

**St. Catharine's College MCR Committee Meeting
6 March, 2007**

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

1. Action Points

As decided at the last meeting, *The Economist* will now appear regularly in the MCR. In addition, Dan found a cheaper subscription to *The New Scientist* at £68 per year.

Dan has been in contact with the band which will be performing at the Easter formal. In the past they have performed at John's and Catz Mayballs and have agreed to accept £400 for the evening. We now need to line up a P.A. system, either from Cambridge Light and Sound or the JCR. Cambridge Light and Sound has rentals for £60 and Ali has offered to pick up the P.A. on Saturday and to return it on Sunday if we are unable to acquire such equipment from the JCR.

[action: Dan to enquire about a P.A. from the JCR.]

Paul has updated the MCR website and Ali has updated the Green page at length. It was suggested by Dan that the welfare page be the next to be worked on. Also, the get to know Cambridge pages could use some work before the start of the next academic year.

2. Formal Hall Booking Software

Martina is still working on this. The site has crashed (and was possibly tampered with), but there is a backup site that may be operable for the start of next term. The JCR is also interested in swapping ideas about this with the MCR, however it is required for the JCR to have paper tickets to formal.

3. Easter Formal

A St. Patrick's Day theme has been agreed on for the Easter formal and plans are coming together smoothly. Liz, Martina and Amy have offered to coordinate decorations. The JCR are having a St. Patrick's Day bop the night before and Rosie is going to talk to them about leaving up their decorations for our use.

[action: Liz, Martina and Amy to purchase decorations.]

[action: Rosie to enquire about JCR decorations.]

Liz is going to speak to John about getting an Irish-themed ale in the bar for this event.

[action: Liz to discuss ale with John.]

Justin has volunteered to do the seating plan for this event.

The event needs to be advertised after Thursday to ensure a good turnout.

[action: John to send out an email on Thursday morning advertising the Easter formal.]

[action: Rosie to follow this up with another email the following week.]

Richard asked if there would be a limit placed on the number of guests people would be allowed to bring and Dan suggested that a maximum of four would be appropriate to begin with until we see the numbers. Two-hundred is our maximum capacity.

Dan has booked the SCR for pre-dinner drinks. Cava will likely be the drink again as it was relatively inexpensive and well-received at the Valentine's formal. The price for the Easter formal will be £10. There is still the question of dress for this occasion, though the MCR should encourage people to wear green items.

[action: Dan to speak to the Dean regarding dress (gowns?) for the Easter formal.]

Rosie thought it would be nice if we could purchase some green chocolates or candy for the tables at dinner, and Justin asked if we should do a raffle by placing tickets on the back of each seating card.

[action: Decorating sub-committee to purchase three gifts (at around £5 each) and a book of raffle tickets for Justin to affix to the seating cards.]

4. Eurovision Events

Richard brought to our attention the Eurovision song contest, which is to be decided on the 12th of May. This was used as the basis for an MCR event last year and we could do so again. Unfortunately March 17th is the UK heat to determine the UK song - which clashes with Easter formal so there is no event opportunity there.

5. Michaelmas Term Student Billing Corrections

Richard brought up the point that there have been some mistakes in billing from last term. Parents were charged for their meals at the Parent/Child formal hall of last term, having been told their meals would be paid for by the MCR. This needs to be worked out with the accounts office. Rosie told us that she simply went to the accounts office and asked for her dinner charges to be taken off her bill and they obliged. Therefore it would not be possible to reimburse all parents as some have not paid the charge, while others have. Dan has a list of all parents but not of which parents went to the dinner. Lizzie should have the list we are looking for. The accounts office will know who has and hasn't paid.

[action: Dan to ask Lizzie once more for the list of parents who attended the parent/child formal hall.]

In addition, committee members were not given a complimentary dinner on their bill. It isn't known if this applies to some or all committee members. Since the free meal wouldn't appear on the bill, most people hadn't noticed whether they had had one, since they don't remember exactly which and how many dinners they went to during the term. Finally, it isn't known whether or not other free meals, such as the ones given as prizes from the scavenger hunt, were given to people. It seems to be necessary to compare lists of who should have been billed, with who was actually billed. Lizzie maintains that she sent off correct billing lists each week including everyone's free dinners, and that the problem has occurred further down the line. Therefore those emails she sent should be able to act as the 'correct' lists for checking against.

[action: Richard to email Dan with which lists we need to take care of these billing issues.]

6. Hall and Bar Committee Meeting Debrief

Liz is still waiting to be sent the minutes from this meeting, but she summarized the major action points for us. There were complaints about the sausages being served in hall and the kitchen said that they can not be done any better with budget and supply considerations. Dan noted that in recent weeks they have been better in any case.

There have been requests for a new beer to be brought in to the bar permanently in addition to special ales being occasionally purchased for events. Liz suggested that if the beers were better advertised they would have no problem selling enough.

Opening times for the hall on days in which special events are occurring has normally been done by posting signs. Now Sue Nightengale has been emailing everyone in addition so all grads and undergrads should be aware of when Amalgamated Societies lectures and the like are going on. This seems to be successful and will be continued. Dan pointed out, however, that Sue uses the MCR mailing list (which does not contain all grads and also lists some former students) and suggested that Liz ask her to use the caths-grad list instead.

[action: Liz to send Sue Nightengale an email regarding the caths-grad list.]

Finally, Catz is undergoing changes to the accounts system and is considering a swipe-card charging system or something similar in the next academic year.

7. Replacement of Dart Board

Dai asked if the MCR could replace the dart board in the lower room and Richard looked into the cost of doing so. He says that the least expensive way to do this is to purchase one from Argos, since there is no postage and packing. A direct replacement of the current board, a Winmau Diamond, costs £19.99, which a Winmau Masters costs 12.99. There was some doubt about whether the Diamond's "triangular wiring for less frequent bounce-outs" justified it being priced 50% extra. However for a difference of £7 it was decided to go for the like-for-like replacement, rather than downgrade.

[action: Ali to purchase Winmau Diamond dart board from Argos.]

8. Other Business

The Oxford Exchange has had a poor response from Catz MCR members. St. Catharine's at Oxford will have to soon make a decision on whether or not to put up these three people. Our contact is going to get in touch with Dan soon about canceling or going ahead with this event. Worcester is actually our sister college and it may be possible to organize something with them during the summer.

There have been 14 submissions for the grads/fellows art competition. In this vein, Rosie suggested organizing a trip to the Fitzwilliam or Kettle's Yard. The selection of this outing will be left until an exhibition of broad appeal is found.

[action: Rosie to check the Kettle's Yard and Fitzwilliam websites for upcoming exhibitions.]

Dinner with the JCR has been set for 14 March at the India House by the Granta. Dan is to make a booking for this event and members of the MCR attending are asked to meet at 7.15 in the MCR.

Richard brought up the idea of a trip to Europe again and suggested that booking flights and accommodations could become quite complicated. It is most likely easier to have people book their own flights once a time and date are agreed on. If it is agreed to stay in a hostel it may be possible for one person to pay the deposit and be reimbursed by the others.

*****The next MCR committee meeting will take place on 2 April*****