

St. Catharine's College MCR Meeting

Wednesday, 14th January, 2009

Apologies

Nick Carr, Paul Marsden

1. Burns Night

Date: Saturday, 7th February, 2009

The night will start with pre-dinner drinks in Hall from 7:00. Sparkling wine will be served. A piper will provide entertainment during the pre-dinner drinks. Dinner will start at 7:30, and will begin with the toast to the haggis, which will be piped in. Whiskey will be provided and set on the tables for the toast. There will be no seating plan. Dress code is suits and traditional dress (has this been black tie in the past?). Decorations will likely be minimal, but **everyone** keep your eyes out for cool things (like tartan napkins!).

The Ceilidh will be held in Hall after dinner, starting around 9:30. We hope to move people into the SCR (or maybe just send them to the Bar to get drinks since we can't have the portable bar in Hall), while the committee moved tables out of the way. We want to have the fire exit door at the back of Hall open for easy access to the Bar, and to let in some fresh air! Who do we ask about that? Cat has confirmed that Jump the Vortex will play for us. The charge is 360 pounds for two hours. **Cat** must check that the band can play from 9:30-11:30 (when we get kicked out of Hall), that they are able to bring ALL their own equipment and cords, how the band would like to be paid (cash or cheque), and whether or not they are available to set up in Hall before dinner (and thus be invited to stay for dinner) so that the music can start right afterwards. There was some concern over parking spaces for the band. They should be able to unload out front without too much trouble, and **Manolo** suggested we contact him to check about parking at Chads or elsewhere. We need to have jugs of water and cups set out during the ceilidh for the thirsty dancers. After the ceilidh is over, **everyone** must help reset the tables in Hall before we leave.

It was suggested by Manolo and Philip that we invite Heather Green and her husband. Perhaps then we should just invite all the graduate tutors. Stephan the porter should also be invited (who might read the ode to the haggis, otherwise we need to find another volunteer). **Helen** to send out these invitations (is that okay?).

2. Arts Night/Competition

Date: Some night in February. Tentatively 2nd February.

Manolo has made it clear that he would like at least 30 entries this year. The MCR will host an evening of painting along with an instructional (and fantastic) DVD. After experimenting himself with oils, Doug suggested that watercolours would be better suited for the occasion. This will be held in the lower MCR (on our new TV?!). We will need to provide paper, paint, brushes, something to keep things clean, drinks, and snacks. BYO Inspiration.

3. Formal Hall

A. Chinese New Year Formal

Date: 29 January. We're trying to put together something traditional. Last year there was singing, but does anyone know someone who would be willing (and able) to do it this year? We also need to ask Hall what, if anything, they can provide. Doug suggested maybe buying fortune cookies?

B. FHO and Grace

Doug and **Helen** will be taking care of the duties of the FHO each week (buying pre-dinner drinks in bulk, and setting out the glasses). It has also been decided that grace will be read at each graduate formal from now on. We are looking for volunteers both from the committee and from the rest of the graduate community.

C. Valentine's Day Formal

Date: 12 February. This will just be a regular Formal Hall, but we will provide a few decorations, and maybe some candy. Helen suggested the possibility of doing candy-grams. This can be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Oxford Exchange

Date: 7-8 February, Oxford is in Cambridge. St. Catharine's College Oxford has approached us about doing an exchange. They will be here with us in early February, possibly along with some members of our sister college. The plan is to tour them around town a bit during the day, have a pub lunch. At night they will join us for Burns Night celebrations. They will likely be sleeping in guest rooms or on the floor of the MCR.

We need to find a good number of Catz (Cambridge) people to go back to Oxford. It was decided that it is best if we offer up the trip with a package price, so we need to finalize plans first. **Helen** to ask Catz Oxford where we will be sleeping.

5. Other Business

A. Motion for New TV in the MCR

Doug has found a 37" Sony from John Lewis that comes with a 5 year warranty and Freeview and a stand for 500 pounds. Manolo suggested mounting the TV on the wall. The motion was passed. Yay new TV!

B. CUSU Meeting

James gave a brief summary of the CUSU meeting he had just attended. They plan to get things done more quickly. There is also a GU meeting coming up, for which **James** will send out the date.

C. Blinds for the Lower MCR

According to Manolo, these blinds were meant to be put up ages ago as part of the original refurbishment of the MCR. We should contact Phil Dean and Kathryn Smart on Manolo's behalf to have this done. As Manolo suggested, it will make for better movie watching on our new TV!

D. Easter Formal

Preliminary ideas for a theme including cherubs and demons from Alice.

E. Co-ordinating MCR and JCR Events

Charlie suggested trying to put more MCR events on the same nights as JCR events in order to do more all together. But we cannot advertise their Bops.

F. Graduate Residence Representatives

It was decided that there should be a representative from each of the major graduate residences to whom students may address general questions and concerns. They are:

- i. Warkworth Street - Doug
- ii. Russell Street - Mark
- iii. South Green Lodge - Alice

The need for new pumps for the air beds was also raised.

G. Sucky Fish

He's still down there, all alone, living in (and likely eating) his own filth. We need to find another home for him ASAP! **James** said he might have a friend who's in the market for just such a sucky fish. Please get back to us!

H. Mark Needs Photos from Charlie and Alice for the Website

Do it!

6. Next Meeting

The week of 2nd February.