

R.C.S.A. Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday 5 pm, 29th January 2012, JCR

1. Apologies for absence or lateness

Catherine Mansfield, Lotte Reinbold (both due to Choir)
Hannah Cowan (late due to a mental health meeting)
Bryn Pickering (jailbreak)

2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests

There were no guests.

3. Approval of the presence and speaking rights of guests

Unnecessary as there were no guests.

4. Approval of the order of the agenda

The order was approved.

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.

There were no amendments.

6. Matters Arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

7. Reports from the Committee

Mary Hughes (MH): The new board games I was asked to buy are now in the JCR and behind the board. Fridges in the trunk room have been removed and work is in progress in removing the one from the RCSA office. I've also talked to people about the bar and to the catering committee. They said that the bar takings are going down and if it was a commercial bar then it would have shut already. Most of the money comes from the café which has much bigger takings, so this is why the bar looks more like the café as that is the most profitable part of the business. Lights are going to be made less annoying as people get better at using the settings and can be put on non-coloured settings when people want. They have also stated that the booths are NOT coming back. The actual seating capacity will be the same as it was before once a couple of the bar stools which are currently being refurbished. With regards to the complaint that sitting together is now more problematic this is true on the raised stage but should be as easy as before in the main part of the bar. Maintenance will be putting the oars back up when they have time and the quiz machine is being moved out of the way of the pool table. The shelf by the pool table should no longer be a problem as the pool table has been moved slightly and was in the wrong place before. The wood colour is different from the main part of college because it is hard to find the original colour and is also expensive; similarly it's a difficult colour to stain so that's why they chose something different.

Peter Judge (PJ): The open meeting budget for today is £150 and due to a miscommunication the actual amount in the RCSA reserves is £28,764 not the amount previously stated.

8. Questions to the Committee

Dan Green (DG): Can we get a list of board games put up somewhere.

MH: Yes

9. Extraordinary Motions

None.

10. Ordinary motions

a) Netball Budget reallocation

RCSA Notes:

1. The captain of netball was unaware that spending in excess of individual spending categories, but within the society's cumulative spending allocation, is prevented by the Finance section of the RCSA constitution.
2. The previous captain of netball spent money allocated for court hire and equipment on kit.
3. In order to reimburse the previous captain of netball for her expenditure an open meeting motion is required under article 65b of the RCSA constitution.

RCSA Believes:

1. Reallocating funds will allow RCSA to function without incurring any financial cost to any of its members or any additional cost to the RCSA.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To reallocate £42 from netball's pitch hire allocation to netball's allocation for equipment.

Proposed: Lara 'Made a booboo' Tembey

Seconded: Peter Judge

Speaking **for** the motion:

Peter Judge: Lara overspent on equipment and kit but hasn't spent their court allocation so I have advised her is the best solution to the problem as it won't cost the RCSA anything more and prevent her having to pay for equipment that is going to be used by the team in the future.

No speeches against or questions.

Harry Brunton (HB) invited the meeting to vote on motion a):

For: 30

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion a) duly passed

b) Hockey Budget Reallocation

RCSA Notes:

1. The hockey goalkeeper kit's kickers are currently unacceptable, and are dangerous to play in.
2. The hockey club has £130 allocated for goalkeeper kit, but this isn't enough to buy a good set of kickers.
3. The hockey club will have excess money in its Astro turf allocation, and this money could be used to buy kickers.
4. In order to reallocate funds an open meeting motion is required under article 65b of the RCSA constitution.

RCSA Believes:

1. RCSA members should not have to play sport in a manner which is unnecessarily dangerous.
2. Reallocating funds will allow RCSA to function without incurring any financial cost to any of its members or any additional cost to the RCSA.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To reallocate £80 from hockey's Astro turf allocation to hockey's allocation for goalkeeper equipment.

Proposed: Tim Headley

Seconded: Peter Judge

Speaking **for** the motion:

PJ: The current kit is dangerous and poses a health risk to the two current goalkeepers. As with Netball it will be easiest to just reallocate unspent money then claim for some new amount.

No speeches against or questions.

HB invited the meeting to vote on motion b):

For: 30

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion b) duly passed

c) Robinson College Croquet Club – Comedy Corner Motion

RCSA Notes:

1. Robinson College Croquet Club (RCCC) have competed in Cuppers in previous years and intend to enter at least one team this year
2. When competing in Cuppers games are played against other colleges on our "Court"
3. One corner of the college croquet court has been progressively getting worse over the last four years and has gained the nickname "Comedy Corner"
4. "Comedy Corner" is in the North-West corner of the court

RCSA Believes:

1. It is embarrassing for RCCC, its members, and Robinson College as a whole to have an almost unplayable corner of the court
2. The gardeners may not be aware of this
3. The gardeners could significantly improve this corner by conducting some work on it

RCSA Resolves:

1. To mandate the green officer to raise the issue of "Comedy Corner" at the next garden committee meeting, or to contact the head gardener to raise the issue within a month, whichever comes first
2. To mandate the RCSA President to campaign to get the gardeners to work to improve "Comedy Corner" in particular, as well as the rest of the lawn (if the root in the South-East corner could go too, that'd be great)

Proposed: Hannis "hadn't written a motion for a while" Whittam

Seconded: Jack "loves croquet so much he could cry" Cummings

Speaking **for** the motion:

Hannis Whittam (HW): There is a far corner on the pitch that is getting worse and worse, this motion just asks that the green officer (who sits on the gardening committee) tells the gardeners about it. They probably just haven't noticed as they normally do a very good job of looking after the gardens so I'm sure they won't mind improving it.

No speeches against or questions.

HB invited the meeting to vote on motion c):

For: 32

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion c) duly passed

d) Computer's in the café

RCSA Notes:

1. There were two computers in the cafe for people to use.

RCSA Believes:

1. We should keep the computers

RCSA Resolves:

1. To ask Jimmy to badger college to let us keep them there and use them.

Proposed: Jimmy 'such a badger' Campbell

Seconded: Pete 'can we just pass this motion so I can leave and get pissed' Judge

Speaking **for** the motion:

Jimmy Campbell (JC): The bar staff asked me to bring this motion. There are two computers in the café that are currently being moved in and out each term. The bar staff would like them to stay there for us to use but at the moment college is removing them.

No speeches against.

Questions:

Rosalyn Old (RO): Have we checked with college that we'll be able to use them once they are returned?

JC: Bar staff want us to be able to use them, Ross Reason wants them removed apparently – motion amended to include... "Keep them there and use them" (see above motion)

HB invited the meeting to vote on motion d):

For: 33

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion d) duly passed

e) Proposal for Yoga Classes and subsidy

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. There is not currently any Yoga sessions or Yoga clubs in the West Group area.
2. After conducting an informal survey over Facebook, it is apparent that Yoga classes in Robinson would be very popular among students here.
3. Pillar Carrillo, the coordinator of the local Yoga Scholar Programme, has spoken with Daisy and agreed in principle to the possibility of running classes within college for Robinson students.
4. In order to do this, the instructor would require payment of £40 per class, and Pillar has mentioned that they often run classes at the cost of £2 per head when there is a subsidy to make up the potential difference.

5. This means that in the event that attendance is less than 20 people, it would be necessary to use money from a reserve budget allocated by the RCSA in order to pay the remainder of the £40 fee.

RCSA Believes:

1. That running Yoga sessions in Robinson would be very popular and well-received among students here.
2. It would be difficult to run yoga sessions without a qualified yoga instructor.
3. That Yoga would de-stress and relax the members of college, giving them a well-earned break from work!
4. That given that the RCSA has money to spend, donating a small amount of money to a reserve pool that would not even necessarily be used would be a worthwhile long term investment.

RCSA Resolves:

2. To pay a yoga instructor to run weekly 75 minute classes (likely on the weekend) for Robinson students, to take place in the games room.
3. To allocate £100 from the open meeting budget to be used as a reserve pool in the event that the attendance for the Yoga classes drops below 20 people, as a way of making up the difference to pay the instructor.
4. To discuss with the RCSA Treasurer about how to manage this budget, and where will be kept, as the instructor would need to be paid on a weekly basis.

Proposed: Daisy 'Zen Guru' Pope

Seconded: Toby 'whipped' Hayward-Butcher

Speaking **for** the motion:

Daisy Pope (DP): Run for everyone, once a week. Classes are £40 a session... £2 per person which would be fine for normal. This money would only be used in the event that people don't turn up.

No speeches against.

Questions:

DG: Surely we'd stop running them if nobody went rather than keep spending the money?

DP: Yes, although the first step would be to open them to other students in the West Group.

Arun Niranjana (AN): How many people actually said they'd go?

DP: 24 but we could ask other people to go from the other colleges nearby

AN: Surely we could just raise the price if it was a problem.

DP: Yes that is a possibility.

HW: Surely it's an issue if we end up subsidising other college's members to attend Yoga sessions?

DP: Non-Robinson people would pay more so that this wouldn't happen.

HB invited the meeting to vote on motion e):

For: 30

Against: 0

Abstain: 3

Motion e) duly passed

f) Proposal for Robinson College Motor Racing Society
THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. Many RCSA members have an interest in participating or watching motor racing.
2. A small number of RCSA members regularly participate in Cambridge University Automobile Club (CUAC) go-karting.
3. Having a society would allow any Robinson College Cuppers Go-Karting squad to request a budget.

RCSA Believes:

1. Go-karting is fun, and more RCSA members should do it together at CUAC events.
2. Formula One has never looked better than on a 60 inch HDTV.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To create the Robinson College Motor Racing Society (RCMRS)
2. That this society will be bound by the constitution of the RCSA.
3. That this society will be responsible for the encouragement of RCSA members to enjoy motorsport through watching it on Robinson College's televisions and participating in CUAC go-karting or other motor racing related events. The society will also be responsible for entering a Robinson team into the annual Go-Karting Cuppers.
4. "To amend appendix 1 of the RCSA constitution to include the Robinson College Motor Racing Society."

Proposed: Daniel "Prost" Dyer

Seconded: Peter "Senna" Newton

Speaking **for** the motion:

Peter Newton (PN): IT would be good to have a society to advertise when the F1 is on and organise the Cuppers team.

No speeches against or questions.

HB invited the meeting to vote on motion f):

For: 32

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Motion f) duly passed

g) Dart's Board

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. Robinson College is a big name in the collegiate darts world.
2. Students also enjoy this 'sport' in a more leisurely, relaxed atmosphere amongst friends.
3. The college currently has a darts board which is not up to sufficient standard to facilitate enjoyable play.
4. Other college students have been heard to speak badly of our dart board.

RCSA Believes:

1. Students should be able to enjoy their free time doing as wide a range of sports or activities as possible.
2. To maintain a strong college darts team, a better quality darts board is needed to complement the newly purchased darts.
3. That our college's fine name should not be the source of ridicule because of a poor quality dart board.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To mandate the Sports and Societies officer to purchase a new darts board to replace the current one.
2. To allocate £22 from the reserves for this new dart board.
3. To allow Simon to set up the new darts board when it arrives.

Proposed: Steven 'Straight to the point' Gordon

Seconded Peter 'High Court' Judge

Speaking **for** the motion:

Steve Gordon (SG): It has been mentioned the darts board isn't very good even though we have a good team. Simon is happy to put it up if we buy a new one and it doesn't seem fair to not let people who want and deserve a new one have it.

No speeches against.

Questions:

RO: will it go in the box still?

PJ: yes

Chris Halcrow (CH): How does it only cost that much?

SG: Not sure but it has been recommended by a darts' expert so isn't just the most basic one out there.

HB invited the meeting to vote on motion g):

For: 33

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Motion g) duly passed

h) Drum Kit Restoration

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes

1. The RCSA drum kit is in a sorry state
2. The snare drum is completely broken and unusable
3. All of the drum heads (skins) are totally worn out and do not produce a desirable sound
4. Fellow Elliott Schwartz has composed a piece for drum kit and trumpet, for which a kit will have to be rented at expense to RCMS if the RCSA one is inadequate

RCSA Believes

1. That there are always opportunities to use the drum kit, especially now with RBCB Open Mic Nights and (forthcoming) RCMS Saturday Sessions
2. A kit would not only benefit RCMS, but other musicians and musical groups wishing to rehearse or jam in College

RCSA Resolves

1. To allocate £100 from the reserves for the restoration of the RCSA kit: a new snare drum and new heads for all drums (plus any subsidiary improvements, should the money suffice).

Proposer: Rob "Sweetstix" Ashcroft

Seconder: Alvo "Dumb-and-Drummer" von Cossel

Speaking **for** the motion:

Rob Ashcroft (RA): The RCSA owns a drum kit for anybody to use who wants it. At the moment the snare is broken and some of the drums need re-skinning.

No speeches against.

Questions:

AN: didn't Pacey and people buy a new drum kit recently?

Alex Kennedy: Yes, and this is it.

AN: So how has it got so bad so quickly?

RA: just through repetitive use really, I don't think anybody has been deliberately careless

HW: How long ago was this?

RA: A couple of years and you do have to book to use it, so we can probably find out what happened if you want...

AN: should we put it under the sports and societies job description that they should check on the state of the drum kit from time to time?

HB invited the meeting to vote on motion h):

For: 37

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion h) duly passed

i) Glass Board

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. Students are often curious creatures, particularly about matters of college sporting pride.
2. There exists an outdated, aesthetically offensive, and barely readable chalk board outside the plodge currently used to proclaim sporting results to the masses.
3. The college overall has a rather modern look, the dilapidated chalk board on the other hand is rather archaic.

RCSA Believes:

1. Students should be able to easily access information regarding the college's sporting prowess, or lack of, as the case may be.
2. The means by which this information is presented should add to the visual appeal of the college, not detract from it.
3. This information should continue to be available in its current prominent position adjacent to the college entrance.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To mandate the very capable Sports and Societies Officer to purchase a glass board to replace the existing chalk board.
2. To allocate £599.99 from the reserves for the purchase of the new glass board.

Proposed: Steven 'Not Yet Bored of it all' Gordon

Seconded: Bryn 'a very glassy chap' Pickering

Speaking **for** the motion:

SG: current board is not used and people DO have an interest in how we are doing in sport and we do quite well in sport. Glass board looks more modern, easier to use and read, so everyone can get involved, maintenance department have said they are happy to take the old one down and

No speeches against.

Questions:

Clive Newstead (CN): is money included for pens?

(Answered on page 11 of the agenda)

SG: take a friendly amendment to the figure to make it the correct total £601.61.

RO: how does it cost so much, can you sell it to us?

SG: It would be pretty unique, easy to use and keep clean, allows the aesthetics of the bricks to be preserved. It also gives us the options to have a grid, sport, opponents, score as well as a logo drawn on the board for ease of use. It has a 20 year warranty and it would look good in the entrance.

DG: surely the grid is prescriptive and would prevent people using it?

SG: grid won't cover the whole thing as it's bespoke so we can decide where we want it.

DG: Can we claim the VAT back from college?

PJ: will look into that

HW: are we still trying to spend the illegal reserves?

TP: college now holds them for us so it's not illegal and we don't have to spend them immediately.

Ewan McGregor (EM): but college is quite happy for us to spend them.

HB invited the meeting to vote on motion i):

For: 33

Against: 0

Abstain: 3

Motion i) duly passed

j) TV Room

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. The TV room is, by its very name, where members of college should be able to watch TV.
2. The current TV in the TV room is the cast-off from the JCR and is barely usable.
3. The TV room is the only place in College with access to Sky.
4. Sky is very important for viewing several sports fixtures of interest to members of the RCSA.

RCSA Believes:

1. The TV room should have a good quality TV in it.
2. If we're going to purchase a new TV, we may as well go the whole hog and get good sound quality as well.
3. The TV room should be an enjoyable place for everyone to go.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To allocate £642.61 from the reserves to purchase Package 1 with full warranty (see Report).
2. To allocate £396.69 from the reserves to purchase the Sound System and Speaker brackets.
3. To allocate £60 from the reserves to purchase cables for connecting sound system and TV.
4. To allocate £20 from the reserves for the purchase of accessories.

5. To Mandate the Catering and Amenities officer and Vice-President to purchase and liaise with the Maintenance department to organise the installation of all the above.

Proposed: Bryn 'TV's on, but no-one's at home' Pickering

Seconded: Mary 'Sky High' Hughes

Speaking **for** the motion:

MH: TV room is where people can solely watch the TV; current one is not very good for sport or for games society. As it's the only place we get Sky it does get used quite a lot. The new system has two packages... First one is the one recommended, v good for gaming and sport as well as being 3D ready (but still great as 2D). Everyone will benefit as anybody can use that. Second package is not 3D ready.

No speeches against.

Questions:

Alex Marshall (AM): 3D ready does that mean glasses?

DG: Yes, but like the cinema ones so not too fancy to use.

EM: are we trying to get Sky HD?

MH: that would have to come next year but we can ask for it at the next budget meeting.

RO: what does 3D ready mean?

MH: just that if we got any 3D channels we could use them, we don't have to.

Josh Hoskins: Can we get the TV room code activated for security...

HW proposes a friendly amendment to make the TV room swipe access for security which is accepted.

HB invited the meeting to vote on motion j):

For: 34

Against: 3

Abstain: 0

Motion j) duly passed

k) Bop Room Sound System

THIS MOTION REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS ASSENT TO PASS

RCSA Notes:

1. There are many practical problems with the current sound system in the party room:
 - a) The bass doesn't work properly – there is too much of it even when its turned down to a minimum
 - b) The sound quality is generally quite poor
 - c) There is an odd feedback sound that plays constantly in the background of every track

- d) Occasionally it is impossible to get any sound out of it at all, and it requires a very stressful hour prior to bops to rectify this.
 - e) At this stage the wiring is very complicated and no one in college actually knows how it works.
2. The problems seem to be getting worse
 3. The sound system is fairly old, and there comes a stage in the life of all electronic equipment where it needs replacing, rather than repairing.

RCSA Believes:

1. The entire sound system needs to be fully replaced, including the following:
 - a) Mixing decks
 - b) Amplifier
 - c) Speakers
 - d) Leads
 - e) Sound card
2. This replacement will be a long-lasting benefit for members of the college, and the new sound-system, properly maintained, should last for 15-20 years at least.
3. The kind of new sound system that would be purchased would be appropriate for the size of the room, and the kind of events that are put on in the party room – there would be no excessive spending.
4. Given that the RCSA has money to spend, the price being put forward is reasonable.

RCSA Resolves:

1. That the sum of £5,500 should be allocated from the RCSA reserves in order to finance the cost of fully replacing the sound system, which has been calculated as coming to £5478 including VAT.
2. To mandate the Ents Officers and President to organise the purchasing an installation of the equipment.

Proposed: William ‘Slam Dunk the Funk’ Nyerere Plastow

Seconded: Toby ‘Music to your ears’ Hayward-Butcher

Speaking **for** the motion:

Will Nyerere Plastow (WNP): This is definitely in the long-term interest of college as the current system has very big quality service and complex issues which nobody appears to know how to fix. Ent’s officers (past and present) have had lots of issues getting it to work and nobody actually understands how to work. Rather than messing with lots of little bits and making it more and more complicated it will be better to get a completely new and much simpler system. This would last for about 20 years according to some calculations so is very reasonable for this amount of money. The place where we are thinking of getting the new system from is recommended by Simon who knows him personally. The system has been particularly recommended after an extensive session with him and is designed for our specific needs as a bop room. I think we need about £5,500 allocated from the reserves to replace the system completely.

No speeches against.

Questions:

DG: will the whole thing last the 15 years so we can replace it in parts again?

Toby Hayward-Butcher (THB): it's actually a problem that it's been replaced ad hoc, we struggle to get sound out at all so replacing the whole system every 20 years or so might actually be preferable

WNP: it's a pretty ball-park figure and hopefully should last for longer than that.

THB: when installed we are going to make sure there is a maintenance and instruction manual so that people can learn how to use it properly in the future and prevent this kind of problem.

WNP: The new system will also be made a lot simpler and we can link it up to the current lights we've bought but haven't yet been put up (which the guy has offered to set up when he does the system for no extra cost).

AN: Who takes responsibility for what happens if it breaks... is it worth getting insurance for incidental damage?

WNP: the only thing that could wreck it is booze being poured on it. Only vulnerable bit is the set-up, which is in a purpose made hard box, which protects it.

RO: have we shopped around a bit to find out if this quote is good?

WNP: I have had a look online and this guy comes recommended by Simon, I've has met him personally and checked we need everything on the motion today.

PJ: have we had an expert look at the bop room to see what's wrong with it?

WNP: we've not had an expert but DJ's current and past, Simon, and past ents officers have all agreed that there is a major problem.

THB: not just the current ents officers who think it is currently awful (AK agrees)

Point of information:

HW: people were complaining about how bad it was 3 years ago when I was a first year

Jacob Waller (JW): what will happen to the old system?

THB: there is no point in keeping it on, some bits could be given away but most of the stuff is useless.

Tobias Paul (TP): how contractual is this motion and what is the current agreement with us and the contractor?

THB: the more contractual issues will be looked at when this goes through college this is just to find out whether people are interested in a new system and think it is needed.

DG: is this system being built around the current computer or are we getting a new one of those too?

WNP: the new system is compatible with a lot of systems and has its own USB sound card, so we haven't included a new in the price as it will work with the old computer as well as a new one if bought in the future.

HW: How secure is the bop room? Can we lock it up and secure it somehow?

WNP: room is locked at all times and speakers are too heavy to move. We could look into moving the box stuff somewhere safer when not in use or locking it up more securely.

HW: are you aware there is an internet connection down there?

THB: we haven't been able to get it to work yet...

HW: When the new system is installed it should be possible to wire the computer up to the internet...

RO: do we have time to have time to ask an outside opinion on it?

WNP: it is just generally stuffed

PJ: surely it's a benefit to pay somebody to look at it properly if there are some bits that can be saved?

AN: getting somebody to look at it makes your case stronger at college council.

MH: Ask the AV technician to look at it?

THB: I've already emailed him so this is a possibility.

Jimmy: I think we should get a second quote

WNP: I'm quite happy to get a second quote

THB: this is just a first look at what we could do with the system.

EM proposes a procedural motion that this motion is not put this open meeting:

EM **for** the procedural motion: It is silly to waste good money on replacing everything at the moment and if we wait a couple of weeks we can make an informed decision.

JC **against** the procedural motion: all well and good, but there are still so much that they need to do that we feel we can trust Will and Toby to look into this properly

Vote on the procedural motion:

Favour: 3

Against: 31

Procedural motion falls

PJ: I propose we make a friendly amendment to the resolves to mandate the Ent's officers to get another opinion.

Accepted and a 3rd resolves added which is:

To mandate the ents officer to seek professional advice about the set up

HB invited the meeting to vote on motion k):

For: 33

Against: 0

Abstain: 5

Motion k) duly passed

11. Any other RCSA business

HB: last year Ewan and Ros did a tremendous job last year and we have bought them some presents!

Ewan gets given a knob chair

AK: I see what they did there...

Ewan is also given a tankard with his name and time on it.

Rosalyn gets given an actual Pegasus hoody (everyone applauds)

AM: the brick is out tomorrow

Time of end of meeting: 5:59 pm