

St Catharine's College MCR Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 17 September 2009, 19:00 in the MCR

Present: Becky, Cat, Doug, Hamish, Simon, Charlotte, Alex, Sophie, John

Apologies: none

Agenda: 1. Freshers' Welcome pack 2. Freshers' Week 3. Social plans for the year 4. Environmental issues 5. Russell Street airbeds/pumps 6. Any other business.

1. Freshers' Welcome pack. It was agreed that this would comprise solely of the Welcome booklet (cotton bags were likely to be delayed – see 4.), to be **placed in pigeonholes** as soon as printed. It was proposed that **student ID and age ID should be mentioned in the booklet**, particularly for the bowling night, punting, pub trips and pub crawl. It was also agreed that the whole **MCR should be emailed the booklet, and encouraged to attend any Freshers' Week events** if they wish.

2. Freshers' Week. Details of the events were confirmed and final arrangements were made as below. **Doug and Charlotte agreed to do a big shopping trip for the whole week's food.** Charlotte has acquired lovely sashes, which Committee members should wear at all events, over their normal clothes (not instead of, or under clothes, Doug).

Saturday 3 Oct. Pub trips 19:00. Meeting points were confirmed as follows: Russell Street – front door, Brookside – front door, South Green Lodge – back garden, Warkworth – lounge of #1. **Booklet to be updated.**

Sunday. Scavenger hunt 14:00-16:00. Cat teddies and disposable cameras for an A-to-Z picture challenge. Prizes to be awarded at Monday's games night. **Booklet to be updated.**

Wine and cheese welcome reception 20:00. It was agreed to buy the nicer £5 wines from Majestic – 24 white, 24 red. Juice, soda and possibly grenadine as non-alcoholic options. Biscuits (~6 kg) from Bookers?, cheese (10 kg). Charlotte would be in charge of decorating the MCR in purple and pink. Cat agreed to buy a load of sticky labels for name badges. Simon agreed to do the photography, which would comprise people writing their name on a small whiteboard (in the MCR) and holding it up whilst a 'mugshot' was taken. Alex suggested a height chart on the wall behind people... The photos would be developed on Monday, to be stuck up in the MCR that day.

Monday. Russell Street Games Night 19:00. Prizes – **Becky agreed to start by visiting the development office for 'nice' prizes** like Catz books, mugs, Christmas cards. We need about 10, then other prizes will be things like old calendars, playing cards (from the market) and cat teddies (left over from the scavenger hunt). Rooms in RS to be organised by Cat and Sophie – probably 3 upstairs and 2 downstairs (one for cooking). Food to be pizzas (~15) and nibbles, drinks to include wine, beer and soft drinks. Cooking to be done by anyone who's not busy, for consumption at the half-time break (around 19:45). Travel from SGL to be via taxi – those interested should contact Simon so he can arrange it (**update booklet**). Games: Pictionary - Becky, Sophie with a flipchart/whiteboard and pens (from Catz?); Newspaper towers and fruit croquet – Hamish, Charlotte (newspapers to be saved up in the MCR; Charlotte to get together the fruit etc.); Guess

who and call my bluff – Cat, John (needs post-its or flash cards); Jenga – Simon, Doug (Jenga sets from the MCR).

Tuesday. Pub crawl 19:00. The challenges were finalised – to be **printed out (1 page per pub) by Sophie**, who will be the judge on the night. Teams should hand in completed challenge sheet when leaving each pub, and will be awarded **stickers (bought by Sophie)** depending on their success. In the last venue, the most successful team will be bought a round of drinks. **Pens to be acquired by Cat** from her lab / Barclays / Ikea... Alex has booked tables at Vodka Revs and the Anchor.

Wednesday. Sports and Societies squash at Kelsey Kerridge 10:00. John agreed to take people from College at 09:45. Bowling 20:00. Becky is on top of organising the transport from College.

Thursday. Parent/Child dinner 19:00. After Becky's lengthy pursuit of approval for the proposed theme at formal, Phil Oliver has granted us permission to have crayons, and, if we should so wish, a sandpit. **Paper tablecloths and crayons to be bought by Charlotte. Sophie/Cat to do the seating plan once sign-up has closed** – parents randomly distributed with their children close by. If possible before formal begins, we will **all help to designate the seating by scribbling on the tables** (instead of the usual place cards). **Parents to be told via email to organise their 'family's' wine arrangements.**

Friday. Dinner and Punting 17:00, 19:00 (**Times to be updated in booklet**). Punts have been booked with Cambridge Chauffeur Punts for 19:00. **Alex to book a table at the Granta for 15 people from 17:00.**

Saturday. Food and 80's Bop 19:00, 20:00 (**Times to be updated in booklet, once approved by the Dean**). Pre-bop food and in the MCR to include take-away **pizzas (get coupons during Freshers' week** and go with the cheapest – possibly not pizza hut due to previous lateness) and other **nibbles etc. Charlotte/Cat to organise/make**. Drink to include beer, wine, juice etc. It was noted that the bop is strictly for Catz MCR members and their guests, and that MCR members should not attend the JCR's bop (by order of the Dean – **booklet to be updated**). Therefore, it is essential we have a Committee member on the door at all times, to keep out undesirables etc. (by the Dean's orders). **Door rota to be arranged by email.**

Sunday. Barbeque 14:00. The consensus was to commandeer the SGL ovens for **cooking, which should begin at 12:00 (all available Committee members)**, along with lighting the bbq – Food, drink, charcoal and matches to be bought on Doug and Charlotte's big shop. No decorations, just a chilled-out atmosphere. Yeh. **Doug to book the bouncy castle**. It was agreed that in case of bad weather the event should still go ahead within the adjacent sports complex – **to be booked**.

3. Social plans for the year. Plans were discussed and dates confirmed as below. Normal formals to happen every Thursday unless there is a themed one that week (either on the Thursday or the Saturday). Since we don't have a Formal Hall Officer, it was agreed that a **rota be set up by email** to ensure a Committee member is present at / responsible for every formal. They would, of course, get their ticket free of charge!

Michaelmas term: Diwali formal - Thu 15 Oct. Halloween formal and bop - Sat 31 Oct (**pencil in same DJ as for the 80's bop and confirm after it**). Midsummer Common **Fireworks – check date**; consider cancelling formal and arranging mulled wine in the MCR beforehand. Thanksgiving formal –

Thu 26 Nov. Christmas formal and dancing – Sat 12 Dec (waiting on Fitz Swing to confirm arrangements)

Swaps: Clare (to be invited to Thanksgiving formal) and Selwyn (to be invited to 19 Nov formal). Note on charges – Catz members pay £8, other Colleges £9.

Lent term: Chinese New Year formal – Thu 28 Jan (**Charlotte to book Lion dancers, and ask permission from the Dean re: dancing in hall, between the tables if possible!**). Wine tasting – **Charlotte/Alex to investigate**. Burns night formal and Ceilidh – Sat 13 Feb (Ceilidh band booked. Menu to have Haggis, or Veggie option, as the Main dish). Easter formal and dancing – **date tbc** (After boatie dinner? NB// Full term ends Fri 12 Mar, Undergrad residence ends 14 Mar). Cinco de mayo formal – **date tbc** (Out of term? NB// Quiet period begins Thu 15 Apr).

Swaps: Two of Downing, Pembroke, Churchill... **tbc** (not Tit Hall – v. expensive and poor chat).

Easter term: Peak District trip in May – sounds like a good idea. Midsummer Dinner – **date tbc** (last Sat in Mayweek - 19 Jun? NB// Mayball Wed 16 Jun, Fellows/Grads Garden party 18 Jun). Seaside visit in July – **Charlotte to investigate**. Cambridge Shakespeare Festival outing – sounds good. Croquet (at Chads?) – **look into buying a set for the MCR**.

4. Environmental. Doug reimbursed Simon for his kitchen signs. It was agreed that signs/stickers should be stuck to the front doors of residences to limit junk mail – **Simon to check with College and implement**. It was agreed that College should be made to source their fish from sustainable stocks – **Simon to approach Catering, in conjunction with the JCR, Hester and possibly Pete Wothers**. Cotton bags are still in progress, but won't arrive before Freshers' Week. There was heated discussion on the unsatisfactory cleaning and recycling situations at residences, particularly at Russell Street. It seems bedders are being asked to do more than time and their job requirements allow. No recycling happens at RS, although vague promises about provision of large bins etc. have been made by College. It might be the case that the MCR must organise a team of grads to help taking out the bins etc. **Simon to approach the Junior Bursar/Head of Maintenance about remedying the situation and setting up sustainable recycling schemes at all College residences. Consider emailing the MCR to rouse interest and get a team together.**

5. Any Other Business.

Airbeds – The pumps for the airbeds at Russell Street are broken. **Cat to look into buying a replacement pump.**

TV licencing – Simon announced he had been able to opt out of receiving useless reminders for TV licencing, and that everyone else could do the same if they wished. **Simon and Becky to collaborate on sending the information out to MCR members via email.**

College Tour (important people and places) for MCR Committee in the week before Freshers' Week – Becky to arrange. **Committee members to let her know what times they can't make.**

The **next Committee meeting will be as scheduled, on Monday 28 September**, at 19:00 in the MCR. The main objective will be to check up on Freshers' Week progress.

The meeting closed just after 21:15. Various Committee members were hungry. Nice one.