

**St. Catharine's College MCR Committee Meeting  
25 June, 2007**

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

1. Midsummer Dinner

Dan confirmed that the band, the pianist, and all rooms have been booked. In addition, a late license for the bar has been obtained. Ali gave us an update on the decorations, informing us that a 60 foot red carpet had been ordered through the internet for about £32. We must still think about exactly how these will be arranged in main court. As for the awards, Rosie found little Oscar statuettes also on the internet. Ali was waiting for her return to discuss ordering these. We will need six in total. Ali also found numerous other Oscar-themed decorations on the internet and at Party Mania, such as banners and movie posters. Roy asked if we could find a large scale blow-up Oscar statue to place at the entrance to dinner, and indeed these are also available for around £20. Delivery of such a large item could be a problem, however, and it was suggested that perhaps it can be sent directly to the porters for us to pick up on arrival. Justin expressed concern that the college may not like us erecting a giant gold statue near the main gate, or perhaps even outside the hall.

**[action: Ali and Martina to investigate giant Oscar statue online, and order if a solution to the delivery problem can be worked out.]**

**[action: Ali to explore the possibility of an alternate delivery address.]**

Table decorations must be purchased as well. Black and gold (and red?) is the colour scheme. Roy suggested that it may be interesting to hang large posters of old celebrities in the bar that people can have their picture taken with. These are also likely available at Party Mania.

The menu for Saturday has been sorted out, and there will be just upward of 80 people attending. Justin will be working out the seating arrangements on Thursday or Friday. Committee members are asked to meet at 2pm on Saturday afternoon to decorate the bar and help Ali bring the pre-dinner drinks in from her car.

**[action: Ali to liaise with John regarding final numbers and the amount of champagne and orange juice that will be required.]**

**[action: Ali to purchase champagne and orange juice.]**

The band will be arriving to set up their equipment between 5.30 and 6, while the pianist will arrive (also with her own equipment) at 6.30. Drinks will be served in main court by the catering staff from 6.45, weather permitting, or alternately in the Ramsden Room, which has also been booked for us. The MCR committee photo will be taken at 7.00 and the general photo will be taken at 7.10. After dessert Dan and Roy will make their speech and hand out the "Oscars," though the order of these events have to be further organized by Saturday.

**[action: Amy to confirm with Jet Photographic.]**

**[action: Dan to obtain microphone for speeches.]**

## 2. Election Update

Justin informed us that 32 votes had been cast online so far. The election opened late because of delayed coordination with Simon Hopkins. Voting opened on Sunday afternoon, so thus far this indicates a good turn out. The CUSU server was experiencing a technical problem on Sunday evening/Monday morning, and several members reported difficulties logging in to the online voting system. This error has now been resolved and voting has resumed. An email was sent out to MCR members confirming that the problem has been fixed. Voting will close at 11.59 on Thursday night. If anything else goes wrong with the online voting system it will be possible to switch to paper voting at Midsummer Dinner, though this is obviously not desirable for logistical reasons. All of these glitches will be noted in the returning officer's report after the close of the election. Justin plans on sending out a summary of election results to candidates on Friday midday. If everything proves acceptable the results will be announced at Midsummer Dinner.

## 3. Redecoration Update

Dan was pleased to announce to us that proper permission has been obtained allowing redecoration of the MCR will begin on 9 July. The Friday before, or the weekend before, the committee will need to be on hand to assist the maintenance staff in emptying the upper and lower rooms of furniture. This will also be a good opportunity to clean out the kitchen cupboards and to dispose of rubbish that has been accumulating over the year. Dan is waiting for one last confirmation before announcing these events to the membership, which he will do in the next President's Bulletin. Lighting fixtures will be replaced, the kitchen will be spruced up, walls will be painted, and the floors will be sanded and varnished. The large chandelier in the top room is going to be removed, and new wall sconces and standing lamps will be installed. In the lower MCR dark brown carpet will be installed, as this has a cement floor, and the doors and paneling will be sanded. Some of the photographs upstairs may be taken down, while others will be put back in their correct order.

Redecoration will take one to two weeks, but hopefully around ten days. Richard asked if the layout of furnishings would remain the same. Dan thought that objects should stay in the same rooms as they are now, but we may like to consider rearranging them within when we move everything back upon the completion of the redecoration. Manolo, who is on the college's art committee, is still keen on having works of art loaned to the MCR for display, and will continue to pursue this possibility.

## 4. Fish Tank

Dan pointed out that with the redecoration the committee would be forced to make a decision about our resident fish. It was suggested that we should either get rid of the tank or upgrade it to match the new surroundings. Though it will prove difficult to transport them elsewhere, Ali understandably advocated retaining the fish as she has been caring for them this year. The question of who would take care of them during this interim was also brought up. Possibilities include an MCR volunteer, or a Fellow who is on good terms with the MCR. Roy suggested that the tank be moved to the JCR. Though

this is usually locked during holidays this may be a possibility. Dan thought that if the fish are kept there should be a new fish to commemorate the redecoration and upgrade of tank.

**[action: Ali to look into costs for replacing the fish tank though it would not be purchased until after the redecoration.]**

## 5. Other Business

Richard thought that the committee would need one more meeting to organize the upcoming barbeque at South Green Lodge. This meeting will take place on 10 July at Russell Street.

Finally, Justin reminded us that we had talked about punting to Grantchester as one final group activity. Dan said that last year this was done fairly unofficially after Midsummer Dinner and that it was quite well attended. We will therefore plan on punting this coming Sunday.