

**MCR Committee Meeting.**  
**8<sup>th</sup> September, 6pm, OTR.**  
**Minutes.**

Present: Sarah, Drew, Miles, Iris, Guillaume, Dan N, Irina, Tim, Joe, Kathryn, Alex M, Andre

**1. Money left over from last year. / 6. Freshers Week.**

Miles: Planned to use the money left from last year to fund FW (£1700). Out of that, we still have to pay for the punt scheme; waiting on an invoice. About £720. Roughly £900-£1000 to spend on FW. So where are we with FW plans? Joe: Cape of Good Hope?

Joe: Was going to deal with that today but didn't manage to.

Tim: Cape has changed hands, so booking system may have changed. We can confirm later. Just have to find another venue if it all falls through.

Miles: I can do deposit.

Joe: Happy for you to just email the Cape and write a cheque. £50 deposit. Room hire is on a minimum spend of £500, secured with £50 deposit.

Tim: New members, about 76. I have a list.

Kathryn: Can you send it around for High Table?

Tim: Yes.

Miles: Last year, 241 paying members of the MCR. There was some talk of food at the Cape?

Tim: If we have to spend £500, there's a buffet that might help us hit the £500 total. This event is after the Graduate Freshers Induction, so people might be interested in food because there's no food there. It would be paid for out of the FW budget. The other expense is the Be At One packages.

Iris: £375, which looks good. Another one that's £200, which offers less.

Tim: If we get the package with 50 drinks tokens, then we can give a free drink to each incoming fresher on a first come, first served basis. Then after a certain time, tokens get distributed to whoever's there. More difficult to split the prosecco; give it as a bonus for the committee for doing a lot of work?

Guillaume: 3 bottles of wine isn't enough for everyone.

Tim: Ask for more drinks tokens?

Iris: Can try.

Guillaume: Can't imagine all the 70 freshers coming to that event.

Miles: So for the parties, we're having them on alternate weekends. One in FW. Do we need to buy anything for that?

Joe/Drew/Iris: Gin, beer, vodka, snacks.

Joe: We've made a full inventory of the alcohol in the cupboards, and we're going to keep track of how much we drink at each party.

Guillaume: There's a few bottles left in the Victualler's room. Shall I put it all in the MCR?

Tim: Going to get a set of keys left in the Lodge (for the booze cupboards), create a list so that Committee members can get a hold of them. Split the cupboards? So there are designated e.g. Social Sec cupboards.

Guillaume: Send the Social Secs an inventory.

Tim: Make a distinction between party gin and guest dinner gin.

Irina: More beer at parties. We always run out.

Tim: Get some nice boxes of craft beers.

Guillaume: Have to see what's at Bookers when we go there. Are we going to charge for parties?

Tim/Drew: FW one free.

Miles: I've budgeted for not charging people.

Joe/Irina/Drew: £5 charge is fine.

Guillaume: Not everyone comes to the parties, not everyone drinks; charge seems legit.

Joe: If Adam is to be believed, we don't make a loss at the parties.

Miles: I'll alter the budget. Say, 30 people per party, £5 each. How much will you need for the FW party?

Joe: How much does the alcohol cost?

Tim: Like £17 for a bottle of gin.

Drew: How much gin do you have?

Guillaume: Maybe 3 litres of gin, between 2-4 litres of vodka, and 24 beers. [General amusement at the amount of booze Guillaume's got in his room.]

Tim: So just need mixers.

Miles: So it's not going to be a lot!

Joe: £100? Per party?

Miles: Other events: pizza/movie.

Sarah: There's two.

Joe: £3.40 per person drinking at the MCR party. Serve drinks at the pizza night?

Drew: There's a club night, too? Joint with the JCR.

Joe: Need to talk to the JCR about that.

Tim: Supposed to be Monday.

Guillaume: Last year, you could just turn up to any of the JCR club nights and it was fine.

Tim: Pizza, about £100-£120? Maybe £150?

Joe: Do we want beer? Use Guillaume's?

[Discussion of the relative merits of Fosters, Carlsberg etc.]

Guillaume: I'll send Joe a complete list of the booze.

Joe: Beers, other nice drinks, elderflower cordial, lemon/lime squash.

Tim: So let's say £200. We'll spend £50-60 for the Welcome Party. £625 spent so far. Any other costs?

Miles: Tea and scones.

Andre: About £30 last time.

Tim: About £150 left over we could spend at the Cape, potentially on a buffet. No idea if that's feasible.

Tim's Action Points.

- Book Be At One.
- Chase up Cape. [Joe: Sent the email. Miles is copied in.]

## 2. MCR Subs.

Miles: Charged at £9 per person, per term. Cannot opt out; Angela Wilcox says we flat out can't opt out.

Tim: She's wrong? Members *can* opt out, but then they're not entitled to any use of the MCR/MCR's facilities.

All: Let's check that.

Miles: Does anyone have any preference as to what we do with them? My view: raising is bad, because we pay more; lowering is bad, because we get less and we can't then get more money from college.

Joe: Leave them.

Leave them where they are:

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

### 3. Guest Dinner Subs.

Miles: GD subs aren't changing.

Guillaume: Yep.

[Some disagreement between Miles, Guillaume, and Alex about how much the meals are subbed.]

[Tim makes an off-the-record comment.]

Guillaume: About £3.35 for students, £1.35 for guests. On average, we had per term 153 Queen's students and 156 guests. That cost us, per term, about £700. Term to term, it's pretty much the same: about 300 guests, about £700.

Miles: Does that include exchange dinners?

Alex: No.

Miles: From Angela: we subsidise guests the same amount.

Guillaume: Difficult to work out. Roughly £700.

Miles: Need to confirm with Angela. So are people happy to keep subs where they are? Should we raise them, lower them? See how this term goes?

Guillaume: No opinion; see what you guys say. £14 is fairly reasonable, even a good deal. Spoken to the JCR about their guest dinner; they don't subsidise their GDs. Other MCRs do, but our JCR doesn't; they're heavily subsidised through college.

Tim: Not *actually* a JCR Guest Dinner; discounted formal for all.

Drew: Should stress that.

Joe: We have a really short booking system; one week is not a lot, compared to other colleges. Undergrads are more flexible.

Irina: That's the same with our guest dinner.

Joe/Drew: You have a better chance with ours.

Joe: Priority booking.

Irina: Doesn't always work.

Guillaume: Could ask to reserve 10/15 MCR guest spots. The JCR might not like that. We do have our own special dinner. The Saturday dinner is 95% JCR, so it's effectively the JCR Guest Dinner.

Tim: It's more of a MCR Formal than a Guest Dinner.

Joe: Easiest to swap the Monday and Saturday formals.

Sarah: That has big logistical problems.

Andre: We need to have more than one formal for everyone.

Drew/Tim: That's over our heads.

Joe: The issue is we don't have MCR-specific events on a weekend.

Tim: Could ask to have once a term about 30 spaces reserved for MCR members on the Saturday dinner.

Guillaume: They'll just ask why we can't book in advance like everyone else.

Tim: Saturday dinners are organised by Dawn and the kitchens, so it's not a JCR matter. If we ask if we could reserve seats, I can't imagine people having an objection.

Dan: Had a similar discussion last year. There's nothing actually special about the meal; people started dressing up, and the college started giving fancy meals. We asked before about reserving spaces, but college said we had Monday.

Tim: Stress to members that it's *not* a JCR formal, it's a general everyone formal.

Dan: Mention it in the newsletters.

Alex: Wrote to Dawn last year asking if it could be moved; she said that Mondays were "set in stone". Also asked if we could have more places; no, because Dawn needs to reserve a certain number of places for normal dinner.

Tim: There's a new online booking system coming online at the end of the month. Maybe there will be an improvement.

Irina: Can we give people who are bringing guests priority on guest dinners?

Guillaume: That's the reason for priority status.

Irina: But people who don't have guests use that. So if you apply with priority and you have guests, you take precedence over those who use priority but *don't* have guests.

Andre: Wasn't there a survey about this that went around last year?

Dan: I'll be getting the results soon; I'll pass it on to Tim.

Andre: Maybe rely on that data when we get it.

Miles: Bringing this back to the point, is everyone happy to leave the subs as they are? I'll go check with Angela to see what we're paying.

All: Yep.

#### **4. The Budget.**

[The Treasurer's draft budget is handed around.]

Miles: Assumption that we have £4000 (ish) for this term; can't be sure until we know for sure how many MCR members there are (list coming from college). Necessary expenditures: newspapers (£142.86, Guardian; £90.99, Times; about £60 a month for delivery from Honey's); coffee machine insurance (£22.50); TV licence (£145.50). Couldn't find anything about us paying for a TV license last year, so I'm going to check that.

Tim: Does college pay for it?

Miles: Maybe. I'll check and find out. Then various subsidies: about £350(?) a term; the GD figure might be dodgy. Ditto exchange subsidy.

Guillaume: My numbers. Exchange dinner subsidy: about £700. Pre drinks, per term: used to be £960; post drinks: used to be £380, split 2/3 port, 1/3 on chocolate. Combined, per term for drinks at GD: £1340. This was before we got rid of cava. We're not buying any more cava from college! We can probably cut down on the pre-drinks. That way, I'll be fine with about £950 per term.

[Interlude on the price of cava.]

Guillaume: With cheaper cava, would be about £850, £800.

Joe: Do we have to go through college to buy alcohol?

Guillaume: Everything that's drunk on college property needs to be bought through college. Buy everything at Bookers; I'll have a look when I go there. The roughly £900 on the draft budget is okay.

Drew: Still having port after dinners?

Andre: Does anyone have a pen?

[No one has a pen.]

Miles: This draft is rough.

Guillaume: Around £900?

Miles: Yes.

Joe: [Currently on the Bookers website.] Their cava isn't cheap. Bookers is "not selling anyone piss" (Joe Lawrence, 2016); could we thus serve less? Limit how much we serve?

Tim: Two different kinds of drinks brings in a first-come, first-served approach.

Guillaume: The online price Joe's found might be higher than what I'll actually get in Booker's. They might have a slightly cheaper cava. If I have about £900, I could probably do cava. I'll see how much we need over the first few dinners.

Sarah: If you're within your budget, I don't see why there'd be an issue.

Joe: Tesco is cheaper.

Guillaume: College won't go for Tesco.

Joe: Get it delivered in a box to college?

Drew: It's whether college will let you do it.

Tim: Ask Sean if we can do a Tesco order to college, and see what he says. If you can cava on that budget, do it; maybe do cava for a few weeks, then if it's too much, switch back.

Guillaume: Keep port and chocolate how it is.

All: Sure.

Miles: Guillaume gets GDs at normal dinner price, subsidised by the MCR. "Whoever got that into the constitution is an absolute genius." (Miles Caddick, 2016). About £300 for unexpected things.

Tim: Can also be extra money out of people's budgets.

Drew: Is this for repair?

Miles: There's two MCR bank accounts, the normal one, and one with about £4000 in. We use money from the £4000 to fix things that break.

Andre: Where does that money come from?

Miles: Money goes in from the normal MCR account; we transfer if we have a surplus.

Joe: How much does the coffee machine cost to buy new? Do we really need the coffee machine insurance?

Drew: It did break last term. "It's certainly not professional grade." (Drew Holland, 2016) [Very disapproving of the coffee machine.]

General conclusion: £90 a year to insure the coffee machine is reasonable.

Guillaume: What's MCR supplies?

Miles: E.g. milk, tea, coffee, tea towels, sponges, washing up liquid etc.

Guillaume: I've calculated a bit less than £350, but I may be underestimating.

Tim: The coffee used to be really expensive, but now it's cheaper. Could always increase it back.

Joe: Donation box towards the coffee?

Tim: Some people have grumbled about the coffee not being great.

Guillaume: I thought about that. A coffee scheme: pay £1 a term. That would cover all the coffee expenses. If we do that, we could get a better coffee.

Drew: I like that idea...

Tim: Effectively then increasing the subscription.

Miles: Easy to work around, just don't pay and drink anyway.

Tim: Just try to work within the £350.

Joe: Have a survey, ask people's opinions of the coffee?

Guillaume: Wait a few weeks, see what people think.

Tim: Increasing everyone's workload. Just see what you can do with the money.

Joe: Chat again in 5<sup>th</sup> week; "I'm sure we'll meet again".

Miles: £50 to the Secretary for food. Parties, the amount will change depending on how many people come.

Tim: Last year they made money.

Miles: Ignore parties for now. Non-alcoholic events: me and Iris are keen on this. Film nights etc. Some of the budget goes towards that; £300.

Andre: Can that go for e.g. ice skating, go karting, too? Or just film nights?

Miles: Sure, that's fine.

Andre/Iris: We will chat.

Miles: Have to buy the films, because this is an official MCR thing.

Irina: I have Amazon Prime and Netflix; happy to help.

Tim: Subsidy for ice skating etc; couldn't pay for the whole ticket.

Andre: Yeah, that's fine.

Tim: Thinking about how to get money back to people who don't engage with the MCR. This ice skating thing is one. Thinking, too, about some kind of reimbursement scheme for a cinema ticket; so if you go to the cinema, once a term you can hand your ticket (two tickets?) in and get reimbursed half of the price.

[General impressed agreement.]

Andre: Not just cinema only?

Tim: Cinema's easy, very clear what it means. Include e.g. exhibitions at the museum etc.

Joe: Keep it at the cinema for now, then maybe branch out if it's successful.

Tim: Very difficult to budget, but I think it would be a good idea.

Joe: How would we do it, re: money?

Miles: Pidge it to me, then I send a list to Angela at the end of the term to credit their battels. Place an upper limit on the amount?

Tim: Has to be a student discount ticket; can't be for a 3D film; has to be for a cinema in Oxford; can't be a movie premiere or something like that.

Miles: Andre, welfare teas at about £120.

Andre: Yep.

Miles: Welfare supplies, e.g. condoms, very rarely stocked last year because Ellya didn't know how much money he had to spend.

Andre: "You can get a strong, family-value pack of condoms for £10 from Tesco." (Andre Hector, 2016).

Miles: Get them from OUSU at cost prices. Email someone at OUSU to ask.

Kathryn: The ones last year said "Don't use butter as lubricant", so let's get those.

Miles: Julia stocked it last year, so ask her.

Andre: £100 is probably overkill!

Miles: Women's Officers, about £100 on various events.

Sarah: Julia wanted to spend more money last year, so could there be more?

Andre: Julia got an email about someone in the MCR needing emergency contraceptives, bought it, then tried to claim it back from a JCR scheme and everything went wrong. Julia wants to find out what the deal is there.

Tim: That's currently in the Welfare Supplies budget.

Miles: Supposed to be a JCR scheme?

Tim: We are JCR; we pay JCR subs.

Joe: No one actually uses JCR supplies.

Guillaume: The money we pay is spread between e.g. the sports clubs, so some MCR members do use it.

Miles: Wait until Tim's had his meeting with the JCR to see what the situation is with all this.

Joe: Let's try to get hold of the JCR budget.

Miles: Back to Sarah's question: if we charge for the parties, we could give the Women's Officer more, yes.

Tim: Let Nicole figure it out.

Iris: Feminine hygiene products could be within that.

Tim: How?

Kathryn: Put them in the Welfare Drawer.

Tim: Ed can have the equivalent money.

Miles: Haven't heard anything from him.

Guillaume: Do we want to keep wine for exchange dinners? Roughly £200 per term for exchange dinners. With cheaper wine, reduce that to £120 per term.

Tim: Keep the wine.

Irina: People coming can't get wine.

Joe: Estimate of the money we make from the parties: about £240 profit. So an extra £640 on top of the numbers we're looking at here.

Guillaume: [Talks about wine.]

Tim: £150 for wine?

Guillaume: For Summer/Matriculation dinner, we have to pay for the fellows we invite.

Drew: "That's absurd."

Joe: "Strange and anachronistic."

Tim: It's for us to invite them, not for them to have to be there.

Guillaume: There to invite senior members.

Joe: I don't feel that's appropriate.

Guillaume: Used to be, for Matriculation Dinner, invite the Provost and his wife, Joyce, the tutor for graduates, the chaplain.

Drew: Might look bad if we don't invite them.

Tim: Especially if we want to improve relations with college.

Miles: So about £30-£35 per person.

Joe: [Many objections. Something about taxable expenses.] This isn't acceptable.

Guillaume: So I'd be accusing the Provost of tax-dodging?

[Snack break, while people argue about law and taxes.]

Joe: "I object."

Drew: "Your objection is noted, and ignored."

Miles: Changes. Four/five staff/fellows at Matriculation Dinner. Check subsidies with the bursar. Exchange dinner expenses. Give more budget to the Women's.

Sarah: And LGBTQ?

Tim: Check with Ed.

Miles: So, increase each, or just lump them together and increase both?

Sarah: Check with Ed and Nicole, what they want to do.

Tim: Increase Womens' to £150; check with Ed about what he wants.

Miles: Figure out what we'll get from the parties.

Vote on cinema thing:

MCR members can claim back 50% on one cinema ticket (2D, student discount, cinema in Oxford), claimable up until the end of 9<sup>th</sup> week. Reset every term. Reasonable discretion.

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

Irina: Mention this during the Freshers Week Inductions.

Dan: Mention on the website.

Drew: Wine and cheese nights. Do we want to do that?

Tim: From the previous committee: they're a nightmare to organise, and other colleges are rubbish.

Irina: Just have in-college ones?

Drew: If Ed's doing them, then do we need more?

Joe: We can organise them as and when. Charge a bit. On battels.

## **5. Honorary Members.**

Tim: New honorary members, passed online. Grace Cheng (Han); Alice Kirby (Adam); Margot Parmenter (Ellya); Ashley (Irina). Two more applications.

Drew: I propose Astrid.

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Tim: I propose Amy.

[General awwwws.]

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Tim: Dates for parties.

Drew: Fridays rather than Saturdays.

All: Mix them around, alternate.

Kathryn: I get tired on Friday nights.

Drew: First one needs to be on a Saturday.

Joe: First one, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October. Next, Friday 14<sup>th</sup>. Then Hallowe'en weekend, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>.

Drew: That's my brother's birthday.

Joe: Next one, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Drew, when's election night?

Drew: 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Kathryn: Definitely have something around there.

Joe: Can we ask college to let us keep the MCR open all night for an election party?

Tim: Never been done.

Joe: Next, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November. End of 9<sup>th</sup> week party, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

Irina: Something a couple of weeks later for people who are here over Christmas.

Joe: Do people care about themes?

Andre: Definitely do a Christmas party, with a Secret Santa.

Joe: First theme. Hawaii.

Drew: A fire pit in the MCR.

Irina: A bit cold?

Tim: First one, no theme, just welcome drinks.

Joe: First one, no theme! Second one?

Irina: Ask for people to propose themes?

Iris: Thing in the MCR for people to suggest things.

Irina: Send around three options, get people to vote which ones they want.

Dan: You all now have access to the social media accounts.

Guillaume: New deal. Everything we purchase through college. Asked for the wine list; the cheapest wine is a bit more than £7. I've asked Sean if we could get our own MCR wine list that's a lot cheaper. Send the list with the invitation to guest dinner. Checked with Sean and Angela; all's well.

All: Good idea.

Guillaume: Have to see for the first term. Can I buy a box to have a sort of stock?

Tim: Fine for that to go on the budget if we're getting the money back.

Guillaume: How much budget?

Tim: £200-£300.