

DCSA Minutes

6th September 2005

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| <u>Present</u> | Katie Tanner (KT) | President |
| | Melanie Keene (MK) | Treasurer |
| | Rosienne Farrugia (RF) | Secretary/Womens |
| | Martyn Dade-Robertson (MDR) | Comms |
| | Julia Parker (JP) | Ents |
| | Caroline Scott (CS) | Admiral |
| | Will Flynn (WF) | Council Rep |

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| <u>Apologies</u> | Patrick Boner (PB) | Sports |
| | Chris Tighe (CT) | Greens |
| | Su Il In (SI) | Council Rep/Interantional |
| | Claudia Crovace (CC) | Ents |
| | Yuri Ji (YJ) | Welfare |

The new liquor licence laws

College, Bar and DCSA all feel that the registered club option is the best option for the college. But the DCSA feels that it is important to point out that we as DCSA had next to no time to discuss the opposite point – ie the benefits of a premises licence. The DCSA would also like to point out that an open meeting out of term when most of the college members are not in residence is not ideal.

Bike Scheme

WF has put notices and temporary identification tags under the doors of all the rooms in Gwen and Frank Young. Bikes which have not been registered or have no temporary tag attached will be removed on the 14th of September.

The temporary tag was issued because with the bursar's secretary on holiday till the 12th of September, there might not be enough time for everyone to register their bike.

Freshers' Bop

This year's fresher's bop will be held in the dining hall.
The Ents officers need to be informed of the maximum number of people allowed at any one time in the hall.

The common room will also be used during the event.

Ents have to decide what to charge for entry since the costs for this bop will be higher than usual. Entry fee will not be more than £3.

The option of selling tickets before the bop is being investigated. Advance tickets would only be sold to Darwinians and guests can obtain tickets at the door if any are available.

Peterhouse MCR has asked the DCSA if we could host their graduate freshers as there are usually only about 35 new graduates a year and Peterhouse does not organise a graduate event. This still has to be considered as we need to see if we can fit them in. Security will be needed throughout the evening and Ents will be looking for students willing to work on the night.

Some form of decorations – probably projections onto the dining hall's walls – need to be arranged.

Student staff will be needed to set up for the bop and clear up afterwards (on Sunday).

Welcome desk

First scheduled arrivals are before the welcome desk is set up. A DCSA member needs to be on call (KT is not available) to welcome students and show them to their rooms. MDR volunteered to be on call and WF and RF offered to take over during the weekend.

DCSA Office

MDR reported that the new computer will be installed on the 7th of September.

Next DCSA meeting: Tuesday 20th August at 7.30pm in the Old Library

Open Meeting

Held: 6th September 2005, 9.00pm in the Bar

Present: Members of the DCSA
 Members of BarCom
 Members of the student body

KT introduced the topic: (in brief)

Due to a change in the liquor licence laws, college needs to apply for a new licence, either a premises licence or a registered club licence. A recent amendment stipulates that a registered club may only hold an event hosting a maximum of 500 guests. Thus, Darwin has to decide which licence to apply for. A premises licence will result in increased drinks prices from the bar, a registered licence will mean that Darwin May Ball, if held, will have a maximum of 500 guests.

Asked if the registered premises would be just the bar area or all of college, KT replied that the entire premises would be registered under whatever licence College opts for.

All present were informed of the DCSA's position:

The DCSA feels that it is important to point out that the DCSA had next to no time to discuss the opposite point – ie the benefits of a premises licence. The DCSA would also like to point out that an open meeting out of term when most of the members are not in residence is not ideal. Furthermore the DCSA does not know exactly when initial notice of the change in legislation was given to College, only that the amendment of a maximum of 500 guests was introduced in May. The upcoming change in legislation was brought to the DCSA's attention by Kate Lee and the bursar in August.

Kate Lee for the Bar argued that the Bar would like to keep the atmosphere and reputation of Darwin Bar as it is.

- Having a premises licence would result in a changed atmosphere as the bar will no longer be a student bar run by students for students, and also the bar would lose a lot of business as drinks prices will go up.
- Students would also not have the opportunity to be on the bar committee and gain experience in managing the bar.
- The bar is open every day whilst the May Ball is on only for one night a year.
- Under a premises licence there would be more random checks of the premises, size of drinks, the member status of guests etc.
- It is estimated that to make up the salary of a bar manager, the prices of drinks would go up 50%. (The numbers to show this were not immediately available)

To fit in with a registered club licence, the Bar could set up a membership card which would be issued to all Darwin members. This would help identify the guests particularly at the start of a year when there are a lot of new faces.

The Bar could maybe be in a position to help with the May Ball costs. For example, charge an extra 5p per drink which can be put aside towards May Ball costs

Julia Zaccai for the Ball argued that a bar manager and a premises licence need not change the atmosphere of Darwin Bar.

- A young bar manager could integrate well with the students and help keep the atmosphere as it is now
- Random health and safety checks can only help make the bar a safer place, ensure that the health and safety standards are maintained at all times, keep high standards of cleanliness and hygiene, and encourage the bar operate to a stricter code.
- The responsibility of managing the bar will be the official responsibility of an employee and no longer that of a student volunteer who is in college primarily to study and not to manage the bar full time.
- With an employed bar manager the bar would be able to open for longer hours – before dinner, on Saturday afternoons – serve tea and coffee during the day etc.

It was pointed out that a bar manager's salary would be in the range of £30 000 p.a.

Drinks in privately managed college bars only cost about 20p less than they would cost in pubs. It was felt that for 20p per drink students would be tempted to go to a pub rather than the college bar.

It was also pointed out that when the application for a premises licence is put in, the opening times of the bar have to be set out in writing on the application.

Dave pointed out that from personal experience when in Nottingham, students tended to frequent the one bar that was run by students rather than the other bars run by employed bar managers. The student run bar had the best atmosphere and the best clientele. Also managers are generally not paid very well in the scheme of things and it is very easy that the manager we end up with would be rather inexperienced.

Whether the decision to go for one licence over another was reversible or not was also brought up.

If college were to go for a premises licence and employ a full time bar manager, the know how would be lost to students in 3 to 4 years when the current members of BarCom have all left. Thus if after this time it was decided that college no longer wants a bar manager, there would be no students who know how the bar is run who can take it over and train new people.

It was pointed out that applying for these licences is a costly business and once the application is submitted and all fees paid, it is very likely and irreversible decision.

The general feeling of the student body expressed to both the DCSA president and the Bar Chair is that primarily the students want the bar to stay as it is. However, the students do not want to lose the May Ball which in the past years has been a great success, thus creative ways of how to make the Ball possible are being looked into by the DCSA, BarCom and the general student body.