



## JCR Meeting 2.1 – 07-02-2021

Attendance: SWC (President), MW (FCO), MP (VP), JS (PG&M), BT (JCR Chair), TB (Sports & Socs), MF (Facilities), AW (SRO), JG (Male Welfare), GG (WCS Rep), SP (Trustee), KM (Trustee), EM (Stool, Formals Manager), SB (Social Comm), DM (Social Comm, Assistant EM Rep), JC (JRO, PG Treasurer), SG (DUCK Rep), EJ (Outreach Comm), JR (Head Frep), KBro (Environment Rep), CH (Assistant LGBT+ Rep), TAF (Welfare Campaigns, Assistant International Rep), CA (YAPL Rep & Social Comm), JP (Trustee), EBo (Outreach Comm), LD (Outreach Comm), SM (Keeper of the Couplets), ZH (Assistant Librarian), AnJ (SU Comm, JRO), JGa (Female Welfare), SoB (Events Manager), HH (Campaigns Manager), HM (EM Rep), LH (LGBT+ Rep, Communities Chair), LB (Outreach Chair), ER (Librarian), RM (PR Officer), SS (Social Chair), LuH (Social Comm), SU (Social Comm), MO (Social Comm), SR (Finance Comm), NE (Social Comm), MPi (Welfare Campaigns), DB (Outreach Comm), CL (Outreach Comm), LF (Stock Manager), EMS (Outreach Comm), HR (Social Comm), HD (Stock Manager), RP (Bar Liason Manager), IE (Social Comm), LJ (Social Comm), JW (Finance Comm), EP (Social Comm, Sports & Socs Reporter), SoG (SwD Rep), AA (Environment Comm), EB (Environment Comm), GT (Welfare Campaigns), CT (Project Coordinator), EK (Environment Committee), ZN, MC, JN, EMo, SSh, AL, AS, MA, DT, SM, SGr, AH, CWi

Apologies: LA (Environment Committee), ES (Senior Welfare), EGr (Finance Comm), KW (PG Academic Rep), AG (Social Comm), EW (Social Comm)

Absent: CP (Bailey Wardrobe Manager), LS (Gym Manager), NG (Social Comm), BC (Welfare Campaigns), EG (Social Comm), GF (Welfare Campaigns), AJ (Local Students' Rep), EB (Fashion Show President), AD (Trans & Non-Binary Rep), MH (SU Comm), JWa (PG VP), JL (Outreach Publicity), KB (Finance Comm), GM (Environment Committee), CM (Environment Committee), JN (Environment Committee), IA (Welfare Campaigns), CW (Environment Committee), MR (JRO)

Location: MS Teams

Meeting Chaired by EM, Elections ran by JC



## Exec Reports

## Motions

Black Lives Matter Updated Motion

SCSFS Budget

## The Raffle

## Elections

2x Sports and Societies Reporters (Method 2)

SU Committee Member (Method 2)

Postgraduate Welfare Rep (Method 2)

Assistant Students with Disabilities Rep (Method 2)

Vice-President (Method 1)

President of the Society (Method 1 Presidential)

\*Minutes of previous JCR meeting pass\*



## Exec Reports

### President (SWC)

What have I been up to?

- Trying to be creative with resources we have and difficult situation.
- Set up Cuth's library @ home, new covid fund, have been sending student's belongings back to them, sorted Cuth's Library laptops with CIS.
- Involved in two recruitment processes- VC and new Principal.
- Sat on Residential Refurbishment Group.
- Set up and sit on new Student Representation Working Group to reconsider student representation in Durham.
- Fed in a lot to SU Democracy Review.
- Caught up with exec.
- Helped run give-it-a-go week- trying to shift some focus onto sports & socs that are still running and sustaining those communities.
- Restarted Cuth's Pub Quiz.
- Attended various college events.
- Some facilities are open for livers-in.
- Attended Wider Student Experience sub-committee.
- Making good progress on negotiating the SLA (new agreement between us and the university)- I'm really trying to push the boundaries of this document and make it as positive as possible and get rid of as many issues in our relationship with the university as possible.
- Chaired JCR PresComm.
- Finished report on harm reduction approaches to drug use within the university and sent it off to MM who can take the conversation further.
- Household Reps Meeting.
- Talked with college about approach to student support at this time.
- Attended President's Forums with JC (PVC Colleges and Wider Student Experience), talked about attitude to students being back, casual staff furloughs.
- Helped run ISC open day.
- Helped run a Find a Housemate event.
- Generally helped and advised students on all kinds of things.



## Finance and Compliance Officer (MW)

So far this term I've worked with SWC and the rest of the exec on creating a JCR Covid Fund to support students with online learning and wider student experience.

I've been packing up essential items for students who have not returned and sending them to where they are now.

I've been supporting welfare with sexual health supply drops off and designing care packages.

I've also been overseeing the reopening of the gyms and social spaces.

## Vice-President (MP)

- Organised a stash order
- Attended every JCR Committee meeting
- Uploaded and initialised all old minutes I have at my disposal
- Sent out a bunch of reminder emails that you have to attend meetings
- Helped do a base draft of the Record of Resolutions
- Helped organise this JCR meeting with a fairly stripped back GovComm

## JCR Chair (BT)

- Updated Standing Orders
- Organised and advertised the first JCR Meeting of term
- Organised and chaired a GovComm Meeting to discuss exec elections and JCR Meetings this term, some GovComm restructures and Sports and Socs rules restructure
- Worked out budget spending for raffle prizes for voting in the upcoming elections
- Delivered exec elections presentation and held drop-ins with AW
- Organised and chaired a meeting with all of the minority reps and AW to discuss the progress being made on inclusion and accessibility within the JCR, and what more we can do to further promote this
- Began preparing questions for the JCR Engagement and Participation Survey
- Attended a meeting of the Board of Trustees Communities Committee
- Left GovComm to their own devices for this meeting, so this meeting and its elections are in their (very capable) hands



## Senior Welfare Officer (ES)

- Ran our Self-Care Calendar over the Christmas Period
- Continuing to do drop-ins online on Microsoft Teams each week.
- Order Form is still running for livers-in and livers-out in Durham.
- Met with the campaigns team to start planning our Campaigns for this term with our first campaign starting next week.
- Have been invited to join the Student Support Review group for the university, with the next meeting on the 17th of February - if you have any concerns that you want me to raise let me know!
- Set up Lockdown Letters, where students can send a message of encouragement or support to their friends anonymously through welfare.
- Also set up a google form where people can get in touch with a Welfare Officer without having to email, this will go on the website soon.
- Introducing Welfare Care Packages which will be available to order through the website soon!
- Had a Meeting with college and other members of the Exec to discuss ways in which we can support students best under the current circumstances.
- Have been in constant contact with college to make sure that we are doing the best we can to support students.
- Updating the Welfare section of the website!
- Met with the Welfare and Liberation Officer at the SU and other welfare officers from other colleges to discuss issues facing students right now, what support the university can offer, and ways to support welfare officers too.
- Still looking for other ways to use our increased budget, hopefully next term we can implement some more supplies.

## Postgraduate & Mature Students' Rep (JS)

- Arranged some Inter-MCR events before and after Christmas
- Joined working groups around student support and wider student representation
- Continued to attend Covid-related groups
- Worked with JW (Vice-Principal) and EA (Principal) to put on events



## Sports & Societies Chair (TB)

At the start of term, me and SWC met with most sports and socs captains and social secs to try and work on how to maintain engagement during lockdown. From the feedback at this meeting, I organised a give it a go week, which whilst being fairly poorly attended hopefully gave a few people opportunities to try something new.

I also worked with other colleges sports officers to organise an intercollege competitive quiz league but that also didn't have any interest from our teams, probably due to people being so burnt out with online events.

Other than that, it's mostly just waiting on the lockdown to end so sports and socs can get back on track

## Librarian (ER)

- Library has been open for livers in all term
- Cuth's @ home is open
- We did a 'meet the lib committee' on Instagram
- book requests and click and collect have been operating normally
- book club has been doing some great collaborations with outreach and the LGBT+ soc
- we updated our profile pics and cover photos on social media thanks to some great graphics made by one of our stock managers

## Facilities (MF)

No major changes this time. An overview:

Experience Durham and Maiden Castle are providing staff to keep both gyms open to livers in.

The music room is also operational with stricter rules.

The green machine is sadly not getting as much use - bloody rona 😞

## Outreach Chair (LB)

This term on Outreach we have hosted a pub quiz and partnered with book club to raise funds and awareness for SolidariTee. We are hosting an event with Femsoc later this week and are looking to start up a new project with a care home in Durham later this term.



## Publicity and Relations Officer (RM)

What I'm currently still up to is producing the weekly newsletter, running the cuth's housing group with some events, and continuing to represent Cuth's at SU stuff.

SU elections are upcoming and I'm planning for that - exciting stuff!

## Social Chair (SS)

This term, I've focused on putting on a series of online formals and events as we haven't been able to do anything in person because of rona. Sad reacts only.

In January, EM (formals manager) and I helped arrange a Burns night formal for everyone in college. We had a really good turn out, and enjoyed poems, a speech and other Burns day classics (toast to the haggis etc).

Social Comm and I are working hard to put on a Valentine's Day formal on the 17th. We're organising discounted Pizza, ice breakers, a hamper and note cards.

I'm also liaising with JW (Vice-Principal) and CI (Assistant Principal) to organise a half-way through formal for 2nd years.

No updates on plans for Summer term...we'll have to wait and see what the government are saying covid wise before we can get onto planning any larger events (e.g Summer ball, Cuth's Day etc).

That's pretty much it!



## Communities Chair (LH) on behalf of Communities Committee

- The LGBT+ Society has organised a multiple social over the term with varying degrees of success.
- LGBT+ reps also done a HIV and AIDS awareness campaign for HIV awareness week and LGBT+ History month which was successful and will have a few more upcoming campaigns for the month of February regarding other LGBT+ specific issues and history.
- The EM rep and Cuth's antiracism has held a discussion on Sinophobia and has organised another upcoming discussion surrounding the British Empire
- EM rep also hosted anti-racism workshops for the history department and will be holding a Chinese New Year event.
- The WC rep is organising a working-class students forum about the effects of covid which should take place in the following weeks.
- A meeting with SRO and VC with all the minority reps and assistant reps took place to discuss diversity in Cuth's. Discussing the logistics of caucus voting, minority rep elections and issues minority groups were facing during the pandemic and how the JCR could provide support for them.



## Motions

### Black Lives Matter Updated Motion

#### This JCR Notes:

- Last year a motion was passed to make an annual donation of £50 a year to the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust every for the next five years.
- The Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust has since renamed itself Blueprint For All so multiple charities don't bear Stephen Lawrence's name, per his mother's request.
- Baroness Doreen Lawrence is associated with the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation.

#### This JCR Believes:

- To continue showing solidarity per the initial motion, the charity should be updated to the charity with the continued association with Baroness Lawrence.

#### This JCR Resolves:

- To amend the current charity receiving the yearly donation to the
- Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation, which was established amid unprecedented growing global awareness of racial inequality, exists to inspire a more equal, inclusive society, and to foster opportunities for marginalised young people in the UK and bears the name of Stephen Lawrence who was the victim of murder in a racist attack in 1993. The charity has worked to promote Stephen Lawrence Day, April 22nd and the first one was marked in 2019. This charity would receive a yearly £50 donation.
- To continue to stand against institutional racism and police brutality going forward as an official stance of St Cuthbert's Society JCR, committing to eradicating racism from our Society and University and committing to the belief once more that Black lives still matter.

**Proposer:** DT

**Secunder:** SS, DV, HM

### Discussion

\*No questions\*

\*No amendments\*

\*No opposition\*

Motion passes on a general aye



## SCSFS Budget 20-21

### Budget for 2020-21

What are your expected expenses?

	Item	Category	Item price	Quantity	Total Cost	Amended
Michaelmas Term			£ -			
			£ -			
			£ -			
			£ -			
			£ -		£ -	
				£ -		£ -
Epiphany Term	Decorations		£ -		£ 600.00	
	Miscellaneous e.g. wristbands, prog		£ -		£ 300.00	
	Entertainment		£ -		£ 200.00	
	Venue		£ -		£ 1,500.00	
			£ -		£ -	
			£ -		£ -	
Easter Term			£ -			
			£ -		£ -	
			£ -		£ -	
			£ -		£ -	
			£ -		£ -	
			£ -		£ -	
Total expected expenditure of club:					£ 2,600.00	£ -

### Subs and other income

Estimated number of members in 2019-20

ticketsalesandraffleetc

Recommended self income:

0

Note: Recommended self income is based on the principle by which finance comm vets budgets, and you do not have to stick with it. Significant deviations will,

Subs and other Self Income

Type of Membership/Payment	Cost of Membership	Estimated Number of	Total	Amended
Standard	£ -		£ -	£ -
	£ -		£ -	£ -
	£ -		£ -	£ -
	£ -		£ -	£ -
	£ -		£ -	£ -
	£ -		£ -	£ -
	£ -		£ -	£ -
	£ -		£ -	£ -



	Overall Total	£ -	£ -
	Difference from Recommended:	£ -	£ -

Are you expecting any other sources of income in 2019 - 2020 and if so please indicate? (Sponsorship, Ticket Sales etc.)

Type of Income	Value of Income	Estimated Number of	Total
Ticket Sales	£ -		£11,000.00
Raffle	£ -		£ 300.00
Meet the models event	£ -		£ 400.00
Auction	£ -		£ 400.00
Sponsorship	£ -		£ 300.00
	£ -		£ -
	£ -		£ -
	£ -		£ -
	Overall Total		£12,400.00
	Total Income		£12,400.00

#### Funding Application

Total Expected Expenditure	£ 2,600.00
Total Expected Income	£12,400.00
Total Requested from the JCR	£2,600.00
Net for year 2019-2020	£ 12,400.00

Under normal circumstances, surpluses are stored in a club's reserves and deficits are taken from reserves. If you would like a different arrangement, please arrangement, please explain here.

Further Comments (E.g. Reasons for greater predicted expenditure, what subs are spent on, club structure)

**Proposer: MW**

**Secunder: MP**

### Discussion

MW The motion is basically an update – Fashion Show financially functions like many sports and socs.

JC Is the money that the JCR gives Fashion paid back?

MW The JCR will get back all the money it gives.

\*No further questions\*

\*No amendments\*

\*No opposition\*

Motion passes on a general aye



## Raffle

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – 2021 Naked Calendar - HM

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Ferrero Rochers- LB

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – *Extremely* chocolate biscuits – MF

## Elections

2x Sports and Societies Reporters (Method 2), SU Committee Member (Method 2), Postgraduate Welfare Rep (Method 2), Assistant Students with Disabilities Rep (Method 2):

No candidates, to be re-run at the next JCR meeting

### Vice-President (Method 1)

Candidates: MF, KM, BT, Request New Candidates

MF's Hust:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> year Computer Science
- On the exec as Facilities Manager
- Wants to be more involved, and looks forward to taking part in discussions
- On the Handbook – the current form is good, but I'd further consult the exec to get feedback on it.
- Loves stash – will take suggestions, and do polls
- Volunteered in Cuth's library in 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Overcome this year's challenges as Facilities manager
- Will continue to ensure the smooth running of the JCR and help in any way possible
- Enthusiastic good learner, loves Cuth's

KM's Hust

- 2<sup>nd</sup> year maths
- Plan to sort a player layer system, and create pack with information on how to order
- Will advocate for free frep jumpers
- Has minuted some trustee meetings
- Will keep the handbook short, include info on participation fund.
- Add a freshers' page on website
- Experienced, keen to minute, will not reinvent the wheel
- Currently a trustee, has sat on finance, has taken part in an outreach project, frepped would have open day repped, taken part in panto
- Would love to give back, loves cuth's



## BT's Hust

- 2<sup>nd</sup> year history, JCR Chair
- The unusual year we've had shows that we will need innovation
- Has a good understanding of JCR, was a JRO last year, has sorted a range of motions, has attended trustee subcommittee meetings, brings insight and expertise – loves meetings, frepped, loves helping out.
- Would reform the attendance system
- Better define the VP-President-FCO relationship, ensure VP is more than just admin
- Passionate about culture and traditions, does various sports and socs
- Will rewrite standing orders to include archiving for Institutional Memory
- Will do a straw poll to choose limited edition stash, look into getting water bottles
- Handbook should be short but informative – increased use of visualisations and focus on culture

## Questions:

MP What is the biggest change you'd make to how I've done the role this year?

KM It's been a hard year. I'd change stash to be more eco-friendly, I'd get input on what people want, and try to help centralise it with player layer.

BT I'd also like to change stash – potentially by reducing the amount that people buy – there are better ways to make sustainable – I'd bring in the ability to just buy a Cuth's crest patch – this could cut down the amount of stash bought, and allow people to be creative

MF I don't want to revolutionise the role – I'd keep things simple – I'd support exec on whatever they want to do.

CA Do you think centralised stash is a good idea?

BT Not sure it's a great idea, I know some societies like having independence of choice. Most people aren't looking for super high-quality stuff. The role of VP is already very time consuming – don't want to open a huge can of worms – if requested, I'd be happy to organise this though.

MF The JCR is there to support Cuth's members and should respect what people want – whatever that is.

KM I wouldn't force anyone to change – I'd just offer the opportunity with player layer – they are one of the most sustainable brands – high quality and affordable – I'd organise a pack of info on how to organise stash via Player Layer or otherwise – I'd make sure everyone's got high quality image of the crest – I'd be there to support people who want to take it up the Player layer option.



SWC Which committee are you most excited to sit on if you get it?

MF I've been on executive and facilities committee – looking forward to GovComm – everything they do and helping with that.

KM Social Comm – hopefully can be a lot more events, a lot more to organise to make up for the lack of events this year.

BT SU Comm – I think the way we interact with the SU isn't something I have been involved with – I'd like to learn how we can make the relationship more mutually beneficial.

AH How can we make sure the Freshers' Handbook is accepting and inclusive?

KM I'd include info about our anti-racism workshops and the participation fund – show LGBT+ events – but also without making it too long

BT I agree. Key to addressing these things is to actively engage with Communities Committee. I currently talk to Communities Committee a lot and I think it's super effective, we need to include it more in all conversations – For example, they should be in contact with social comm more.

MF As I said in hust I want to be more collaborative – I'd be talking to welfare and minority reps to include everyone possible.

Voting online until 16.00 Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at [cuths.com/vote](https://cuths.com/vote)



## President of the Society (Method 1 Presidential)

Candidates: AW, RON

AW proposed by AL

AL's hust:

- Masters student – here to propose AW
- Met him 1 week into his first year
- Initially realised he was vocal, opinionated and passionate
- He's had a turbulent relationship with the JCR
- On running for music room manager "there is nothing I want to do less than hold a JCR position"
- At times too passionate
- A year later worked with him in Big Band
- He's a leader, and organised.
- Seen him refine his skills
- He cares so much about each role he's had at cuth's
- He's held a variety of roles and it shows his ability to adapt
- Not about being at the top
- Don't think there's anyone else more determined or who wants it more

AW's hust:

Hi, I'm Alfie, I'm a music finalist, and I'm running to be President of the Society. If you don't know me personally you might have seen me running Cuth's elections this year, organising Cuth's Live last year, playing saxophone obnoxiously with Cuth's Big Band, or maybe you've seen me getting way too invested in internal JCR politics in JCR meetings.

But rather than boring you by starting with a list of everything I've done in the last 3 years, instead I want to start by talking about WHY I'm running for President.

If it even needs to be said in a Presidential hust, I love Cuth's, but it wasn't always that way.

When I arrived at uni I didn't want to come; I only chose to study my silly unemployable music degree, which to be fair I now love, because I thought if I'm going to drag myself through three painful years it may as well be a subject I kind of like. I applied to Cuth's because it had a self-catered option and Brooks seemed like the most "normal" university experience of all the colleges. At least for the first few weeks, I really had no interest in Cuth's beyond it having a cheap bar. The idea of doing unpaid work in a JCR position seemed bizarre and desperately uncool. The JCR seemed like a huge debate over nothing at all.

Standing in front of you now, it should be clear a lot has changed in me from that moody fresher.

With time, going to societies and getting to know a few people, the JCR started to creep up on me. In my first term, I was asked to be on a campaign team for an election. Sitting in a JCR meeting I'd been dragged into, mostly confused about how the meeting worked, I looked



around at a packed Bailey Bar and started to notice how many people cared. I started to realise the JCR wasn't just some political game, it was an actual community - something worth caring about.

The more involved I got, the more I realised that the JCR actually had opportunities to offer me. It dawned on me that Cuth's Big Band, the society that had become such a big part of my uni life, wasn't some isolated organisation but was only possible because of the time and money the JCR put into it.

The biggest step came when I realised that I could actually make a change, make a real impact on the experience of others at Cuth's. Though I was forced into running for Music Room Manager so Big Band could have a music room key, I quickly worked out that with the sizeable budget I now had in my hands I could actually make a real difference. I could actually do something about all of my complaints, ideas and grudges. The JCR still seemed like a big clique, with all its governance talk and seemingly not much action, but I realised it wasn't "the JCR" and everyone else but that the JCR was everyone.

Sure, I was still a naive fresher with slightly too much confidence (which I hope I'm not still today) but some spark in me had been lit. Since then I've been massively thankful for all of the opportunities the JCR has given me and my outlook couldn't be further today from where it was on the first day I arrived at Cuth's. But for many, if not the majority, of ordinary JCR members, that spark is never lit - they never get what all the fuss is about, they never decipher all the procedure. They love Cuth's, but they don't love the JCR.

In recent years, the JCR has grown to include so many new roles, committees, and societies; the second sabbatical has opened up new possibilities to refine our operations. The JCR isn't just about the exec anymore, it includes so much more. But many societies and non-exec officers still see it as an "us" and "them" - the JCR and everyone else.

Now I can't promise you a quick fix, that's bigger than one year and one president, but what I can tell you is that I understand why people feel that way.

The JCR is doing amazingly, its been run so well by such great people in recent years, but pushing it further means prioritising tackling that divide. I want to be President because I know how much the JCR can offer you when you engage with it, and I know I'll succeed in broadening the JCR's appeal because I've experienced hating it.

So yes, to address the elephant in the room, I have never been on exec. But I think my unconventional route to this election has only made a more qualified candidate for President. I've not often taken on a role that follows a time tested pattern, rather I've sought out roles where I can really make a change.

As just a fresher, I realised Cuth's lacked any organisation of its music, something nearly every other college had, so I founded and then ran Cuth's Music Committee. Starting from scratch, I helped set up a new society, overhauled the music room's equipment, moved bookings online, secured funding for campus card entry, lobbied for a new practice room, and started running the hugely popular Cuth's Live events in the bar. This year I've continued on that work as Colleges Chair in Music Durham, overseeing a committee of every JCR's music rep and working closely with university staff to improve music at every college.



As Senior Returning Officer I've worked to make participating in Cuth's democracy easier by simplifying our elections, cutting down all the complicated procedure and making easy guides to the rules.

I've been on Cuth's Big Band exec for two years now, this year as President. Over that time the band has come to rival university ensembles in standard, playing at college balls and events on the same bill as Durham's top band.

I've always been proactive outside of my roles and endeavoured to improve the way the JCR is run - I've passed more motions than probably anyone else over the last few years and I know the standing orders inside out.

Across these roles I've lead teams, organised events, dealt with governance, managed publicity, met with trustees, balanced budgets, worked with the university, lobbied college, and of course, handled all the humdrum tasks in-between. I've shown I am a reliable, pragmatic and principled leader and I've got a track record of getting shit done.

But at the same time, I think I've shown that the JCR needs to be fun and it needs to be accessible. My route to this election shows that the JCR isn't about positions, hierarchies and rules. If we want to keep enroute towards a more inclusive, fairer and successful JCR, we need a President who'll make Cuth's work for all members.

So at last, what about my ideas?

My manifesto sets out four main priorities that take into account the unique challenges Covid and next year's new principal will throw at us, and I have some ideas of how to achieve each of them.

### 1. Bounce back from Covid

We need to recognise that there is some sentiment that a years levy has been "lost" with no big events or sports and societies. As President, I would endeavour to subsidise events as much as possible and make sure that next years finalists get some priority for events so they don't miss out.

Of course, many will have already graduated by then so I'd organise coordinating returners events into a bigger JCR returners weekend, with a formal and events, aimed at Covid graduates so they can have one last hurrah.

Supporting sports and societies is also going to be vital as many haven't really had a chance to build a membership this year and might struggle to fill exec roles. We need a huge freshers fair over a larger space and aimed at all year groups. I'd also offer special help with publicity and really anything else to ensure that no society gets left behind.

### 2. A JCR for Ordinary Members

As President I would stress that the JCR is everyone by reducing the exec-centric approach and dedicating more time to non-exec positions and societies. I'd also keep running regular drop ins and posting open ended questions on social media to involve non-position holders in decisions as much as possible.



As a former resident of Brooks, I know that it can feel cut off from Cuth's on the Bailey. Improving the decor in Brooks JCR could go a long way to fixing that, especially buying a decent games console. Working with the bar steward, I'd also like to keep pushing Brooks Bar and find ways to make it appealing, like running regular pub quizzes.

I would also revive the sports and socs award to fund training and development opportunities. The scheme hasn't been run in some years, but by bringing it back we would give JCR members the chance to get professional training in, for example, football coaching or musical direction, benefitting both them and their society.

### 3. A Bigger and Better JCR

As President I would organise more small events, like reviving Cuth's Oktoberfest or restarting the summer cider and music festival. Working with some of our smaller committees, like for instance MusicComm, on these events would ensure that the workload is manageable for exec members.

Our publicity strategy also needs rethinking. We're reliant on Facebook whilst its popularity is declining, our Instagram presence is unfocused and we don't have a proper mailing list. A new strategy should allow us to dedicate space more fairly to sports and societies, who at the moment are excluded, and improve engagement. I would also consider creating a dedicated publicity exec role to enact this strategy, which could be popular with students aiming for a career in marketing or design.

With alumni, I'd love to set up a leadership mentoring scheme for JCR officers and sports and soc execs to develop their skills. This would both improve our operations and make going for a JCR position a more attractive prospect.

Lastly, I'd love to have more informal coffee and lunch meetings with non-exec members and sports and societies. My experience being non-exec is that you can feel cut off from the President, when that shouldn't be the case. Meeting informally and more frequently would ensure I can help them with problems they might never have reached out about otherwise.

### 4. College, The Uni, Beyond

Building a strong relationship with the new Principal is key. From working closely with college in the past I've seen how reliant we are on them, so I know that needs to be a priority next year.

Working with college on formals would also be an aim. Starting with a focus on freshers formals, which I think are responsible for some people's aversion to formals, I'd like to see formals themed more around student interests, with after dinner ents and more music.

My experience working with university staff in Experience Durham will be invaluable in representing Cuth's interests to the university. Cuth's has a long tradition of being a very vocal JCR in university politics which I would have no intention of changing. I would want to be a voice for you, and I'd consult members as much as possible on university-wide issues.

Those are just some of my ideas, but I hope I've shown across this hust that I really understand Cuth's as both an organisation and a community. I hope I've shown as President I'd be dedicated to every branch of our JCR. I want to keep making Cuth's a JCR for everyone.



I'd encourage you to read my manifesto and if you have any questions email me or find me on Facebook. Thank you.

## Questions

SWC Cuth's has had 5 female Presidents in a row – that's unique as far as I am aware. Myself and my predecessors have often heard “wouldn't it be nice to have a man next” – how would you respond to this?

AW I'm not sure that I'd do anything differently due to my gender. One thing that has struck me there have often been points about roles being associated with certain backgrounds – I think it's a good thing to show that this doesn't have to be the case.

EM How would you handle getting up to speed with parts of the role that you haven't had any experience in?

AW Valid point – I don't have as much experience as previous Presidents – but that's true for anyone. Communication is key. I want to be super communicative; I'd talk to people over handovers, be super proactive. Part of the role of president is empowering other people. Seeing through other people's ideas. That's my strategy if I'm in an area I don't know so well – support those who do know.

MP Where have the Executive Committees of previous years gone wrong to create a JCR that is too Exec-centric?

AW If I'd had longer in my hust I would have addressed how I don't believe this is the case. We've gotten bigger and bigger each year – the JCR is a different beast to 5 years ago. I don't think anything's gone wrong, but we need to recognise things have changed. Shift focus. Don't cling on to an old vision of what we are.

EMC bouncing off SWC, being a President after many women, how would you continue to keep the JCR as a thing that is intersectional?

AW Important point. We've got a great rep as being diverse. I don't think I'm going to be a massive stereotypical bloke – important to empower people coming forward – integrate communities committee fully – make them actively present. Platform other people, don't make it about myself.



JGa How do you feel the President can best work with welfare?

AW I will concede that I haven't been involved with welfare – not one of my areas of expertise. We have a large welfare team. I'll talk to people. Ordinary members. Follow through on their ideas. The benefit of being a sabbatical officer is that I can help people to realise their visions by being able to spend more time on it myself. Welfare at the moment needs to amplify the male and female welfare officers as much as senior welfare officers – give all roles more presence in JCR meetings.

DM I'm a newcomer who found the JCR exec a bit stern-faced – how to make it more accessible?

AW It's about making things fun. I think we've come a long way. Make it clear, make it simple. Visually our aesthetic can be improved, becoming more friendly and more professional. Aside from communications, it's about being more present – all officers should introduce themselves when possible. Be an accessible person.

BT Do you have any ways we can tackle Parsons/Bailey divide?

AW It's not easy to fix. Long term: the new building in brooks. Brooks must feel like it's not secondary - on a small scale brooks JCR needs attention. Also let's be honest about brooks bar; it'll never be an alternative to the bailey. Board game collection. Show that there is a reason to go. Lobby and work with college to get the building at brooks sorted.

SWC One of the biggest challenges is getting told no by various bodies. How would you respond to this?

AW No one wants to hear no. Depends on context. Have to be realistic. As a fresher I had a very optimistic vision of how things got done. This isn't the case. Be realistic. Sometimes you can take a loss and divert energy elsewhere. You can go in there any have an argument and not be personal. I wouldn't stop pushing. Over the years the JCR will develop and what was once seen as a hard no can become a yes.

KB On increasing engagement – I think it's daunting for fresh to get involved in the JCR. How would you increase first year engagement?

AW I think it's a good point. This year has been very unprecedented. Not as much prep to fresher contact. Usually meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years helps get people involved. Next year we need to massively prioritise the sports and socs fair – we can pick up the pieces of what we had and appeal to this years freshers next year. As a general point, it's a difficult one, and it's about image. Before people even come in, we can give the impression that it's just one big political game. We can build up a youtube channel and build up the impression that we are accessible and nice. Our social media presence needs more faces! That will go a long way to increase engagement.



RM Open question; answer how you will. How do you see our relationship with the SU going forward?

AW I'm not directly involved with SU politics. I do like to keep myself in the loop with this. I wasn't in the RON campaign, but I'm not the biggest fan of the SU. I think SU's links to various bodies is poor. I think that in the future we need to engage more with music Durham, DST, Team Durham, and make sure the Opportunities Officer represents us in a wider sense. Mixed feelings about the SU.

Voting online until 16.00 Wednesday 10th February 2021 at [cuths.com/vote](https://cuths.com/vote)

A google form will be posted to Freshers' groups – by voting you can be in with a chance of winning a Greggs voucher.

**\*Meeting Adjourned\***