

MCR Committee Meeting 30th October

Present – Ali, Dan, Martina, Richard, Rosie, Roy
Apologies - Lizzie, Paul

1. Previous Minutes

Not everyone has seen the minutes from the previous meeting yet. It was decided to ratify these minutes at a later date once everyone had seen them.

[Action: Lizzie to email a copy of the official minutes from the last meeting to the committee mailing list.]

2. Budget and Finances

Since other MCR members were using the computers in the lower MCR it was decided to postpone this point to later in the meeting, as Richard wished to show some PowerPoint slides.

3. Halloween Formal

There is a JCR bop in the bar the night before our Halloween formal and bop. Dan has arranged that the JCR will leave all the DJ'ing equipment, disco lights etc in the bar for us to use. This equipment will probably need to be relocated as the JCR tend to have it in the JCR facing into the bar through the double doors, whereas for our event the JCR doors will be closed and the equipment will be in the room of the bar itself, by the dance floor. It was queried as to whether the JCR would also leave us their décor. During the course of the meeting Roy was contacted on his mobile phone by Anna Hughes, JCR Vice-President, who confirmed this would be the case. However we may wish to add to the existing décor or otherwise modify it to our liking.

[Action: All hands on deck to make sure everything is in shape barwise, Saturday 4th starting at 3pm. Should be finished with plenty of time to go away and change for formal etc]

Other points relating to the logistics of the party in the bar were discussed. Lizzie has already advertised that there will be a free drink for anyone who goes to the bop in fancy dress (people must still be smart for formal), and also some sort of prize for best costume. It was suggested that there should be two prizes, one for best male and one for best female.

[Action: Dan to make and print drinks vouchers for those who have come in fancy dress.]

[Action: Rosie to be in charge of distributing vouchers on the night.]

[Action: Dan to make sure John the Barman knows about the arrangements for vouchers in advance.]

[Action: Ali to get the two prizes. Spending limit £5 for each prize]

It was noted that the committee were unsure whether the pre-dinner drinks were in the MCR or in the Ramsden Room, and whether the drinks would be Halloween themed or standard sherry.

[Action: Lizzie to clarify on these two points.]

4. Arrangements for visiting guests in exchange formals.

It was suggested that it would be good to split up big groups coming on exchanges from other colleges. This would improve integration and also reduce the

likelihood of misbehaviour. It was suggested that this could be achieved by reserving places on the tables for the exchange guests, dotted around the room in blocks of four. **[Action: Lizzie to look into doing this. Obtaining placards to mark the reserved spaces and making sure that guests know to head for these blocks.]**

It was noted that guests need to be made very clearly aware in advance of the dress code for formal, and the fact that photography is not permitted during dinner. **[Action: Lizzie to ensure this is the case. Martina to look into putting a notice somewhere on the formal hall booking system reminding people to also alert their personal guests to formal.]**

It was acknowledged that these points may be discussed further at a meeting where Lizzie and/or a newly elected formal hall rep are present.

5. Forthcoming events

It was considered useful to quickly make a list of all the forthcoming MCR events that we have, apart from the regular formals and exchange formals. These were:

- Halloween film – it has been decided to show *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* in order to build the mood and give costume ideas ready for the themed formal.

[Action: Rosie and Roy to make sure we have a copy of the film to show!]

- MCR Open Meeting – this has now been moved to Thursday 2nd November, and advertised.
- Halloween Dinner and Bop
- Hustings – this has been advertised as being on Wednesday 8th November, however Lizzie has now sent out an email about a return exchange to Trinity Hall on the same night, so Hustings will probably be moved to accommodate this. Tuesday 7th November was suggested.
- Opera Trip – Rosie currently has about 15 signed up to this, both MCR members and their guests. It was felt this was a good effort considering it involves going to London.
- Film nights – Rosie has booked the Ramsden Room for the 26th November, the 3rd December and 10th December to show the *Three Colours* trilogy. On each night the room is booked 5pm-9pm. Rosie noted that the attendances for the films shown in collaboration with the Italian society had not been very good in terms of MCR members. It was agreed that we would step up the marketing for these films. Failing that, we might show less high-brow material, which is not in foreign languages, next term, to see if that would boost attendances.
- Christmas Formal and Bop

Additionally, the graduate tutors are arranging the MCR-SCR dinner for 8th December, and have invited a number of the graduates to a dinner on St Catharine's Day (25th November). They are expected to hold a pub quiz in late November, to which MCR members will be invited.

Ideas for further events were:

- Pantomime trip (in January)
- Cinema trip to see the new Bond movie (could we persuade people to go in black tie?!)

[Action: Ali to find out when the new Bond movie is being released.]

- Karaoke
- A slave auction for charity
- An MCR pub trip

It was queried why the Paws and Claws society didn't seem to be running any events, after they had a well attended event in Freshers' Week. This had taken several of the committee by surprise.

[Action: Dan to contact the Paws and Claws presidents to find out what their plans are.]

6. Informal Socials

Martina bought a whiteboard to put by the entrance of Russell St. This has since been used to informally advertise if people were going out for the evening e.g. to the pub or to a college event such as Jazz in Clare Cellars, so that anyone may feel welcome to join. So far only people on the MCR Committee have been writing on the board but it has been successful in that other Russell Street residents had been coming out to these informal socials. It was suggested that boards could also be bought for Whichcote House, Assisi House, and so on so that residents there could also try out the system.

[Action: Martina to buy more noticeboards and locate them at the other residences.]

[Action: Marker pens to be left by the boards so that everyone can use them.]

7. Washing baskets in Russell Street

Richard commented that the baskets in the laundry room in Russell St go missing for long periods. The baskets are intended to be used as a place for people to put other peoples' finished loads which are sitting the machines, in order to clear the machine, and a convenient way to take washing back to rooms. He suspects people keep the baskets in their rooms unnecessarily. Richard asked if he could send an email to Russell St residents, and also put up a sign in the laundry room, reminding them that the baskets are provided for everyone to share. It was agreed that this would be an acceptable thing to do.

[Action: Richard to email Russell St residents and make and put up a sign in the laundry room.]

8. Open Meeting

As mentioned above, the date of the meeting was moved to accommodate another society having booked the Ramsden Room on the original preferred date, given also that some people may want to attend both events. The new date is Thursday 2nd November. Roy reported Pembroke have invited us to go over to their Halloween bop that evening. If this is the case, this would be a good way to first get people into town for the open meeting and secondly stop the meeting going on too long. It was suggested to run the meeting from 8pm to 9pm. The expected agenda is:

- Welcome
- Budget presentation by Richard
- Announcement of MCR by-election
- Q&A and general discussion
- Close

It is known that Dai Morgan plans to raise some ideas at the meeting, although so far he has only sent them to Lizzie. Dai has indicated that he also intends to send them to the whole committee in the next day or so.

It was suggested that given the short timing, we should advertise the event as 7.45pm arrival for prompt 8pm start.

[Action: Roy to confirm how many people we can take to the Pembroke bop.]

[Action: Dan to advertise the new timings when he advertises the agenda]

[Action: Lizzie to confirm she has booked the Ramsden Room and projector.]

[Action: Richard to check he will have access to a laptop from which to give the budget presentation.]

It was suggested that the committee meet informally for dinner beforehand.

[Action: Committee members wanting dinner (venue TBA) to meet in college at 6pm. All hands to deck from 7.30pm to ensure room is set-up etc.]

9. By-election

Richard, Martina and Dan will act as returning officers for the forthcoming by-election.

Richard stated that he would like to expressly ban all candidates from using the catz mcr mailing list during their campaigning. However, the candidates may prepare a manifesto, with all manifestos being sent out in a single document such as the one prepared by Felicia for the last set of elections.

Richard also stated that he feels it is very important for all committee members to be seen to remain completely impartial during the election process.

10. Finances and Budget (revisited)

Richard took the committee through the budget presentation he has prepared for next week. Everyone agreed the presentation was fine. Some committee members expressed surprise at the 'low' amounts suggested for parties and other entertainments each term. Dan commented that the previous committee spent more on Mid-Summer Dinner than Richard had allocated for the whole of Easter Term. Richard explained that the net deficit of over £2,000 shown in last years accounts was most likely in a large part corresponding to the previous committee having spent a lot more on entertainments. This year Richard believes we should try to break even, rather than budgeting to run at a large deficit, and the entertainments budget has been reduced accordingly. The committee agreed that the budget seemed a fair one.

11. AOB

11.1 Next meeting

It was suggested that the next regular MCR meeting should be after the new members had been elected in the by-election.

Next meeting (apart from the Open Meeting): 7.30pm, Tuesday 21st November **(prompt!)**