

RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday 17th October 2010-7pm, JCR

1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Apologies from Dan Jackson (DJ), Tanuj Bhojwani (TB) and Rosalyn Old (RO)

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

Duncan Stibbard Hawkes requested that motion a) goes first. In support of this motion, he said that he was not a fan of the alphabet as it currently stands. Niall Browne pointed out that it would spell fab.

Andy Aitken (AA) spoke against the proposal saying that people had planned their lives around it.

Rob Beagrie (RB) invited the meeting to vote:

For: 16

Against: 8

Abstain: 2

The proposal passed, motion f will go first.

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 previous minutes.

7. Reports from the Committee

AA said that the gym has arrived and is up and running. Inductions will take place this week and next. Ewan McGregor (EM) asked if weights room inductions would be happening this

term. AA said that he is not in charge of it and EM should talk to the plodge. If you have already been inducted then it is fine. Michael Baxby (MBa) asked how long it is valid for. AA said it would be fine.

NB announced that the budget meeting will be held on Sunday the 7th of November, in 3 weeks. NB will send information out in the next week about what to do if applying for money. It will be the same time as last year, at 2 o'clock, probably in the JCR.

8. Questions to the Committee

Dan Green (DG) asked when the elections will be. RB said the may ball elections should hopefully be tomorrow. The elections for chair and president will be in the week after the budget meeting, probably the Thursday but this has not been finalised.

9. Ordinary Motions

f) Boat

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. Despite having over 50 members, with half the freshers signing up for novice rowing, the boat club only has one single and no pairs or other small boats.
2. Most other colleges with which Robinson compete own at least several small boats to aid with their training.
3. There is still a large amount of RCSA reserves unspent, which should go towards something that will benefit a large proportion of the Robinson community.

RCSA Believes:

1. Training in small boats is an integral part of learning to row properly.
2. Owning another single or pair would greatly enhance RCBC's ability to compete effectively on the river.
3. Buying such a boat would benefit the entire boat club, as anyone would be able to use it, not just one particular crew.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £1500 from the RCSA reserves in order to buy a pair for the boat club.
(See Addendum)

Proposed Chris 'On a boat' Oulton

Seconded Andy 'Also on a boat' Aitken

AA said we have a new captain called Chris Oulton (CO). We would like £1500 to try and buy a pair for the boat club. There are lots of competitions for smaller boats which they would like to take part in.

CO said that they were asking for a pair as every year they compete with colleges that are much better. You can improve in a pair in a way that is impossible to do in an 8. They have one single which until this week was broken. This boat would make a huge difference. They are getting the single fixed from budget money. 50 freshers signed up for novices. They will make sure they get a pair of the right size so can be used by everyone. Anyone wants to use it will be able to use it.

Arun Niranjana (AN) said that beginners need to improve their timing and this is best done in an 8. AN asked if it was for everyone or just for M1 and W1. MBa said that a pair is better for timing. CO said that it is useful for timing, but the novices won't be using the pair this term as they will just capsize.

Hannis Whittan (HW) asked why if the novices won't use it, they can't wait and put it in the budget. CO said it was because the small boat competitions are mostly this term and Easter term.

Michael Boyle (MBo) asked if 50 people signing up is realistic, as he is still getting boatie emails. Chris O'Beirne (COB) said that 30 freshers had gone out this year. Tobias Paul (TP) asked when the boat would be available. CO said that if they got the money now it would be delivered in two weeks. AA said that insurance would take a day. MB asked the executive to clarify the reserves situation. NB said there is a good amount of money but it needs to be spent. HW said he was confused as to why this wasn't budgeted for if one has not worked for the last few years. He asked how they didn't know this time last year that this might be a problem.

CO said that he rowed at school, where they used smaller boats whereas other captains had not rowed at school and were not used to them. Lana Whittaker (LJW) asked if it might not be used in years to come if captains had no experience. CO said that the rowers will see the benefit of the pair. The new captain will become part of it and will therefore know about small boats.

TP asked where the addendum was for this motion. LJW pointed out that it was at the end of the agenda, under the heading 'report for new boat'.

RB invited the meeting to vote on motion f)

For:23

Against: 7

Abstain: 11

Motion f) duly passed.

a) Table Tennis

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. Robinson College had 2 table tennis teams in the University leagues last year.
2. Robinson is a successful table tennis college, and would like to continue to enter 2 teams each year.
3. Entering a table tennis team to the University league costs just £6 p/ year.

RCSA Believes:

1. Robinson should be able to continue to play table tennis competitively, and not charge college members for doing so.
2. Robinson now possesses high table tennis talent due to Freshers this year being particularly skillful/keen, as such Robinson could compete strongly in Table Tennis leagues this year.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate Robinson College Table Tennis Club £12 to enter 2 teams into the college league this year.

Proposed: Owen 'King Kong of Ping Pong' Jones

Seconded: Robert 'Second teams don't warrant nicknames' Ashcroft

Owen Jones (OJ) said that there are two table tennis teams in Robinson. It costs £6 per team to enter the league, so they need £12.

Daniel Dyer (DD) asked why if they spent £12 last year, the previous captain didn't put it in this budget. OJ said he didn't know why, but maybe she paid with her own money or they had a whip round.

NB asked when they have to pay as they could wait three weeks. OJ said he is happy to do it. He will have to pay at some point this term.

RB invited the meeting to vote on motion a)

For: 40

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Motion a) duly passed.

b) Chess

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. The Robinson chess team did fairly well in the league last year
2. Entry fees for this year are £20
3. Due to the closing date having already passed the captain (Simon Taylor) paid out of his own pocket

RCSA Believes:

1. The captain should not have to pay

RCSA Resolves:

1. To reimburse the captain for the league fees

Proposed: Simon 'en passant' Taylor

Seconded: Pete 'Timelord' Hallen

Simon Taylor (ST) said that the fees seems to vary widely and they demand that all fees are paid by next Monday. He could sort this properly at budget meeting but fees vary fees so it would be a rough estimate.

RB invited the meeting to vote on motion b):

For: 39

Against: 3

Abstain: 0

Motion b) duly passed.

c) Weights Room

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. The weights room in College has two speaker systems, neither of which you can plug an iPod into
2. The weights room has a clock with no second hand.
3. It is nice to listen to music in the weights room
4. It is good to be able to time yourself in the weights room by the second.

RCSA Believes:

1. We should buy a clock with a second hand
2. We should buy some speakers that work and have a way of plugging other music players into them

3. RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £10 from the open meeting budget for the purchase of a clock with a big second hand

2. To allocate £30 from the open meeting budget for the purchase of some speakers
3. To mandate the catering and amenities officer to buy these items

Proposed: Andy 'The Situation' Aitken

Seconded: Simon 'The Procedure' Bushell

AA said that there is a weights room in car park which is not ours, but we get to use it for free. In there is a clock with no second hand. It is useful to have one with second hand so we can see when a minute is up. There are old speakers in there, but the radio is not very good as it is in an underground car park. It would be good to have some speakers or another system to plug an mp3 into.

Nick Skehin (NS) asked if the speakers are good. AA said no. TP questioned the allocation of money for the clock. He said a clock can be bought from Marks and Spencers for £5. He suggested that the motion should be amended. AA said that he wanted to make sure he got a clock with quite a big second hand. AA said he was happy to spend as little as possible. RB said that we are fine for the budget. RB asked TP if he still wanted to amend the motion. TP said yes.

RB invited the meeting to vote:

For: 1

Against: lots

The proposed amendment did not pass.

MBa said that as it is not owned by the RCSA, is there any way to make sure it remains and the property is not damaged. AA said that stuff never goes missing from there. HW said that if we put paper next to it saying treat it nicely then they will. Tom O'Hanlon (TO) said to attach it to the wall would be a waste as the attachment would cost as much as the speakers.

RB invited the meeting to vote on motion c):

For: 39

Against: 1

Abstain: 3

Motion c) duly passed

d) Pool/Darts

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. That the College bar or JCR currently have no pool cues with proper tips.

2. That people struggle to play pool well with broken cues.
3. Pool is a successful college sport and popular bar pastime.
4. There has been confusion in recent RCSA meetings over whose responsibility it is to fund pool in college - the RCSA or the bar.
5. Pool cues really are quite cheap to buy.
6. The College bar also has no darts
7. Last academic year there were only two plastic ones, one of which had to be held together with tape and other had a bent tip, making playing extremely difficult and not fun
8. At least 3, or preferably 6 darts (1 or 2 sets) are needed to play a head to head match
9. Darts is also a successful college sport, with Robinson the only college with two teams while most have none, and many of the University's top ranked players (e.g. David Dempster and Adam Eales) competing for college
10. Darts are even cheaper to buy than pool cues

RCSA Believes:

1. That people should be able to use proper pool cues if they pay 50p for a game
2. Having good pool cues will encourage members of college to join the pool teams and improve their skills.
3. Darts is free to play, but very few people own their own darts, and members of college should not have to in order to play

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate the Robinson College Pool Club £40 to purchase 4 new cues.
2. 2 cues will be placed in the JCR, and the other 2 in the bar.
3. To allocate the Robinson College Darts Society £20 to purchase 4 new sets of darts
4. Two will be left by the board, while two will be kept behind the bar for spares

Proposed: Owen 'mini Swindon' Jones

Seconded: Charlie 'Always Checks out early' Richards

OJ said that anyone who has tried to play pool knows that the cues are rubbish. He is requesting £40 to buy brand new cues and the darts captain is requesting two sets of darts- one to be kept there and the other behind the bar as a spare.

DG asked if it was new tips or cues that were being replaced. OJ said cues. HW asked if it is worth buying ones without replaceable tips. OJ said that you can buy tips ones that go on. HW asked if it was not worth investing more for screw in ones. OJ suggests just cheaper ones.

ST said that there is a high turnover of disappearing cues. OJ said they would be kept in the JCR. Out of regular hours they will be kept behind the bar if people want to play in

the day. HW suggested that might not be happen. OJ said Simon was on the team so it should be fine. RB said that the motion allocates the money to the club, so it is up to them. James Pacey (JP) asked if the company that maintains the tables might be able to get more cues. JP suggested that the motion should be amend to check first. OJ agreed to this amendment.

MBa said that the problem with the darts and cues is the way in which they are stored means they become damaged. He suggested should money should be spent to improve storage. OJ said that there is a stand but people don't use it. HW asked if it was worth amending it to add a bit of money to get a stand in the JCR. OJ can go back and find out before the next meeting. RB said that the amendment was for this meeting. AA said that stands cost £10. The motion was amended to add a resolves 5: To purchase a stand for the cues to the value of £10.

RB invited the meeting to vote on motion d)

For: 37

Against: 0

Abstain: 3

Motion d) passed.

e) Treadmill

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS.

RCSA Notes:

1. A gym arrived in College on Monday morning and Andy has spent the week putting it together
2. At the moment the gym has a rowing machine and a cross trainer
3. We also wanted to buy a treadmill
4. The treadmill we originally wanted to purchase was not of a suitable quality to be used in college on a regular basis and the most suitable one costs more

RCSA Believes:

1. We should still buy the treadmill
2. We should allocate some money from the reserves to pay for it

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate a further £700 from the reserves to buy a high quality treadmill for the Gym
2. To mandate the catering and amenities officer to buy a treadmill and assemble it
(see Addendum)

Proposed: Andy 'Pandy Pudding and Pie' Aitken

Seconded: Duncan 'Overspent' Stibbard Hawkes

AA said that a cross trainer and rowing machine had been bought for the gym and inductions will be going ahead. £1300 is still allocated for a treadmill. The one they wanted to buy won't be under warranty as it will be used on commercial premises. The cheapest one with a warranty is another £700. This has already been voted for in principal and has gone through JLC.

MBa said that the problem with treadmills is that they use so much power so they wear themselves out. The idea of having a gym is helpful, but given that there is a running track 500m away it might be a better idea to buy another piece of equip. AA said that people wanted a treadmill when they asked. DG asked what equipment there was. AA said a cross trainer and rowing machine. Harshil Raisinghani (HR) asked that if it costs £700 which is half the cost of the new one, does the warranty include all breakages? AA said that he, DSH and NB thought that it would be best to get one covered by warranty. HR said that AA should make sure what is covered. DG asked how long the warranty was. AA said three years.

EM asked if this was extendable. AA said that even if it is 60 days, it can be done at the next open. TP asked if the additional money was for warranty only. AA no, the treadmill is a higher quality so higher piece.

RB invited the meeting to vote on motion e):

For: 28

Against: 1

Abstain: 10

Motion e) passed.

g) Browne Review

RCSA Notes:

1. The Browne review on higher education in England has suggested removing the cap on tuition fees.
2. This concurs with a £4.2bn cut in government spending on English universities as part of the comprehensive spending review.
3. This will leave English universities no choice but to greatly increase their fees, causing students to incur greater debt whilst pursuing their degrees.

RCSA Believes:

1. The increase in student debt suggested by the review would discourage prospective students from applying to university, with this especially affecting Cambridge.

2. If Robinson is to continue to academically compete at the highest levels it must continue to receive the best students from all backgrounds.
3. The review would undermine what has been achieved by Access programmes in both Robinson and the university.
4. Giving talented students access to tertiary education is beneficial to society as whole.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To endorse the CUSU and NUS campaigns against the proposals, including:
 - a) holding MPs to account over pledges made on tuition fees during the general election,
 - b) encouraging attendance at the NUS national demonstration in London on the 10th of November.
2. To pressurise the college to ensure no students are barred from study here due to debt or financial pressure.

Proposed: Michael "Give Teach A Chance!" Boyle

Seconded: Duncan "Social Morbidity" Stibbard Hawkes

MBo said that the review suggested removing the cap on tuition fees. Along with the cuts of money being spent on education, the cost of going to university will go up dramatically. This will discourage people from applying, especially to universities with stigmas, such as Oxford or Cambridge. Most people won't be against opposing the Browne review but rather the RCSA becoming involved. MBo said that it is important as student unions have credit and it is therefore very important that our voices are heard. MBo said we should show solidarity with CUSU and NUS.

TP said that:

- 1) As it has not yet been published it cannot be definitive.
- 2) The general principal requires the association to endorse opposition, but:
 - a) The report addresses long overdue maintenance issues for part time students and we should endorse this.
 - b) The RCSA should limit their role to that of facilitating individuals who wish to contribute.

MBo accepted the first amendment, but not the others.

DG said that CUSU were against the cuts, not the rest. NS said that the Browne review is about funding, not cuts. RB said that we don't have a point of information system. TP said that the constitution says that point of information can be used. RB said that it says that they must ask the chair first. It is not good when people start talking. TP still wants to challenge the ruling.

RB said that as NB was the next-most high ranking member of the RCSA he must take the chair for the next bit.

NB asked the meeting to vote:

For: 38

Against: 2

Abstain: 1

RB remains chair.

TP said that he was challenging the ruling rather than the motion.

RB said that now we have to vote on the 2 amendments.

- 1) Continue to support extra funding for part time students.

For: 7

Against:1

Abstain:

The amendment doesn't pass.

- 2) RCSA resolves to facilitate any steps individual members take to support CUSU and NUS. MBo offered a speech against this, saying that we need to do more than facilitate. We are the student body, speak with more force.

For:2

Against: lots

The amendment does not pass.

ST said that it is about the review, but cuts will come soon so this ten minutes have been voting about cuts. DG said that this is really important as it is going to remove access to university and students will leave with a £50,000 deb. It will acts as a barrier to education, especially for subjects which might not lead to high-paid jobs, and therefore students won't be able to justify attending. It is important that we do endorse as a student body. It needs to be clear that we are united and supporting.

Tom Grimble (TG) said that he hasn't read the review in full and isn't up on the position of CUSU and NUS. He said that it needs to be clear. DG said that CUSU were focussing on the removal of the cap, so students can charge what they would like.

The objections are to the barriers it will form as different institutions will be able to charge different fees. There will be no more money for bursaries as there is a section in the review saying that the money will be spent on road shows for access.

RB invited the meeting to vote on motion g)

For: 36

Against:1

Abstain:4

Motion g) passed.