

RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday October 18th - 5:00pm JCR

1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Apologies for lateness were received from Grace Parker and James Kemp.

2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests

There were no guests.

3. Approval of the presence and speaking rights of guests

There were no guests.

4. Approval of the order of the agenda

John Crook (JC) moved the item involving JCR Renovation to the beginning 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.

The minutes of the previous open meeting were approved.

6. Matters Arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

7. Reports from the Committee

a) Annual Budget Meeting

Barnaby Mollet (BM) announced that the RCSA Budget meeting would be held on either the 7th or the 8th of November. Societies with bank accounts must publish these on the boards in the JCR at least 4 days before the meeting. All societies will need to submit their detailed budgets for November 1st. A pre-budget meeting will be held with society captains during the following week. All spending for this year must be claimed from the 08/09 by the beginning of the budget meeting, otherwise they will be recovered as 'unspent'.

b) Freshers' Week

Rahul Mansigani thanked Jamie Beeching and the Ents Officers for their efforts before and during Freshers' Week

8. Questions to the Committee

There were no questions.

9. Extraordinary Motions

There were no extraordinary motions.

10. Ordinary Motions

a) 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:

2. The JCR is a resource that all members should be able to benefit from, as outlined in the attached Report.
3. 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.
4. 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:

5. To allocate the sum of £9300 as detailed in the attached Report to the refurbishment of the JCR.
6. 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.
7. 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

RM introduced the motion. He said that the motion had been passed last year in principle, and at that time we had said that we would bring a second motion with more specific figures. The RCSA have enough money to fund this renovation without college assistance, and renovations to the JCR affect all students. The attached report asks for £9300 from reserves, and the RCSA aim to get the work done within their term of office, although this will depend on maintenance's schedule. If anyone had any questions or suggestions they should let Barnaby, Rahul or John know.

Lewis Hemens (LH) Noted that £1500 had been allocated for a new TV. Was RM planning to purchase something particularly big? RM replied that he was. Trinity had recently got a really big tv, and we should try to make sure we are on an equal footing in at least one area. Alex Massey, asked if we could perhaps get a projector instead? RM said there would be opportunities to get involved in the purchasing process, and he was prepared to put Alex in charge of the TV if he wanted. Mark Willis (MW) asked BM how much was in the reserves? BM replied around £55,000.

JC invited the meeting to vote on motion a).

For: 44

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Motion a) duly passed.

b) New Men's Boat

THIS MOTION REQUIRES TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

8. 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.
9. That a new men's first boat is needed which will cost £15,967.58.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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:

13. 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.
14. That the new boat will improve training for all levels of boat club members as the boats are passed down.
15. 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:

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

Proposed: Francesca Kapfer-Gill

Seconded: Steve Fuller

Francesca Kapfer-Gill (FKG) said that the RCBC needed to replace Bill Nolan. It was not financially viable to keep repairing the boat. They were planning on getting a new boat every three years, and every member of the boat club would benefit as the boats will be passed down. All of the reasons were also detailed in the report. Hannis Whittam asked if the RCBC wanted to buy a new boat every three years, would they be asking for this kind of money again in 3 years time? FKG responded that the RCBC were currently looking for sponsorship, and that this situation had arisen because the RCSA had stopped allowing the boat club to add budget money to a depreciation fund. LH asked how long it had been since the RCBC had had a sponsor and how hard they were trying to find one. Steve Fuller replied that sponsorship had ceased in 2007. BM said that he had talked to the finance bursar and he had said that after this one off contribution the college would try to set up a depreciation fund for boats that does not go through the RCSA, so that this situation should not arise again. He strongly encouraged FKG to go and speak to him. Dave Bewicke (DB) asked if this allocation would take the reserves below the £40,000 cut off point for college filling them back up? BM replied that it would, but college will no longer allow us to keep any of the reserves and thus this limit was irrelevant. BM asked if there could be a poll to name the new boat? FKG replied that there could not, as there was a list of boat names taken from those of old blades. JC invited the meeting to vote on motion b).

For: 47
Abstain: 11
Against: 0

Motion b) duly passed.

c) Rowing Club Budget Reallocation

RCSA Notes:

17. That the RCBC currently has £864.14 unclaimed from the 2008/09 budget.
18. That the £331.94 allocated under equipment/repairs/refits will not be enough to repair the single 'Tiger'.
19. That footplates and back-stays need replacing.
20. That the number of races being entered this term has not yet been finalised and so the remaining £198.00 cannot be totally reallocated.
21. 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:

22. That the nature of RCBC expenditure requires a degree of estimation in the proposed budget.
23. 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:

24. 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*

FKG said that the RCBC still had some money left from the budget, but they have a scull to repair and this is not feasible under the current allocation. They would like one new allocation for both race fees and repairs so that they would not have to ask for another reallocation when they found out how much they needed to pay in race fees. BM asked where the values for allocations given in the motion came from? FKG said they were the current values minus outstanding claims. JC invited the meeting to vote on motion c).

For: 52
Abstain: 2
Against: 0

Motion c) duly passed.

d) Robinson Chess Club

RSCA Notes:

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

RCSA Believes:

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

RCSA Resolves:

30. To officially restart the Chess Society, bound by the constitution of the RCSA
31. To open the society to all members of Robinson College
32. The RCCC will adopt the schedules as its initial constitution, and responsibility for any changes to be given to a democratically elected committee.
33. To provide £10 to cover the cost of admission into the University inter-college league

Proposed: Pete Hallen

Seconded: Simon Taylor

Pete Hallen (PH) said that the Chess Club had already held a couple of informal meetings, and were confident of a good side this year. Simon Taylor (ST) added that the club have all the old boards, all they required was league fees. PH noted that this motion requested slightly less money than the previous ones. LH asked who was in charge of the Chess Club? ST was the captain, but PH and ST had not discussed who was the official head of the society. JC suggested the motion be incorporated to name PH and ST co-captains. DB said that leadership of the society should be decided by a vote of the chess players, not at an RCSA Open Meeting. BM proposed that the motion be amended to give PH and ST co-responsibility. The amendment was accepted. JC invited the meeting to vote on motion d).

For: 53

Abstain: 2

Against: 0

Motion d) duly passed

e) Freecycle Box

RCSA notes

34. 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)
35. There's room in the JCR for a box in which unwanted items could be left for others to have

RCSA believes

36. People may have unwanted things in college
37. Rather than throw them away, they could be reused by other members in college.
38. People like free things

RCSA Resolves

39. A college 'freecycle' should be set up in the JCR
40. Unwanted (but still usable) items would be left in the box for others to pick up
41. There would be no charge for taking items from the box
42. 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

Amy Woolloff (AW) said that Freecycle was a site where you could get free stuff over the internet. We could have a box in the JCR where you can dump things you don't want any more, then other people could take that stuff if they wanted it to reduce waste. Robin Lawther (RL) asked how we would make sure that people won't just dump rubbish. AW said that she would take any unclaimed items to a charity shop at the end of term. Rob Beagrie pointed out that this would actually be the responsibility of the next green officer, and would need to be made clear to them before they ran for office. LH suggested a list of permissible items for the box. AW said ok. ST asked if we could send out an email about what's in the box. AW replied that if it were an email list it would be a bit too much admin, and she didn't want to spam anyone. Ewan McGregor suggested a list in the JCR, so that items that were available would be written on a single piece of paper. AW agreed. MW disagreed. He said that the box would avoid the awkwardness of having to go to someone's room to collect the item. BM suggested a sign saying don't put any junk in this trunk might be appropriate. DB proposed a referendum to decide the list/box issue. JC suggested an indicative vote. This was taken and the box won. JC invited the meeting to vote on motion e).

For: 33

Abstain: 1

Against: 1

Motion e) duly passed.

11. Any other RCSA business?

JC announced that there would be May Ball presidential elections on Thursday. He had not received any nominations as yet, but they would be open until midnight on Tuesday, with hustings on Wednesday. He stressed that the role of president was extremely important so advised people to take an interest and get keen.

JC thanked the freshers for coming to the meeting and hoped they would be back next time.