

MCR Committee Meeting 4 December 2006

Present—Justin, Ali, Lizzie, Richard, Martina, Roy, John, Amy

Apologies—Dan, Rosie, Paul

1. Airbeds

Ali has priced airbeds at Argos. Unfortunately they were out of stock when she last checked.

[action: Ali to get airbeds next weekend at Argos store or order them online]

2. Newspapers

Currently, the MCR spends 70p for each issue of the Guardian and the Independent. The Times costs 75p. Richard has priced the Telegraph (70p) and the International Herald Tribune (£1.20). It was agreed that the MCR should not increase its expenditure on newspapers at this time, but that the Independent should be traded for the Telegraph so that we may offer a wider range of literature to the MCR.

[action: Richard to change subscription from the Independent to the Telegraph]

3. Society use of the MCR

Roy sent out an email today, Monday the 4th, to the MCR explaining that while groups are able to use the upper and lower MCR this can not restrict other MCR members from enjoying the space. The committee members agreed that the email was tactful, diplomatic, and that people should respond positively in being more considerate.

4. Christmas Formal

Lizzie has asked the porters to have the main gates opened by the time guests arrive for pre-dinner drinks. The torches have been found and will be placed around main court. The porters should be asked to extinguish them when the group goes in to dinner. The collection for Jimmy's night shelter will be taken up after dinner by Santa. Lizzie has agreed to take the items on Friday to Jimmy's.

[action: Lizzie to deliver items of seasonal joy to Jimmy's on Friday]

It was agreed that a raffle should take place after dinner in addition to the Jimmy's collection because guests responded positively to it last year. This will be done after the collection and four prizes will be given out. Santa will sneak out after pudding and change into his suit during cheese/mints.

[action: Lizzie to put raffle tickets on placecards]

After dinner is over members of the committee should leave the hall swiftly to beat the guests to the bar. Members at this time will also ensure that the band has everything that they need. Casa del Funk will be arriving between 7 and 8, which the porters have already been informed of.

[action: Lizzie to liaise with Casa del Funk and emphasize that earlier is better so that committee members will be able to greet them before going into dinner]
[action: Lizzie to send out an email to all guests regarding gowns (not needed), and warning against drinking games in hall]

It was agreed that after dinner the kitchen staff will be invited to the bar, but in a casual manner as a courtesy—no invitation beforehand is necessary.

Roy has requested the use of the JCR's lights for the bop. The bar will be decorated on Thursday from 2:00 onward by the committee members. After the bop the JCR lights will be moved back to the MCR in the process of tidying up. Other committee members will encourage guests to move into the MCR and will usher them out of main court to minimize noise. Roy suggested that we ask guests to bring extra alcohol for the return to the MCR because serving out of college guests could become costly.

[action: Lizzie to email only those coming to dinner about the after party and alcohol]

5. Activity on the 13th of December

While a more holiday-oriented activity had originally been suggested, the members of the committee agreed that bowling on the 13th would suffice, especially as many members of the MCR will have left Cambridge by that time.

6. Food and Drink Officer Position

Members of the committee decided to take a blind vote. The ballot options were for Liz Clarke, Fabio Pardi, or to keep the position unfilled. Amy read manifestos written by the two candidates before the vote was held. There were 10 ballots cast. Nine members voted for Liz Clarke and one voted for Fabio Pardi. It was concluded that Liz Clarke should assume the role of food and drink officer.

[action: Amy to inform Liz Clarke of her election to the position of Food and Drink Officer]

7. Dates

The Easter Formal will be held on the 17th of March. Members of the committee should now start to think about themes for this event (last year's was *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*).

Lizzie has been in touch with her contacts at Oxford and as it is their turn to host the MCR they will soon issue an invitation when dates can be confirmed. This will most likely take place between the 18th of March and the 20th of April.

Burns Night will take place on the 25th of January. The committee will need to book musicians for this date, it was suggested that bagpipes would be a nice touch to lead people out of the hall after dinner. Pre-dinner drinks will be held in the Ramsden Room and after dinner guests will move back there for the whiskey tasting. Meanwhile the tables in the hall will be moved aside and the Caileigh will take place there after the

whiskey tasting. There is at present some whiskey in the liquor closet and we must determine how much there is or how much more might be required.

The first MCR committee meeting of the New Year will be held on January 8th in order to plan events for the first month of Lent term, particularly Joe Piper's mid-January celebration.

[action: John to look into having a dinner on the 11th and then to email Amy about the results of his inquiry]

[action: Amy to email Heather to invite the two Lent term freshers to events on the 11th and 13th]

8. Other points of discussion

Ali reintroduced the topic of fair-trade coffee and tea for the MCR. Amy agreed to obtain this from Sainsbury's before leaving for the holidays.

[action: Amy to acquire fair-trade coffee and tea for the MCR before leaving for the holiday]

Whiteboards that were purchased have still not been distributed to the residences aside from Russell Street.

[action: Amy to post white board at Whichcote House]

[action: Martina to distribute remaining white boards to members of Assisi House and Spring Green]

Roy introduced the subject of refurbishing the MCR in January or shortly thereafter. This is an unofficial plan at present but Manolo Guerci seemed receptive to helping us with this task. Ideally the walls should be repainted and the carpets replaced. Roy suggested that a natural wood finish may be more attractive and functional than carpet. New lamps would also make the room appear cozier. Funds must be secured for this project before we move ahead.

Happy Holidays, see you on the 8th of January