

JCR Meeting Minutes

Short-hands:

POI: Point of Information

Q: Question

A: Answer

P: Proposer/Seconder

Meeting started: 20:09

Numbers in Attendance: 52 — quorum achieved

Order of Business:

1. Matters arising
2. Reports & Officers' question time
3. Motions
 - a. Men*'s and Women*'s Tankards
 - b. Cycle Safety
 - c. Tart Mag Launch
 - d. Teddy Ball Donation
 - e. Funding for Fine Art Finalists
 - f. Philippines Motion
 - g. Tick, Tick... Boom! Production
 - h. Funding for Sri Lankan Children's Ward
4. Any other business

1. Matters Arising

President: Welcome to our new Chair, Secretary and Vice President.

Vice President: Just some notices. If you are captain of a sports team, respond in the group chat. I'll put together a timetable for sports photos, which will be happening on Friday of 7th Week. The JCR photo will also be happening then. They will be put up in the JCR possibly next term.

3. Motions

a. Men*'s and Women*'s Tankards

The JCR notes that:

- The roles of men*'s and women*'s officers mirror each other closely, involving equal work on both a social and welfare front.
- Hayley recently discovered a tankard for the role of men*'s officers in the Buttery, engraved with the names of each year's men*'s officers.
- There is currently no equivalent tankard for women*'s officers.

The JCR believes that:

- It is wrong that there is a men*'s officer tankard in the bar and no women*'s officer tankard.
- It is nice to have your name engraved on stuff.

The JCR resolves to:

- Buy a tankard for the role of women*'s officers and store it in the bar so that men*'s and women*'s officers past and present may drink from them in the bar.
- Engrave both the current men*'s officers tankard and the proposed women*'s officers tankard with the names of as many officers as current JCR members know of/can remember so that their legacies may be immortalised.

Proposer: Adam Hawkins

Secunder: James Odwell

P: The roles of Men*'s and Women*'s Officers closely mirror each other and involve equal work on social and welfare fronts. When Hayley was clearing out the bar, she found a tankard bought for the role of Men*'s Officer engraved with the names of previous Men*'s Officers. However, there is no tankard for the Women*'s Officer. It's stupid that there is not a Women*'s Officer tankard given the similarity of the roles. The JCR should buy a tankard for the Women*'s Officer and engrave the names of the current and past officers on it. The Men*'s Officer tankard should also be updated with the names of subsequent officers.

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

Motion passes

b. Cycle Safety

The JCR notes that:

- Cycling in Oxford is dangerous with 3345 accidents in the city between 1999-2020 and 16 fatal accidents in the last 20 years, two of which came within a month of each other earlier this year (both members of Oxford University).
- At present no information (that I'm aware of) is given to students when they join the college regarding cycle safety and key road features such junctions and roundabouts which students, Teddy students included, regularly fail to navigate safely.

The JCR believes that:

- Information regarding how to properly cycle on the road, avoid potential dangers and use of safety equipment such as helmets and lights should be given to students joining the college to improve the safety of our community.
- This knowledge should help reduce the number of accidents (some are unfortunately unavoidable as cyclists) and avoid unnecessary tragedies.

The JCR resolves to:

- Along with workshops on fire safety and consent given to freshers, cycle safety should be added, it doesn't need to be long but just needs to touch on the points above so that students can make better informed decisions when cycling in future.

Proposer: William Metcalf

Secunder: Srija Ghosh

P: Proposed by Sophie as Will and Srija were absent from the meeting. Cycling in Oxford is very dangerous and results in injury. Many people don't know the rules of cycling. There should be a small session in freshers' week to remind people about roundabouts etc., in addition to the other sessions freshers receive, such as fire safety.

Q: Would this be a separate event in freshers' week? Or would it be integrated into a different event?

A: Possibly yes. Unsure as Will is not present.

Q: Is the proposal for an external company to come in, or for Will Metcalf to come and tell us how to cycle safely?

A: I don't think it will be Will Metcalf, I think it will be an independent body.

Q: So, this would be to pay for it, or to ask college to pay for it.

A: Yes, it would be to ask college to pay for it.

POI: Someone emailed Tia about a few months ago following all the crashes last term. I think she was doing something about it anyway.

Chair: this motion is unclear and not pressing as it relates to first week of next year. We'll table this and Will can come to the next meeting.

Motion tabled by Chair

c. Tart Mag Launch

The JCR notes that:

- Tart mag would like £150 for food and drink at the launch in the graveyard on the 14th

The JCR believes that:

- This magazine will enrich the Teddy Hall spirit and this event will be used to give out free magazines and show everyone what we have been working on.

The JCR resolves to:

- Transfer me or another one of the co-founders £150 for food and drink

Proposer: Aminah Iman Dixon

Secunder: Rose Morley

P: I'm Aminah, one of the co-founders of the Teddy art magazine. We have recently put our magazine together and would love to hold a launch party to celebrate the work we've done and to give everyone their magazines. We would like £200 to buy food, tart magazines and lots of drinks to hold this in the graveyard on Saturday 14th of May. The magazine enriches Teddy Hall life and we will all hopefully love the magazine. We've put lots of effort into it.

POI: Although the agenda states £150, Proposer had emailed Secretary prior to the meeting to increase the amount to £200.

Q: Is this a one-time cost or a recurring cost?

A: One-time.

Q: Where can members of the Hall access this magazine?

A: There is a form that's been put on the JCR's facebook and Instagram where you can request a magazine for free.

Q: Can we get a couple of copies in the JCR?

A: Yes, definitely.

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion passes

d. Teddy Ball Donation

The JCR notes that:

- The JCR loves balls.
- The JCR especially loves The Teddy Ball as it is one of the best, most memorable events at Oxford.
- Sadly, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Hall has not held its ball for FOUR YEARS.
- For the first time in history, this year's Teddy Ball is catering to four years worth of cohorts who have sadly not been able to partake in such a joyous event.
- For every Teddy Ball in living memory, both the JCR and MCR have kindly and willingly contributed sums of money to The Ball Committee for the purpose of making The Ball EVEN BETTER than it otherwise would be.

The JCR believes that:

- The Teddy Ball is a college-wide event and thus additional funding would benefit a majority of the JCR members.
- It would be useful to follow this precedent set by previous years' JCRs.
- Though The Ball will of course be an unforgettable night for all to remember, it needs sufficient funds to support this year's unique circumstances.
- The JCR can assist with the loss in revenue for The Ball that is a result of the uniquely large gap from Covid. This loss in revenue includes the 50 free tickets provided to previous Ball Committees, who worked hard to organise and prepare prior balls for the Hall.

The JCR resolves to:

- Support the Teddy Hall Ball, assist with it being an incredible event, and donate £500 of funds to this end.

Proposer: Mathew Hedges

Secunder: Alexandra Sarshar

P: I'm Mathew, the Ball Treasurer. We're asking for £500 to help us put on a more spectacular show than we ever have done before. We haven't had a ball in around 4 years, so it's very exciting. Please give us a little bit of extra money. We will make use of every bit of money that goes towards the ball; every little bit helps.

P: This is tradition, every other ball has received £500 from the JCR and the MCR. We're also putting a motion through the MCR. The money would be much appreciated and much used.

Q: Why didn't you just increase the price of tickets? Everyone funds the JCR, but not everyone goes to the ball. Why are people who aren't going to the ball subsidising the ball?

A: We could've done that, but the money is also going towards people who aren't going to the ball. We are funding pizza in the Miller building for anyone who wants to go that isn't going to the ball. The form for this is still open. I can resend it if people message me (Alex Sarshar) about this. The money is to help the JCR generally around the time of the ball.

Q: How much have you spent on the ball already?

A: I don't know if we want to share precise details of the finances. But everything we've spent will be from the ticket income. We're roughly about our revenue. We're not way over, we're not way under. You can calculate the revenue yourself.

Q: Do you have a plan for what this extra £500 will actually go on?

A: No. It's hard to pinpoint what wouldn't have happened without the money. If we didn't receive this money we may have to cut things.

A: It's not in order to pay for a specific thing. We just want £500 to pay for something else, something extra that we could potentially do. It's not to keep us afloat, for example.

Q: What do you mean in saying that this is tradition? To vote for this would be in line with JCR tradition.

A: I mean that every ball I've looked through the finances of has received £500 from the JCR and the MCR. Yes, it would be in line with tradition.

Q: Have you had to cancel anything due to a lack of funds?

A: We've had to be stringent on funds and seek the cheapest option where possible. However, some things are just out of our budget. We had to cancel this thing that we thought was really cool, but it was £5,000 and we thought that the money would be better spent elsewhere so we cancelled it. It was alcoholic mist.

Q: To be clear, the budget for the ball is massive. We're talking upper 5-figure budget for the ball?

A: Yes, but we're not going to disclose exact budget details.

Q: Mathew, who is your favourite ball president and why? Past or present. What did you think of Shariz's ball?

A: I could never. No comment on Shariz's ball.

P: £500 will be donated by MCR also to keep the ball afloat, put money towards next year's ball. To generally support the stuff around the ball and ensure it can be as amazing as possible. We may have to cancel stuff if we don't receive this money, which would be sad.

Opposer: You've said it's not to keep the ball afloat but also that it is to keep the ball afloat. So I'm not really sure where these funds are really going. I haven't spent the £100 on a ticket and I'm not madly keen on public funds subsidising a private event. I understand that it may be tradition but I don't think that that's a very strong argument in favour.

Q: Would the MCR contribute if we don't? If we don't, why would the MCR do it?

A: The MCR are independent. That's a question for the MCR.

Friendly amendment: the money will be given if and when the ball team can publicise where it will be spent

P: We can't promise this as I don't know whether college would like us to share information like that.

P: I don't think they would mind. We can easily show what we spend the money on. We will accept the friendly amendment.

President: I can give you a summary. It's probably going to be on stuff like popcorn, candyfloss, slushies, security, glittery paddling pool etc.

POI: The vast majority of the ball funds go on 'boring' expenses, like security, cleaning etc. So, the small extra amounts often go to the small things you don't actually notice. If the money isn't there the ball will still happen, if that makes sense.

Against: 8

Abstentions: 6

Motion passes

e. Funding for Fine Art Finalists

The JCR notes that:

- Funding is essential to the arts
- Every year, Teddy Hall generously gives some money to help towards the finalist's degree show that they are tasked with organising and funding from scratch.
- This is not unusual and something that every college does for their Fine Art finalists.
- The average amount given for two finalists is £300. This year, Teddy has 7 finalists.
- The money goes towards the collective fund for the finalist show, not individuals.

The JCR believes that:

- As a college that takes on the most Fine Art students per year, it is important for them to receive the support they need for degree shows.
- By continuing this fund, the relationship between college and creatives will only get stronger.
- Supporting artists when you can is nice because we suffer enough by not being able to find jobs after we graduate.

The JCR resolves to:

- Give £300-£400 to contribute towards the finalist's degree show in which 7 Teddy Hall students are taking part in this year.

Proposer: April Dublin-Beeton

Secunder: Emily Webb

P: Every year we do the finalist degree show for fine art. There's 26 in a year who have to fund and put it all together from scratch. We've done a few drawing sales and fundraising events. We are currently seeking a bit more money to make a few more things possible. Currently we're looking to get a marquee put up in the Cowley retreat so that we can get a nice event after the first opening day so everyone can have some free drink and a marquee space. That's currently what we're looking to fund. Every year Teddy gives around £300. We have 7 Fine Art finalists this year. Other colleges who have even only 2 Fine Art finalists also give around £300, so I think £300 for 7 finalists is reasonable. This goes towards the whole cohort, rather than individuals. We've missed out on physical events in the past 2 years due to covid. Having something nice towards the end would be nice for our year.

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion passes

f. Philippines Motion

The JCR notes that:

- Upcoming Filipino elections are on the 9th May.
- Presidential candidate 'Bong Bong' Marcos Jr., former member of this college, has made multiple claims that he was awarded a Bachelor's degree in PPE from the University of Oxford, awarded to him in 1978¹.
- However, this claim contradicts some of the few media outlets that have reported on this matter.
- CNN, Rappler, The Times and Bloomberg have reported that he did not pass his Preliminary exams, and was therefore awarded a Special Diploma.
- On Bong Bong Marcus' Resume as Congressman, it further states that he was awarded a Special Diploma in Social Studies².
- However, in interviews and other reports, Bong Bong Marcus has repeatedly claimed that a Special Diploma is equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree, a claim echoed by many of his supporters across other media outlets.
- The Oxford Philippines Society released a statement confirming the above, stating that BBM did not receive a BA in PPE, and was instead awarded a Special Diploma. This statement was shared 30,000 times on Facebook. Many of the comments have mentioned it would be useful to clarify this, and specifically the college or university to make this clear³.
- After receiving individual threats, as well as threats to the society as a whole, two members of the society, both members of St Edmund Hall, wrote to Kathy Willis directly, asking the college to release a statement that could be circulated. In this statement, it was hoped that the college would clarify the nature of the Special Diploma and explicitly confirm whether or not he completed his degree.
- Kathy Willis did not do so.
- Information concerning the degree or lack thereof has not been released publicly, but is available to individuals who specifically request this from the university: "According to our records, he did not complete his degree, but was awarded a special diploma in Social Studies in 1978. The special diploma was not a full graduate diploma."
- This is not the same as a statement because it is not widely available, and is only available if you email the college or university directly and is only quoted in media outlets. More recently, it has been reported in The Sunday Times that the then principal of St Edmund Hall, John Kelly, asked President Marcos to "think of any special circumstances which would warrant the college departing from its normal rule"⁴.
- News outlets such as the Times, CNN and Bloomberg have all run fact-checks on BBM's claim. However, many of these are behind pay-walls and therefore inaccessible. A public statement by the college would resolve this issue.

¹ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/focus/01/21/16/marcos-special-diploma-from-oxford-is-same-as-bachelors-degree>

² http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/senators/sen_bio/bmarcos_resume.asp

³ <https://www.facebook.com/oxpinoy/>

⁴ <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/row-over-oxford-degree-come-back-to-haunt-ferdinand-marcos-jr-695gbdg5l>

The JCR believes that:

- St Edmund Hall as a college is in a unique position because it is the institution that granted BBM his Special Diploma. It is therefore the only body, bar the university, with the authority to clarify this matter.
- A statement released directly from St Edmund Hall would therefore carry significant weight. While decisions made here may not swing the election, it is vital that any potential confusion be clarified and that Filipinos are able to access accurate information.
- Currently, those outlets that have fact checked BBM's claim are behind pay-walls while obtaining information about the nature of his degree requires personally emailing the college.
- The college should release a statement that is available to the public. Since Bong Bong Marcus is a former member of St Edmund Hall, this JCR is in a unique position to ask the college to do so.

The JCR resolves to:

- Put pressure on St Edmund Hall and ask Kathy Willis to release a public statement in the next few days explicitly clarifying that Ferdinand Marcos Jr. did not complete a BA in PPE at St Edmund Hall, despite matriculating in 1978.
- This statement should make a clear distinction between a special diploma and a degree, and should explain the circumstances under which a special diploma was granted.

Proposer: Nicole De La Cruz

Seconded: Luca Boot

P: Filipino elections are on next week. The guy running is not a great guy, bit of an autocrat. He silences journalists and has repeatedly made the false claim that he got a degree from Teddy Hall in 1978. This isn't true. Numerous outlets and journals have disputed this claim. The problem is that Teddy Hall has not made a public statement about it. If you email them, they'll confirm, but ordinary Filipinos aren't going to email the college as it's all behind paywalls. So, in the interest of freedom of speech and journalistic integrity, it would be best to have a public statement by the college.

P: If you were to google Bong Bong Marcos, Oxford and degree, the first things that come up are TikTok, Facebook and then a slew of comments of people all discussing this. We are asking the JCR to put pressure on the college to release what they have already put out to the media and make it a bit more public. And also, to clarify the nature of a Special Diploma as opposed to a Bachelor's Degree. This is in the interest of having truthful and accurate information to help inform Filipinos when they go to vote.

Q: To clarify, the motion is to get one of the exec team to talk to Kathy about this and put pressure on?

A: Yes, the idea is to put pressure on. It would be a member of the exec team speaking to Kathy directly. 2 Members of the Oxford Philippines Society who were also 2 members of

Teddy Hall did ask Kathy themselves, but she did not respond. It would be really useful if the JCR had some sort of dialogue with Kathy, which should happen very soon in light of the elections.

POI: The President has a meeting with the Senior Committee on Wednesday, so she can approach it then before putting pressure on.

Friendly amendment: a motion of support for the President to talk to Kathy about this issue on Wednesday 4th May

President: What would you like me to ask? For college to release a statement of the truth?

A: Yes. For some context, the information is available on The Times or CNN, but again behind a paywall. We are quite happy with the contents of what college and the university has said, it just isn't available. We would like you to speak to Kathy to put that information on the website, and perhaps an extended point as to what the Special Diploma was, and the circumstances under which it was granted. And again, the differences between this Diploma and a Bachelor's Degree. We will accept this as a friendly amendment.

Q: Would you want this information on the main homepage of the website? Where should this information go on the website?

A: Ideally in the news section.

Q: When is the election?

A: May 8th.

Q: Would it be useful to also put this on the twitter account for accessibility?

A: Yes, in the past Teddy will tweet a link to their news page on the twitter, so this would be ideal.

Q: Given the proximity of the elections, would it also make sense to forward this news to some news outlets likely to report on this. This could sway voters.

A: Yes, that would be useful. The difficulty would perhaps be journalists using the information from Teddy to give a press release and then report on it that way, rather than Teddy going directly. I don't know how Teddy would speak to newspapers directly.

P: The Times contacted the Oxford Philippines Society, in addition to contacting Teddy. So, I think if this were reported, that's how it would be. If Teddy would be happy to share that directly to newspapers, they could. We could certainly ask.

Q: Can we coordinate with the Oxford Philippines Society to make this happen?

A: I don't know if college would do that?

Q: If the college says they are willing to publish the information, but not before the election to avoid interference, do you have a response?

A: Even if it is after the election, it would still be good to make the information public and accessible to Filipinos. Obviously, we would want it before the election preferably.

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion passes

g. Tick, Tick... Boom! Production Funding

The JCR notes that:

- A student production of Jonathan Larson's semi-autobiographical Tick, Tick, Boom! Will be staged at the Michael Pilch Theatre in 5th/6th week of Trinity Term 22.
- The show is being co-produced by two student production companies: Half Rhyme Productions & Jazz Hands productions, the latter which was co-founded by a St Edmund Hall JCR member and Almuna.
- Tick, Tick...Boom! Has St Edmund Hall involvement in the crew, including both the show's producer and welfare officer (Max Falk and Ben Luckraft).
- The musical was recently adapted into a successful Netflix film and, covering themes such as existential angst, the valuation of art & LGBTQ+ narratives, it is likely of interest to an Oxford student audience.

The JCR believes that:

- Providing funding for drama allows students to continue to pursue creative endeavors, which is particularly important in light of the hiatus in performative arts following COVID-19.
- Tick, Tick...Boom! In particular aims to introduce new faces into the Oxford drama scene through open crew-calls, and the JCR wishes to facilitate this increased accessibility. Oxford producers are specifically in need, and the JCRs funding helps to support a new producer's debut project
- The St Edmund Hall JCR has a fantastic track record of supporting the arts (2nd May 1997, Checking Out, Persephone), which should continue to be upheld to allow students with ambitions to pursue industry-relevant careers can get appropriate experience.
- Staging a musical is relatively expensive, particularly because of the costs of rights, orchestral & rehearsal materials. The Oxford drama scene relies on composite JCR funding to cover some of these upfront costs before receiving ticket income
- No student would personally be profiting financially from the show, and any money raised would allow for re-investment into further theatrical projects by Half Rhyme Productions

The JCR resolves to:

- Donate £300 to help realise the production, allowing contribution to venue hire fee, rights cost, marketing and departmental costs such as lighting, sound & costume.

Proposer: Ben Luckraft

Secunder: Ellie Cassidy

Motion postponed until the next meeting as the Proposer and Secunder were unable to attend

h. Funding for Sri Lankan Children's Ward

The JCR notes that:

- Sri Lanka is currently going through a humanitarian and economic crisis.
- There is currently very limited gas for transport, which means that food isn't reaching supermarkets, medicine isn't reaching hospitals and there are daily power cuts, some lasting 12 hours.

The JCR believes that:

- It would be a good use of JCR money to donate to countries that don't have the stability or resources we do.

The JCR resolves to:

- Donate £300 to buy medical equipment for a Children's ward in Sri Lanka.
- My (Brittany's) sister is currently in Sri Lanka, working in a hospital in need, and would be able to personally purchase the medical equipment, so it would be guaranteed that 100% of the money would go towards the cause and not through any charity fees or anything.

Proposer: Brittany Perera

Secunder: Adam Roble

P: This is essentially a donation to Sri Lanka. It's not really covered in the media, but there's a big humanitarian crisis. The government have stolen money from the people, and they have run out of gas. No medicine can be transported to hospitals, they can't transport food to shops. My family is over there now and there are often 12-hour power-cuts so we can't get hold of them. It's not an ideal situation. It could be a good use of JCR money to donate £300 which would go straight to Brittany's sister who is there working in a paediatrics hospital. It would go towards her personally buying equipment for the paediatrics hospital. There are little babies in incubators that can't be plugged in because there's no electricity.

Q: Can we increase the amount to £500.

A: Yes, I would like to accept that.

Q: Does a paediatric hospital deal with children or with feet?

A: Children's feet.

Q: Would this money come from the charities fund or the JCR fund?

Treasurer: I don't think we have money in charities fund.

Ex Charities Officer: Last time I check there was around £1200 in the charities account.

Charities Officer: There's currently £3,000 in the Charities Fund. I'm just waiting for the Ex-Charities Officer to sign off some final stuff.

Treasurer: The Charities Fund is not my jurisdiction.

Chair: But we, as the JCR, have access to the Charities Fund?

Ex Charities Officer: We actually don't. Lloyds are the worst. I need to call them tomorrow.

Q: Could we change the bank of the Charities fund?

Chair: This is possibly a motion for a future meeting.

Friendly amendment: Pay £500 from the JCR fund and subsequently reimburse it from the Charities Fund when this Fund can be accessed

Murmurs of agreement

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion passes

4. Any Other Business

President: A quick reminder to use the suggestions box outside of my room. It's the last term and we want it to be a good one. This can be done anonymously, or you can message me privately. Also, Ming is an important part of student life. The Ming rep, Rose, has just opened an Instagram: [@teddymingrep](https://www.instagram.com/teddymingrep). Send her any suggestions for Ming and JCRT

Entz Rep: we're trialling an open mic night at Teddy. We've had some responses so far, but if anyone else wants to give it a go and play Wonderhall on the guitar or whatever, you're more than welcome. People can also perform if they spontaneously decide to on the night. Sign up on the google form or message me (Sophie Richardson) or Emily Falconer.

Q: When & where is the open mic night?

A: In the bar on Friday of Week 3. Everyone is welcome to pop in and out.

POI: Saul will stand there whilst we ask him quick-fire maths questions.

LGBTQIA+ Rep: If you are LGBT identifying in college and have not voted in the poll in our Facebook group regarding events and when QUOTH will be held, please do. If you are LGBTQ identifying and not in the Facebook group, message me so I can add you! Only if you want to, of course. We really need input on events as last term we held a series of events with mass attendance of 2 people, excepting QUOTH. Make sure you vote in the poll!

Vice President: If the coffee machine isn't filled, message me (Adam Roble) or Rose Morley.