



# Sunday 18th October 2009

## Agenda

1. Apologies for absence or lateness
2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests
3. Approval of the presence and speaking rights of guests
4. Approval of the order of the agenda
5. Reading by the secretary on request by any member, amendment if necessary and approval of the minutes of any previous Open Meeting not yet accepted by an Open Meeting.
6. Matters Arising from the minutes
7. Reports from the Committee
8. Questions to the Committee
9. Extraordinary Motions
10. Ordinary Motions
  - a) New Men's Boat
  - b) Rowing Club Budget Reallocation
  - c) JCR Renovation
  - d) Robinson Chess Club
  - e) Freecycle Box
11. Any other RCSA business

4. That RCBC cannot independently fund the acquisition of a new boat from its savings due to the lack of sponsorship since 2007 and to the removal of the allocation of a depreciation fund in the budget by the RCSA.
5. That the total cost of the new boat is at a discounted price arranged with the supplier and the type of boat is the cheapest to ensure good quality and low repair costs.

### RCSA Believes:

1. That purchasing a new boat will be more effective than continually repairing the current men's boat which has already depreciated to less than half its original value.
2. That the new boat will improve training for all levels of boat club members as the boats are passed down.
3. That the alternative option of securing a loan from college is not viable as it would increase annual budgets requests from the RCBC. This would reduce the funds available annually for all other clubs and societies.

### RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £9000 from reserves to go towards the new men's eight.

*Proposed: Francesca Kapfer-Gill*

*Seconded: Steve Fuller*

---

## Ordinary Motions

- a) New Men's Boat

***THIS MOTION REQUIRES TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS***

### RCSA Notes:

1. That the current men's first boat is over six years old and is no longer fit for the intensity of the men's training.
2. That a new men's first boat is needed which will cost £15,967.58.
3. That RCBC will put £6967.58, made up of savings and donations from alumni and the sale of the old boat, towards the purchase of the new men's boat.

- b) Rowing Club Budget Reallocation

### RCSA Notes:

1. That the RCBC currently has £864.14 unclaimed from the 2008/09 budget.
2. That the £331.94 allocated under equipment/repairs/refits will not be enough to repair the single 'Tiger'.
3. That footplates and back-stays need replacing.
4. That the number of races being entered this term has not yet been finalised and so the

remaining £198.00 cannot be totally reallocated.

5. That RCBC is NOT asking for more money, just that the money remaining should be reallocated so as to pay for necessary repairs.

**RCSA Believes:**

1. That the nature of RCBC expenditure requires a degree of estimation in the proposed budget.
2. That money allocated by the RCSA should be put to a use that will benefit students and amendments to the proposed budget may need to be considered for this to occur.

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. To allow RCBC to allocate the current unspent funds of £864.15 to a single allocation for race fees, equipment, repairs and refits.

*Proposed: Francesca Kapfer-Gill*

*Seconded: Steve Fuller*

c) JCR Refurbishment

***THIS MOTION REQUIRES TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS***

**RCSA Notes:**

1. The RCSA has sufficient reserve funds to support the redecoration/refurbishment of the Junior Combination Room (JCR).

**RCSA Believes:**

1. The JCR is a resource that all members should be able to benefit from, as outlined in the attached Report.
2. Funds from reserves could be used to improve the JCR and the potential benefits of this resource to members, thus bettering the recreational, intellectual or social value of the JCR to RCSA members.
3. Large scale renovation of the JCR will take a long time, but it would be beneficial to begin

work during the term of the current Committee.

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. To allocate the sum of £9300 as detailed in the attached Report to the refurbishment of the JCR.
2. To accept that the JCR may be closed for approximately a week during the middle part of Michaelmas Term in order to carry out renovations, but that the Red Brick Café, now open until 9pm, provides a suitable alternative for that week.
3. To mandate the President, the Chair, the Treasurer and the Catering and Amenities Officer and any other interested RCSA Committee Members, as part of the JCR Renovations Sub-Committee, to deliver on the Renovation plans outlined in the attached Report, as far as they can before the end of their term in office.

*Proposed: Rahul Mansigani*

*Seconded: Rob Beagrie*

d) Robinson Chess Club

**RCSA Notes:**

1. That the Robinson chess club ceased activities a few years ago.
2. The college still has all the old boards and pieces etc in the Porter's lodge

**RCSA Believes:**

1. That the college has enough players to warrant reforming the society
2. The college has the opportunity to enter a team in the inter-college league
3. It would be worthwhile to run a friendly chess club at suitable times regularly

**RCSA Resolves:**

1. To officially restart the Chess Society, bound by the constitution of the RCSA
2. To open the society to all members of Robinson College

3. The RCCC will adopt the schedules as its initial constitution, and responsibility for any changes to be given to a democratically elected committee.
4. To provide £10 to cover the cost of admission into the University inter-college league

*Proposed: Pete Hallen*

*Seconded: Simon Taylor*

#### e) Freecycle Box

##### RCSA notes

1. Freecycle (formally freecycle) is a popular website whereby people can get rid of unwanted but still usable items (e.g clothes/furniture/technology/books/CDs)
2. There's room in the JCR for a box in which unwanted items could be left for others to have

##### RCSA believes

1. People may have unwanted things in college
2. Rather than throw them away, they could be reused by other members in college.
3. People like free things

##### RCSA Resolves

1. A college 'freecycle' should be set up in the JCR
2. Unwanted (but still usable) items would be left in the box for others to pick up
3. There would be no charge for taking items from the box
4. Anything left in the box by the end of each term could be taken by the JCR Green Officer to a local charity shop

*Proposed: Amy Woolloff - got all that junk inside her trunk*

*Seconded: Duncan Stibbard Hawkes - Verges on verdant*

# Addendum

## JCR Renovation

- In comparison to other colleges' JCRs, Robinson's is significantly dated; we believe that the room is under-utilised because of this.
- A modernised JCR will provide an alternative to remaining outside and causing disruption to others who wish to sleep; it will also be a better option than moving to people's rooms and disrupting their neighbours.
- It would also provide a more improved informal place to work in a group: many subjects require group discussion. Sometimes rooms are not available for easy booking.
- Many students agree that they would spend more time in the JCR were it to be improved.
- The café has proved very popular; we believe that we can follow through the improvement using similar design ideas.
- The College makes use of the JCR, especially during interview season and open days, where it often forms a first impression of college. We believe that improving this facility will benefit the image of college to such students.

### Planned dates:

- We are planning on the renovation taking place during the Michaelmas Term, providing that students will be prepared to forego use of the JCR during the renovation period.

**This was not requested at the Budget Meeting as plans to renovate had not been considered yet.**

### Costs

***While the total cost of £9300 is accepted as a maximum, the costs within it are only estimates and will depend on fluctuating prices and availability of goods and services.***

-	General	
○	Painting:	£250
○	Lighting:	£500
○	Curtains:	£500
○	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>£1150</b>
-	Furniture and Equipment	
○	Tables and Desk:	£800
○	Chairs and Sofas:	£4500
○	Cabinet:	£250
○	Television:	£1500
○	Shelving:	£100
○	Miscellaneous:	£900
○	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>£8050</b>
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>£9300</b>

## **Treasurer's report to the RCSA regarding the funding for the purchase of a new Men's Eight**

The RCBC are requesting £9000 from the RCSA reserves to go solely towards the purchase of a new men's eight. The current first boat, *Laura*, is over six years old and no longer fit for the intensity of the men's training. Due to its age, the continual repairs and refits necessary to keep it in good condition are no longer financially viable so we propose to sell our oldest boat, *Bill Nolan*, and put the funds towards the purchase of the new eight. The RCBC will also be using its own savings and donations from alumni but cannot cover the total cost of the new boat. This deficiency in RCBC savings is due primarily to the lack of sponsorship since 2007 and is also a result of the RCSA removing the allocation in the budget for a depreciation fund.

The total cost of the new boat (£15,967.58) is a discounted price arranged with the supplier and we have opted for the cheapest boat which is nevertheless of good quality and whose repair costs will be low. In the long term it is more cost effective to buy a boat now than wait for a few years, during which *Laura* will have to be completely refitted and reskinned and will lose even more value due to depreciation.

As the biggest Robinson student society, we believe that this request is not unreasonable considering that over a third of Robinson members use the boat club facilities. Furthermore, having a new boat will not only benefit the members of the men's first boat but all members of the boat club at all levels as boats are passed down. The new boat will be in use as a first boat for at least six years, and will see hard regular use (approximately five sessions a week) by about twenty different students each year. After these six years, it will be passed down to the second boat where it will be used to train novices, of which the current mens intake is about thirty per year and thus will be used for the rest of the year by lower boats where the numbers are around twenty a year. The boat will remain in use by the club for at least eighteen years, hence the need for a good quality boat.

This motion has not been brought forward at the budget meeting for the simple reason that it does not concern the budget. We are asking for the £9000 from *reserves* so as to ensure other clubs and societies are not negatively affected by the boat club requesting money from the limited budget allowance from college. Should this motion not be passed, the Boat club will have to take a loan from college which will lead to the RCBC requesting increases in its annual budget allowance from the RCSA to repay this. This will negatively impact on all other clubs and societies by reducing the funds available for them.

This boat purchase is also part of a long term financial plan that will allow us to purchase a new boat for the women in three years time, which would benefit the women's side of the club in exactly the same way as this purchase will benefit the men as outlined above.