



St John's College JCR

HT26, GM2 Minutes
Monday 9 February 2026
jcr-secretary@sjc.ox.ac.uk

1. Minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes available [here](#).

2. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

3. Reports from the Officers

President (Jerome): Had various meetings. College has approved the Charities formal, as well as the Sidney Sussex sports exchange, which will be on Saturday 9 May. Emily will coordinate team captains, etc., in due course. Arts week things have been happening, so people have been busy with that. Had meetings with architects for the College Masterplan, and will bring boards to JCR meeting when they are received. Had Student Equalities Forum. Please turn up to that if you have any issues in future, as it gets raised to College and taken seriously.

Vice-President (Ruth): Housing ballot is coming up. Have talked with Mags Robertson about housing. Interior of TW8 being demolished next year, so all freshers from there will be moved to TW5, which will now only be for freshers. The JCR is getting 30 rooms from the MCR, which will be nice rooms. Email will be sent soonish about housing ballot and open weekend. Will talk with IT Officer about room database. Deadline for letting me know about being on a year abroad, suspended, etc., will come early (being moved from Monday of 6th week to **Monday of 5th week**). Any concerns or queries about the room ballot, contact me.

Secretary (Mia): More of the same, just a lot of sending emails. To officers, please send trustee documents if you haven't already as they're important legally.

Treasurer (Andras): Finally got access to bank account. Ask for JCR card if necessary for any large purchases. Please fill in form for reimbursement rather than emailing receipts

(except for Arts Week things, as that can be complicated). Anyone successful with Financial Motions will be contacted by the Treasurer to get details to have money sent.

Academic Affairs (Maxim): Ran CV talk, which went well, and want to do another one. Alumni talk is currently in the works.

Arts (Naomi): Arts Week is underway and is going well.

Charities (Euan): Currently organising Charities formal. Also planning to tidy up JCR Office and clean the JCR Lounge, need volunteers for that.

Domestic Officers: Halfway Hall went well. Front of house complained about people smoking near buildings, and people getting up in the middle of dinner—please be respectful at dinners.

Entz: Please come to cheese quiz. Bops are being organised, please come to them.

Environment and Ethics (Isaac): We have a student-designated gardening space already, we just don't use it. Meeting with Rob Styles about it. Had sustainability meeting: college are installing a food waste converter.

Ruth: Have noticed some scouts putting all waste in the same bag—how will this issue be solved.

Isaac: Will send email about it but it's difficult if policies exist and people just decide not to follow them.

Equality and Diversity (Lia): Have Tea and Trinkets BAME event so can't come to meeting today. Working on LGBTQ+ dinner, please sign up.

Publicity (Sam): Officer introductions are coming up. Have started posting menus on Instagram. DM JCR on Instagram if you want promotions for your College event.

Sports (Emily): Just organising things at the moment.

Welfare: Have been settling into role. Held successful karaokes.

Women*'s (Leanne): Have restocked sanitary products, Women*'s dinner coming up.

Returning Officer (Alex): Ran another by-election to fill vacant roles, waiting for results.

4. Ratifications

The following members nominated themselves:

- PRAT Reps: Chao Ren, Freddie Weir, and Frederick Li
- Social Media Rep: Rebecca Rendall
- Class Rep: Isaac Smith
- Disabilities Rep: Ruth Magedera
- Ethnic Minorities Rep: Sarah Murphy
- LGBTQ+ Rep: Milo Ainsworth

No objections were heard, so all Rep roles were ratified. As Officers are not allowed to hold more than three Officer roles, Ruth Magedera resigned as Women's Rep upon becoming Disabilities Rep.

The ["Update the Constitution" Constitutional Motion](#) was ratified as there were no objections. Upon this motion taking effect, there is no longer a need for Constitutional Motions to be ratified at General Meetings.

5. Agenda items

A. The ***"External Affairs: Gone But Not Forgotten"*** Financial Motion

Proposer: Andras Bard

Seconded: Jerome Pailing

This JCR notes that:

- a. Since the latest budget was passed, new information has come to the Treasurer's attention, requiring minor adjustments to allocations.
 - i. The Academic Affairs Officer should be allocated a further £100 (from the Freshers' Week budget) for the running of careers events inherited from External Affairs.
 - ii. The Facilities Reps should be allocated a further £50 (from the Financial Motions budget) to help cover the replacement of broken Xbox controllers in the TV room.

This JCR believes that:

- b. This budget is, to the best of the Treasurer's knowledge, an accurate record of the state of the accounts of the JCR.
- c. This budget accurately reflects, as far as possible, the likely income and expenditure for each budget area.
- d. This budget is fit to be passed, with any desired amendments.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- e. Pass this proposed budget.

Andras: There was a merger of External Affairs and Academic Affairs, but the Budget was not adjusted to match. Only minor changes.

B. The ***"Support Oxford University Racing"*** Financial Motion

Proposer: Ben Hone

Seconded: Sarah Murphy

This JCR notes that:

- a. Formula Student is Europe's most established engineering competition where university teams design, build and race a single seater racing car. The Oxford University Racing team represents the university at a national competition held at Silverstone every year.
- b. The Oxford University car is an all-electric formula style racing car, which requires many complex and expensive electrical components, as well as the cost of manufacturing and machining custom parts.
- c. Oxford University Racing has designed an entirely new car for the 2026 competition, which is currently in the process of manufacture and assembly. This includes a new design for the battery of the car, which has seen significant improvements since the last iteration. This year there are hopes for a podium finish for Oxford.
- d. Colleges which financially support the team will have their crest on the body of the car!!!

This JCR believes that:

- e. Many students at St John's play an active role in the team, contributing to the design of several parts of the car including the battery, chassis and aerodynamics.
- f. The Formula Student competition helps to give undergraduate engineers insight into practical parts of design, which is not a large focus of the undergraduate Engineering degree.
- g. Funding is required from the JCR so that we are able to purchase the required materials and ensure that they are machined into parts in time for our week 8 deadline. This will significantly contribute to the success of the project for all students involved.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Give £200 to Oxford University Racing from the Financial Motions Budget.

Sarah: The car is being redone from scratch. Obviously this is expensive and requires a lot of funding.

C. The “*Fund Monstrous Regiment!*” Financial Motion

Proposer: Samuel Forrest

Seconded: Catherine Rayson

This JCR notes that:

- a. Two JCR members are involved in the play Monstrous Regiment, which will take place in the Michael Pilch Studio in 5th week of Hilary Term.

- b. The JCR has significant involvement in this production, as one of its members is the producer and another has a lead role in the cast.
- c. Picnic Productions is a new production company and needs to raise the funds for the rights and venue, as well as the cost of set, props, and costume.
- d. The rights cost £720 and the venue costs £400, which is significant expenditure for a new production company; any support the JCR could provide will go a long way.
- e. Those involved in student drama are responsible for raising the funds to put on the play, from funding bodies and their JCRs.
- f. JCR funding is essential to a production of this kind, as plays are often ambitious but expensive productions.

This JCR believes that:

- g. We should support artistic endeavours and the artistic development of JCR members.
- h. As a play, Monstrous Regiment provides both dramatic development opportunities to JCR members hoping to pursue acting or theatre production.
- i. Providing funding for drama allows students to continue to pursue creative endeavours.
- j. Drama is especially significant to St John's, a college which has a history of investment in music, arts and drama causes.
- k. This production has also created a number of opportunities for students aiming to gain experience in this sector, in directing, producing, and acting.
- l. The funding would allow those involved in the play to be at less financial risk for the production.
- m. Donate £300 to help realise the production, allowing contributions to venue hire fee, rights, marketing and departmental costs such as lighting, sound and costume.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- n. Give £200 to Picnic Productions from the Kendrew Arts Fund.

Samuel: Just need a bit more money to cover the costs.

Andras: Have you asked other JCRs?

Samuel: Yes, we've asked St Hugh's and Oriel.

Andras: Friendly amend from £300 to £200.

Jerome: Friendly amend to remove the mention of a written report on the JCR website as the News section doesn't exist anymore.

D. The “Oxford Quadball Oslo Tournament” Financial Motion

Proposer: James Kramer

Seconded: Thomas Ng

This JCR notes that:

- a. Having won the university national championship last year, we've been invited to an european tournament against other national champions, hosted in Oslo, on the 21st-22nd of March.

This JCR believes that:

- b. Three members of the team are JCR members (James Kramer, Thomas Ng, Rowan Harrison-Walker) and currently two of three are confirmed to go and the third has financial qualms.
- c. Quadball is a small and emerging sport, with inclusivity, especially LGBTQ+ inclusivity, as a core part of its identity and is a gateway sport for people who have not felt comfortable in sporting culture previously.
- d. Usually Oxford Quadball has been self-sufficient regarding funding, relying on sponsorships so we can subsidise tournament costs to increase accessibility; therefore, we don't have the funds to cover this atypical invitation.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- e. Give £200 to Oxford Universities Quadball Club from the Financial Motions Budget

James: This opportunity is out of the ordinary so no budget for it yet.

Jerome: Assuming Blues Grant is not an option as Quadball is not a Blues sport.

James: Correct.

Ruth: Have you asked other JCRs?

James: Not yet but we will. St John's makes up more of the team than other colleges.

E. The “Fund Stubbs” Financial Motion

Proposer: Elliot Francolla

Seconded: Hannah Fareed

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Stubbs Society offers students across the university access to free speaker events and panels in the realm of international affairs; these include talks by both academic experts and diplomatic practitioners. Stubbs does not charge for membership nor for admittance to talks, so the society must cover the costs of hosting events independently. Other JCRs have been petitioned for funding (Oriel, Somerville, etc.)

This JCR believes that:

- b. Members of St John’s have benefited from Stubbs as attendees and have historically held executive committee positions (Treasurer, President).
- c. Stubbs benefits students interested in foreign affairs by offering them access to contemporary experts and allows them to explore possible post-university career paths in civil or foreign service.
- d. Because the Society does not charge for events, it relies on grants, sponsorships, and JCR funding to cover the logistical costs of hosting speakers.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- e. Give £180 to the Stubbs Society

Hannah: Need funding to keep events free.

Jerome: Have you asked other JCRs for funding?

Hannah: Yes, we’ve asked Somerville and Oriel.

Jerome: What are your long-term funding plans?

Hannah: Hopefully will get funding from sponsor companies, but need time to find companies that align with Stubbs’ values.

F. The “Help finance Ramadan Iftaars 2026” Financial Motion

Proposer: Zain Khan

Seconded: Mahnoor Kamran

This JCR notes that:

- a. Ramadan is one of the most important months in the Islamic calendar, centred around fasting, reflection, charity, and community.
- b. Daily iftars (the breaking of the fast at sunset) are a core communal practice during Ramadan, bringing people together across backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs, facilitating communal prayer, which is one of the main pillars of Islam.

- c. Open and subsidised iftars play a crucial role in ensuring that Muslim students-particularly those from low-income, international, or underrepresented backgrounds-can fully participate in Ramadan without financial or social barriers. In particular, many John's Muslims rely on central Islam Society Iftaars as their main source of food during Ramadan.
- d. Community iftars also provide an important opportunity for non-Muslim students to engage, learn, and build meaningful connections, strengthening interfaith understanding and inclusivity within the college.
- e. Previous Ramadan events organised by OUISoc and college communities have seen strong attendance and positive feedback, demonstrating clear demand and impact.
- f. Hosting regular, accessible iftars to a high standard requires advance planning and financial support, particularly to ensure dietary requirements, accessibility, and affordability are met.

This JCR believes that:

- g. Supporting Ramadan iftars aligns strongly with the JCR's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion by recognising and materially supporting the religious and cultural needs of Muslim students.
- h. Community iftars foster belonging, wellbeing, and solidarity, particularly during an academically demanding term, and contribute to a more cohesive and compassionate college environment.
- i. JCR funding should be used to support initiatives that directly enhance student welfare and promote inclusive community-building.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- j. To provide a grant of £200 to support "Ramadan 2026 community iftars" from the Financial Motions Budget, with funds contributing towards food, venue costs, and logistical arrangements to ensure that iftars are accessible, inclusive, and welcoming to all students.

Mahnoor: University stopped funding it so we need funding from JCRs.

Jerome: Have you asked other JCRs?

Mahnoor: Yes, a lot. LMH and St Hugh's have recently approved funding.

Ruth: What's the long-term funding?

Mahnoor: Subject to negotiations with the University. Hopefully they will fund it, but may need to ask JCRs again next year.

G. The “*Rejuvenate the TV Room!*” Financial Motion

Proposer: Benjamin Bull

Seconded: Zoe Gordon

This JCR notes that:

- a. The JCR Games Room is a shared social space used by a wide range of JCR members throughout the academic year.
- b. Many students regularly use the Games Room for casual gaming and social activities.
- c. EA Play and Xbox Game Pass provide access to a large and varied library of multiplayer and single-player games suitable for communal use.
- d. The combined cost of maintaining both subscriptions for the remainder of the academic year is £60.

This JCR believes that:

- e. Providing accessible games in the Games Room enhances the social life and wellbeing of JCR members.
- f. Subscriptions such as EA Play and Xbox Game Pass offer good value for money, giving access to many games at a low cost.
- g. Funding these subscriptions benefits a broad proportion of the JCR rather than a small group.
- h. Without JCR funding, it may not be possible to maintain these subscriptions for the remainder of the academic year.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- i. Give £60 to fund EA Play and Xbox Game Pass subscriptions for the Games Room for the remainder of the academic year from the Financial Motions Budget

Maxim: Is this just for the games, or fixing the stinkiness?

Andras: Just games for now.

H. The “*Help clean the JCR and JCR cupboard!*” Financial Motion

Proposer: Euan Warner

Seconded: Ruth Magedera

This JCR notes that:

- a. There is an expectation that the JCR spaces are maintained (in terms of content and clutter) on an ongoing basis

- i. The JCR cupboard is currently in a very poor state of affairs and needs desperate attention
 - ii. the JCR also needs organising and cleaning (it smells?!)
- b. This project will require around 10 volunteers.

This JCR believes that:

- c. This would be an important and valuable exercise for the JCR, as well as benefiting the community through donations of any unused and good quality items in the office
- d. Volunteers who contribute to this project should be given kendrew brunch on the morning of the project as a thank you for their time and effort
- e. College has refused to incentivise any volunteer efforts for this project:
 - i. Quote from domestic bursar: “I think that you are better to use JCR funds to cover the brunch, if you choose to do so. As you will appreciate, there are numerous elements that fall under the responsibility of student common rooms, so I am reluctant to set a precedent where the college cover incentives for things that should just be happening. A reminder too that JCR committee members receive bod card credit for their contribution to running the JCR.”

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- f. Give £60 to charities budget from the Financial Motions Budget to fund brunch for 10 volunteers who wish to help clean the JCR cupboard, and a thank you for their time and effort
 - i. The remaining funds are to be used for purchase of cleaning supplies, which will be especially useful for the smelly JCR

Ruth: Will need 10 volunteers to clean out.

Milo: When is it being done?

Ruth: 14 February.

Andras: Spent some time already cleaning out without brunch being provided.

Ruth: Hopefully brunch will be a good incentive. Officers, please put your name down for helping clean out the JCR Office.

6. Any other business

Ruth: Thinking of doing a housing drop-in—would it be useful to anyone?

Fred: Yes, us freshers know nothing about it.

Ruth: Difficult to send out all information at the moment because JCR doesn't receive it until sixth week. Also want people to send photos of rooms and to revive the room database.

Andras: Not many people sent them when we asked before.