

**St Catherine's College Middle Common Room
Executive Committee**

Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday 18 October, 7PM @ St Catherine's College MCR

Attendance: 50

1. Minutes from previous meeting (10 May 2015)

Approved. No matters arising.

2. Honorary Membership: John Kenny

Proposal by Alex Barbaro: John Kenny to be awarded Honorary Membership of the MCR for the duration of his DPhil for service and contribution to the MCR. Seconded by Matt Smith (and many other people).

Reasons for the proposal: You might know John as that tall Irish dude. John is also known as, among other things, the Music Maestro, Croquet Conqueror, Mallet Maimer, Polite Porter, Celine Dion Dire Fan, Constitution Keeper, a Fantastic Friend, Music Quiz Master, or simply the Politics Pundit. He has been a key contributor to most of the events in the MCR over the last two years, and was on this year's Fresher's Committee despite no longer being a student at St Catz.

Q&A: If John was an animal, he would be a dog. Will be at Tea Hive tonight.

Honorary Membership approved by a show of hands.

3. MCR Committee elections

Social Secretary – Matt Smith elected

Roxanna Abhari (seconded by Jenny Hwang and Ikuya Aizawa)

- Studying the MSc in Political Science. Running for Social Sec because she was very surprised but happy to find such an active graduate body at Oxford. Really likes the active student life at Catz and wants to be involved, despite having only been here for a short period of time. Thinks that it is important to have people who are here and who can make sure that the social activities happening are well rounded so that everyone can make the most of their time here. Suggestions for future events include casual events for those who are on the waiting list for guest dinners .etc., as well as casual events (such as social runs, movie nights .etc) during the week.
- Q&A responses: for the Catz BOP, theme could be to have everyone pretend to be a character for the evening. To make events more inclusive for those who do not drink alcohol, there are plenty of fun things that you can do around Oxford (e.g. museum trips) and to also have small get togethers and games nights. It seems like with the current Social Secretary roles, “Carla is the big organising brain, and Julian is the executor”. It is important to have good communication with others, both within the MCR and student body as well as the wider College. A good Social Secretary needs to be organised. Will be here 21 Nov for the Catz MCR BOP.

Mike Mehta (seconded by Misa Lazovic and Tegan Ekanayak) not present.

Angelos Prastitis (seconded by Mikesh Udani and Faidra Faitaki)

- Studying the MSc in Computer Science. He was also surprised by the amount of social activities on at the College, had previously thought that Oxford was just about research and studying. Thinks that Catz has one of the greatest atmospheres of Oxford and is the best college. Wants to contribute to this atmosphere and to also inspire other people to contribute. Was inspired by Moctar, who is very caring and did a lot to make sure that everyone felt welcome in the MCR. Wants to do a cocktail night, which he can arrange even if he doesn't get elected. Should vote for him because he cares about you and also wants you to care about others. Wants to make the atmosphere of this college, which is amazing, more amazing.
- Q&A: Pirate theme for the BOP and to encourage people to arrive earlier. An event that would cater to everyone (including non-drinkers) is to have a street parade where the MCR rents a few boom boxes and people will pay a sum of money that will go to charity. He found out about what a Social Secretary actually does an hour ago, but he is keen to both be someone who makes the MCR feel welcoming and also be part of the organising and planning of events. He will be here 21 Nov.

Matt Smith (seconded by Richard Everett and George Ntentas)

- Second year DPhil in Cyber Security. Over the past year, has had an amazing time being involved in the MCR. Thinks the MCR is a great group. He would make a good candidate because he has quite a bit of experience with helping to organise and run events. He ran some of the bar crawls for Fresher's Week and was involved with a society for a number of years during his undergrad. He wants to help as fully as possible with the things going on already. He has been around for a year and so knows what's involved. Also wants to do daytrips to various places (e.g. visiting Christmas markets).
- Q&A: BOP theme suggestion is an Alphabet BOP where everyone would dress up as something related to the first letter of your name. He would keep Serkan away from

the smoke machine as a way of making BOPs better. He would also do a treasure hunt style thing, where disposable cameras are left around and people are tasked with taking certain pictures. Thinks that at all events, there should be good non-alcoholic drinks. It would be good to also have events that involve going to other places, such as going for walks and getting out and around. In terms of the Social Secretary role, there are a lot of events happening on the term and weekly level, as well as yearly Garden Party. There are quite a few long term organisational things. The Social Secretary should be around the MCR, because it is important that the MCR knows who they are. Not able to attend the BOP on 21 Nov.

Welfare Officer (Men's) – Michael Tai elected

Michael Tai: 4th year medical student. Plan is to pidge cookies to everyone ☺ He will check with the porters to see if it's OK to put food in the pidges. Will need to learn how to make good waffles.

Bar Officers – Richard Everett elected

Andrew Baca not present.

Richard Everett: Studying Machine Learning. Wants to be Bar Officer because he likes the bar. He likes the cocktail idea and wants to see what people are interested in.

Editorial Officers – Faidra Faitaki elected

Michael Agathangelou and Jill Hanley not present.

Faidra Faitaki: MSc in Applied Linguistics. The role involves going around, talking to people and writing stories. Was involved with Humans of UCL.

4th Year Rep –

Christopher Mason not present.

Catz House Rep – Annie Cheng elected

Annie Cheng

- DPhil student. Originally disappointed to be living in Catz House but has grown to like Catz House. Would love to be involved with the MCR Committee over the next four years, want to contribute to everyone living in Catz. Communication skills are really important for the role and she has improved her communication skills through various experiences and involvements. Was previously in an ambassador role, showing people around, listening to their thoughts and concerns. Has run an entrepreneurship project before, ran the team, organised an event, negotiated and communicated with professors in her department at Imperial College. If elected, she would knock on everyone's door and introduce herself to everyone so that they know who to contact if they have any problems. It takes a while to get to the MCR from Catz House, and so will talk to the Social secs and see if there are any opportunities for Catz House people to get together and have fun. Has already tried to get more bike stands at Catz House as there is not enough. She will do her best to achieve other suggestions.
- Q&A: The Catz House Facebook page is a good way to get people connected, but people-to-people communication is important. Want to knock on everyone's door. Want to put up posters around the place, keep engagement with MCR.

Anushka Halder

- Need a point of communication with the MCR. She will only be here for a year, wants to be really involved as much as possible. Would be a great position for her

because she's living there. She has started a Catz House Facebook page. Have been attending to various problems since she got there. She'd like to be a point of communication

- Q&A: It's been hard to get in touch with people at Catz House because often they're based in Headington and don't come to the MCR much. Also want to organise something social for Catz House people, perhaps events every month to encourage people there to hang out together.

Merchandise and Gadgets Officer – Phil Earp elected

Phil Earp: First year DPhil doing Materials. Gadgets, thinking James Bond. Merchandise would be producing things like t-shirts and other wearables/stash. For guys, MCR cufflinks. Open to designing a MCR onesie and to investigate MCR sports stash.

Tea and Biscuits Officer – Carey Pike elected

Carey Pike: South African, doing the MSc in Pharmacology. Tea has caffeine in it, she takes caffeine very seriously. She also takes biscuits seriously. Wants to make sure the MCR is always stocked with good biscuits and a good selection of tea. Lives right across from the MCR. When looking for a biscuit, her criteria is to find something not too crumbly, has a bit of bite too it. Chocolate is good.

4. AOB

None.

Meeting adjourned 8:30PM