

St. Catharine's College MCR Committee Meeting
2 April, 2007

Present—Dan, Martina, Liz, Richard, Ali, Amy, Roy

Apologies—John, Rosie, Paul

Absent—Justin

****note :** please let Amy know in advance if you will be unable to attend the meeting. If you know a week or more in advance we may be able to reschedule to increase attendance.**

1. Action Points from Last Meeting

Richard is still working on sorting out billing problems from Michaelmas term relating to the parent/child dinner. Lizzie is looking for the lists we need to take care of these issues, but failing that Richard and Kathy Malley will try to work it out themselves as bills are set to go out next week.

Ali will be able to pick up a new dart board from Argos this weekend.

Liz has been in contact with Stuart McClellan who says that the MCR can post his minutes from the catering services meeting once he has finished writing them.

[action: Liz to post minutes.]

2. Easter Term Events

Quite a few people have already RSVP'd to Dan about attending Saturday's Varsity Boat Race so numbers are looking good. We are set to meet at the train station for 10.30 and have a walking tour planned prior to the races.

The Eurovision Song Contest is taking place on Saturday 12 May and Dan suggested that the MCR watch it together along with a sampling of European foods. This could perhaps be done in conjunction with the Graduate Tutors if we approach them early enough, but need not be such an elaborate event as Chinese New Year. Plans for this event will be furthered at the next meeting.

Nikant suggested to Dan that the MCR sponsor a Bollywood movie and food evening in Easter term, and has offered to organize it. Dan offered to email Nikant about setting a date and working out food, etc.

[action: Dan to email Nikant about organizing a Bollywood night.]

The last event of the year is likely to be a barbeque at South Green Lodge some time after Midsummer Dinner (30th June), perhaps the first week of July. Otherwise dates are open from the 12th May to 26th June to fill in with events, bearing in mind that 18th June is the start of May week and the grads/fellows garden party is the 22nd June. Further events we should include in these dates are a trip to the Linton Zoo, a walk to Grantchester, bowling and punting.

3. Midsummer Dinner

Casa del Funk has been asked to return for Midsummer Dinner due to their popularity at the Christmas formal. We hope to hire them for the same fee of £400.

[action: Ali to liaise with the band about their availability and fee.]

Liz suggested that as a theme we consider Classic Hollywood and Dan advanced this idea by stating that Catz at the Oscars could come together nicely. The SCR has been booked for pre-dinner drinks from 6.45 and there could be a red carpet area set up outside. The drinks themselves will be served outside prior to the picture being taken, but the SCR has been booked in the event of poor weather.

[action: Amy to liaise with Jet Photographic in order to work out the terms of the shoot and purchase of photos.]

We also discussed the employment of a string quartet during pre-dinner drinks as was done last year. Approximately £100 was spent on this. Liz, however, wondered if we could hire a pianist to play during the dinner, and it was agreed that this could be a better use of our budget and in keeping with our theme. The only remaining question is if we can obtain permission to do so.

[action: Amy to email Lizzie about the string quartet.]

[action: Liz to ask Rob Lee if it is possible to hire a pianist to play throughout the dinner.]

The committee would like to keep the price of tickets down as the dinner follows many events in May week, and agreed that £22-£25 would be reasonable so as not to run over budget either. Everyone will convene for drinks at 6.45 and the group picture will be taken at 7.00 followed by the committee photo.

4. Condom Distribution

A system for the distribution of condoms needs to be worked out immediately as they have been in the possession of the welfare officer since Michaelmas term. Various schemes for distribution were discussed including Roy's suggestion for the installation of condom machines in the residences. This, however, was decided to be impractical as companies who offer these services expect a certain volume of business that would not likely be met, especially in the smaller residences.

[action: Roy to investigate the feasibility of installing condom dispensers in the residences.]

Roy also wondered if we could distribute a number of the condoms to each MCR member through their pigeon holes so that everyone would have some on hand. The majority of those present seemed to favour having someone in each residence monitor and refill a small vessel of condoms in a communal area.

[action: Justin to make a decision about condom distribution and to put his chosen system into action for the start of Easter term.]

In a related matter Liz asked if Russell Street was equipped with first aid kits because Whichcote House is not. Dan offered to take this up with Heather Fong and indeed the college is now dealing with correcting this omission.

5. Other Business

Recently the presidents have received letters of complaint regarding noise levels in the residences. It is important that noise is kept to a minimum in the residences, especially as we move into the last term of the academic year and many students are coming to the end of their degrees.

The internet at Whichcote House seems to have been worked out now, though this is due mainly to a number of residents seeking an internet connection independently through British Telecom. The college has devised a system to correct the problems of earlier this year and it will be important to put this in place for the start of the next academic year as new residents will bring internet traffic back up to former levels.

The clock in the upper MCR has gone missing after an event in Lent term. If the clock has been damaged or lost it is important that the committee is notified so that a replacement can be obtained.

New photos are being hung in the upper MCR and in the lower hooks are being provided to hang the winning photographs of the grads/fellows art competition.

The MCR was recently almost used for a large event without proper permission having been granted. The room would have been monopolized by a number of people who were not members of the Catz MCR and without permission this is undesirable. **[action: Roy to send another email regarding non-MCR use of the Christopher Waddams Room.]**

Martina informed us that if we are to continue providing The Economist in the MCR that we will now need to obtain an individual subscription. **[action: Richard to subscribe to The Economist.]**

*****The next MCR committee meeting will be held on Monday, 23 April at 7.30*****