**GENERAL MEETING**

**ST EDMUND HALL MCR**

**MCR Zoom, 7PM 25th November 2020**

Committee present: Ben White (BW, President), Julia Carver (JC, Vice President), Thijs van der Plas (TVP, Steward), Andrew Gibson (AG, Treasurer), Yana Lishkova (YL, IT Officer), Julie Hechler (JH, Welfare), Raggy Ravichandran (RR, Welfare), Caine-Lewin Turner (C-L T, Academic Rep) NSE Rep (William Moppet), David Cruz-Walma (Sports Rep)

Absent: Yana (IT Officer), Fernando Jimenez-Gallardo (FJG, Steward),

Quorum met: 19 participants

1. **Approval of minutes of last MCR General Meeting (Michaelmas 2020)**

Approved.

1. **Reports from MCR Committee Members**

BW (President):

4th year undergrads weren’t able to book on Friday and Saturday using the EPOS system, but we have saved certain spots for them. They need to email Sue McCarthy to book them on.

Flow tests: It’s basically two tetss you are given, you can take them at home, you take tests over three days, and it’s to make sure that when you go home, you’re not taking the virus with you. They asre not mandatory but encouraged.

JC (VP):

Welcoming bear memes still for the weekly notices.

Stewards:

TVP: After Christmas dinner, we will serve port in the Marquees and potentially the Old Dining Hall.

Ronnie: Who is handling Christmas Dinner? Stewards or Ben?

TVP: Ben has been mostly organizing it; we will be organizing the dessert.

AG (Treasurer):

Everything going well on Treasury; I will finally have independent access for our account. At the moment, it is a slight access issue with the funds, but hopefully next week, I will become a full-fledged member of the bank account.

For the Blues Fund, the deadline is due on Friday.

Ronnie: It has been three years since our Treasurer has been on the account, it’s been quite a long time.

AG: The previous Treasurer did not even get on the account; it’s about time.

Ronnie: Dealing with banks is never easy, I am sympathetic.

AG: It has been unnecessarily complicated.

Ronnie: And our money should not be in someone else’s name, especially when they are not a member of our college.

JH and RR (Welfare):

RR: We have a few upcomimg events, in terms of workshops, trying to get David to get on the ‘Good Lad’ workshops for sports teams. We have a sleep workshop coming soon, from the counselling service. Unfortunately we have had to put High Tea on hold due to being inundated for various Welfare issues. We have provided food to 24, currently in lockdown due to positive COVID results.

We have a small reserve of food in NSE Common Room, should other households go into lockdown, and more cars at disposal now.

JH: People have been struggling with isolation, which is understandable. There is a virtual or online resourcefor this which I will include in the next email. Just to let people know if anyone is struggling or wants to talk, they can drop us a message if they need someone to talk to.

RR: Massive thanks to James and Molly as well for lending a hand whenever they could—you guys have been amazing.

Ronnie: And congratulations to all ancillary members, including welfare people,. And I see the food drop at 24 was very much appreciated.

Will (NSE Rep):

I am happy to help with food drops, I know the past ones were appreciated.

Second concerns with scouts being required to go into 24 while they are isolating, and then going into 26 to clean; these concerns have been shared by 26 and also 17. I gather that the student view is that it isn’t right to make scouts go into areas / households that are isolating.

I understand that the College was supposed to put out communication today, but I haven’t received it yet.

BW: Charlotte should send one out, or tomorrow morning, but scouts are not coming in anymore

W: I don’t feel an open letter is necessary, but I hope that the scouts will not undergo any penalties for this, including g a reduction in wages, but as far as I’m concerned, I do not think this is happening.

NSE Brunch cannot happen this term due to COVID reasons; I hope to start this next term but it is a case of seeing the state of play and coordinating with Stewards accordingly.

Natalie Bohm: Could you repeat the situation about what the scouts have been told to do

BW: Scouts are no longer being required to clean households in isolation, but halfway through, they have to check that everyone is in one piece, but they won’t touch anything. They are caregivers so they need to check everything is okay, legally.

Natalie: I know this issue among the student who aren’t in the MCR, and do not have direct lines of communication with college. I want to make sure that we are still in direct communication with the people who are able to say if the scouts do not get their hours cut; just to monitor that this does not have a backlash.

BW: This will not have any backlash on the scouts employment-wise.

WM: I did email college expressing these concerns, and I got a pretty empty reply, really. And then I heard informally that scouts were no longer coming in, and then I received an email from Charlotte Sweeney still waiting for my opinion on the matter.

Natalie: I just wanted to make sure that you were following up with Charlotte Sweeney to ensure that there were not any negative ramification about this policy (for not cleaning isolated households).

CL-T: Is this policy now the norm for now on?

WM: I think this will be the norm; policy should be consistent. If this situation repeats, and we have to make a fuss, we will do it again.

RR: The emails we’ve seen have just made it a blanket rule.

Ronnie: If Stewards are still having their weekly Dom-Com meetings, this might be the opportunity to see someone face to face and check in.

TVP: My understanding is that COVID-related things are only being discussed in the Bronze Group.

Marcus: Was our statement from 24 impactful during discussions about it in the Bronze Meeting?

BW: Yes, more people having a stake in it discussing concerns was helpful.

Caine (Academic Rep):

Please sign up for the upcoming Academic seminar, the link was in Julia’s recent email. We have three brilliant speakers upcoming; two engineers and a philosopher. There is no room capacity given the online nature of the event. IF you have any questions or concerns, please drop me an email.

RR: Will there be food?

C L-T: Probably not, we could not think of an equitable, safe, and legitimate way to get food to various households. However, if you have any ideas, email me. I spoke to one of the Stewards, and whatever budget we get, it might be worthwhile to roll it over to next term and make next term’s event grander.

Ronnie: Is the MCR Anniversary grant still happening?

C L-T: Yes, it is still going on. There is a Week 6 deadline, but I imagine that it will be extended.

Ronnie: Although I don’t imagine most people will be applying for it during Michaelmas.

C L-T: Yes, it was mostly to fund for conferences, and this is unlikely.

Ronnie: You should consider all of the money you’ve batteled people for this term; I’ll leave it to the Committee to decide.

David Cruz-Walma (Sports Rep):

I’m in the process of getting a stash.

Ronnie: Any particular kind?

D C-W: I’m in the process of looking into this, and then asking the MCR about what type of apparel they would like. I’ve consulted with someone from the Cross Country Team, and he told me he’s done it from Shirt Works, based in Oxford. I will probably not be doing any more gym inductions this term; I’ll hold off until next term.

I also need to speak with Fernando and Ben about the Marquee and the erg sign-up list, because people are not really adhering to that.

IT Officer: Not present

**3. Nominations for Guest Membership**

No nominations for guest membership have occurred at this time.

1. **Motions for Discussion**

**🡪 Motion has been withdrawn, will be resubmitted at a later date.**

1. **Charity Nominations**

Specific details about nominations are forthcoming; the list will be sent out Wednesday evening of the GM.

1. Fernando Jiménez-Gallardo nominating DKMS Foundation

Registered charity number: England and Wales (**1150056**) Scotland (**SC046917**)

Amount requested: £500

* Nominator’s involvement with the charity (incl. potential conflicts of interest): I previously volunteered in DKMS UK during my time in London. At the moment, I am the DKMS UK Student Ambassador for the University of Oxford.
* DKMS is committed to delete blood cancers. To do this, they run various events across the UK, which include: donor recruitment and awareness events to enrol potential donors in the global registry; fundraising events such as races, concerts and theme parties among others, and participate in volunteer fairs. Their function is very important as every twenty minutes a person is diagnosed with a type of blood cancer, such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma, only in the UK. Besides, only around 30% of people with blood cancer find a matching donor within their family. Worldwide, almost 10 million donors have registered with DKMS due to the relative simplicity of the register service they provide. Donations have become more important this year for the DKMS team in the UK, as their fundraising activities have been severely impacted by Covid19.

🡪 Fernando was not present, but Amanda presented it:

Amanda: DKMS is committed to remove blood cancers, and takes action over the UK…Worldwide, almost 10 million donors have registered with DKMS. Their donations are especially important, as their funding has been cut because of COVID which has severely impacted the organization.

1. Isabel Creed nominating Beat (formerly Eating Disorders Association)

Registered charity number: England and Wales (**801343**)

Amount requested: £500

* Nominator’s involvement with the charity (incl. potential conflicts of interest): Isabel Creed is an active fundraiser and campaigner for Beat. Isabel has been to parliament to talk to MP about issues in NHS Eating Disorder services, and throughout the pandemic sent letters and had Zoom calls with MP’s from a range of political parties on the issues the pandemic is having on local services. She is also currently working with the SU and Beat on setting up training for Freshers and Welfare reps on Eating Disorders. She has done a large number of fundraising events to raise money for Beat, including running an OUWC walking event Oxford to Banbury pre-lockdown, setting up a lockdown challenge and doing a solo walking event post lockdown number 1. She is also currently setting up a campaign alongside Beat to ask the government to increase funding in Eating Disorders local services. Additionally, she is organising a big charity event for Beat and Mind to walk the entire Pennine way in summer 2021. Beat is naturally a charity close to my Isabel heart, having suffered and recovered from Anorexia Nervosa as an undergraduate a condition that almost cost her life.
* Beat provides a lifeline for sufferers and their families to call in desperate need, a service whose demand has surged as a result of the two lockdowns. They additionally offer training and campaign in parliament to get better treatment for those who suffer from an eating disorder. Christmas is a hard time for families of a sufferer of an Eating Disorder and this money could be used to help support the services over Christmas.

Isabel: Beat is a charity across the UK to help people with combatting eating disorders. I’m involved with UK campaigning and with Parliament. It’s a difficult time, as the NHS services are at kind of a breaking point. Beat is a lifeline for people who don’t have anywhere else to go. Christmas is a hard time for people suffering from eating disorders, as it is centered around food.

James: Well done Izzy with putting this forward; the hospitals are getting very overwhelmed, and it’s not really talked about in the media.

1. Rebecca Jurdon nominating the Calcutta Rescue Fund

Registered charity number: **290917**

Amount requested: £500**\***

* Nominator’s involvement with the charity (incl. potential conflicts of interest): As a medical student I first heard about their work in relation to the Aularian Dr Jack Preger MBE who has been delivering street medicine in Kolkata since 1979 and set up Calcutta Rescue in 1991. Dr Jack is an incredible alumni who has done a huge amount of incredible work throughout his life as a doctor and is a great inspiration to me. I was due to visit the charity in India to volunteer and fundraise this December with the help of the Matt Greenwood Travel fund but covid has prevented this and I would love to show the charity and Dr Jack some support from his old college.
* Calcutta Rescue provides free medical care, education and skills training for the poorest communities in and around Kolkata (Calcutta), India. Their three outpatient clinics and street medicine program provide lifesaving treatments and their work is even more challenging and vital during this pandemic. The clinics are run by local doctors and health care workers as well as international doctors who spend time volunteering in the clinics, and their work has continued through the pandemic. The most common causes of death in the slums in Kolkata are preventable and though Kolkata has an international reputation as a place of desperate poverty, the work of charities like Calcutta Rescue in helping people access health care and education play a vital part in relieving this.

**\*Nominator is requesting £500 (or £250 if for any reason the above does not count as having a member or MCR involvement)**

Rebecca: Just quickly, could you explain how the charity involvement works?

Amanda: As far as how much money, from what I can understand, it’s the “opt-in” money from your battels from the charities fund. Per academic year, you can ask for up to 500 pounds if you’re involved in the charity, and if not, up to 250 pounds.

Rebecca: It is a medical and educational charity which works to improve living standards for the community; I was due to go out at help volunteer for them in Kolkata. The reason for why I think the MCR should be interested in funding it, is because Dr. Jack, an MCR alumni. HE founded it, but now it is completely run by doctors and members of the Kolkata community. With so much being shut down in Kolkata, they were able to still provide people with medications and care.

1. Armin Heydari nominating the Centre for Effective Altruism

Registered charity number: **1149828**

Amount requested: £250

* Nominator’s involvement with the charity (incl. potential conflicts of interest): N/A
* Effective altruism tries to most effectively do good for others, usually achieved by using scientific evidence from empirical research and modelling. This brought forth organisations—such as, most prominently and a well-established authority in this field, GiveWell—gathering expertise in this research area to investigate charities’ (vastly differing) cost-effectiveness, without restrictions on causes, location, or size. GiveWell operates (without fees) their Maximum Impact Fund to bundle donations and usually quarterly give grants to most effective charities, taking into account individual funding needs to find particularly promising funding opportunities. (Most recently, in September 2020, $15.3m to the Against Malaria Foundation and $8m to the Malaria Consortium.) Pledging to this fund can therefore quite literally be the best choice, regardless of preferred causes. The Centre for Effective Altruism gives grants to this fund. (They take no fees in doing so.)

Armin: They are a UK charity tyring to improve and support effective altruism in the UK. They give money to other organizations associated with effective altruism, who are finding very effective charities, cause-neutrally to “do good”. They would donate it to GiveWell’s “maximum impact” fund, which bundles organizations’ donations and donations from individuals to give out high-impact grants when they think there is a particularly good funding opportunity. Why I think it is important for the MCR, and why effective altruism is a cause important to me, is what it really is for us to be cause-neutral and to think about and support a society that tries to employ empirical research to do as much good as possible. An example of what they did with the money over the last few years includes donations to malaria; they provided grants to highly effective charities focusing on malaria.

1. James O’Donavan nominating Elimu Health **\***

Registered charity number: **1167165**

Amount requested: £500

* Nominator’s involvement with the charity (incl. potential conflicts of interest): I am Lead Trustee of the charity.
* We work in rural Mukono, Uganda to help address the dire shortage of trained healthcare professionals in the region. Since 2016 we have partnered with the major NGO in the region (Omni Med) to train and maintain 1250 Community Health Workers (CHWs) across 12 districts. CHWs are lay people, who live and work in their local villages and receive training to deliver basic health services, especially those related to some of the major killers of children under 5-such as diarrhoea, malaria and pneumonia. We work closely with the Ministry of Health and the District Health Office of Mukono to ensure our efforts contribute to an overall health systems strengthening approach. With previous monies we have received from the MCR we have purchased de-worming tablets, Vitamin A tablets, sanitary pads, helped to establish an ear screening programme, and contributed to COVID-19 prevention strategies (https://www.statnews.com/2020/03/28/community-health-workers-lead-covid-19-fight-uganda/). We aim to use the funds to support training CHWs to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine in 2021.

**\*Charity reporting is 24 days late** (<https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/5080652>) -- report has been submitted, and is awaiting an update on the charity commission website (delay in charity commission updating)

James: We are a charity working primarily in Uganda. Thanks to Rebecca and Freddie, and to you guys for our last donation. We’ve established, for example, COVID initiatives, and a vaccine delivery program in the last week. Just to say thanks again for all of the donations you’ve given; the work got picked up by Boston Globe, and that piece reached Chris Elias in the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, which has helped us to broaden our initiatives to Liberia and other regions. Just a quick apology; we submitted our charity reporting late, but we’ve been run off our feet working (I’ve been working in the hospital and actually suspended my DPhil for six months to continue this work).

Ronnie: Regarding charities, Amanda will set up the poll for voting in the coming days, she will send out instructions for this. If minutes can be put up on the website, that would be great.

BW: Yes, she has access to it now, so they should be put up soon.

Ronnie: And there was issues with people being removed from the MCR guest list?

JC: Yes, some people were accidentally removed in the course of ‘cleaning up the lists’. There was also some difficulties with ascertaining who should be on the lists, as the list I had was not fully updated, and I was being notified about people’s removal when they were not on the list in the first place. They have since been added back, although this might be somewhat of an ongoing issue, but we are working it out.

1. **Any other business**

* **Next GM is in Week 2 of Hillary Term 2021.**