

St Catharine's College MCR Committee

Meeting Wednesday 11th November, 12:00 in the MCR

Minutes

Present: Hamish, Cat, Becky, Angela, Sophie, Alex, Si, Charlotte

Apologies: Doug, John

1. Discussion of Christmas Formal plans (Sat 12th Dec – not the 5th as in the agenda).

a) Decorations. Outsourcing (Full decor package from SXS = £2070.60+VAT) vs. DIY (Flower arrangements = £20ea + £300 deposit. Silver trees being sourced by Charlotte...) was discussed. Charlotte has been in discussion with Owen Vaughan, who is on the May Ball committee. The high cost of outsourcing, especially the £600 for people, was not liked, therefore we dismissed this option (although to be kept in mind for Midsummer Dinner – possibly in conjunction with the May Ball). The table decorations were liked. We will also do silvery sprinkles, chocolates to put in the coffee cups, trees and lanterns (**Alex and Charlotte to sort out**). Seating arrangements – 3 long tables preferred over lots of round ones. **Angela to ask Hall about table cloths.**

b) Swing band. Booked and deposit paid. Band member to meet Charlotte to discuss equipment needs. Timings on the day yet **to be confirmed.**

c) Menu. **Angela to consult Catering** with regards to a traditional-type menu. Sophie raised the issue of pudding – can we have Brandy Butter instead of the usual white saucy thing? Cat also wanted to know about crackers (last year the MCR bought loads only to find Hall had provided them already!).

d) Pre- and post-drinks. Ramsden room booked for pre-drinks (mulled wine). The Cambridge Farmers Market does mulled wine at <£4/bottle (vs. Tesco's £3/bottle, but it's nicer AND locally produced). **Sophie to investigate a bulk-buy** (~50 bottles). SCR booked for post-drinks. Whisky and Ginger ale approved, to be bought nearer to time (Tesco's/CFM?). The idea of an MCR-run bar in Hall afterwards was liked – Alex was happy to be our 'barman'. **College (the Dean?) to be consulted?**

e) Things to be done nearer the time: Seating plan + place cards; Pouring drinks. Details likely to be the same as usual, i.e. all Committee members expected to show up before the event to help out.

f) Booking details. Price to be £10 for all tickets (extra money to be used for the bar afterwards). Number of guests to be limited to 4.

g) Dress. Black tie. The Dean has given permission not to wear gowns.

h) **Santa. We need a volunteer** – Philip Oliver?! On that subject Becky reminded us we are meant to **formally invite the Grad Tutors** to our fancy events.

i) Jimmy's Night Shelter food collection. Mention as much as reasonably possible before the event; Santa to collect donations on the night.

j) Choir and Carols. Nice ideas, no firm plans yet. May not be enough around – **Becky to talk to Sophie Henstridge** about details.

The following items on the agenda were postponed until the next meeting:

2. Table Tennis capability in the sports complex (raised by Si?)

3. (if time) Fourth-years fixed kitchen charge and MCR subscription. (Issue raised by Cameron to Cat – should we raise it with College?)

4. The next meeting (to sort out final details for Christmas Formal + discuss issues above) to be held around 1 week before the event. [Sec's note – I'm away on a conference in India from 28 Nov to 11 Dec, so most of this will have to be arranged without me, sorry!]

Time for the MCR Committee/Grad Tutors lunch in the OCR ☺