

MCR Presidents Annual Report 2004-2005

A very BIG thank you to the exec from the last year! We have made a real success of the MCR given that we are only 15 months old.

Activities

The MCR had a very busy social schedule last year, with even more plans for this year. Since the official opening in December by Dr Robert O'Hara from the American initiative "The Collegiate Way", many different ideas from members and the exec have filled the time superbly.

The social calendar was started by 2 quiz nights in town as well as one in the college bar. With their reputation for the inclusion of a very specialist round (Scottish Poets, Lesser known Scottish Football...), they proved to be very popular.

Formal meal evenings have been enhanced by nibbles and wine before or after the main meal at a dedicated MCR table at the formal.

An inspired suggestion sparked the start of the infamous "keg night".

After the exams, we held an academic presentation evening. This gives an opportunity to see what is going on currently in the world of research from members. An A3 poster may be left to the MCR archive for posterity.

We worked with a visiting fellow, Dr Alan Greaves, to provide hospitality for archaeology students and staff as a way to plug college and the MCR. It went down very well and provided interest for membership.

Lunch was provided for interested parties on Grey Day.

A few barbeque opportunities were arranged.

The MCR guest night in the third term was a great success.

Over the holidays, the postgraduate contingent had various social drinks. Being that there were only a few of us, these were able to be a little more spontaneous.

We started the MCR football team. The inaugural match saw us beat the JCR soundly.

The master refereed the event and has proposed calling it the Martyn Chamberlain Cup.

Lastly, the SCR has since challenged us to an MCR/SCR croquet match.

Joint activities with other MCRs;

Mary's had a "picnic on the lawn".

Hatfield had a joint MCR barbeque in July.

Chads hosted a joint MCR exec formal.

Further interaction on several levels is on the cards, which is very exciting. I have started a meeting of MCR presidents, which has helped to promote cooperability. We have a dedicated website which will contain all sorts of information to aid contacting other colleges.

Constitution

The constitution still needs to be reviewed regularly, as even after a year there are still plenty of amendments to make. Some big amendments were proposed late last year, but the return was not sufficient enough to make them officially.

Budget

The budget for the last year has been wisely used for various items of furniture, subscriptions and necessities such as the tv license. As we have now completed the main part of our start-up, we can have a bit more flexibility. The increase in membership numbers also gives us more scope.

Membership

In order to increase our membership from last year, we decided to produce an A5 folder containing an MCR information pack to go out to all new postgraduate members of college, and a letter inviting 4th years to join. This has worked well as we have to date had up to 60 interested people join us.

Presidents Business

The exec and I have been working closely with many people in college, the university and beyond to increase the amount of support that postgraduates and the MCR receive in many forms.

We have access to a fairly comprehensive and constantly changing database of alumni who are willing to offer advice on employment to current college members. Known as the "Business Angels", the website can be accessed by anyone in college.

We now have a postgraduate tutor who provides pastoral support, similar to what the JCR receive. This position is important for several reasons as the university policy is changing with regard to postgraduate numbers.

I have been talking with the head of the Graduate School about various aspects of postgraduate life and admission. He is keen to sell colleges to postgraduates and was interested to hear what I and a member of the university guidance centre had to say.

Over the summer, I have been working with Peter Dunn on a proposal for college regarding facilities for the MCR. We have asked the Master to look at putting toilet and washing up facilities into the "cupboard" next to the entrance of the MCR. This would mean not having to walk across slab square to clean up after events. Another proposal is to install a door in the window next to the vending machine to allow easy access to the lawn for use in the event of future MCR BBQs.

I have been cleaning the MCR as college is currently unable to offer us a cleaner due to staffing.

The SCR has generously offered us a modest slush fund for the exec to use in the event of entertaining other MCR execs, SCR / JCR members and outside people. This has been approved by college and the SCR in a recent meeting.

Plans for joint social events are in progress with a view to increasing cross common room activity.