

**St. Catharine's College MCR Committee Meeting
Tuesday 15 January 2008 at 8.00 pm**

Present: Mark, Rachel, Melissa, Dan, Richard, Martina, Natalie, Joanna, Max

Apologies: Cameron, Rosie, Owen, Julia

Absent:

1. Previous Minutes

The minutes were accepted, though some action points were outstanding.

Richard has yet to pass the bike keys on to Rachel. [**Action: Richard**]

Work on the lockers is ongoing. Max and Richard are liaising with Philip Oliver, and will continue to do so. [**Action: Max/Richard**]

2. Welcome new committee members

Joanna and Melissa were welcomed to their first committee meeting.

3. Updates on ongoing business

Formal hall booking system running – working well, computer officers will solve prob if server clock running slow.

Simon Hopkins, GU technical officer has faced this problem in the past and may be able to give advice. [**Action: Mark to contact Simon**]

Want menu system – can we always find out menu in advance? Rob Lee has agreed to this in the past

Function for seating plans?

Possible list of options for common dietary requirements – easier to tally up, but some people have very specific / unusual requirements

Fish Cam – working

Meals in Hall – no notification of different opening times during vacations / special occasions. Can kitchen email around any hall closures at least a day in advance and when they are switching from full term to holiday opening hours. [**Action: Julia**]

Jimmy's came and collected the items donated to them at the Christmas formal.

Welfare talks for GU in Catz (GU will pay)

In JCR didn't work as no one turned up

Talks will be on managing stress / your supervisor

Will be open to any students, 30 places in total and some priority places for Catz students in return for providing room. Porters will need to be informed – it is stated on booking form that students from other colleges will be in attendance.

4. Burns Night Formal

Trying to organise Ceilidh band – sent emails to numerous bands, only two responses, one negative other charging £800, asked about flexibility. Richard emailed the man who did it previously, but had no response.

Estimated budgeting for band = £400. Burns night comparable to Christmas formal, when we paid £570. If we get £1.50 per person by charging £10 then got £225 if 150 people.

Could we charge people who just turn up for ceilidh not dinner? Committee would need to stand on door. May not be worthwhile if most people come to formal anyway + want to encourage high attendance.

Need to advertise asap – but difficult without band.

Definitely do want Ceilidh – so if we have to pay £700 we will, but will mean taking about £500 from term's budget for band alone (in addition to costs of drinks). MCR budget for term is around £1500. Possibility to reduce expense of Easter formal.

Drinks are included in cost so we could charge more. Then we would need to charge more for people arriving after dinner.

Re Drinks: Possibility of obtaining portable bar from college – then people could buy own drinks in Hall. Will speak to college to see if this is possible.

If we provide alcohol, we must ensure we don't run out, could we use a voucher system?

Ode to a Haggis: Stefan the Porter, Max or Matt to say it. Matt has done it before so Melissa will ask him.

Committee member to serve drinks after dinner while ceilidh is being set up

Action: Natalie to call remaining bands tomorrow to see if any other band is available. Richard to send Natalie Karl Sandeman's details. Report back tomorrow. We should send email to everyone asap.

Dan to find out about cash bar for hall tonight. Between Dan and Natalie we should be able to agree a price by tomorrow to advertise the event.

We need to top up pre-dinner drinks supply.

Action: All committee members to help move tables and chairs to the sides in the hall after dinner, and to move them all back again at the end of the evening.

5. Other Socials

Easter Formal: There is a Jazz event on college calendar for same date as formal – check where this will be taking place. **[Action: Richard]**

Dan, Natalie and Melissa had put their heads together and reported some of the main ideas:

Boat Race: 29 March 5.15pm. Could we arrange something with an Oxford college (Catz / Worcester)?

London Sight-seeing tour: For Easter term for better weather. Possible combination with a theatre trip.

Pancake Day: 5 Feb Definitely Russell Street, possibly also events in other residences.

Chinese New Year: 7-9 Feb Have a themed formal on the Thursday but kitchen has limited ability to create Chinese food

Action: Contact Chinese Society to find out what they are doing and when.

Karaoke Night: At a restaurant which runs a Karaoke night?

Table Football Tournament: Evening of Wednesday 20 February

Footlights: Possibly 5 March anniversary event.

Cellar Tours: Contact wine steward Ron Martin

Film Trip: Indiana Jones (opens 25 May). Possibly involving fancy dress.

Yoga: Sold out at Newnham when they offered classes. Possible joint MCR / JCR event for exam term.

Valentine's Day: 14 Feb – something for the singletons! Collaborate with GU?

Kettle's Yard: Repeat last year's event? Fitzwilliam Museum might be more popular, especially if we could get a guided tour.

Midsummer Dinner: Need to arrange date and get started on ents. Possible date Saturday 21 June

6. Any other business

MCR open meeting: Attendance may be increased if we could hold it in the bar, or emphasise free drinks in Ramsden Room.

Action: Fix a date at the next meeting.

Vacant Positions: Look into setting up a non-personalised email address for formal hall officer. Mark agreed to collate numbers for formals.

Exchange Formal: We have been invited to Emma, they want us to suggest a date – might be better to leave this until next term

7. Next meeting: Monday 28 January 7pm