

# St John's College Junior Common Room

## The Republic of St Giles

Agenda for the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Trinity Term 2019

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019, Larkin Room, 8.30pm

Meeting opened at 8.45pm

### i/ Minutes from the Previous Meeting

None

### ii/ Matters Arising from the Minutes

*Adem updated the committee on JCR spaces. Adem noted an email went around from College over Easter Vac shortly after vac, and noted that the TV room can no longer be booked. Clashes will be decided between students, which Tom Ritter had noted worked well before. Adem will look at changing the policy again if there are issues. The DVD Room can still be booked. Adem hopes that the traffic should even out over time as people start using other rooms in College.*

*Harry asked about 'Make the Vac Great Again Motion', which gave money to arrange events during term time. Greg noted it was fine, but there is no long-term solution after Greg leaves the JCR.*

### iii/ Reports from Officers, Reps, and Committees

- a. Access & Admissions Officer: Abdul Musaddik

NOT PRESENT

- b. Class Liberation Officer: Natalia Sudol

NOT PRESENT

- c. Domestic Officers: VACANT

*Greg gave a short verbal report, noting that Sunday Brunch in Hall is going through Domestic Committee, taking place on Wednesday of 2nd Week. A 'kerfuffle with college over wine' has been resolved, and wine for Guest Dinner has now improved in quality. Guest Dinner on Friday of 1st went well, no problem with the use of Garden Quad, for which College will hopefully be on board. The former Lodge Manager has recently resigned, which may lead to some movement with the airbed scheme.*

- d. Environment and Ethics Officer: Ankit Ranjan

NOT PRESENT

- e. Welfare Officers: Tom Johnson and Amelia Holt

*Tom has hibernated for exams, so Amelia has sorted a TW tea for the upcoming week and college marriages*

- f. Entertainment Officers: Gigi Williams and Bridget Stuart

*Gigi noted the college had reiterated the Entz Ban when trying to organise a Garden Party. Freya and Greg (former Welfare Officers) recommended running an event in TW without strictly informing college.*

- g. Ethnic Minorities Officer: Karen Muperere

NOT PRESENT

- h. Alumni and Development Reps: Lizzie Coyle and Sophie Whitehead

*Sophie reported that the A&D Office had yet to make contact. Alfie will chase up with the Office to get them in contact.*

- i. Bike Rep: Sebastian Towers

*Cas noted on behalf of the Bike Reps that bikes had been hired for the College.*

- j. Charities Reps: Freya Allery

*NOT PRESENT*

- k. Computer Reps: Zuza Patryas

*NOT PRESENT*

- l. Oxford SU Reps: Sam Gunatilleke

*NOT PRESENT*

- m. PRAT Reps: Felix Stocker

*NOT PRESENT*

- n. SJCTV Reps: Lev Crofts

*NOT PRESENT*

- o. Sports Reps: Georgia Ling and Leanne Smith

*NOT PRESENT*

- p. Staff Liaison Reps: Safier Lewis, Bella Parker-Byatt and Noam Rosenbaum

*NOT PRESENT*

#### *iv/ Ratifications*

- Returning Officer - 1 vacancy

*Christopher Hughes has finished as Returning Officer as per his mandate.*

*Christopher Hughes gives a short hust: 'another year please'.*

*Adem asked if this is why the role is called the Returning Officer, to which the room laughed.*

*0 against, 0 abstentions. Chris re-ratified as Returning Officer*

- Returning Officer Assistant - 1 vacancy

*No one stands. Alfie chose Felix as RO Assistant, possibly against his will. No elections were recorded.*

- Elections for Equality and Diversity Officer - *Chris Hughes, Returning Officer*

*No one stands*

- DVD Rep - 1 vacancy (to serve alongside Adem Berbic)

*No one stands. Harry noted his plan to review if a 2nd rep is needed.*

- Charities Rep - 1 vacancy (to serve alongside Freya Allery)

*Katya Alban gave a short hust. Katya wanted to get engaged in the college community, noting the opportunity to give back.*

*(0 against, abstentions)*

*Katya Alban appointed as Charities Rep*

- IT Rep – 1 vacancy (to serve alongside Zuza Patrya)

*No one stands. Harry noted his plan to review if a 2nd rep is needed.*

- PRAT Rep - 1 vacancy (to serve alongside Felix Stocker)

*Felix advocated for another rep, but no one stood.*

- SJCTV Reps - 1 vacancy (to serve alongside Lev Crofts)

*Izzy gave a short hust. Izzy likes films and would like to make some with the equipment.*

*(0 against, abstentions)*

*Izzy appointed as SJCTV Rep*

- SU Rep - 1 vacancy (to serve alongside Sam Gunatilleke)

*No one stands*

- Oxford SU Third Vote - 1 vacancy

*No one stands*

**a/ The “What Makes the President So Special?” Constitutional Motion**

Proposer: Chris Hughes, JCR Returning Officer

Seconded: Benedict Gardner, JCR Secretary

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. The general election of the JCR committee is currently split into two parts, the election of the President and Vice President in 4th week of Michaelmas, and the election of the rest of the committee in 7th week of Michaelmas
- b. This removes the need for one huge election and also allows by-elections to be run for President and Vice President in Michaelmas if necessary
- c. The only Senior Officer of the JCR is the President

**This JCR believes that:**

- d. It is vital to the running of the JCR that it has a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer (sometimes referred to collectively as an executive committee) at the start of the year, so it would be useful to be able to run by-elections for those positions before the new year
- e. The executive positions are often highly contested elections (due to their room ballot privileges), so unsuccessful candidates may want to run for other committee positions
- f. The first election in Michaelmas Term has a lower voter turnout and significantly lower hustings turnout than the second
- g. It would be useful to be able to balance the two elections

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- h. Change Standing Order Table Three A, Section 4 to read:  
*The nominations period for the election of Officers shall normally run according to the following timetable:*
  - a. *The nominations period for the election of the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary shall open at 12 noon on the Sunday of 3rd Week of Michaelmas Term.*
  - b. *The nominations period for the election of all other Officers (except the Returning Officer) shall open at 12 noon on the Sunday of 6th Week of Michaelmas Term.*

- i. Change Standing Order Table Three B, Section 1(a) to read:
  - a. *No candidate is elected as President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary in the Michaelmas election - a by-election shall be held alongside the Michaelmas election of other Officers.*

**(Passed NEMCON)**

#### vi/ Items for Discussion

- Constitutional Appendices - *Benedict Gardner, JCR Secretary*  
*Appendices have been updated and are available on the Website, which is in the process of being upgraded.*
- Standing Policy Item ([Appendix 1](#)) to be Removed - *Benedict Gardner, JCR Secretary*  
*4 Standing Policy items were removed, as they have expired. Appendix 1 lists the 4 items being removed.*
- Tabling a Table for Discussion ([Appendix 2](#)) - *Greg Howgego*  
*Greg noted that he is trying to organise some outdoor working spaces, including the gardens as an option. College may not like the gardens, and noise may be of concern. Greg held a vote asking the JCR what they thought of the proposed outdoor areas. Results can be found in Appendix 2.*

*Chris asked about benches outside the bar area. Greg noted that some benches were removed from TW3 after complaints about noise, along with other benches by the bar.*

*Izzy requested not under a tree due to the mess made on them. Tom Ritter suggested getting cheap parasols for outdoor benches, enabling smokers to use the benches even when it is raining, and preventing unwanted sun exposure.*

*Jahnavi raised a concern about the location of benches in the Gardens, as it could get in the way of other activities. Greg suggested having benches in areas away from large open spaces to prevent conflicts.*

*Indicative Votes taken in Appendix 2, results found there. Harry to take results to Domestic Committee.*

- Weekend Access to College Storage - *Costin Andrei Oncescu*  
*Costin not available, discussion did not go forward.*
- Use of Kendrew Events Room for Collections - *Harry Sugden, JCR President*  
*Harry noted that College were considering using the Kendrew Events Room to hold Collections from now.*

*Alfie Deere-Hall noted that it will get very hot in the room.*

*Tom Ritter suggested a 7pm - 10pm Saturday collections timetable, to dramatically turn into a Bop.*

*Jahnavi noted the lack of windows, which could be an issue for some students. Tom noted it would be claustrophobic and sterile, and would not be favourable for certain people. Izzy asked whether there would be a clock, to which Harry replied there probably would. Harry noted any logistic concerns, including chairs, would be dealt with in College.*

*Izzy Kent suggested using Kendrew Café, which Harry agreed to ask as Domestic Committee.*

*A straw poll was taken, with 0 in favour, 22 against, 4 abstentions*

- *JCR board games in the library - Harry Sugden, JCR President*

*Harry asked the JCR whether they would prefer the board games in a closed store like the current library, or an open 24-hour place available for everyone without needing to take the board games out. Harry clarified that the new system would mean that anyone could access these without signing out, but that no space has been identified as of yet.*

*Cas asked why board games aren't the same as DVDs, to which Felix replied there were many reasons. Cas asked why you would be playing board games in the library, questioning the choice of location. Chris noted that board game theft could be a possibility if they moved, including himself as a prime suspect. Cas further noted he would consider stealing the board games if moved.*

*Jahnavi requested a central location if they were moved.*

*Adem noted this wouldn't work like normal books on SOLO, so games could be taken and easily forgotten about. He raised his objection to the move on account of this.*

*Harry noted the move represented a significant amount of fuss for little benefit. The JCR unanimously agreed to maintain the status quo if College asks for our position.*

- *Room Regrading Update - Alfie Deere-Hall, JCR Vice-President*

*Alfie noted that Jo Roadknight (former Home Bursar, not present) has resigned, which puts the various plans for room changes in limbo. Alfie noted he is currently talking to Mark Cannon (Domestic Bursar for the College, not present). Lachlann Hinley will go to Domestic Committee (Wednesday 2nd Week at 12 midday) to give the JCR position on the Room Regrading. Alfie to brief Lachlann on what is needed.*

- *Ball Committee 2020 Update - Leo Nasskau, Ball Treasurer & Lachlann Hinley, Ball Secretary*

*Lachlann noted the College is hosting a Ball, and are giving their official consultation. Noted that Jo Roadknight resignation will put the provisional date of Friday 9th Week of Trinity 2020 in line with former Balls. Lachlann has written a Constitution for the Ball Committee, which was 'fun' to write. Lachlann noted they received 54 applications (interview 24 people and appointing 19) for the Committee, more than 25 for the 2017 Ball Committee. Lachlann listed the new positions. Lachlann noted they have agreed a theme beforehand to prevent dropouts based on the theme, chosen before interviews took place which was '20s' to celebrate the new decade. Lachlann noted this counts as consultation. Lachlann told the JCR that the 2017 Committee did not leave any money, so have put in a motion for today's meeting, which came later in the meeting.*

vii/ Agenda Items

**a/ The “Budget Reallocation” Financial Motion**

Proposer: Cas Burton, JCR Treasurer

Seconded: Ben Gardner, JCR Secretary

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. The Treasurer has the responsibility of ensuring that the Budget is spent efficiently and with the aim of maximising the overall benefit of this money for the members of the JCR.
- b. The Treasurer is mandated to bring Budget Reallocation Motions to prevent overspending in particular Budget Areas, whilst ensuring that the overall expenditure remains constant.
- c. The president has requested an increase to cover committee formals, PresCom formals, and JCR reward certificate printing.
- d. The VP budget has been reduced as it's not used much.
- e. The VP budget has only been used for the staff party, so a Staff Liaison Rep budget should be established to fund this.
- f. The DVD rep often has to split purchases between three separate budgets (DVD rep, Board Games, Video Games).
- g. The DVD reps three budgets should be merged into one, and the total of this budget should be decreased to accurately represent expenditure.
- h. The Access and Admissions Officer had no expenditure last year, so their budget can be reduced.
- i. The Entz team have had a lower income than expected, and recently bought a karaoke machine.
- j. There is currently no E&D Officer and they do not spend much in Trinity and Michaelmas.
- k. There should be no more Expenditure Carried Forward items.
- l. Music society spend no money.

**This JCR believes that:**

- m. The Budget should appropriately account for all expected expenditure.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- n. Increase the President's budget from £150 to £300
- o. Decrease the VP's budget from £300 to £50
- p. Decrease A&A's budget from £100 to £50
- q. Increase Entz's budget from £5,900 to £6,200
- r. Decrease E&D's budget from £150 to £100
- s. Decrease Expenditure Carried Forward budget from £1,280 to £1,180
- t. Merge the SJC Board Games budget and Video Games budget into the DVD rep budget item
- u. Assign the DVD rep budget £300 total, with expenditure from the previous three budgets coming out of this total
- v. Establish a Staff Liaison Rep budget and assign it £300 total
- w. Decrease the Music Society budget from £300 to £200

*Cas gave an overview of the new changes, which notably included merging the Board Games and Video Games Budget, and a decrease in the Vice President's Budget with the creation of a new Staff Liaison Budget.*

*(0 against, 0 abstentions)*

*Motion Passed*

## **b/ The “Get the Ball Rolling” Financial Motion**

Proposer: Leo Nasskau (Ball Treasurer & Discounts Officer)

Seconded: Lachlann Hinley (Ball Secretary & Disabilities Officer)

### **This JCR notes that:**

- a. The tricentennial Commemoration Ball is a special moment for many St John’s JCR members.
- b. The next Commemoration Ball is scheduled to be in 2020 and a committee has been formed to organise it.
- c. In previous years, committees have inherited surplus from previous Ball to fund start-up costs, such as a website and preliminary marketing and sponsorship liaison.
- d. In 2016, the 2017 Ball Committee received £600, which was crucial to the committee’s success and initial expenses.
- e. The 2017 Ball did not leave a surplus and this means the current committee has no funds with which to proceed.
- f. The College is not willing to advance the committee any funding until a proposal is presented; however, this proposal needs detailed costings and administrative work, which itself requires expenditure.
- g. Unless the committee finds alternative funding, the work of the committee is likely to be significantly delayed and, possibly, endangered.
- h. The JCR Treasurer already has the constitutional authority to audit the accounts of the Ball committee and there are robust financial auditing procedures imposed on the committee by college.

### **This JCR believes that:**

- i. The tricentennial ball is a crucial element of the experience of St John’s College students.
- j. Many JCR members are involved with the committee.
- k. The JCR should help the Commemoration Ball with startup costs so the College’s conditions can be met.
- l. The JCR should look to achieve the aims of clause k. along with the MCR but, in the event the MCR are unwilling to help, should make up the difference.

### **This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- m. Give £350 to the St John’s 2020 Commemoration Ball Committee from the Financial Motions Budget
- n. Increase the amount in clause m. to £750, unless the MCR passes a expenditure motion to support the 2020 Commemoration Ball in the month of May 2019.
- o. **(amendment from Harry Sugden [chair given to Alfie at this point] added as friendly)**  
**Clause m and n are contingent on a written plan of how the money will be spent and repaid by the Ball Committee being presented at the next JCR meeting**

*Leo noted there was no money left after last Ball due to an error with VAT calculations. Money will be spent on sponsorship packages and web design to ‘get the Ball rolling’.*

*Upon Chris Hughes’ question, Leo said they will return the money providing that there is sufficient budget left after all post-Ball costs are accounted. Lachlann noted that the JCR usually underwrites the Ball, as they did by £2000 in 2017. Lachlann therefore could guarantee a surplus sufficient to repay, but will do so if the money is there. Lev asked what the extra costs were, to which Lachlann replied that lighting elements were stolen.*

*Harry asked if money could be given contingent on a report from the Ball Committee detailing how the money will be spent. Lachlann and Leo accepted this amendment as friendly, and a report will be written and submitted.*

(0 against, 0 abstentions)  
Motion Passed

**c/ The “Support OUPS” Financial Motion**

Proposer: Natalie Perman

Seconded: Ava Mitchell

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. The *Oxford University Poetry Society* (known as OUPS) is one of the oldest and most active student poetry societies (dating from 1946)
- b. Printing termly poetry issues and paying for accommodation and travel for poets is expensive, and St John’s is a wealthy and generous college.
- c. St John’s traditionally supports the arts and aims to improve financial accessibility in Oxford.
- d. OUPS keeps all of its events free of charge and its income is provided by donations at events and from profits on our termly publication, ASH. It is not enough to cover society costs.
- e. Other college JCRs, such as Christ Church and Merton, have supported OUPS in the past; many more colleges widely support student-run societies.

**This JCR believes that:**

- f. Many St John’s students have been and continue to be involved in the OUPS as John’s has no poetry group or society of its own
- g. Without enthusiastic financial backing, the OUPS may not be able to invite poets and host readings and events in future

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- i. Give £150 to OUPS from the Financial Motions Budget

*Natalie told the JCR that the OUPS is the oldest University Poetry Society in the UK, and one of the most active. Changes to the membership system means membership fees are no longer a source of income, consistent with the belief of the OUPS that making poetry accessible for all is important. However, the Society now needs funding to invite external poets.*

*Harry noted that the Financial Motions Budget continues to have a 70% remaining £4000 Financial Motion Budget to be drawn from (46% when £2000 Kendrew Arts Fund taken into account), after the Kendrew Arts Fund was fully spent in Hilary 2019. Lev asked how frequently the Kendrew Arts Fund is replenished, to which Harry replied annually.*

*Chris asked Natalie whether there was a long-term plan for funding, to which she replied there currently was not, but that this was a one-off request rather than a termly request.*

(0 against, 2 abstentions)  
Motion Passed



**d/ The “Donut Kings Tour” Financial Motion**

Proposer: Matthew Hopkins

Seconded: Ella Marshall-Shepherd

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. The Donut Kings Big Band has been a major student band in the Oxford music scene for almost 20 years, providing high quality live music at balls and parties.
- b. The band is going on tour to Lyon in France and Bilbao in Spain in the summer, to play at two separate international jazz festivals, representing the university in the global music scene.
- c. The majority of the cost of the tour is already being covered by the 20 members of the band and the band's funds.

**This JCR believes that:**

- d. Going on tour with a band or ensemble can be an important learning experience for students, encouraging development of transferable skills, including team building and organisation.
- e. The tour would be a brilliant opportunity for the university and the colleges to gain exposure to an international community, encouraging diversity of applications to study here.
- f. The tour will encourage reciprocal cultural exchanges between Oxford and other parts of Europe, promoting a positive message of shared values.
- g. Reducing the burden of cost to the individual members by gaining subsidies will allow greater inclusion to all students irrespective of personal financial circumstances.
- h. The publicity generated by the tour could be used to showcase the activities members of the college participate in beyond their academic studies in the alternative prospectus and other publications.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- i. Give £500 to the Donut Kings Big Band from the Financial Motions Budget

*Matthew noted the Donut Kings Big Band are a 20 member-strong University band going on tour in Bilbao and Lyon. There are currently £4,000 left to raise, and this request goes alongside other fundraising activities. Matthew noted he is the only member of the St John's JCR in the Band upon Harry's question.*

*Leo asked the percentage of the FMB taken by this motion, which is around ~20% of the remaining £2,700 in the budget. Alfie asked whether they would pay back from ticket revenue, to which Matthew responded he would have to ask his committee. Freya noted that this was an equivalent expenditure to around 5 'Teas' events run by the JCR.*

*Cas suggested adding a repayment clause conditional on profits made. Harry asked whether he would be willing to resubmit the motion for the next meeting, once a definitive answer was reached. Matthew agreed to do this.*

*Motion will be resubmitted after Matthew talks to his Committee and resubmits the motion.*

***Motion Withdrawn***

**e/ The “The Ruling Class” Financial Motion**

Proposer: Izzy Kent

Seconded: Lev Crofts

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. Theatre in Oxford is an expensive but highly beneficial and wide reaching student activity. The production "The Ruling Class" is being performed in third week of trinity and the crew includes four different members of the St John's JCR including the Director and Producer.
- b. **[Submitted by Chris Hughes, accepted as friendly] This Financial Motion is in addition to a Financial Motion from Hilary 2019, in which £300 was given from the Kendrew Arts Fund to the project**

**This JCR believes that:**

- c. It is a worthwhile investment to support the artistic endeavours of members of the JCR and to help them follow extra-curricular pursuits in Oxford. The JCR could easily spare £300 to help fund the student production 'The Ruling Class' which will performed at the Burton Taylor Studio in 3rd week of Trinity Term.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- d. Give £300 from the Financial Motions Budget to help fund the production, **[submitted by Benedict Gardner, accepted as friendly] of which a part will be paid back providing a sufficient profit is made from the play's run.**

*Izzy Kent noted she is putting on a play with a majority John's crew. Lev Crofts is co-directing the project. Izzy noted that if they breakeven money can be given back. Lev noted that a profit will likely be made, which will be reinvested back into drama. Izzy noted that the whole Motion would unlikely to be paid back, but a small portion could be paid back contingent on how much money is made.*

*Cas asked whether the production has asked for money in Hilary 2019, to which Izzy replied that they had, due to other funding channels falling through. Chris Hughes requested that this was added to the 'This JCR notes'. Lev noted a profit wasn't guaranteed, so the wording 'sufficient profit' was added to a friendly amendment submitted by Benedict Gardner*

*(0 against, 5 abstentions)*

*Motion Passed*

viii/ Any other business

No business noted. Meeting closed at 21.40.

Benedict Gardner  
JCR Secretary  
03/05/2019