Board for the MCR

An academic notice board was proposed for the MCR, so that recent publications of MCR members could be displayed. They will be invited by email to submit pdf's of their publications. Space could be found for the new board either by the removal of some old matriculation photos, or by clearing some space on the existing notice boards. The notice board will be the responsibility of the Academic Officer [**Action: Robin**].

6. College Awards for PhD Students

Patrick outlined a proposed college awards scheme for PhD Students, and said that he would send the proposal to the Committee by email the following day. According to Robin, a previous proposal was found to be too complicated, and it was subsequently revised. The new proposal will involve two schemes: the *St Catharine's College Prize for Outstanding Research* (for the best internal applicant for a Junior Research Fellowship, regardless of who is appointed to the position), and three separate prizes for *Distinction in Research in the Arts and Humanities, Natural Sciences, and the Social Sciences* (these prizes will be assessed by means of contacting individual supervisors during the students' third year of work and asking them to provide an objective measure of their student's research) [**Action: Patrick**].

7. Paws and Claws Event

According to Patrick, the Head Paw has asked if the MCR would be willing to provide support for a cocktail event. Tom suggested that the Head Paw should submit a proposal for this event to the Committee, and that the Head Paw could be invited to MCR meetings if they intend to organise events of such nature or if they have something to propose. Patrick noted that he would send an email to the Head Paw to establish a clearer line of demarcation between the work of the MCR Committee and that of Paws and Claws. On a related note, Lizzie mentioned the existence of a makeshift bar in storage and suggested that it could be used for future MCR events [**Action: Patrick**].

8. Newspapers: Subscriptions to TES/TLS

Patrick mentioned that he has contacted the newsagent regarding these subscriptions and the weekly prices are: £1.20 for Times Education Supplement, £2.70 for Times Literary Supplement, and £1.40 for Times Higher Education. Robin suggested a straw poll in the autumn to assess interest, people should reply to Patrick if they are interested. [**Action: Patrick**].

9. Purchase of Blades

Following a request from Sarion Bowers, who was Cox for a Blades-winning crew in this summer's May Bumps, the committee discussed buying a Blade for the MCR commemorating her success. It was generally felt to be a good idea, provided that the cost is not prohibitive. Patrick will contact Sarion regarding how expensive they are, and where they can be obtained. If one is purchased, we will need to speak to Phil Dean about having it put up. [**Action: Patrick**]

10. GU Subscription

The MCR's subscription to the GU for 2004/05 has not yet been paid. It was agreed that this should be done, and Patrick will do so. This prompted a conversation about whether the college should continue to affiliate to the GU. Tom suggested possibly holding a referendum on the subject sometime next term. Patrick suggested this could run in tandem with the election of Treasurer/Computer Officer. It was pointed out that if we did this we would need to invite a representative from GU to come and speak to the MCR, so that people could make an informed choice. Regina pointed out that the GU is currently in the process of reforming itself, and it would be unfair to withdraw until this process is complete. There was general agreement with this, and therefore the plans for a referendum were put.

11. AOB

11.1 Drinks Cupboards

Tom raised the issue of the MCR drinks cupboards. In particular, he was concerned that large numbers of ex-committee members have keys to the old cupboard. It was agreed that he would speak to the maintenance staff about getting a new lock put on the new cupboard, and until this happened the old cupboard would be used to store valuables. [**Action: Tom**]

11.2 Freshers' Week

Robin suggested holding a Scavenger Hunt as part of the Freshers' Week activities, as a way of introducing people to Cambridge and to each other. It was felt that this would be a good idea.

Felicia Yap
MCR Secretary
With additional reporting by Patrick Flack