



## RCSA Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday, 26th November

5pm

JCR



### Agenda

1. Apologies for absence or lateness  
Christopher and Tiara excused due to choir
2. Announcement of the presence and purpose of guests  
N/A
3. Approval of the presence and speaking rights of guests  
N/A
4. Approval of the order of the agenda  
N/A
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.  
N/A
6. Matters Arising from the minutes  
N/A
7. Committee Reports and Resolutions  
N/A
8. Questions to the Committee  
N/A
9. Extraordinary Motions  
N/A
10. Ordinary Motions
  - A) Brickhouse Theatre Company Constitution
  - B) Reimbursing Student Minds Robinson for use of J8 and receiving further funding
  - C) Funding for replacement DJ equipment (buying a Pioneer XDJ-RX2)

### **Ordinary Motions**

#### **A) Brickhouse Theatre Company Constitution**

RCSA Notes:

1. The Brickhouse Theatre Company needs a new constitution.

RCSA Believes:

1. The Brickhouse Theatre Company should have a new constitution.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To adopt the new Brickhouse Theatre Company constitution.

*Proposed by: Matt Kite*

*Seconder: Peter Curry (Brickhouse Theatre Company Comedy Representative '17-18; Editor, The Brick; Men's Officer 16-17; Educator, London Museum of Water and Steam; Undergraduate Student, Dept. of History, University of Cambridge; Educator, Acton Armenian Centre; Cycling coach, Hillingdon Slipstreamers; Graphic Designer, "Memebridge"; Freelance Writer, "Lorters' Pog"; Leading expert in the RCB&BC; Hon. Member, Cambridge University Mixed Lacrosse Breakfast Social Club) James Hedge expressed support of re-affiliation because of the benefits to the college.*

Question: Why has an amendment about non-Robinson members been added?

Matt: Mainly because there are people from other colleges with great tech knowledge which we wouldn't otherwise get.

**AGAINST:**

N/A

**FOR:**

N/A

**Vote:**

**For: 28**

**Against: 0**

**Abstentions: 0**

*This motion passes.*

## **B) Reimbursing Student Minds Robinson for use of J8 and receiving further funding**

RCSA Notes:

1. The Bridgemas Cookie Decorating event was a success and lots of students came.
2. Mental health orientated events form a fundamental part of welfare.

RCSA Believes:

1. That individual students should not have to organise this on their own and should be helped by the RCSA.

RCSA Resolves:

1. Refund the £30 spent on the hiring of J8 (from the committee budget).
2. Encourage and help Student Minds Robinson when they need it, especially by having the Welfare Team work with them to put on more events.

*Proposed by: Chyna Fairclough-Jones*

*Secunder: Natalie Johnson*

Question: What are the costs other than J8 ?

Alexia: Minimal costs, basically just ingredients.

Matt: I thought it was sorted so that college don't charge us for hiring rooms for welfare events?

James Hedge: They didn't tell me they were doing it, but I will bring it up in the future so it doesn't happen again.

Matt: They also shouldn't charge as long as you are not cooking in the room, like if it was used for a supervision, since they don't have to clean up afterwards.

**AGAINST:**

N/A

**FOR:**

N/A

**Vote**

**For: 29**

**Against: 0**

**Abstentions: 0**

*This motion passes.*

### **C) Funding for replacement DJ Equipment – buying a Pioneer XDJ-RX2**

RCSA Notes:

1. The current DJ equipment for bops includes two CDJs (music players) and a mixer, bought around summer 2012.
2. The DJ equipment used for bops is failing – key features such as play/pause button on one CDJ do not work, and there no absolutely no redundancies in case of further failure (two of four input channels are broken, two are needed).

3. The current equipment is more complicated to use or teach to new DJs due to the number of workarounds that must be used in place of broken features.
4. In the past, DJ equipment has been replaced at approximately 5 year intervals.
5. Between terms and for other functions, the equipment is used by other people who reconfigure the setup, which must then be set again before RCSA use.
6. Bops are attended by a reasonably large proportion of college members and available to all.
7. Bops cannot take place without this working equipment.

RCSA Believes:

1. It will be necessary to replace the equipment soon, before a critical failure.
2. Using digital equipment greatly improves flexibility for DJs in how they play the music.
3. More standardised equipment makes it easier to train new DJs, who can then also learn using Youtube videos (for example).
4. Buying from an established brand includes a full manufacturers' warranty, option for servicing, and easy availability of relevant software & updates to prolong the life of the equipment.
5. The chosen model of DJ decks provides the best deal for this application - all the required functionality, ease of use for new incoming DJs, and longevity.
6. Including a flight case to store the decks in prevents misuse by non-RCSA users, while leaving the old equipment available for their use – this would allow the ents committee to be more responsible for their condition.

RCSA Resolves:

1. To use money from the reserves to buy a Pioneer XDJ-RX2 for £1529.00 + a protective flight case for £110.00 – (Total £1639.00)

*Proposed by: Bradley Sawyer*

*Seconder: Joshua Efiog*

Bradley: We are looking to buy new DJ equipment for the bop room. It is usually replaced every 5 years or so, which means that we should be getting new equipment very soon. 95% of the job involves working around broken features since lots of the equipment is broken. We are looking to get £1640 from the RCSA reserves to fund new equipment.

James Hedge: We want new DJ equipment. However, we think that we should work out another way to fund this. The idea started originally with talking to Sarah and Lilly. Last year, they accumulated huge profits, which they wanted to use to pay for new equipment; the money was saved under the proviso that it would be used for this purpose. Ent's money should be put back into the bops, so should be used to fund the equipment, at least in part. The money could be taken from the money that you're making as well as the open meeting budget. There are £10,000 in the RCSA reserves. This would be 15% of that money. Last time we didn't have the money accumulated for the purpose of buying it new equipment which is why it had to be taken from the reserves. There is not enough in the budget that the Ent's officers can spend all this money outside the generous funding they already receive. To put it into perspective, we are spending £840 on welfare for 350 students, while only 57 people were at the last bop by the end of the night. We also spend £11,000 on the boat club. These numbers don't stack up in my view. Any use of RCSA reserves has to be agreed by treasurer and senior treasurer of the college, who is not going to approve it. Tiara asked to see the details earlier but I can look at it now if you want me to.

**James Timmins:** Josh was in hospital so wasn't able to put it together in enough time to give it to her. **[Note that physical copies were presented in the meeting]**

James Hedge: My position is that I think we should use the money that was originally accumulated for this purpose, rather than using the college's money and would like to suggest the following **amendment**:

*To support the principle that the RCSA should buy a Pioneer XDJ-RX2 for £1529.00 + a protective flight case for £110.00 – (Total £1639.00), using money from various budgets to be agreed at a later date.*

So we would work out how to fund it without just using the reserves.

Question: So you want the motion to be rejected so they can spend time changing it? James Hedge: Yes but want to give the guarantee we will buy it because we need it.

James Timmins: We think it's a very fair use of the reserves. Last time the equipment was bought using the reserves. It will last for a long time (at least 5 years, hopefully longer) and will be good quality equipment that can be serviced. Although it is a large proportion of reserves, Brickhouse used 50% of the reserves on decking last year. There is precedent for using a large amount of reserves and the money is there to be spent. They are open to everyone and a large proportion of college members attend and enjoy bops.

James Hedge: The Ent's officers have said that they have saved money for this purpose.

James Timmins: We had not been told that. The money that came to us when we started doing Ent's matches nowhere near what the profits should have been. The profit that the bop makes should be used to run, publicise and decorate the bops, especially for Rainbow Robinson, Christmas Bop,

Pink Week Bop (which used to be bigger and which we want to bring back). Any profits should go towards making the bops bigger and better. Equipment is a long term investment.

Josh: I would like to make the comment that the money accumulated in the bop room had no purpose in mind. Before Bradley and James took over Ents, we were asked whether any equipment could be bought with that amount of money.

James Hedge: But you did decide that it would be a good use of the money?

**Josh:** We are looking at the money that had been accumulated and it is not as much as we were led to believe. Other concerns within the bop room that we need to look at and assess the budget. If something else were to go wrong, we would need to be able to repair it - the lighting equipment is temperamental and inconsistent: we are very aware that we may need to spend money to rectify this situation and, because there is no budget allocated to maintaining equipment in the bop room, we need to solve the situation urgently.

Mark: Do you know the origin of the RCSA reserve?

James Hedge: Why don't you tell me, Mark.

Mark: The original pot of money came from unspent funds of the RCSA, so it where profits were made that money would be put in a pot. It accumulated until there was questionable legality of a charity having that much money. They wanted us to stop putting it into that pot and spend it instead. Then, if we have big expenses we go straight to the college.

James Hedge: I am talking to people in college, but my argument is still the same.

**James Timmins:** Are you sure the college would not accept this proposal?

James Hedge: Tiara thinks that Martin Reaveley wouldn't accept it because Reese (the former RCSA President) thinks it should be paid for with the money raised last year. If it's a financial issue we can talk about that but I don't think it's a sensible use of the reserves.

Question: What's the scale of the money we have in the bop funds?

James Hedge: They made £150 a week last year and they were not selling drinks for as much as they are now.

James Timmins: First, you said there were only 57 people at the end of the bop, which is not a fair judgement. **Also, in comparison to the Boat Club, which got £11,000, this is surely unreasonable.**

James Hedge: No, because there are lots of boats and equipment and we have to rent a boat club from another college.

Matt: In that case there's the maintenance budget from the RCSA for equipment.

James Hedge: Definitely, but we're not in a position to decide where it should be paid from yet. We want the equipment but at the moment we're just not sure how.

Question: There is also an important question of timing. What if the equipment goes wrong this Friday?

James Timmins: We want it installed as soon as we come back to Cambridge.

Josh: To Ents officers, how much money do you have? Every time I ask for a figure from everyone I've had a different number.

James Timmins: I'm not sure it would be appropriate for us to tell you the exact amount

Matt: Why not? There is no reason why you shouldn't.

James Timmins: There is £880 in cash. We need to buy a large amount of alcohol this week and also need to fund Rainbow Robinson and Pink Week Bop and get decorations for the Christmas Bop this week: we will be spending a large proportion of that money on those things. In the past, not enough of the profits from the bops have gone into the bops. Equipment would be a good use of the reserves money - it's what it's there for.

Question: How much is a drinks order?

James Timmins: We've only done one so far.

Mark: For the MCR it is around £600

James Timmins: We paid £700

Josh: We were 15 minutes away from cancelling the first bop of Freshers' Week because of problems with the equipment. My concern is the timeliness of what you're proposing.

Mark: It was only resolved because Sarah and Lily came screaming at John to fix it.

Josh: It took about 40 minutes.

James Hedge: You want it for the first bop of next term. I reckon if we work it out we can have it for the second bop of next term.

Matt: We don't want them going into overdraft, you need a lot of money in the account to be able to keep it functioning and make those orders. It takes a while to turn it into profit.

James Timmins: It's an agreement with college that we sell alcoholic drinks at an average of 120% profit: that's what we have to do because that's what the college tells us to do. Soft drinks is around 20-30 a week.

It would be sensible to have this money to make large alcohol orders. We won't necessarily make it back the following week. If we have the money, we want to spend it on decorations. We need to look at it and think what do we absolutely need, what can we use to make bops bigger and better. The only official budget we are allocated by the RCSA is for freshers week.

Valentine: James, can you read the amendment again please.

James Hedge:

*To support the principle that the RCSA should buy a Pioneer XDJ-RX2 for £1529.00 + a protective flight case for £110.00 – (Total £1639.00), using money from various budgets to be agreed at a later date.*

Valentine: Do you (Bradley, James and Josh) take this to be a **friendly or unfriendly amendment**.

James Timmins: **Unfriendly**.

Question: when to be decided by?

James Hedge: We can have the next open meeting the first weekend of next term and put the motion in. How long does it take for the equipment to arrive?

Josh: 2-3 weeks.

Lizzie: There is nothing stopping you from buying it now, but reimbursement would take 48 hours after approval of open meeting budget.

**AGAINST:**

N/A

**FOR:**

N/A

### **Vote on Amendment**

**For: 8**

**Against: 20**

**Abstentions: 2**

*Amendment refused.*

### **Vote on Motion**

**For: 21**

**Against: 9**

**Abstentions: 1**

*The motion passes.*

### **Any other business**

Matt: The Robinson cut the rent campaign group wrote a petition in our meeting yesterday which outlines the situation, comparison with other colleges and basically says that our rent is too high,

especially for value rooms. We will start sharing it on Facebook and in person - please look out for it and sign it.