

St Catharine's College MCR Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 26 August, 19:00 in the MCR

Present: Becky Zeckoski (co-president), Cat Scahill (co-president), Doug Speed (treasurer), Hamish Yeung (secretary), Charlotte Housden (co-entertainments officer), Alex Booth (co-entertainments officer) and Sophie Lappe (food and beverages officer).

Apologies: John Feng, Simon Layton.

Agenda: 0. The Presidents' welcome 1. Freshers' Week 2. Swine Flu friends 3. Any other business.

0. All present were welcomed ☺

1. Freshers' Week is the week beginning Sun 4 Oct. This was discussed in a slightly random order, so the agreed plan so far is detailed below, with other suggestions made during the meeting.

1.1 Saturday 3rd:

Trips to local pubs (according to residence) in the late afternoon(?). Warkworth – The Cricketers (leader: Doug); South Green Lodge – The Red Bull (lead by Simon, subject to his agreement); Russell St. and Brookside – The Panton Arms (leaders: Cat, Sophie, Hamish). Other committee members will be flexible with their destination. It was agreed that parents should try to meet their children (although there may be some difference in destination. See 3.1).

Action: Simon to confirm he's happy.

1.2 Sunday 4th:

During the day - Scavenger hunt around Cambridge. Last year's hunt was limited slightly by the weather. Disposable cameras were a good idea.

Action: Cat and Charlotte to organise, possibly/possibly not with the template of last years', which was organised by James Swann.

In the evening – Welcome drinks in the MCR/Ramsden Room. It was agreed that having cheese and biscuits would be a nice touch, and the event would be advertised as "Wine and Cheese – Welcome to the MCR!" or something like that... Last years' Polaroid camera was given the thumbs up again, although it needs new film. Charlotte suggested looking at getting wine from Bookers Cash n Carry, although Doug said it might still be cheaper at Tesco. The MCR spends around £3-4 per bottle usually. It was agreed that other beverages, such as beer and juice, and maybe punch(?) should be provided as well as wine.

Action: Sophie to enquire about College supply of cheese and biscuits for around 100 people. Doug to get Polaroid film from Ebay. Charlotte to investigate Cash n Carries for wine.

1.3 Monday 5th:

Games night at Russell Street. Last year this was a success, although people were a bit apprehensive at first. The exact number of games and rooms needed would depend on the number of people who

turned up on the night. Cat said we should easily have enough space. Last years' format, with pizza, drinks and prizes like last year were a good idea. Each "room" would take about 20 minutes.

The following games were suggested:

Fruit croquet (races involving stockings and fruit – ask Charlotte); Call my bluff (each person has to say two "facts" about themselves, one true and one false, and the others have to guess which is which); Pictionary on giant flip-chart boards; Guess who (name of a famous person on the forehead, the person has to deduce who he/she is by asking questions with y/n answers); Jenga (we have 4 sets at our disposal); Battleships; Twister; Taboo; Articulate; Charades: Newspaper towers (teams have to build the highest tower out of a single newspaper and sellotape in the time available – Secs. note: this can also be done with drinking straws)

The four rooms were decided as follows: 1) Pictionary, 2) Newspaper towers (+ fruit croquet if spare time), 3) Guess who (+call my bluff if desired), 4) Jenga.

Prizes last year included books, mouse-mats, mugs and tacky calendars.

Action: To be finalised at the next meeting (See 3.3). If we come across possible prizes in the meantime, Doug suggested we should buy them.

1.4 Tuesday 6th:

Pub-crawl in the evening. The possibility of joining in with the GU's official crawl on the same night was rejected (we'll have enough people to make ours viable). Also the offer of a joint crawl with Emma on the Thursday was rejected (clash with the Parent-child dinner). Last year's challenges were a good idea; this year it was suggested similar challenges should be issued, perhaps with photo-challenges too. It was suggested that a loud noise would be good to announce changes between pubs – possibly a whistle?

A total of 5 pubs, with 1 hour in each, was agreed to be a suitable amount. The following schedule was agreed: 1) 7pm at Catz Bar, 2) The Anchor, 3) The Eagle (or Bathhouse if the Eagle is too full), 4) Vodka Revs, 5) The Fountain, (6) a club should be suggested for those wanting further amusement.

Action: Doug to organise challenges. Alex to contact the pubs to check we'll be welcome and to enquire about discounts.

1.5 Wednesday 7th:

A bowling night was suggested. This would take place after the JCR Sports and Societies' Squash. Taxis and/or lifts would be provided from College to the Cineworld complex.

Action: Someone (?) to confirm when the JCR squash actually is and to investigate the possibility of offers at the bowling alley.

1.6 Thursday 8th:

Parent-child dinner in the evening, with pre-drinks in the MCR/Ramsden room. Becky suggested a theme of Crayons/paper tablecloths, which was agreed, subject to College's approval. Decorations would comprise roughly of the seating plan drawn onto the tablecloth, balloons on tables and in the

MCR, Straws (Secs. note – is this sensible, especially with the possibility of consumption of large quantities of alcohol?)

Action: Becky to book Ramsden Room (Hall already booked) and to check crayons are O.K.. Charlotte to investigate decorations. Seating plans to be drawn up nearer the time.

1.7 Friday 9th:

Punting and drinks in the evening. Last year we only filled a handful of punts (Secs. note – many people may well have arranged to go out with their research groups by this point in the week), but it was agreed we should still do this. It was agreed people should be given the option to meet at The Granta pub beforehand (5:30pm) for drinks and food, before heading to Scudamore's at 7pm. Afterwards, the GU bar is an option.

Action: Becky to book 4 punts. Alex to check with The Granta if we'll be welcome. Tealights + jars/pint glasses + matches/lighters and torches to be arranged at the next meeting.

1.8 Saturday 10th:

Barbeque at SGL during the afternoon (2pm onwards). Last year there was apparently not enough meat, and it wasn't always cooked. It was agreed that there should be more quantity, and some things should be pre-prepared (e.g. salads, sausages – in the SGL ovens). Charlotte suggested having a Hawaiian theme for the garden (and the committee?). Last year's bouncy castle was a small possibility. If we get approval for a bop, the BBQ should be moved to Sunday.

Action: Charlotte to look into decoration. Someone (?) to book the College badminton/squash courts in case of bad weather. Food and drinks to be planned next meeting.

It was suggested we should have a bop in the evening. An "80's" theme seemed popular. However, it would need College's approval (and for the bar to be available). If not, we should suggest people go to another college's bop.

Action: Someone (?) to check the possibility with College. If given the go-ahead, Alex/Charlotte to organise – DJ, décor etc. If not, we should ask other colleges if we could go to theirs.

1.9 Sunday 11th:

Last year no-one went on the bus tour, and only a handful went to brunch in College. This year it was agreed we should make it a DAY OFF (unless the BBQ gets moved). (Secs. note – maybe we should suggest things to do in the Freshers' Week booklet (See , like brunch and the bus tour, and people can make up their own minds/go with their new friends if and when they want)

2.0 Monday 12th:

During the day – tours of the college. The college will arrange times to visit the library etc. (?) We just need volunteers to lead the tours.

Action: confirm next meeting.

Evening – Matriculation dinner for freshers.

2. Swine Flu friends.

The College has recommended that the MCR provides "Swine Flu friends" for all freshers. The SF friend would be responsible for making sure adequate food and medication reaches their charge if he/she becomes infected. This would probably only be necessary for one or two weeks from the start of term, until freshers found their own set of friends. It was suggested that parents should take this role (see 3.1).

Action: See 3.1.

3. Any Other Business.

3.1. Parent-child scheme. Cat said that around 20 current MCR members had expressed willing to be parents. With 50-60 freshers expected, this would work out at around two to three children per parent. It was agreed that parents and children would be matched up by accommodation, as far as possible.

The roles of the parents are discussed above; in summary they are 1) Email their children before Freshers' Week to welcome them, 2) Meet up with them asap once they arrive, 3) Make sure they are settling in and offer help/advice with any problems, 4) Be their Swine Flu friend. Ideally they should also 5) Meet up on the local pub trip on Sat 3rd Oct, and 6) Attend the parent-child dinner.

Action: Pairings to be drawn up once Heather Green has told us where everyone will be living. Parents to be emailed with their duties, and the chance to opt out due to Swine Flu.

3.2. Committee Stash. The idea of having something to wear (particularly for Freshers' Week) was popular. This would make it easier for freshers to know who was not a fresher (!) and who they could follow and know they weren't getting lost (e.g. on the pub crawl). Sashes were a possibility (T-shirts would get smelly after a whole week).

Action: Charlotte to research/make committee sashes.

3.3. Next meeting. It was agreed the next meeting, to finalise Freshers' Week plans etc. would be held in the MCR on Monday 28th September.

3.4 Becky suggested the committee should have their own tour of the College, particularly to meet the important people with whom we may be dealing with in the future. This should be done before Freshers' Week.

Action: A tour to be arranged at the next meeting.

3.5 The CUSU Societies Freshers Fair should be advertised better and a committee member should lead one party each day from College. This didn't happen last year.

Action: Someone (?) to find out when the CUSU Fair is, and to agree on a time to take freshers from college (once on each day).

3.6 Freshers' Week booklet. It had been agreed we make a small booklet containing the plan for Freshers' Week and other useful information, such as useful emails and phone numbers, a map of Cambridge and college, useful websites etc.. This should be distributed to pigeonholes before

Freshers' Week starts, possibly along with a trendy Catz canvas bag. Photocopying and stapling should be easy using the College's facilities.

Action: Becky to draw up a first draft and look into bags.

3.7 Formal night. It had been suggested that we try to change our night for all formals to Saturday. It was expected this would encourage a better attendance.

Action: Becky to ask Rob Lee about this possibility

3.8 Themed Formals. The dates for the next few themed were decided, subject to booking Hall:

Halloween formal – Saturday 31 October

Christmas formal – Saturday 5 December. Theme – winter wonderland.

Burns night – one of Saturday 23 or 30 January.

Action: Hamish to look at booking a Ceilidh band for Burns night, then we'll book Hall.

Alex/Charlotte to investigate bands/salsa/ents and decoration.

The meeting closed just after 21:00.

These notes were taken by the secretary