

Minutes of the Amalgamations Club Meeting

26th of January - Zoom

Members present at meeting:

1. **Senior Treasurer:** John Orr (JO)
2. **JCR representatives:** Caredig ap Tomos (CAT), Andrew Canning (AC) (ABSENT)
3. **MCR representatives:** Hector Barbosa Triana (HBT), James Ball (JB)
4. **JCR President:** Harry Fishlock (HF) (ABSENT)
5. **MCR President:** James Ball (JB)
6. **Non-sports representative:** Todd Tunley (TT) (ABSENT)
7. **Sports representative:** Thomas Bilclough (TB) (ABSENT)
8. **Captain of Boat Club:** Sam Clarke (SC)
9. **Treasurer of Boat Club:** Woody Lam (WL) (ABSENT)
10. **AMAL Secretary:** May-May Wattanawanitchakorn (MW)

A quorum was reached, as per the regulations outlined in the constitution.

Item 1: Discussion of JCR bid

HBT: Animal therapy session, £220 - what are funds going to?
Around £1000 for gym maintenance - is this college gym?

CAT: Animal therapy: external company brings animals to JCR. Interaction with animals can help with stress and mental health issues.

College charges every year to maintain gym in college. Number put down same as charged pre-pandemic. Still haven't received gym charge for last year.

CAT: Stash for committee funded from subscription fees, not Amal. £450 is overestimation, close to £400 because fewer committee members. Provides incentives to be on committee.

HBT: £950 for green + ethical?

CAT: Upfront cost for plant sale, made back from selling plants. If not appearing in Amal section of bid, not asking from Amal - either paid for by subscription or tickets at related events. Last year some money did come from Amal, trying to spend on recycling bins.

JO: Last year got £5000, spent £2000.

CAT: Still waiting on charges from College e.g. gym charges. If charges are smaller than estimated, can cut down in future bids. Will also need to set up new JCR venue and renovate.

JO: New JCR venue might not be this year. Increasing cash balance not necessary.

CAT: Tried to cut subscription fees, ideally will distribute surplus funds in near future.

JO: What kind of cut are you willing to take?

CAT: Can cover last two items so at most £740, but would rather not. Still asking for much less than pre-pandemic and had reduced bid significantly during pandemic.

Bid finalised at £5,621.87 (£600 cut).

Item 2: Discussion of replies to queries from Michaelmas meeting (Items with strikethroughs do not require any further action from last meeting).

1	Ladies Netball	CAT: Personal account, so using JCR account. Bid finalised at £73.33.
2	Mixed Netball	Personal account, so using JCR account. Bid finalised at £98.
3	Medical Society	
4	Peckard Society	CAT: Funding not towards specific items - subsidise overall club's activities. Amal covers two-thirds of their costs. President is keen to advertise to JCR. If need to find savings, can cut slightly. Not entirely unjustified. JO: Curry nights, £200 for gifts - could take off £100. Bid finalised at £525.
5	Fives Club	CAT: Submitted a corrected bid to account for not giving away kits, reduced bid from 650 to 604.30 JO: Last year was first bid, asked for 10 pairs of gloves. Asking for more gloves again. CAT: Club has expanded significantly. Want to make one-off bid for custom gloves that should last. JB: Recurring theme with the kits, could include a clause. JO: Can cut back and say members buy their own kits. Bid finalised at £604.30.
6	Men's Football	JO: £440 for customised shirts, should be paid for or get sponsor to pay for it. Last year £200 went to new shirts. Could take £239 off so same as last year, as a compromise. SC: Option to personalise when buying kit. Bid finalised at £480.
7	Lawn Tennis	AC: Provided invoice showing the hourly coaching rate is £45. Happy for AMAL funds to go into the JCR account rather than personal account, will work to open a club account.

		<p>If funds are unavailable, allocate Lawn Tennis the lower of the two figures, £500, meaning that its members must also cover some portion of external coaching fees.</p> <p>CAT: Two different figures for training sessions: either fully fund or subsidised.</p> <p>Bid finalised at £500.</p>
8	Basketball Club	<p>JB: A lot for amount of people but new club.</p> <p>Bid finalised at £773.90.</p>
9	Doctoral Society	<p>MW: PhD drinks - focus of event is on research, showcase research done by PhD students and discussion with audience.</p> <p>HBT: No membership fees.</p> <p>CAT: Mostly welfare, cannot see why cannot be offered by MCR. Should charge membership.</p> <p>JB: MCR mainly one-year master students. PhD students want their own space to share research and socialise, valuable and proven to be popular.</p> <p>JO: Last year asked for £450, spent £370. £500 on coffee is a lot.</p> <p>HBT: Last year there were Covid measures so maybe asking for more this year. Might not have membership subscription because new club.</p> <p>JO: Could cut back. As a guideline, for just member based activities, won't fund food and drink.</p> <p>JO: Cutting by £200 on basis of coffee discussions allows more funds to go towards other clubs.</p> <p>JB: MCR was funding Doctoral Society when they started up from MCR reserves.</p> <p>HBT: Around £460 went to Doctoral Society during that time.</p> <p>Bid finalised at £1,225.</p>
10	Badminton Club	<p>AC: Court fees increased due to Covid and the resultant financial hardship Chesterton Sports Centre has encountered. Given the size of their club, need a venue with 4 courts, which rules out many venues.</p> <p>Most venues already have block bookings for this year making changing training venues even more difficult, so changing training venue this year not feasible, although reached out to other venues and are waiting on responses.</p>

		<p>CAT: Second biggest club after Boat club. Given the amount given to MBC, not unreasonable.</p> <p>AC: Willing to continue charging a termly fee of £10 on each of 20 regular training members, reduces their AMAL bid by £600 if necessary. Should aim to keep subscription fee as low as possible, but should not be £0 as more costs associated with running Badminton club than most other college sports.</p> <p>JO: Could take off £300 so £5 termly fee. Still one of the bigger bids but if second biggest club, not unreasonable.</p> <p>Bid finalised at £1,825.</p>
12	MCR	<p>CAT: More than last year by £1000, most spent on Zoom, Sky, canoes. Large capital costs, full Sky subscription might not be used.</p> <p>HBT: International students in MCR use Sky subscription. Both JCR and MCR members look forward to kayaks.</p> <p>JO: Newspaper subscription?</p> <p>JB: Weekend papers instead of weekday papers, very much in demand to read paper in MCR. Also, many MCR members stay over holidays, so club active for larger proportion of the year compared to JCR.</p> <p>CAT: Large capital expenses in MCR bid. If expect smaller bid next year, and JCR gets a larger share, wouldn't object to JCR cut this year.</p> <p>JO: MCR has cash surplus, similar to JCR - could take cut and not suffer. Cuts for large bids around 8%, as proportion of bid, so fair.</p> <p>Bid finalised at £8,250.</p>
13	MBC	<p>AC: With Lawn Tennis and Badminton both expected to have to charge a subscription fee this year, something they didn't do in previous years, only fair that the Boat Club must also have to consider increasing its subscription fees.</p> <p>SC: Has been £39 for a time, the going rate for many things in rowing. Could propose to committee to increase but reluctant because key aims as Captain was to keep rowing as accessible as possible - had desired effect this year. Keeping cost down is crucial to deciding to take part. If goes up to £45, very elastic. Have a committee meeting tonight - could discuss the potential but can't go up more than inflation.</p> <p>CAT: Could do discounted subscription fees for people</p>

		<p>receiving Cambridge bursaries and increase for other members, like some May Balls. Get information from college?</p> <p>SC: Information protected.</p> <p>JO: College would not want to share and students wouldn't want fellow students to know. But MBC also has cash surplus.</p> <p>SC: Current account balance now significantly lower due to mid-term expenditure. Club highly leveraged - many assets with high repair costs. For coaches wages, need to take two terms' expenditure into account in savings: before subs come in, need 8k in reserves to pay for coach wages, and 3k for Cam conservators (looks after the river, requires membership fee), who are increasing their fees as Scudamores punts on payment strike. MBC exposed to large amount of risk. Also, large amount to pay for training camp (not paid for by Amal): total cost about 18k. Savings regularly transferred between accounts.</p> <p>Bid finalised at £10,348.</p>
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Item 3: Finalisation of Final Awards Decision.

The grand total of the bids amounted to £30,624.31.

Item 4: Any other matters arising.

JO: Amal have surplus from last year, but Amal budget is yearly and finalised bid close to money left over anyway.

CAT: Is there any obligation to keep minutes confidential?

JO: Second clause in constitution: all people in college are members of the club so no.

CAT: Suggested publishing minutes e.g. on JCR website so easily accessible to everyone.

JO: Will check with Helen Foord.