

St. Catharine's College MCR Committee Meeting 03/12/07

Present: Richard Jones (President), Max Kendrick (Treasurer), Rosie Fera (Welfare Officer), Dan Friess (Social Secretary), Natalie Au-Yeung (Events Officer), Martina Diep (External Officer), Cameron Rye (Green Officer), Mark Hopkin (Computer Officer), Rachel Carr (Sports and Societies Officer)

Apologies: Joanna Heald (Secretary), Julia Armstrong (Food and Beverages Representative)

1. Previous Minutes

Action: Dan to email revised constitution to Mark.

Action: Richard/Amy to send open meeting minutes to the MCR.

Richard welcomed the new committee members who joined from the by-election.

2. Christmas Formal

Action: All committee members are asked to be at the bar at 2pm on Thursday to start decorating.

Natalie informed the committee upward of 150 people signed up for the dinner. **Action:** Natalie to compile seating plan (Dan to help).

There should be some decorations for the bar, and maybe the tables in the cupboard already. **Action:** Natalie and Martina to check the cupboard and buy any further decorations required.

Pre-dinner

The CU Brass Band pulled out at very short notice, so enquiries were made to the GU Social Secretary's mailing list, CU Brass Ensemble and Catz Choir. It was decided to go with the choir option, including inviting them to the dinner free of charge as guests of the MCR (we are expecting around 10 of them). The choir will sing for 30 minutes between 6.45pm ish-7.25pm ish, and will lead the carol at the end of dinner. Spacing the choir members amongst the tables might encourage greater MCR participation in singing.

Action: Natalie to purchase sparkling wine and port, and to liaise with the kitchens regarding chilling.

Hall

Richard would like to do Grace if there are no Fellows at high table.

Potential elves include: Melissa, Richard (the reindeer), Natalie and Rachel. It was suggested that Owen might like to be Santa Claus. **Action:** Max to ask.

Running order: Santa comes in (ho ho ho) and does the raffle (check the cupboard for tickets). There should be 4 prizes, spending £5-10 each. **Action:** Natalie to buy prizes and the Santa suit.

Santa and his little helpers will then do the charity collection (we need strong sacks). This year we will also take money as donations; perhaps this should be left with the Porters after the dinner so it can't wander off during the bop. **Action:** Natalie to send a reminder email about the collection.

The choir will lead the song after dessert. **Action:** Natalie to print out song sheets (around one per two people)

Bar

Charlie and the Funk Factory are down to play. This band played at June's Midsummer Dinner and went down very well indeed. Richard has applied for a late license, so the band should aim to finish by 12.10am. **Action:** Dan and Natalie to email band to confirm arrangements for setting up etc.

It was noted that the bop is open to all MCR members not just those attending the dinner. **Action:** Natalie to send a reminder email about the bop part of the evening close to the day, encouraging those people not dining to come and join at that stage.

The committee is asked to stay behind for 10 minutes at the end to remove decorations.

MCR

We should have a contingency for after the bop. It was proposed we would make the MCR available (but not encourage it?) but put a limit on alcohol and the time spent in the MCR. The music should reflect the calming nature of the MCR.

Richard reminded all committee members to be vigilant and on hand for anything that crops up throughout the evening.

3. Bike racks at South Green Lodge.

Rachel mentioned that there are a number of abandoned bikes at SGL. Richard and Cameron discussed that the JCR Green Officer was planning/held a bike auction to remove abandoned bikes from the college site and raise money for charity. Methods of discerning the abandoned status of bikes was discussed. Should this be rolled out to Russell Street too? **Action:** Rachel will contact the JCR green officer to see what he has done so far.

The MCR owns two bikes at SGL. These could do with being checked and ideally sold on to MCR members. **Action:** Richard to get keys and descriptions to Rachel, so she can check out the ones at SGL and see how they are.

The MCR owns a huge pink bike at Russell Street, although the whereabouts of the key isn't known. **Action:** Richard to email former MCR Presidents to see if they still have the key.

4. Lockers

Max and Richard have been speaking to anyone who will listen about the MCR's need for lockers. This has included the Master, Graduate Tutors, Junior Bursar and Porters. The likely route forward is to proceed in collaboration with the Graduate Tutors. Once Dr Oliver has got to the end of the undergraduate admissions interview period, that might be a good time to renew our enquiries. **Action:** Max and Richard to continue on this.

5. Formal Hall Officer

Interest has been expressed in this position, but until this has been confirmed Richard asked if any committee member would volunteer for the start of Lent term. No one volunteered.

6. Co-opting

Richard mentioned that Melissa Ruseler might still be interested in being involved with the MCR Committee, and if Dan and Natalie thought there was a need for another Social Secretary. Both (and the rest of the committee) thought this was a great idea. **Action:** Richard to approach Melissa.

Owen Hammond has expressed an interest in joining the committee as a Publicity Officer. It was decided that this falls within the roles of the Secretary, Events Officer and Social Secretary. Dan suggested a role similar to 'Member without Portfolio', which some MCR committees have. We might

find a more distinct role for Owen later when an area of need becomes apparent but for now it would be good to have him on board. **Action:** Richard to approach Owen.

7. Any other Business

Rosie thinks it could be nice to provide drinks in the MCR after regular graduate formals, instead of heading to the bar, as some MCR members may not wish to go there. We could discuss this further at a later meeting.

After attending a CUSU welfare meeting, Rosie also asked about condoms and STD testing kits
Action: Rosie to email Justin regarding the whereabouts of the mystery condoms.

Mark said that the online formal hall booking is on its way, and should be ready hopefully before the start of next term, after some trialling.

Mark would also like people to check their MCR website profiles to ensure they have a good paragraph and picture. **Action:** People to check their website profiles.

A sheet of the current committee members has not yet been circulated around the College offices.
Action: Mark to make one with pictures, names, positions and email addresses, and send it to Heather Green and the Head Porter, who can then circulate it as appropriate. The sheet should be dated so that it is clear which is newer when compared to old, or future, editions.

Next Meeting: Lent Term (date TBC)