

Minutes of the 3rd MCR Committee Meeting

8 pm, 11th August 2005
MCR, St Catharine's College

Present: Tom Law (chair)
Patrick Flack
Lizzie Perdeaux
Regina Sachers
Poobalasantharam Iyngaran
Rebecca Gallagher

Absent with apologies: Michael Harfoot
Hiroki Shin
Robin Cassady-Cain
Felicia Yap

1. Minutes of the Previous Committee Meeting

There were no comments on the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. Summer Events

As a number of next term's freshers will be in Cambridge for a course in academic English next week, it was suggested that we organise some sort of event for them. Initially it was suggested that this could be the postponed punting trip. However, it was felt that with so many people either away or busy with work it did not make sense to organise a large event. Instead, therefore, we will hold a pub night on Thursday August 18th.

3. Freshers' Week Timetable

It was proposed that we decide upon a provisional timetable for Freshers' Week. After much discussion we settled upon the following:

Sat Oct 1 Pub Night

- A fairly informal event, so that something is provided for people arriving on the Saturday.
- Possibly to be organised around accommodations (i.e. Russell Street go to the Globe; South Green go to the Hat; etc)

Sun Oct 2 Welcome Party in the MCR

- A drinks evening in the MCR, giving people a chance to mingle, meet the MCR and so on.
- Last year's idea of taking Polaroid photos of new arrivals and posting them up was felt to be very successful, and should be repeated this year.

Mon Oct 3 Punting Trip

- It was felt that a punting trip would be lots of fun, and was better held during the week when there were fewer tourists.

- There was some concern about the cost of doing this. Possibly the MCR will only be able to offer a partial subsidy, rather than paying the full amount.

Tues Oct 4 Paws & Claws Event

- We have agreed with the incoming Paws & Claws presidents to give them an evening during the week in which they can introduce freshers to the society. They are considering a pub crawl for this evening.

Weds Oct 5 Event at Russell Street, followed by bowling

- It was decided to integrate these two events from last year, with people eating at Russell Street and then carrying on to bowling. We may therefore need to provide more food than the cheese & wine held last year. One of the main intentions is to introduce people to Russell Street, even if they are not living there.

Thurs Oct 6 Parents & Kids Formal

- This date is provisional on checking with the Kitchen that we can have a formal that evening. Lizzie will do this.
- As last year, the MCR will pay for the parents' tickets.
- Patrick will send out a request for volunteers for parents in the next bulletin.
- This is also the day that the GU will be running their Freshers' Event. Hopefully this will be in the early afternoon, and therefore will not crash with the dinner.

Fri Oct 7 College Bop / Film Night

- This is provisional on the JCR organising a bop for that evening. We have contacted the JCR and are waiting for them to send us a copy of their timetable.
- The Film Night is intended as a more relaxed alternative to the bop. This may be dropped in favour of a different event if one is proposed.

Sat Oct 8 BBQ at South Green

- Intended as an introduction to South Green. As it is a Saturday it was suggested that we could begin earlier in the afternoon and make use of the sports pitches for frisbee / football / etc. We may also be able to use the Pavilion in case of poor weather. Patrick will speak to the groundskeeper about this.

Sun Oct 9 Scavenger Hunt / Afternoon Tea / Quiz

- Intended as a way to show people around the city centre, pointing out where Sainsburys, Ryman's, Galloway & Porters, etc are to be found. It was suggested that rather than have a walking tour this could be run as a scavenger hunt, with teams (possibly organised around college families) having to find items from these different shops. It was suggested that we could provide disposable cameras and get the films developed quickly, instead of asking people to find stuff.
- This will be followed by afternoon tea and a quiz on various aspects of college. This will either be held in the MCR or, preferably, in the Ramsden Room. People will keep the same teams as on the scavenger hunt.
- Obviously, this is quite a long program, but it was felt that this would be OK for a Sunday afternoon / evening.

4. Free Formal Halls for Committee Members

It was suggested that in order to encourage committee members to attend and help with formal halls (particularly themed formals), the MCR should pay for a number of their dinners. This would also go to recognise the work put by the committee in over the year and encourage people to sign up in the future.

Initially it was suggested that this should be one formal per member per month, but it was noted that this would be prohibitively expensive. A compromise was therefore reached on one per term.

There was some concern about how this should be presented to the Bursar. However, as it would be paid for by the MCR budget, and as the Formal Hall Officer already receives their dinner for free, this should not be a problem.

It was also suggested that the committee should have food at meetings, as it is sometimes inconvenient to get food between leaving work and coming to the meeting. However, it was felt that this would be too much on top of free formals.

5. GU Electronic Voting

The GU have developed an electronic voting system in order to increase turnout at future GU elections and requested feedback from the college MCRs. The system will use Raven passwords, and will depend on colleges providing lists of eligible voters. It was generally felt that this was a good idea. The only concern was whether us passing our list of members to them would create a data protection issue. Patrick will consult with the GU about this.

6. AOB

6.1 Spam on Welfare Officer's Account

Rebs reported that she had been receiving considerable amounts of spam on her e-mail address, probably as a result of being connected to the welfare officer's address. This address was previously listed on the MCR website, though it has since been removed. It was suggested that if the problem continues we should explore the possibility of creating a different address for the welfare officer.

6.2 MCR Room

The coffee machine in the MCR, previously reported as broken, apparently only needs to be repaired. We will look into doing this.

The possibility of getting Sky for the MCR television is being explored. It may be possible for us to get the same deal as the one held by the JCR. Ideally this will be done before the start of next term.

6.3 Russell Street Bike Sheds

There is a pile of bike parts at the back of the Russell Street bike sheds. The maintenance staff have been using them for spare parts, but it has been suggested that they are simply causing an eyesore. It was therefore decided to move them, after first checking with the MCR that no one objected.

6.4 Welfare Info on Website

Rebs suggested that she could expand the welfare information currently available on the MCR website. It was generally felt that this would be an extremely good idea. It was suggested that it would be valuable to provide links to other Cambridge societies (national societies, religious groups, etc), rather than trying to cover everything ourselves.

Next Meeting: 8pm Thursday September 1st