



## Social Committee Meeting – 15.10.2021

Attendance: EW (Social Chair), AW (President), KM (VP), MA (Ents Officer), JF (Publicity), HR (Music Officer), SU, HC, KH, IM, RP, JC, SB (Michaelmas Manager), IF (Formals Manager)

Apologies:

Absent:

Location: Alfie's gross flat

MA and HR late.

### Introduction

EW: I am going to try to give jobs as early as possible. I will give as many details as possible to keep you in the loop. If you can't do what I've assigned you or you don't know how, please do come to me and I can help delegate someone else to - I'm not scary! We need you to attend events to clean and set up and you do get discounts for this

AW: If you are on a committee you are a JCR officer and you have to come to committee and JCR meetings, if you can't you do need to send apologies. Please attempt to come to meetings as it's so important for you to gain knowledge which improves the way you work on a committee and you have a say as much as anyone else, so have your say. I expect to see you at the JCR meeting on tuesday. If you don't come to enough meetings or send apologies then you get kicked off the committee

EW: If you haven't done anything for an event then I can't give you a discount. SB is the Michaelmas Ball Manager

SB: The theme for Michaelmas is Vegas with the working title 'The night in Vegas'. We want to have casino tables with everyone having chips, everything classy but on steroids! A lot of red and gold everywhere, some jazz bands, maybe burlesque dancers? Lots of lights and lots of fun - will share the pinterest board to everyone

### Oktoberfest (EW)

EW: I've been coordinating getting German beers with the bar, AW doing the music, and then I've been sorting out food and ordering decorations. Michaelmas is at beamish and we are sorting all the details with coaches and food - will unfortunately be giving out a lot of jobs as michaelmas is a month and a day away and you guys are in charge of bringing SB's vision to life. Who is quite artistic?

IM and JF



EW: We will have a crafts weekend close to the ball and you guys can get started earlier. On Oktoberfest we need to make an event, a nice graphic - IM if you help JF - it will be on 26th in bailey bar and if you IM can make the poster - theme it with the event and AW will print and create the event. Tickets will be sold Tuesday and Thursday with priority second year - I will put a timetable up tomorrow and as a general point if you can't do your slot please ask around before you message me about it

### Michaelmas (EW)

EW: For michaelmas we want to make sure the theme runs through everything. We always get fabric wristbands, JF if you can graphic design a wristband and coordinate with SB and then that will help the theme flow through. HC you are helping with the ordering details once JF has designed it. We need two wristbands - one for dinner and one for ents. We also need an event page for michaelmas - sorry JF!

AW: We aren't doing tickets on fixr - hopefully selling the dinner tickets on Friday and then Saturday or Sunday for ents. Hoping to sell out. We have 400 dinner tickets and exec and social comm get guaranteed tickets and 1/3 off (I think) and everyone on social comm is needed. So around 380 dinner and 150 ents tickets - about half of the JCR membership and it is JCR only but expecting demand to be ridiculously high

EW: On the day we will all go set up but there is no clean up so it's a good one. Will update you all about tickets being reserved and discounts. With ents, MA is in charge. Working on the casino tables currently because slightly worried about the legality- we are getting fun money and dodgems. For small ents, we are getting a photo booth

IF: Could we get an inflatable bucking bronco

MA: One thing for ents could be arcade stuff with basketball, pinballs, not sure for this event but in general

AW: Food is under small ents, we previously had stone baked pizzas

MA: We should get american diner style for the Vegas theme

SB: I saw on pinterest some huge inflatable dice that you can kind of flight and throw about

EW: KH you are going to help MA out with this and any suggestions send them to MA. We were thinking of getting a magician?

MA: They are great fun at an 18th!

MA goes to a lot of 18ths

HR arrives and sits on AW's lap

AW: We could get a tiger!

JF: Could the magician go around tables?



EW: We need something to draw people into rooms that aren't used so the current idea is to have them on a stage to draw people into that room. We normally get two photographers but think we only have room for one - JC you are in charge of finding the photographer

MA: Dylan Bregman is good and in Cuth's

AW: We do like to have any acts or photographers as people in Cuth's to support our own talent

EW: We need a food truck as we get free food around midnight to sober people up - SU you have the food truck look so please sort that out, maybe american vegas food

SU: Is this the only ents food?

EW: Yeah when we have the casino and rides going on

AW: Unless you get donuts and candy floss too

EW: This will be the only substantial food for ents tickets. Coaches are a nightmare, RP your job is to message the SU contact to arrange the pickup. Also you are in charge of arranging the snapchat filter JR and IM will design

SB: I thought burlesque dancers would fit the theme, but I don't know where we would get them

AW: Someone told me there is a DU burlesque society

EW: There is, IF and SB you guys are in charge of finding them. Coaches will leave at 5:30, there is drinks reception, dinner is 2 hours, coaches start to leave at 12-1 and then continue till 2. We were thinking around 12/12:30 the burlesque dancers come on

AW: I think they should come on at 12 when everyone is drunk - we want people to go wild and it not be lame at 9pm when people are too sober

EW: There will be someone, maybe not sure how much choice. Music will hand over to AW

AW: Music is a weird one at balls, night is normally split between live music and DJ, DJ has always started too late in my opinion. I would suggest we don't do back to back live music, have a band immediately after dinner, then later in the evening have more live music but in the middle have stuff that is not music like the magician. We will also save money as getting a band is expensive and there are some amazing student magicians that I think are cheaper. First band after dinner would be a big band type of band and then later like a function band, party stuff then a DJ from midnight till 2 - after the burlesque dancers

EW: We have two dining rooms and they won't let us move tables from the big one and then the main stage room. We don't want any wasted space. We want casino tables in the smaller dining room. We are trying to balance where people would be - I want to post a timetable of when things are happening so no one misses things. Noting - we want them to fit the theme and that is another job for JF but not right now. We have 28 tables in winter gardens and 11 tables - some are tables of 10 some are 12. We normally have an app but we could have a graphic with the seating plan so people know where to send notes



AW: If someone was keen we could build an app for the vents, with noting table plan, timetable, etc

EW: Again that will be a JF job. We need to choose a charity as half the note cards are done by outreach

AW: We donate £1 per dinner ticket to charity and then there is a raffle which someone needs to organise. Tickets will be £60 for dinner and ents £28.50 provisionally

HR: What day is the ball

EW: November 16th

AW: Ideally we want the event up on Monday

IM: A lot of freshers dont have a clue about any of this

SU: Does noting get explained at the balls

EW: We could get the noting etiquette printed nicely

AW: There are a lot of other Cuth's traditions that no one would know about - no hands dessert, I am spartacus, then the toast to the Society and then there is a drinking game but is way too complex

MA: I am sure EM knows

EW: Would a big description about the ball help for freshers?

IM: Yeah

EW: People on full durham grant get money off and that will be fully publicised

## Formals (AW)

AW: In the past we haven't really had a hand in formals, not since we were in charge of them. Ours were really out of hand in the past but college didn't help this - in 2008 we had a Principal downing a boat of gravy and the uni were shocked at our formals and took them off us. College didn't really want us involved, but there is an appetite for college to have us involved now, at least with TW. If we do a good job, in future years they will give us more of a say in them. Formals are more expensive here because we don't subsidise them as they weren't worth subsidising. I think music could really improve them. We can have a big say in themes and decorations. Ideas like fancy dress are a good idea to pursue as well as linking up with bar events, a silent disco, or a discounted club night. College will be keen if we sell it with increasing bar profits

SB: What is the capacity for formals?

AW: Somewhere between 110-130



IF: Are formals a mix of years or are they done by year group?

AW: Some are priority certain years, some are a mix. Some sell out but some are not popular. Formal speeches used to be funny but they are now so dry and boring. I would like to push them to make them fun again, I could maybe do that. If you have an opinion about any elements about formals then do speak up

MA: Are they happening though?

AW: They are cancelled because of lack of staff but they are creating incentives to get more. Apparently they'll be back up in action in 2 weeks but that's chat from the uni. They'll be back by new year for sure but I'm hoping for mid November

MA: Is it possible to go outside of college for formals?

IF: What about the Radisson Blu?

AW: It would be so spenny. The JCR doesn't have a huge amount to do with formals and so there isn't a huge incentive for us to try to solve this problem as they would go back to not letting us be involved. Radisson charges £25 a head then £18 for wine and that is basically a ball price at that point - it would just be a bit lame and exclusionary. Please do share ideas about formals as college need student opinions

## AOB

SB: Are balls only open to people who have paid the JCR levy?

EW: Yeah

SB: I would publicise it when posting about the ball

AW: We didn't hit our normal rate last year - 80-90% but normally it is 95%. We won't ban people at the door but when picking up your wristband you won't be able to collect before paying the levy

EW: I was hoping to not make this JCR members only but because its beamish we can't

AW: Also costs are high because of brexit, covid, fuel ect coaches are £3.4k instead of £1.9k for coaches. It's fine because we have a lot of money from last year that didn't get spent. If you pay the levy you get it back because we will be pumping so much money into the events this year, subsidised way more than normal

SB: When are we meeting next?

EW: In two weeks or sooner, I'll try to give you a week's notice. I'll email all the jobs and put the Oktoberfest timetable up.

HR: God AW is warm