



JCR Meeting 2.2 - 15-02-2022

Attendance: AW (President), IC (FCO), KM (VP), EW (Social Chair), JG (Senior Welfare), EM (JCR Chair), LH (PR Officer), CL (Outreach Chair), DM (Communities Chair, WCS Rep), LM (Male Welfare), TA (Female Welfare), MB (Stool), ML (JRO, Outreach Comm), AF (JRO), PA (EM Rep), NH (Assistant EM Rep), CH (LGBTQ+ Rep), JN (Local Students' Rep), ES (Assistant Int. Rep), DB (SwD Rep), Mka (Assistant LGBTQ+ Rep), LJ (Trans and NB Rep), ME (Assistant SwD Rep), BT (Trustee), NT (Trustee), KBr (Trustee), JWa (PGM VP), RD (PGM Comm), FR (PGM Comm), CG (Assistant Librarian, Welfare Campaigns), JG (Finance Comm), SB (Finance Comm), SR (Finance Comm), MA (Social Comm), SU (Feast Manager), KH (Social Comm, Welfare Campaigns), HC (Social Comm), JC (Social Comm), IF (Formals Manager), RP (Social Comm), EL (Environment Comm, Welfare Campaigns), SY (Environment Comm), SR (Environment Comm), JR (Environment Comm), AA (Environment Comm), YR (Outreach Comm), BS (Outreach Comm), SL (Outreach Comm, International Comm), JV (SU Comm), AD (SU Comm), WS (SU Comm), IE (International Comm), SJ (International Comm), CW (Welfare Campaigns), KB (Fashion Show President), DS (Music Rep), SC (Year Abroad and Placement Rep), MP (Bar Liaison), CR (Webmaster), SM (Bailey Wardrobe Manager)

Apologies: AC (Campaigns Manager), YW (International Comm), JF (Social Comm), HR (Social Comm), BA (Finance Comm), JW (Sports & Socs), TB (Facilities), SB (Social Comm), GM (Environment Rep), JC (PGM Treasurer), NM (International Comm), EB (Outreach Comm), MS (Outreach Comm, Welfare Campaigns), JH (Outreach Comm), IM (Social Comm), ZH (Librarian), JR (Head Frep), JS (PGM President)

Location: Bailey Bar



Agenda:

Correspondence

Motions

Free Tickets for Social Chair

Elections

Junior Returning Officer (II)

Senior Welfare Officer (I)

Development Officer (I)

Facilities Manager (I)

Publicity Officer (I)

Sports and Societies Chair (I)

JCR Chair (I)

Minutes Pass



Correspondence (AW President of the Society)

Many of you will have seen articles in Palatinat about common room representation within SU Assembly in the last week. There has been a lot of misinformation and rumours going around about what the SU's plan is - in short, they'd like to have college SU Reps on Assembly elected in SU-run elections, rather than ones run by common rooms as we currently do. I've been very involved in the discussions around this issue, both in my capacity as President of the Society and as chair of JCR President's Committee, so I feel I'm well placed to clarify what the current situation is. I hope in the process, everyone is better able to both understand this topic and Cuth's status as a charity. I'd welcome any feedback or suggestions from anyone about representation on SU Assembly in the break or after this meeting.

Durham Students Union is a registered charity that is independent of the University and is recognised as a students' union under the Education Act 1994. St Cuthbert's Society JCR likewise has the same status legally and we operate as a students union for students from St Cuthbert's Society. A number of common rooms are what's called Durham Student Organisations (or DSOs), but a growing number are joining Cuth's and a few others and becoming independent charities - by the end of the year nearly half of JCRs will be charities, independent of the University.

As students unions and charities, we are both subject to regulation under the Education Acts and from the Charity Commission. This has many implications on our operations, one of which is that we must retain the ability to independently work towards our charitable aims.

Cuth's JCR's charitable aims are in:

Promoting the interests and welfare of Students at Saint Cuthbert's Society during the course of study and representing, supporting and advising Students;

being the recognised representative channel between Students and Saint Cuthbert's Society and any other external bodies; and

providing social, sporting, cultural and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its Students.

Durham Student's Union's charitable aims are necessarily broader but cover the same points around representing interests, supporting welfare and providing activities for students. Crucially, the SU also has a charitable aim to support 'the development of and cooperation between the Common Rooms'.



Cooperation between the SU and common rooms is then desirable as our aims overlap, but this requires clearly defined boundaries of where our obligations and responsibilities to each other lie in order to ensure that we are adequately maintaining our independence in working towards our aims.

SU Assembly is the main democratic policy making body of the SU; it's much like a JCR Meeting and anyone can attend and speak, but only certain reps from across the common rooms, associations, student groups, and other areas in the University can vote. Currently, common rooms are represented on SU Assembly by SU Reps that are elected within the common rooms themselves; in our case, our SU Rep is Lara who was elected as an Exec member in a ballot of all of Cuth's. The SU is concerned that, in some colleges, the SU Rep is not voted on by all members of that college. In some cases, SU Reps are chosen only by undergraduate students or only by those that have paid the levy. This presents an issue to the SU, as their governing documents require representation from the whole of a college, not just one part of it. The SU has then proposed that SU Reps should be elected in a ballot conducted by the SU, rather than elected by common rooms.

There are a number of downsides to this plan. As a JCR Officer, our SU Rep is able to work closely with the Exec, minority reps, and their elected SU Committee to ensure that they're representing the diversity of opinion that existing within Cuth's. As part of the Cuth's Exec, the SU Rep is able to bring a University-wide policy perspective to our discussions and acts as a liaison between the JCR and the SU. They're also able to access JCR social media to canvass opinions and promote SU opportunities. If the SU Rep wasn't elected within our JCR, they wouldn't be able to benefit from any of this. We'd also crucially lose the voice of common rooms on Assembly. Durham is fundamentally a collegiate University and common rooms are integral to that collegiate experience; in my view and I hope in the view of the majority of us, common rooms need to be represented within SU policy discussion to ensure that Durham's collegiate experience can be maintained and improved upon.

The SU has claimed that they're keen to move back towards a model in which SU Reps are elected within common rooms, but that due to the charitable status of so many common rooms this will likely involve a formal memorandum of agreement to ensure that we're able to maintain our independent charitable status. Since SU Assembly is part of the SU's governance procedures, involving other charities within it could potentially fall foul of the Charities Commission's regulations without proper legal boundaries.

This issue has nothing to do with the ongoing Democracy Review in the Student's Union. The conversation about common room's relationship to the SU is one that JCR PresComm is keen to address and we hope the SU will cooperate with us. Given the hostile working



relationship that has developed over the last few years between us, its critical that we do reach a satisfactory solution.

Again, I'd welcome anyone's thoughts on this, even if you'd just like me to explain or chat about any of this in more detail!



Motions

Free Tickets for the Social Chair Motion

This JCR Notes:

- The Executive and Social Committees receive a discount of up to 40% on Cuth's balls due to the additional responsibilities in organising, setting up, running and clearing up the balls.
- The Social Chair currently gets the same discount as every Exec and Social Committee member.

This JCR Believes:

- The Social Chair consistently puts more time and energy into every ball than anyone else.
- The Social Chair is often required to work during the ball to ensure it runs smoothly.
- The Social Chair deserves free tickets to the balls they organise to reflect the time and effort they put in.

This JCR Order:

Positions in the JCR Order

3.9 The Social Committee Chair shall receive a free ticket to any college event that they organise, on the premise that they are fulfilling their role adequately.

Proposer: KM

Secunder: JS

Discussion

No questions

No amendments

No opposition

Passed on a General Aye



Elections

Junior Returning Officer (II)

Candidates: JV, RON

JV's Hust

- I am quite involved in societies
- I sit on SU Comm
- Very frustrating but it gave me an insight into how the JCE works with the SU
- I would like to know how the JCR functions itself and i think JRO would be a good way to do that

Questions

MB: Favourite part of jcr meeting?

JV: Raffle

DB: Favourite democracy ever?

JV: JCR

Boos from the crowd

JV: British Parliament

More boos from the crowd

AW: Can you give an example of when you returned something successfully?

JV: I have previously been in charge of music and had to return it to the organ loft

BT: Briefly describe the causes of the 2008 financial crash

JV: Misunderstanding of risk involved with mortgages

EM: I changed the standing orders that if the stool is unavailable a JRO must step in so demonstrate what a stool is

Jv does a sort of frog crouch with hands on the floor ???

JV elected



Senior Welfare Officer (I)

Candidates: LH, DM, LM, RON

LH's Hust:

Hi, I'm Lara, my pronouns are they/them and I'm your current PR Officer. A lot of people love coming up here and talking about how they thought they'd never get involved...I'm not one of them. I knew from freshers week, specifically during my consent workshop, that I wanted to be involved with the JCR.

Throughout my three years here I have held a lot of positions from LGBTQ+ rep to SU rep and had the opportunity to help set up communities committee. Thanks to being so involved from early on I know the ins and outs of how the JCR works. This year I also got to learn how the SU and the university works. This has allowed me to learn who to talk to if I am trying to change something or how to pressure the university that often ignores student voices. The experience I hold will undoubtedly be beneficial for the role of senior welfare. Especially next year with the changes being implemented.

When it comes to welfare there's a few things I'd like to do differently. I want to re-vamp the social media. I want to make sure that campaign and information posts are easily readable and accessible. This year I have been using applications to ensure posts are readable to those with colour-blindness and providing plain text versions of the newsletter for those who need it, and I would like to implement these to welfare as well.

The major change I want to make is to oppose normalisation. Post such as "it's okay not to be" or "everybody struggles during exams" makes people think that it's the norm, this makes people less likely to seek help when necessary. I want to change the conversation and encourage people to seek help before they're at a breaking point. I have seen this happen too many times while I've been in Durham.

I also want to further reinforce the fact that welfare is not a counselling position. Currently it's being treated as such which is a huge issue given that we are all students who do not have or receive the adequate training. Due to this I would like to shift the focus on issue such as housing, sexual health, and budgeting - things that we can give advice on without causing harm.

Other ideas that I would like to implement is to have a welfare resource bank that anyone can access for signposting incase they're too nervous to talk to a member of welfare. Make a welfare suggestion box so that people have an easy way of making suggestions. Finally, I would like to reinforce that male and female welfare are not just there for people who identify as that gender but for everyone.



DM's Hust:

G'day everyone, If you don't know who I am, you're welcome and if you do, I'm sorry. My names Dan Mercer I'm a first-year maths and philosophy student and obviously as I'm here I'm running for the role of senior welfare officer. Welfare is something here at cuths which from the get-go this year I wanted to get involved in, I always felt as if it's what really fit me as a person here at cuths. If you've known me this year, you may remember me being, as one of my favourite people would put it 'very welfare'. Along my journey falling down the rabbit hole which we all call the JCR, I've ran for two elections in a row and been lucky enough to be elected as your working-class student's representative and ended up as this terms chair of communities committee and had the pleasure of sitting on the Exec meetings through it. At this point you might be thinking why have I ran for this role and what can I bring to it? I think as a person my work this year speaks for itself, from a taking a role which has been practically didn't have a presence, to one where I've started back up a society and brought its presence on to committees like welfare, SU and soon to be social comm. Through this experience I've I feel as if I've really gained a thorough understanding of the operations of the JCR and secondly through my work as chair of comm comm I've found that I've gained a skill for management which is why I chose the role of Senior Welfare Officer. If I'm lucky enough to be elected in this role, I really want to focus on the managerial operations of welfare itself. My main aim is to make welfare proactive rather than reactive, something which I've really focused on in Communities committee not in a manner of making welfare more involved, but I want to move welfares aims to a targeted position. Rather than solely focusing on tackling the stigma, I would love to move welfare's target to the root of the issues, asking what causes issues rather than waiting for the aftermath. Yet this doesn't mean I want to revoke welfare away from tackling stigma rather I want to craft a welfare team which isn't scared to deal with the main issues which affect students. While at the same time helping those who need the voice of welfare for consolation. Considering everything I've been talking about you might be wondering how I will actualise this? So I thought i'd give you a couple of examples, my first is to follow in the light of SHAG week and make more campaigns more accessible, this term through talks of the communities committee I believe we've got to a point in Comm Comm where as a stand-alone we have our own solidified presence and with the WCSR and the LGBTQ+ rep being able to sit on the Campaigns team's meetings, and the input which was able to be provided was something which I think was extremely valuable. Obviously, the ideas which the next minority reps will put forth will be the main input but already my ideas which I've put on my manifesto, so I really urge you to have a read and take a look. Following on from that making finance campaigns more prevalent, budgeting is something that affects most of us as students and I think plays well into my plans for tackling the root of the issues rather than waiting for the aftermath. As WCSR this year I think my perspective would be perfect to overlook this revamped campaign, and with this push forth the idea which I sold in my campaign's role being 'classless cuths' as you can tell I love a good bit of alliteration. Finally, I want to keep welfare fun but make it real. Welfare as a forum runs the risk of becoming this pure therapy like an outlet, which has its place and its value under my management would not be overlooked. However, it's not the single faculty that welfare should live up to, pushing forth



with my actualistic approach I believe I can keep welfare fun while tackling the issues that need to be tackled. So, I think it's time to make senior welfare less senior.

LM's Hust:

Questions

JG: There are some changes being made to the role for next year; what do you think the practical advantages and challenges are?

LH: New benefit will be that the role is more manageable, able to delegate more with additional welfare rep. I am SU rep this year so think it will be better

DM: I want to integrate communities committee; with a broader scope the role can get more voices in welfare and you need the representation to be the voice of everyone. The additional rep makes it easier too and it makes it a proper team which will enable communication

LM: A positive is that you can hone in on campaigns and ensure they are as inclusive as possible. Shortcoming makes drop ins less frequent and limits student support available and their drop ins are most popular so would like to advocate for 4 hours to remain

NH: There is the discussion around drop ins and how they can cause more harm than good, what do you think about the current status of drop ins, would you like to change them?

DM: There is a level of what welfare actually does, risk that it can become a single faculty machine where all it does is console. If I could do what I want to do, tackling root causes reduces the danger of having it emphasised on the counselling side. Still important to train but would reduce strain

LM: It is in standing orders that it is not a counselling service, we don't have enough training but we have training to signpost so we can advocate for drop ins to be a listening service by properly training communities comm and getting them more involved does offer more services for signposting

LH: It is a great idea for communities comm to have drop ins, I would feel more comfortable going to LGBTQ+ drop ins. More of a nightline approach by advertising more that it is just a listening non advisory service so people know it is not a counselling service and that it is just for signposting - why I want a signposting handbook so they can bypass welfare

AW: If you could run one campaign that has never been run before what would it be?

LM: I've enjoyed the LGBTQ+ camapigns and would like to push for LGBTQ+ comm, it has been overlooked but I htink there are more issues that need to be addressed - in particular coming out and not having the appropriate level of sex ed so would like to be more inclusive



LH: I would like to do one about intersectionality as people feel divided between different identities and it would be nice to tell people you can be all these things. Would do it similar to bring out the bias campaign and doing something like that with the minority reps

DM: I am going to go working class - I have pushed for the classless cuths campaign - alliteration is my passion. Having the conversation with the minority reps would be a really lovely one

KM: What do you think is the most important quality in a Senior Welfare Officer?

LH: Management, with changes to the role welfare is huge. Probably chairing too as they chair quite a bit. Approachability is important but management is top

DM: I agree with management and cohesion in management with that you start off with consistency and you follow through and communicate with the bigger team - you don't want to be sucked out of the loop, you still need to be able to tackle root issues

LM: Boundaries, there can be a lapse of boundaries with people coming outside of drop ins and with the new role, running 3 people in freshers week it is important the SWO has boundaries to know

TA: It is quite a high pressure job and you may go through personal issues whilst in the role so if you are going through a tough time personally and can't fulfil your welfare role how would you deal with this?

DM: With the new role there is a larger plethora of different officers to communicate with and just creating cohesion in the team so you can openly talk to the team. As much as SWO is manager they are just a normal welfare officer with a bit of management so need to be a normal person so you can communicate and others can communicate to you

LM: There is an amazing team and there is room to lean on others in the role. It is a student volunteer role at the end of the day so have to make sure you can communicate effectively - everyone is doing same drop ins so if you can't you need to prioritise yourself

LH: Gotten good at compartmentalising things this year and that is a useful skill to have. I think it is important to have a good support system around you and be able to reach out to support around you. It is a team so need to be able to communicate if you do need to step back

To be voted online



Development Officer (I)

Candidates: MKA, DB, RON

MKA's Hust:

Hello everyone, my name is MK, I'm a first-year music student and I use they/them pronouns. I am running to be your next Development officer. You have probably seen me running around cuths as your assistant LGBTQ+ rep and as the cuths keeno who cannot get enough of the JCR. My plan for the development officer is to set out a vision and realistically will be unlikely that the vision will be accomplished within a year or even 5. It would take around 10-15 years but I'm here to lay out my first steps. My first project as development officer would be to create a long-term strategy which would span the 10-15 years and after I would focus on points that I could work on and achieve this year. I really want to work on Alumni relations, College families and career, personal development and sponsorship. We need the connections between the current JCR and the alumni association improved to ensure that every student has the connections they would need post uni to create a supportive and beneficial community. Something that could jump start this connection is a mentorship programme, which would initially link exec with alumni who work in those areas, for example linking the Social Chair with someone who works in events management. As well as this, I want to talk to college about rebranding and revitalising Cuths Career Angels which will be extremely useful if properly applied. Hatfield, Castle and Collingwood utilise their alumni resources excellently and have incredible facilities due to this and I believe with enough work we could have this connection with our alumni. We could consider setting up a programme like the Hatfield Trust which is alumni donations which are used to help the college and personal development of the students there.

For College Families I would like to send the form for college families with every email the jcr sends out from the moment that colleges are confirmed. I like the idea of setting up more specific families for example based on faith, queer etc families but I believe that due to how late college allocations are, it is almost impossible to make the families good if we add more specifics. I would suggest setting up the specific families up later in first term, so it is done properly. So, for initial families, I propose only adding one extra characteristic for the initial families, whether you like drinking or not. I think this improves how parents evening and further family events go so people don't feel excluded. I think it's important to stress that subject based families are important as they create a peer support system when college mentors or academic advisors are too daunting. As well as that, the random connection with someone in cuths is good!

The jcr is here to support development and should be here to support development beyond life at uni. Every event should be providing a space for people to enjoy but also for the people organising events, they are learning from what they are doing. One of the ways I want to do this is through running a series of lectures, using academic and non-academic speakers. I also want to make them specific to sports and societies by asking them what they want, then working with them to make these events big and well publicised.



Clearly signpost career events run by the university; publicise in advance career events and special lectures. I would also want to clearly circulate when each department does interview prep.

Run a cv clinic with a professional; they can show us how to build a cv at uni., many are involved in Volunteering or gaining experience in extracurriculars which a clinic will show you how to spin and help to make your cv sound great.

Get support on how to apply for placements; as I said, I want to lobby college for careers angels to be rebranded and work closely with year abroad and placement committee to host events

A week-long event calendar organised with PGMcomm; events targeted at ug finalists and masters' students to give guidance on post-grad progression and provide options for their futures

With sponsorship, I would work with the FCO to partner with local businesses; building connections with us that aren't only transactional but appreciated. How great would it be to sponsor one of the football teams and actually create great connections to the rest of Durham.

Thank you very much for listening to me!

DB's Hust:

Hi everyone, it's weird to be on the other side of the bar for once! I'm Dite – your current Students with Disabilities Rep running to be Development Officer.

Firstly, I have a tonne of relevant experience, holding positions in various sports, societies, and committees which have given me lots of transferrable skills. I also worked on a charity telethon for two summers so am confident of my ability to encourage donations! I've organised a range of events such as coffee mornings, arts and crafts sessions, socials, Disco Bingo, and, famously, Pub Quizzes. I've marshalled charity runs in the December cold, sat behind the library desk until 11pm, and served alumni in the bar until 2. I have an understanding of all the cogs in the big Cuth's machine as well as the intangible quality that makes us so great.

I have big ideas. I want to lobby college to revive Cuth's Careers Angels – during the pandemic students have felt its absence and now, more than ever, personal development support needs to be reprioritised. I'm not sure I agree with "Durham Personal Development Society" that it should be via Joe Rogan podcasts, but rather through workshops and lectures for all key stages of your university career. This should incorporate internships, placement years, postgraduate study, and beyond – recent graduates should not be feeling as lost as many do.

My involvement with DU Public Speaking Society has shown that development is not just about your CV - I want to work with welfare, college, and alumni to provide programmes to



build your confidence and self-assuredness so you leave Durham in the best position and with the knowledge you can always come back to 12 South Bailey.

Our recent graduates may lose their link to Cuth's if we do not prioritise putting on events to encourage them to come back, something in the style of a 'Returner's Weekend', anything reminiscent of the best bits of their time here. As the backlog within the social calendar eases, alumni should be offered tickets to the things we put on.

The relationship between Cuth's and its alumni is symbiotic; they have so much to give us but want to stay informed of our accomplishments. I want to work alongside our wonderful college communications officer Kath to ensure your connection to Cuth's is continuous – not starting and ending with ceremonies in the cathedral... or in the big tent on the racecourse.

I want opportunities to meet and learn from alumni to be advertised, to interview some of our success stories, and spotlight them regularly in newsletters. If we stay in touch with our alumni and show them exciting content from across college, the opportunities they can provide in return are limitless. Think getting alumni involved with arts projects, helping find that elusive work experience opportunity, or making a crucial donation. I want to develop a programme for sports and societies to be able to benefit too, inspired by the successes of Running and the Boat Club.

Families are, for some, the only thread that connects them to college. I am good at spreadsheets and surveys and want to ensure that parents are not left with too many or no children. I want families to be based more on who you are than just your degree, as colleges are. I want to encourage long-lasting families with events like Family Formal as well as the educational support aspect as, god knows my college dad has received many a late-night message asking some legal question.

I want to promote university-led identity-based networks such as the LGBTQ+ families - they have introduced me to some treasured friends across colleges. My work on Communities Committee and Welfare Committee has demonstrated that it's getting better in Cuth's if you or your identity don't fit the Durham mould, but this is another area where encouraging alumni and students to get in touch is important.

In short, I'm a safe, albeit passionate, pair of hands to be your first Development Officer. I am creative and driven, determined to pinpoint what makes Cuth's so special and maintain an appreciation of it before you apply, during your time here, and beyond. I know the newness of the role can be quite daunting, but please do get in touch and ask any questions you may have!



Questions:

MB: What events and long term projects would you like to start?

MK: I would like to plan a week long group of events with PGM comm targeted at UG finalists and masters students as a lot are events are UG focused and don't look at what the rest of the college is and we have always have the issue of UG-PG integration

DB: Termly family formals, obviously ogm stuff needs to be emphasised more and that is long term and I think you could run more consistent things to establish the role and I think long term acc making sure this happens, I want to establish something that exists both skill spaced and building confidence

LH: College families are a nightmare to organise so do you have plans with more people doing natsci and liberal arts?

DB: I like coding and spreadsheets, I would like more characteristics included as I know subject is important but it's also important there is a vibe check - I would try code something over summer

MkA: Not as coding aware but basically I am thinking of a google form - I can't do much more. If you do have natsci or liberal arts specifying your main one and using that to help out the linking, specifying whether you like to drink or not, and then setting up a second one that is not subject based. It was so important to have a subject parent for academic advice as it was too daunting to go to academic advisor and it is nice to get to know someone totally random

CL: As a new role its place in the JCR is quite precarious how would you ensure it has longevity?

MkA: I think having communication with AW as he started it but having good connections with your exec so that if it comes to an event social comm can get involved, or if there is an alum heavily involved in charity getting involved with outreach comm

DB: I do think the benefit of having Kath in college would be so helpful, she does the college newsletter and has been doing it for a while so it would be really useful; make yourself a presence and opportunities will come to you. A strong first year would prove its utility

AW: The role is broad in that you have your fingers in a lot of pies and you don't have a committee so you will be working collaboratively with jcr officers, college and uni. It is not the most forward facing, inspiring role and a lot of what you do won't be seen. How will you stay motivated?

DB: Everything is about self motivation and I have such good time management skills and I have to do lists and prioritise, if you know me I already do a lot and I can balance and reconcile many interests. Collaborating is important but I have had experience making a team work, I'm good at communicating from my work experience and it will be good for building initial connections



MkA: The way I am seen is as a big bloody keeno, can't get enough that it's almost concerning when I turn up to every jcr event and I am so keen to get to know people and get involved. I will always approach most people in a room full of people I don't know and I am good at team work - even if it is not in my job description. I am willing to go as far as I can to be the best I can be. I am always more happy to show up and do what needs to be done and if it's in my role I will always prioritise it

: With the opportunity to set up events for finalists and for alumni how will you ensure they want to come back?

MkA: That is the main issue we have right now: they don't want to come back and that is what needs to change. We need to start hosting events that they want to come to and opening up what the JCR does to them. Make it sound more interesting so then they would want to be involved. We do have some alumni connection where people come back but we need more and this role will make it easier to make these connections

DB: I think alumni are really keen to come back, with recent alumni we haven't seen it so much but the way I think about them is as the egotistical grandma; so many of them are egotistical and know they are accomplished and they do really want to come back. A lot of them are publicised but if they were so that any JCR member can come and get to know them they will want to be involved if only we spotlight them

To be voted online

Facilities Manager (I)

Candidates: DS, RON

DS's Hust:

Hello, I am DS first year music student and current music rep and I was nervous getting elected in november but a lot has happened hence why I am here. Was told music rep was a cushty little job but I chair the music comm here and sit on uni wide music comm, take care of music rep and was lucky enough to bring back cuths live and was one of the most rewarding things I have done and the lead up to that led me to running for this. With all the set up for that I see the potential to utilisie out facilities more. I am involved in a lot where we use music room, boat house, study room and all these facilciisties need to be maintained.

Inductiosn:

Everyone gets offered a music room and gym induction and I know not everyone can do it in freshers week and I feel for those who missed them - i would push for them to be helfd more regularly. Want to make gyms more inclusive and I am happy to update them and host tutorials or workouts.

Potential for events i massive with new buid and I want to facilitate all that and work with social comm and tech to ensure all events have what they need. Thank you fr listening



Questions:

DB: With the new changes to green machine and making money what do you see happening with that?

DS: There's a lot of stuff in the green machine that is broken and we can kind of just add stuff to it. With internal and external hires we probably want to use the Music Room stuff first, but it's good to have the Green Machine as a back up. At the moment when we hire out the Music Room stuff, no one can practice. This isn't practical so I want to push for green machine to have a second set of equipment. Want to improve the Green Machine.

BT: If you had 100k to spend what facility would you buy?

DS: I think I would love a good sound, light system with audio visuals as that can make or break a gig and with 100k you would get a decent one

AW: It is conventional to ask, part of the role is having a big overview and dig deep into detail. What is the difference between a bongo and a conga?

DS: Congas are bigger?

Raffle

Publicity Officer (I)

Candidates: AF, RON

AF's Hust:

Hi! For those of you that dont know me yet - I'm Abi Fisher, and I'm running to be your Publicity Officer.

I'm currently the Team Cuths Social Media manager, as well as a JRO (not tonight obviously!) and a Year 1 rep on the CHSS SSCC. I've loved my experiences in the JCR so far, and can't wait to get even more involved.

There's always something going on at Cuths. Whether that be committees meeting and doing brilliant work, sports teams having incredible successes, societies putting on fun and engaging activities and events that give everyone a well deserved break - and as I'm sure you'll all agree, I think it's important that all of this is properly promoted and showcased.

I've got a few ideas about how we can do this:

Firstly, I'd like to look into providing Sports, Societies and Committees with a level of Social Media training. Through Team Cuths ive been able to see where the gaps are in our online presence - often due to either a lack of time, experience or confidence with programs like



Canva, Instagram stories etc. If I can help provide a basic level of training to those with log-in's, we can start to utilise platforms like Instagram to our advantage, to recruit new members, share events, sporting successes etc.

I'd also like to alter how we use our social media over the summer to interact with incoming freshers. To go alongside the freshers handbook I'd like to create a dedicated 'Cuths Freshers' instagram page - to provide information on freshers week events, who's who, key advice about moving to university and answer some FAQs. Quite a few other JCRs already do a similar thing, and as a fresher this year I found them fairly helpful. Creating a cuths page would help us to engage with incoming freshers earlier, and potentially help to settle many of the nerves and anxieties moving to Uni can bring. It would also mean that the rest of the JCR's feed's don't get clogged with freshers info - which I'm sure many would appreciate.

I'd like to continue to publish a simple, informative weekly newsletter - and would look to use the JCR social media to distribute this in addition to how it's currently being shared. Using it as a way to round up the week, share our successes, as well as put key dates in people's diaries for the next. The idea of 'Cuthgratulations' is one I'd love to continue and perhaps develop further.

I'd also look to work closely with our webmaster to ensure Cuths.com is up-to-date, and informative. If we can use it properly it can be a brilliant asset to the JCR, and I'd love to make more use of it.

Finally - stash. I'd like to work to ensure our stash is affordable, sustainable and good quality, and would look to consult with the wider JCR, as well as specific committees to make sure the satsh we offer is what people actually want.

I can't wait to see what the next year holds for Cuths, and would love to be able to play a part in making sure everyone knows what a brilliant JCR this is.

Questions:

KM: Every committee has their own publicity officer and having an officer solely dedicated to publicity for the JCR will be new so how will you maintain an aesthetic through all cuth's social media?

AF: It is important they have a degree of individuality as that is key in a jcr as wide ranging as ours but I think through the training I would suggest certain programs, things about branding and making sure there is a brand and aesthetic that is vaguely adhered to

DB: Stuff you need to put out needs to be accessible, how would you go about doing this?

AF: Firstly talk to SwD rep, would continue plain text version of newsletter and would consult with SwD rep, WCS rep, and LGBTQ+ rep that all committees have a say in what our posts look like on social media as the JCR goes well beyond the people in this room and it's about making sure that works for everyone

LM: With Cuth's JCR insta it get more enaagement, how would you work on boosting the engagement of others?



AF: The role of social media is often dedicated to press or social sec for sports and societies so establishing a position on committees and sports and socs so if anyone wants anything sharing they know the JCR account can be used to amplify those voices so there is proper collaboration to ensure Cuth's is displayed

LH: I have struggled with sports and socs not getting in touch even if you ask, there is very much a divide between the two, how would you increase this engagement?

AF: I have noticed this with the team cuths insta and we gradually are making links but it is making sure those are properly established and set in stone. Cuths JCR accounts are there to work for everyone and we do need to build the divide as some people do only get involved in one aspect so ensuring sports and socs stuff is advertised on the cuths jcr one, through establishing connections early on and providing training we can utilise them

Sports and Socs Chair (I)

Candidates: EL, RON

EL's Hust

Hopefully this is an easy choice

Hi, Im Elliot, Im a second year engineering student and I am running for next years sports and societies chair

Sports and societies at cuths is one of the most important parts of university life (other than jimmies) Being part of a team or society surrounded by people with similar interests, escaping the stresses of your degrees really adds to what you get from university. Chatting away in the house & study room or standing out in a field in your freshers top with your team mates next to you knowing sometime soon you may or may not be making your 9 am because of a social are some of the best memories you can take from uni.

And it is beacue sports and societies at cuths are so important to me that I want to run for Sports and socs chair

It goes without saying that if you love representing cuths and you love sports and sports its one of the reasons you love cuths. Another reason I love cuths and the JCR is that we are a charity.

And that is why if elected I would work with outreach to organise a significant charitable sporting event that the whole of cuths can take part in. An event such as a 24 hour relay race with each person running at their own pace 5k or even more Is something that I think would be very popular and potentially raise a lot of money.

One way to promote this event is to fully utilise team cuths, that being the collective of teams and societies. Team cuths has a huge outreach so lets fully use it. Further integrating sports team and societies, by hosting an exec social event would allow execs to meet and encourage future collaboration such as joint training sessions or helping promote each other.



Ensuring team cuths is a team would further develop the sports and societies experience and promote what's available at cuths. Another way to raise awareness would be my idea of, a poster with all the sports and societies we have to offer, and their social medias to be promoted during freshers week. I would also produce bi termly reports to go out in the weekly newsletter.

Another thing I love about sports and socs is the stash, It is an integral part of feeling part of a team.

You are proud to wear your stash for your team for your society for you, which is why I want to ensure it is accessible by pushing for it to be somewhat subsidised, such as including stash in the participation fund.

Lead to I love cuths and am part of it wear lots of kits such as ..

Frep – dedicated fun

Welfare campaigns (Committees) – committed to cuths and have its best interested

Rugby/ sport – passionate and involved

Finally I am a JCR member - understand for the people by the people thrown self in, involved in it not for myself but to help the collective and that cuths helps other and we help each other. Want to make it better for everyone

I am a part of the JCR so why would I want to make it better

Understand that cuths is for students by students. That being involved in the JCR is about helping a collective and ensuring the cuths experience is the best it can be

EL gave the best hust in all of Cuth's history

Questions

MA: Can you take another one off?????

EL came prepared and underneath his freshers' t-shirt had his Cuth's Day t-shirt!!! The crowd goes wild

KM: How would you ensure socials are as inclusive as they can be?

EL: Welcome talk is where you lay down the rules or guidelines and it is making it clear that you don't have to drink at a socials, we will be doing these challenges and to be a part of it you don't have to drink alcohol. It is also about trying to make it accessible through financial means and so many other things

AW: If sports and socs chair is uncontested it is tradition that they have a dance off with previous position holders but none of them are here tonight so can you give us your best dance move



EL does a really impressive backflip, lands it and just blown everyone's mind

JG: Do you have any ideas for naked calendar?

EL: I think the way it worked was teams were assigned a month but I would ask in advance so they have time to think or if you can create a theme throughout with the charity

BT: With team cuths it can feel more focused on sports than societies so how would you balance them?

EL: Encouraging socs to do things together whether that is socials or events. When people hear teams cuths they think sports but I think raising awareness is the main thing so through the poster and through publishing the socs too

To be voted online

JCR Chair (I)

Candidates: AB, RON

AB's Hust:

hello hello hello members of cuths. I'm Abbie, my pronouns are she/her and I'm a second year history student – You're probably sick of seeing me up here by this point buttttt, today is special because I'm running to be your JCR chair.

Being your current SRO, I believe I have the skills and experience needed. I already have a thorough understanding of JCR governance and the standing orders, and as a current member of GovComm, I know how all the inner workings work and so feel I am in a strong position to not only chair the committee, but JCR meetings too. On top of this, I was a frep team leader and am currently a FRAMDA project leader, and these roles both involved organisational skill and the ability to work and manage a group of people- skills I feel will help me be a successful JCR chair if elected. Now, enough about me and onto what I want to do as JCR chair.

As my manifesto shows, I have three main aims.

Firstly, I want to make JCR meetings shorter and more social. We all know that JCR meetings can drag on a little, and by the end, people just want to go home or go to bed. Even if this isn't the case, the bar has mostly likely already called last orders so we couldn't really stay for a drink anyways. I want to tackle this issue.

Cuths is a community. JCR meetings are an opportunity for members of cuths JCR to get together and chat- but we never have the time to do that. With time to actually socialise, people will look forward to going to these meetings (Side note; I obviously love JCR meetings, go cuths) If you elect me as chair, I will work towards ensuring you have this time to get you to know your community by having this time at the end of meetings



Secondly, I want to bring back the drinking game. I know it technically didn't leave, but I want to make people more aware that it's happening (if they wish to participate of course) and have more general/ less outdated rules, so that anyone (new or old) can join in. This will make JCR meetings a little more enjoyable and will give people a reason to get more engaged in the actual contents of the meeting. When I first joined Cuths, I was told JCR meetings were a huge pissup, and only when I started drinking everytime someone said 'cuths' at the presidential election, have I felt pissed up. If you saw me at the end of that meeting by the way, no you didn't. And I want to make that more of a thing really.

Last but not least, I want to make motions more accessible. Anyone can submit a motion, but how many people feel confident enough to? I want to start holding weekly drop ins so anyone can come and chat about how to approach writing a motion, and I want to advertise the process more. If you're not entirely confident when it comes to governance or the standing orders, I still want you to feel confident enough to make a motion. if you want to. It's YOUR jcr, if you have a change you want to make, I want you to feel confident enough to go about trying to make that change. With this, I hope new discussions will arise in meetings and more people will have their say when we get to the motions section of the meeting, rather than the same few people discussing back and forth. I hope then that this will lead to a greater engagement in meetings because more people will be getting involved in the discussion that are being had.

Anyways, yeah, that's all from me – shorter, more social jcr meetings, bring back the drinking game, and make motions feel more accessible. Thank you and vote for me: ☺

Questions:

: What is the drinking game and can we do it now?

AB: Makes my point so much better, I remember one of them is like 'drink if jack simonds does jazz hands' and like who is Jack Simmonds?? No one knows. So I would make them just more simple and less people specific, I want to make sure people don't feel excluded if they don't drink. Want to advertise it more

BT: A lot of people have opinions about the JCR and want to change things but don't realise JCR meetings and motions are productive ways to do this so how would you make people realise JCR meetings don't have to be boring and long but people can get involved and make changes?

AB: Want to make motions more accessible so want to have weekly drop ins so people can ramble to me about what they want to change and then we can come up with a solution and that way there will be new ideas with new people and more questions which will make the motions part more interactive

EM: How would you go about better defining the relationship between chair, sro and other parts of govcomm?



AB: It can easily become a battle if there is a lack of communication if people are giving different answers so the best way is Chair and SRO constant communication. Need it so we come to same conclusion when we interpret the standing orders so there is not battle between the Chair and SRO

MB: What would you be most excited about?

AB: Presidential meeting, the power to pick the pizza place was an overwhelming task. Michaelmas meetings there are more motions so more excited for that as that is more the Chair responsibilities

EM: What is your favourite standing order?

AB: I don't know. Some are problematic that I want to change them, I have a least favourite that SRO is not on the exec. Don't have a favourite standing order and Chair has to be impartial so would be inappropriate for the role I am running for

To be voted on online

Meeting Adjourned