

MCR Committee Meeting, 22 January 2007

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

1. Action Points from Last Meeting

Richard has followed up on our decision to switch newspaper subscriptions and we are now receiving the Telegraph.

Manolo is still interested in refurbishing the MCR this term, but has so far not received much support from the college. We need to push him for a date if we are going to get this going.

[action: John or Amy to discuss this with Manolo when next they see him.]

2. MCR Football Team Funding

Pete approached Dan to inform him that in past years the MCR has offered the football team £150 and would like for this tradition to continue to support kit washing and practice equipment. The graduate team is split between Catz and Sidney Sussex so members of the committee wondered what if any funds Sidney Sussex were contributing. Secondly, the amalgamated societies provides funding to this team, though we are again unaware of the amount. The committee was also unsure of how many members of the Catz MCR are participants on the team, as this would also affect the amount of assistance given. Roy showed concern that the committee may be approached by other teams for financial assistance. Those present agreed that this would have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, but that there are not any other graduate teams at the college that we are aware of. Justin requested that the football team provide a justification of the funds needed in light of the fact that they are already receiving money from the college. We would like them to provide a list of members who are part of the Catz MCR, the amount provided by college, a proposal for how this money would be distributed, and confirmation if Sidney Sussex is also contributing to the team.

[action: Dan to email Pete about these requirements before the committee can agree on a sum for the football team.]

3. Burns Night Preparations

Lizzie would like committee members to arrive at 6:15 on Thursday night to assist in setting up the Ramsden room and unloading bottles from her car.

[action: Dan to meet the Emma and Pembroke guests at the porter's lodge and escort them to the Ramsden room for pre-dinner drinks at 6:45.]

At 7:20 Roy and Dan are to announce a move to the hall for dinner, but large groups are encouraged to reserve seats ahead of time as there is no seating plan for this event.

After dinner cheese, port, coffee and whiskey will be available back in the Ramsden room, which will remain open until 10:30. Immediately following dinner remaining committee members will move the chairs and tables from the centre of the room to create space for the ceilidh. It is imperative that chairs and tables are moved

back into place at the conclusion of the event so that breakfast may be served the following morning as usual.

[action: Dan and one or two others to supervise whiskey tasting in the Ramsden room.]

There will need to be soft drinks and jugs of water provided in the hall as it is bound to be overheated.

Proper permission has been granted for this event (which runs in the hall until 11:30) and the JCR has been offered the chance to protest about the potential for noise. The MCR has decided to offer the JCR entry to the ceilidh for a small fee and it would appear that we are to expect around 25 guests from the JCR.

[action: Lizzie to collect money from JCR guests in the hall.]

We still require someone to read Burns' Ode to a Haggis at the start of dinner. We are also without a piper, but Roy believes that he can find someone in time. The committee cannot offer financial compensation to the piper, however he will be offered a free meal for his efforts. The piper will lead guests from the Ramsden room to dinner, but it is very important that the noise is kept down after dinner.

[action: Roy to find someone to perform Ode to a Haggis and to secure a piper.]

The ceilidh will end promptly at 11:30 and guests will be encouraged to collect their belongings. Members of the committee will discourage loitering as there will be no party afterward in the MCR.

4. Social Calendar

It was suggested by Dan that a communal calendar of events be drawn up and sent to Heather for printing. These will then be distributed in MCR pigeonholes detailing formals, exchange formals and other events throughout the term.

[action: Amy to compile a list of dates and liaise with Heather about this possibility.]

Exchange formals will take place on the following dates:
30th January—Sidney Sussex, for which 12/15 spots have already been reserved
9th February—Magdalene
13th or 14th March—King's. This is the only graduate formal taking place at King's during the term
15th March—Queen's, this takes place in a week where Thursday formal has been moved to Saturday because it is our Easter formal

Exchange formals will be hosted at St. Catharine's College on the following dates:

1st February—King's
8th February—Sidney Sussex
22nd February—Magdalene
8th March—Queen's

March 2nd has been decided as the date for the Fellows/Grads dinner this term. The Committee members also briefly discussed the Valentine's formal and bop which is taking place on the 15th of March. Lizzie suggested that in a fashion similar to Christmas we hold a charity auction where committee members or other volunteers offer

a cooked meal or similar gesture for members of the MCR to bid on. Seating arrangements were also discussed. It was suggested that perhaps random seating should be assigned by pink and blue place cards, but several present pointed out that the turnout may be poor if people knew they would be separated from their friends or their partner. The committee will put off a decision for now.

The table football tournament has been set for the 6th of February. Details still need to be worked out.

The Amalgamated Societies are presenting lectures on the 30th January, the 20th February, and the 6th March.

Martina wondered if we could organize a trip to the Cadbury's factory for Easter, but will have to find out more information about how accessible it is by public transportation, or look into use of the CUSU minibus.

[action: Martina to find out how to get to Cadbury's by public transportation.]

Paintball/go-carting/four-wheeling was suggested by Roy and Martina as a fun activity. Roy suspects that there is a facility nearby where all can be enjoyed on one property.

[action: Martina and Roy to find out if this is the case and to scout admission fees.]

Lizzie suggested a trip to the Linton Zoo, which is near to her place of work. The 24th of February was agreed on as a good date for this event and Lizzie has agreed to look into this further.

[action: Lizzie to work on Linton Zoo trip.]

Richard suggested organizing an international trip for one weekend. There are many direct flights from Stansted which would be relatively inexpensive, for example Dublin, Edinburgh, Budapest, Barcelona, or Amsterdam.

[action: Richard and Roy to look into flights and accommodation.]

Lizzie informed the committee that the Graduate Union has a bar/party room for hire that is reserved through a refundable damage deposit. She suggested that the committee organize an event there next term when college is in a quiet session.

5. MCR Webpage

Over Christmas the website was down due to someone hacking in to the server. This situation needs to be resolved promptly. Likely Paul just needs to get in touch with the computer officers to re-set this.

[action: Paul to liaise with computer officers to ensure the website is working properly.]

Liz is asked to provide a picture and a blurb to Paul for display on the webpage.

[action: Liz to provide Paul with these materials, Paul to post them on the webpage.]

Paul is also asked to update the 'mugshot' sheet with new members of the committee and to pass it on to Heather for printing and distribution.

[action: Paul to update mugshot page and to liaise with Heather so that this can make its way around college soon.]

6. Other Business

The computer program for reserving seats at formals has still not been worked out. Can we have it up and running for the next formal?

[action: Martina and John to complete this effort.]

[action: Paul to create a link to this reservation page.]

[action: Paul to post event dates online as established at the meeting.]

[action: Dan to email Patrick about South Green's airbed.]

[action: Richard to send a mass email about the airbed scheme with who to contact for their use.]

[action: Liz to find out dates of food and drink meetings.]

The next committee meeting will take place on February 5th