

AGENDA

GENERAL MEETING

ST. EDMUND HALL MCR

MCR, 8:15pm 28th February 2018

Contents

Reports from MCR Committee Members

Nominations for Guest Membership

The following individuals have been put forward as nominees for Guest Membership of the St. Edmund Hall MCR:

Ordinary Member Nominated member

Joseph Kennerley – Raisha Sheikh

Sarah Andrews – Matthew Rodger

Ollie Woodhall - Michael Schach

Opportunity to Present Charity Fund Nominations

Those who have nominated charities to receive funds from the Charity Fund shall be invited to briefly present their nominated charities to the MCR.

A – Bone Cancer Research Trust

Proposed: Edward Baker

Seconded: Oliver Woodhall

Charity dedicated to funding research into treatments for bone cancer. Charity nominated in the memory of Matt Greenwood, a member of college who tragically passed away after suffering from bone cancer.

B - Chhahari Nepal

Proposed: Marc Ewenz Rocher

“Chhahari Nepal is a small NGO in Kathmandu which aims to improve the situations in the country by providing resources to local people to develop themselves. Among others, they support a public school, a women school and an orphanage. The public teaching system in Nepal is usually unsupervised. Leading that children may finish their education without knowing how to read. Therefore, having an NGO that supervises a public school grants its students with the opportunity to join higher education institutions or to learn more qualified jobs that require basic levels knowledge. Many women in Nepal get married when are still children, thus, never finishing their education. This gap is the target of the women school, which focuses on teaching young women who never finished primary or secondary school education. Nepal has no explicit control of its population, therefore, orphans are very vulnerable since no one looks after them. The orphanages supported by this NGO are continuously inspected and controlled while they ensure that the children attend good schools and progress well in their studies.

I think that Chhahari Nepal should get the money because they will make more use of it due to the currency change, namely, 250 pounds is more than the monthly salary for a teacher in Nepal. Also, having contact with an NGO that really enjoys having volunteers can be a nice approach for the students of the hall to get an exceptional experience.”

Proposed: Naganand Saravanan

“Roshni is an NGO based on Chennai, India, which aims to help local low income women and children. It has two main branches. One is a highly effective micro financing program to help women launch their own small businesses and the other is a local school just outside the city that caters to first generation school goers. The school has under 500 students on total, and is non-profit. This means that they don’t always have the income for the best facilities and resources. , especially considering they often waive large portions of the school fees for students who cannot afford it. One of the obvious things that struck us when we went was the lack of computers, computer science and programming was being taught through purely textbooks. It seemed like a good first step and an effective avenue for more resources to fundraise for computers for the school. Our goal is £3500 so any contributions would be amazing.”

Motion A) Rowing Blades in the MCR

Proposed: Benjamin Evans

This Michaelmas the MCR it voted to donate £100 to the painting of a blade to go in the bar, however, when the three blades arrived maintenance determined that there wasn't enough space. They needed a quick decision and suggested putting one up in the JCR and one in the MCR - this seemed fair, given that each common room had agreed to pay for one (unfortunately no one was in either common room to provide a second opinion). There is also already a blade in the MCR.

The blade in the bar is the W1 - as it deserves pride of place and the MCR blade has a former MCR President on it (and the most MCR members). The JCR blade had the second most MCR members on it and also has the current MCR Vice President on it. The JCR decided that they do not want the blade - it is now in the maintenance workshops until a new place is found (this option wasn't given at the time of the blades arriving).

To add some extra decoration to the MCR it is proposed that: the blade already installed above the MCR map is kept in the MCR (it can be moved to a different location within the MCR if the MCR wants it to); the MCR adopts the matching second blade currently in storage on the adjacent wall to the MCR map wall above the sofa and charging points (just above the lights, in line with the cabling).

Motion B) Waste from College Meals

Proposed: Reza Khanzadeh

Bringing to motion the issue of our cafeteria throwing away perfectly good food rather than donating it to a soup kitchen. The MCR believes that partnering with a local homeless shelter and entering into a non-liability contract is a relatively easy and simple process to ensure that (a) we're not irresponsibly wasting food and (b) those less fortunate than us are offered some sort of assistance.

Motion C) Making Space in the MCR to accommodate for Old MCR Group Photos

Proposed: MCR Committee

Old MCR photos from previous batches were taken down in the summer of 2016 to make way for the tv and utensils racks. The MCR Committee proposes to hang/reinstate these photos in the MCR as it makes up a big part of the MCR history and shows how our community has evolved over time. The proposal is to make room for these photos by removing some of the artwork in the MCR. If the motion is passed, the MCR President will take the proposal for GPBC in Trinity term to seek approval from college

Motion D) Refunding Compulsory Charge for College Meals

Proposed: Rebecca Smith

At the end of the Trinity term, at the start of the "long vacation," our accounts are wiped from funds that have been put in for dining purposes. This cannot be reclaimed, and there is little option to eat at college during the vacation period as the college rents the dining hall out for conferencing. For many postgraduates, their life does not belong in college and they may not even live centrally in Oxford. As such, it can be difficult to dine at the college on a regular basis, or even 8 times a term. If the opportunity to purchase more expensive formal tickets does not arise, it can be difficult to spend all of this money and it seems unfair that college absorb this for unknown, and for unaccounted reasons.

The MCR believes that if the minimum amount of battels money allocated to the college for dining purposes is not spent by the end of Trinity term (at the start of the long vacation), then this money should be repaid to the student in full, without question, at the end of the academic year - e.g., student living out of college = £42 x 3 terms = £126 potential for return at the end of the academic year if no food purchased).

Any Other Business