

MCR Committee Meeting 21 November, 2006

Present—Ali, Roy, Martina, Richard, Dan, Rosie, Justin, Amy, John, Paul
Apologies—Lizzie

1. Social Calendar

December 5th has been set for the Fellows and Grads quiz, plan to arrive between 8 and 8:30. Rosie has film screenings coming up on the 26th, the 3rd of December, and the 10th in the Ramsden room. The *Three Colours* series was selected but could still be changed if anyone has suggestions. The Paws and Claws Panto event is coming up on the 28th, it is suspected that attendance is at this point disappointingly low. The Fellows and Grads dinner is on the 8th of December. There is an exchange formal with Churchill this Friday 24.

The committee have no plans after the 8th and should be thinking about extra Christmas-themed events before people begin to leave for the holidays. Rosie suggested an outing to London, perhaps to go ice skating, but advised that the committee would have to move quickly on this to make a booking for the 16th or 17th of December. Alternately, Dan suggested screening a “cheesy” Christmas film in the MCR.

Roy reminded us that there are Catz carol services on the 29th and 30th which we are all welcome to attend. It was suggested that this be advertised to increase attendance. **[action: Dan or Roy to email MCR list to get more people out to this event.]**

Christmas formal: pre-dinner drinks will begin at 6:45 rather than 7 in the Ramsden room.

[action: Lizzie to book Ramsden room and order mulled wine. Also to confirm the carol singers.]

[action: John is to look after the carolers during this reception.]

Last year torches were put up in the main court and it was suggested that someone should speak to Patrick Flack about these.

[action: Rosie to liaise with Patrick about the torches.]

Robinson have been allotted 15 places, and these should be distributed amongst the tables in groups of about 4.

[action: Lizzie to make a seating plan and to decorate the tables.]

The subject of last year's raffle was brought up but the committee all agreed that it would be great to do something charitable at the end of dinner. Santa could perhaps collect donations after the meal.

[action: Ali to discuss with the Chaplain regarding what people should bring for donations.]

Lizzie asked if we wanted to serve port and it was decided that if we did not it would probably get people out of the hall faster.

[action: Lizzie to book late liquor license.]

The MCR is in possession of a Santa suit and it was agreed by all members that the role of Santa should be played by *****. Other costumes and the question of a

short skit remain unresolved. It was agreed, however, that if something is arranged it should be short and sweet.

[action: Roy and Dan to rig up costumes for themselves.]

The bar will be decorated by members of the committee on Thursday the 7th after lunch. Meet at 2:00 in the MCR and then go to the bar as a group.

[action: Lizzie to buy decorations for the bar.]

The committee has been in touch with the group Casa del Funk and Richard has approved the expenditure of 400 pounds for this purpose.

[action: Lizzie to negotiate fees with the band.]

[action: Roy is to speak to the porters about reserving a parking space for Casa del Funk.]

It was decided that some decorations should be put up in the MCR also. This will be undertaken after the next meeting so that decorations will be in place before the Christmas dinner.

[action: Roy to liaise with the JCR regarding the use of disco lights.]

Richard suggested that we need to think about planning some fresher's week activities in January for new students. This will also give students who did not come out to events in October to have a second chance to meet members of the MCR. Dan added that Joe Piper normally offers to organize a party in the MCR around January 13th each year, which is usually a great event for the MCR as a whole. The committee could plan a few events beforehand and the party would be the grand finale. Roy also pointed out that the first formal hall of the new year could take place on the 11 January and this would be a good event for freshers.

2. Air beds

This topic had been discussed at a prior meeting but no action had been taken. Richard suggested that Russell Street, Whichcote House, South Green and Assisi House would benefit from these extra beds if purchased. Whether pumps are bought separately or are part of the beds will be decided once the expense of these beds can be determined.
[action: Ali to price beds at Argos and get back to Richard for approval.]

3. Newspaper Survey

Members of the committee are unsure as to the use of the newspapers that are kept in the MCR. This is a costly practice at 15.90 a week, though Dan and others believe that the papers are read regularly. At present the MCR orders three daily papers (Mon-Fri) and one weekly magazine. John suggested that as the Guardian and the Independent are very similar they may not both be needed. Dan suggested dropping the independent and taking up the Telegraph. It was agreed that the number of publications should remain the same as members of the MCR who would perhaps not attend other events benefit from them.

[action: Richard to look up prices of the Telegraph and the International Herald Tribune before a final decision is made.]

4. Society use of the MCR

In discussing society use of the MCR it was agreed that members of the MCR should have free use of these rooms. While societies are welcome to use the MCR the committee agrees that this should be minimized. The room cannot be monopolized for activities which are not sponsored by the MCR and Paul pointed out that this is why societies are able to book rooms for their meetings. The committee would like to know in advance if small groups would like the use of any part of the MCR.

[action: Roy to send an email regarding society use of the MCR emphasizing that members of the MCR need to be welcome as in any other college space.]

5. Green Initiatives

Recycling in accommodations is a bit confused. Both black and blue bins are in use but people are frequently confused by what can and can not go in them.

[action: Ali to make up uniform posters for all kitchens or other areas in which bins are set up. These may be printed from the council website.]

Amy pointed out that there are still problems with waste at Whichcote House due to the large volume of black bags that were put in the car park by the bedders.

[action: Ali to email the council to find out the days for recycling and how to resolve the black bag problem.]

Ali suggested that the MCR committee organize a nature walk for next semester when the weather improves. Dan requested an “exciting” walk and Ali offered that some nature reserves will provide group tours if advance notice is given. An event of this sort would tie in nicely with the Green Belt Society. Rosie asked if we could organize a walk to Granchester (sp?) with Tea.

Roy brought up the topic of energy consumption in the residences since the prevalence of open windows and cranked-up radiators reflects negligence on the part of the residents. Dan added that some people are leaving lights on all night when they are not in their rooms. Both suggested that people need to be made aware of the great cost these behaviours entail. Ali and Rosie both thought that a green week or a green day may work toward righting this.

[action: Ali to send an email regarding energy consumption in the residences. This can also be posted by Paul on the website.]

6. Welfare supplies

Justin has been trying to get in touch with the JCR welfare officer regarding the acquirement of condoms and other welfare supplies but has yet to hear from Danielle. As soon as this is sorted Justin can send an email as he would like to have a scheme in order for attaining needed supplies by the end of term. Dan said that CUSU sells rape alarms for 2.50 and that last year the MCR or college had paid for a box of them.

[action: Justin to email Rebecca Gallagher and CUSU.]

[action: Justin to send Paul information with which to update the website.]

7. Welfare communication

Justin asked for advice on the creation of a welfare email as he was hesitant to bombard the MCR with emails that they would not read. The JCR cab scheme was also discussed because Roy wondered where the money for this had come from. Richard explained that this was an extension of the college cab scheme and that they paid for it themselves.

There was also concern over the misuse or overuse of welfare supplies as many condoms were being hoarded rather than being viewed as an emergency supply. Dan asked if Justin could look into the strategies that other welfare officers had employed to prevent this from happening i.e. the purchase of a dispenser or simply limiting the number that are put out at once.

[action: Justin to restrict how many condoms are put out for the MCR and make it clear to members that these are a last-resort.]

8. Other business

John asked if it were possible for a guest to bring a child to this week's formal hall. It was agreed that there generally should not be a problem with this, provided that the kitchen staff is aware and happy with this situation. Also, the child should sit in the middle of the group that s/he is in attendance with.

[action: John to talk to the kitchen about this.]

Martina brought up the subject of an unwanted visitor who had spent the night at Russell Street and been discovered by a bedder the next morning. Richard added that he had seen someone looking around for a friend and that this person had been let into the building by a resident rather than that friend. Security is undoubtedly an important issue in the residences and Roy suggested that anyone who observed a stranger in the building should note the date and time of this incident to make it easier for the porters to examine the security tapes. Dan recommended that if you find someone waiting for a resident to open the front door not to let them in, but to ask them to use the buzzer of the resident they are there to see. If at any time you do not recognize someone in the building you are within your right to ask them who they are and who they are there visiting. Don't let people come in behind you!

9. Scheduling the next committee meeting

The next MCR committee meeting will take place on Monday 4 December