

St. Catharine's College MCR Committee Meeting
21 May, 2007, 7.30 pm

Present—Richard, John, Paul, Liz, Rosie, Martina, Ali, Justin, Dan, Amy
Absent—Roy

1. Midsummer Dinner Update

A change of date for midsummer dinner was requested as there are a number of MPhil students who will be leaving college accommodations by the 30th of June. Heather has said that she is open to students who would like to stay in their rooms for one more night in order to attend midsummer dinner, but as some students have already made their arrangements to leave Cambridge there are still a small number of students who are affected. Dan suggested that if we did move to change the date of this event it could take place on the Friday at the end of May week, though he agreed with others that changing the date could likely pose problems for the hall, the photographer, and the band. Ultimately everyone maintained that the date for midsummer dinner should remain unchanged.

Rosie has been looking into bands and has happily had a number of positive replies thus far regarding availability. Dan has been passed CDs for a few of these bands for us to choose from and there are some good candidates. Dan will be bringing in these CDs for the committee to listen to. Budgeting will remain the most important consideration in entertainments, as it was estimated that a pianist would cost £100 an hour and a band will be closer to £500 for 90 minutes.

[action: Rosie to get estimates from each band.]

The question of music in the hall during dinner has not yet been resolved. The college is hesitant to let us move the piano to the hall even if we were to hire professional movers (which would be costly in itself even before hiring someone to play). Dan's keyboard is still an option if we are unable to find a more desirable solution or hire the string quartet as opposed to a pianist.

Rosie asked if the committee thought it would be a good idea to give out "Oscars" in different categories at the close of the dinner given our chosen theme. We agreed that this seemed like a complimentary idea and could easily make up awards once we know exactly who will be attending. Roy and Dan will be making a speech and announcing the results of the election so it would be good to space out the awards between courses rather than have all the talking take place after dessert/coffee. Aside from the aforementioned concerns we will soon have to think about a decorating scheme and Dan and John will be looking at the menu.

[action: Dan and John to look at the midsummer menu closer to the date.]

2. Other Social Events

Rosie has set the Kettle's Yard trip for Tuesday, 29 May, and this will be followed by a formal hall in the SCR. She asked if we could informally advertise the trip so as to ensure it is well attended.

Plans are still to be worked out for a Barbeque at South Green Lodge after midsummer dinner, and after that there is nothing planned until October. Justin and Liz proposed the idea of punting to Grantchester and Felix had mentioned to Dan the idea of going to a polo match in Henley (where there is also soon to be a regatta). Dan has asked Nick to pick a date to hold his Bollywood film evening. Nick is keen to organize this event himself, so if he can select a date soon plans can get underway.

[action: Rosie to liaise with Nick regarding a date for the Bollywood film night.]

Martina reminded us that we have still not gone bowling so that also could be fit in to the social calendar. She pointed out that there are some deals on Saturdays and that Bella Italia also has Monday night offers for groups and we could put this somewhere in the largest gap in the calendar.

3. MCR Redecoration

Dan has had an email from Phil who has received permission from the Junior Bursar to paint the MCR whenever we would like, but this is strictly for painting and does not include some of the other improvements we requested such as the carpet, curtains, light fixtures or kitchen. It would still be preferable to do a larger redecoration when we can have something done about the floors, particularly sanding and varnishing them if we can determine that the boards are in a state to do so. If possible, sanding could only take place during the long vacation as a great deal of dust and noise would be created in the process. The College Consultative Council seemed encouraging when the idea of additional improvements was approached and the Finance/Building and Services committees are being consulted because the bursars have not as yet been keen on this idea. Hopefully the walls and floors at least can be taken care of before the fall. The wood in the lower MCR may be stained darker to match the floors if this goes ahead.

Magnolia has been selected as the colour of the walls. Some members of the committee expressed concern that using one colour in the whole room was undesirable. The use of an accent colour was supported by all present. Rosie thought that the college should have consulted a professional who could bear in mind the longevity needed for the design. The armchairs will stay, as will the curtains unless we opt to take them down altogether. Justin requested that when we put the photos back up on the walls that they are arranged in the right order. The notice boards were also brought up by Dan and Richard, who were against their removal because they are heavily used, and Martina suggested that perhaps we could get by with just one.

The Dean suggested that if members of the MCR volunteered to paint the room then graduates may take greater care and ownership of the space. This could be done as long as someone from the college was there to supervise. This will still be put forth as an option. We should have an answer on the possibility of having the floors done at the same time as the painting by the next meeting.

4. Heather's Wedding Present

Someone has spilt coffee on the card that many had already signed so we will need to get a new one asap. Dan suggested that a present would be nice too, likely college or MCR related. Black and white photos of the colleges are available in market square and also at the Saturday craft fair across from John's. Justin saw a framed photo of Catz there for £25. Richard has some lovely photos of college also if we are stuck but we will try for one that is already framed.

[action: Dan to check on a framed photo of Catz and a card.]

5. Other Business

The Russell Street bed has been patched and can therefore be put back into circulation. John has looked into croquet sets and there are not any cheaper options than those previously explored. For the time being we will hold off on this investment.

Richard was concerned that we should begin to timetable the elections and Dan asked for volunteers to start planning. Those not planning to stand for new positions can form a sub-committee to pick dates for the hustings, about two weeks prior to midsummer dinner. This could be done after the grads/fellows garden party though it would not leave as much time for campaigning. Simon Hopkins needs to be consulted regarding the electronic voting system's availability because there may be other ongoing elections at this time. The election will need to be announced 10 days to two weeks prior to hustings, at the open meeting, which will be held on 6 June.

Note on meeting attendance: committee members are asked to attend when possible or send apologies in advance.

***The open meeting will be held on 6 June at 7.30,
to be followed by the committee meeting***