

St Catharine's College MCR Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 20th January 2010, 18:30 in the MCR

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

Apologies: Si, Mark

Agenda: 1. Chinese New Year formal 2. Burns night 3. Easter formal 4. Midsummer dinner 5. Groups at formals 6. 27th January 7. Trips to London 8. Any other business.

1. Chinese New Year (Thu 28 Jan). Timing depends on length of the Lion Dancers' performance (**Charlotte to check**), with a provisional schedule as follows: **Table runner/napkins to Hall staff the day before**. Other **decorations to be put in place from 18:30** (Charlotte/Alex + volunteers?). Pre-drinks and seat-finding *in Hall* (not the MCR) from 19:00 (**Charlotte/Sophie to ask Rob Lee whether this half-hour early is ok**). Performance starts 19:10. Meal served 19:30.

Lion Dancers have been confirmed and okay-ed by the Dean. A room (**College Music Room?**) is to **be booked** for them to change in and store their costumes etc. If the number of performers is less than 10 we will **invite them to eat with us** (Charlotte to check). **Tables in Hall are to be arranged** as per the dancers' requirements (Charlotte/Alex to ask Rob Lee and oversee). Charlotte/Sophie to **discuss the menu** with Rob Lee/Gerald Meah to avoid last year's disaster! **Guest numbers are to be limited if capacity is severely limited** by the table layout. Blaine to send **email when booking opens to include warning of unusual timing!** **Cat and Sophie agreed to do the seating plan for this and the rest of the events.**

2. Burns night (Sat 13 Feb). The CU Ceilidh Band has been confirmed, although the **number of performers is yet to be confirmed**. Piper (£30-bargain!) confirmed. Decorations: napkins and table runners sorted. Thistles from market and old-looking Burns poems are to be put on tables. During the break (~21:00) between meal and ceilidh, cheese and drinks (whisky, ginger beer, stag's breath, lots of WATER) are to be served in the SCR. Timings: Band set-up/**soundcheck during the day (Becky/Hamish to oversee?)**, **pre-drinks and decorations set-up from 18:30**, pre-drinks served from 19:00 (**venue?**). **Thu formal is to be cancelled**. People are to be reminded that this will be a ***Black tie*** event. **Menu is yet to be decided** – perhaps Sophie/Charlotte can discuss with Rob/Gerald at the same time as CNY. Ideally, **four volunteers from the MCR are needed to be the speakers** (Selkirk Grace, Address to the Haggis, the Laddies address and Lassies response) – **incentive?**

3. Easter (Easter Sunday is 4th April). **Becky to ask Rob Lee about dates** when Hall is free near the end of term, with Saturdays preferred over Thursdays. Entertainment afterwards is to be a DJ – one of those from previous bops. Decorations: daffodils, flowery napkins, moss in bowls (from last year's Midsummer dinner) + flowers stuck in on tables. Muslin drapes. Eggs may be hidden around the bar...

4. Midsummer dinner (Full term ends 11th Jun, Mayball is on 16th) - perhaps during the week of 21st? **Becky to ask Rob Lee about dates**. Theme is to be 'English Country Fete'. During the pre-drinks, outside if possible, entertainment is to include Morris Men (£100 + beer + need a solid surface to dance on. **Charlotte/Alex to ask the Dean for initial permission**, to check out potential locations with the Morris Men, then we'll ask the Dean again), guess the weight of the pig, hook the ducks (in

a shell from the Mayball storeroom), bat the rat etc. Pre-drinks – Pimms, cider. Bales of hay, summer flowers. Entertainment after may be a Folk band and called country dancing? Helen Waller is to be asked about her band. Wait until nearer the time for a budget (for decorations, drinks etc.)...

Update 22/01/2010: Permission has been granted by the Dean for the Morris Men with the suggestion of countrifying Chapel Court for this purpose ☺

5. Hamish asked if he could reserve up to 20 spaces for CU Table Tennis Club to attend formal, which was approved. The usual guest rate of £9 each is to be implemented via the Formal Hall Officer (Blaine). Sophie mentioned that she may also want to bring a large group in the future also.

Mark has mentioned he wants to change the website to **automatically charge guests extra** (which is currently not the case). The **guest limit is to be raised to 10 (from 4) for normal formals**. However, it will still be limited for large formals.

6. The evening of 27th Jan. 1) At 6pm Dr Oliver is holding a session for Catz undergraduates to encourage them to continue their studies at Catz and needs some volunteers. **John, Alex, Charlotte agreed to do it + whoever else is free**. Please think about your MCR Committee role in case you need to talk about things relating it! 2) Master's MCR Committee dinner. Cat is to confirm the time with Jane Stevens then tell everyone. During the dinner it might be worth mentioning to the Master that she hasn't yet invited grad students to the Master's Lodge for drinks this year...

*Update 21/01/2010: Cat confirms that we are to meet at the **Master's Lodge at 7:15pm for 7:30** (not 7:30 for 7:45 as on the invitation). Therefore we shall meet in the MCR around 7pm – remember lounge suit/jacket!*

7. Trip to London. It was suggested that a trip to the capital for grads would be nice, as they rarely have an incentive to leave the Cambridge bubble! Outside of term-time on a weekend would be good, as then people have more time, plus it would fill the gap when formals don't occur. Sights to see may include the Science Museum, Madame Tussauds, various theatres and art galleries. Possible destinations for a night out afterwards may include ceilidhs in Camden, Koko... A trip to the Boat Race was met with approval too, as this has happened in previous years but didn't last year. **Sophie and Hamish to investigate and plan.**

8. Any other business.

8.1. Formal swaps this term – Blaine has had no response from Newnham. Johns may be a possibility. It was suggested people could look at Facebook – Cambridge Formal Hall Society and suggest Colleges to try. **Blaine to mention this** in his next email to the MCR.

8.2. Cinco de Mayo formal – Must be before 20th April when quiet period begins. Perhaps 17th? **Becky to ask Dean for permission for entertainment** – possibly a salsa band and teacher? It was suggested Pilar be approached to sing during pre-drinks or before the meal. She had previously indicated she might cook something, although this might be quite an undertaking!

8.3. The subject of having formals during vacation time was approached. However, the viability would depend on turnout (e.g. during this term). Situation to be monitored...

The meeting closed just after 20:00.