

Royal College of Science Union

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Science Challenge Committee

Held at 17:30 on 3rd October 2014 at the RCSU Office (Sherfield 214D)

PRESENT:

- Serena Yuen – RCSU President (SY)
- James Badman – RCSU Honorary Junior Treasurer (JB)
- Philip Kent – RCSU Honorary Secretary (PK)
- June Gan – RCSU Science Challenge Chair (JG)
- Jonas de Beukelaer – RCSU Web Communications Officer (JdB)
- Fred Piech – RCSU Publicity Officer (FP)

APOLOGIES:

None

ABSENT:

None

OBSERVERS:

None

Meeting opened at 17:30.

A. CHAIR'S WELCOME

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JG.

NOTED:

1. JG welcomed all to the meeting.

B. TREASURER'S BUSINESS AND SC BUDSGET

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JB.

NOTED:

2. A budget has been set of £1,500 for the Launch, £3,500 for the Final, £3,500 for Prizes with the Launch Budget approved by the Union.
3. This is a 50% cut over last year.

C. JUDGES

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JG.

NOTED:

4. PK has confirmed Philip Moriarty (University of Nottingham) as a Judge.
5. Alice Roberts, Jim Al-Khalili, Marc du Satoy and Melvin Bragg have all been contacted.
6. David Willets, Robin Ince, Paul Nurse, Tejinder Virdee, and Tom Kibble have all declined.

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7. There are still 8 more people to contact, if anyone has other people to suggest they should be added to the dropbox.
8. Lord Winston will be contacted soon to discuss judges.

ACTION: JG to continue contacting judges.

ACTION: All to update Dropbox as appropriate.

D. VENUE FOR FINAL

E. VENUE AND DATE FOR FINAL

N.B. These items were rolled together due to their similarity.

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JG with associated papers.

NOTED:

9. The RI, Royal Society, both Inner and Middle Temples, Globe Balcony and a few other venues have been visited as per the circulated paper.
10. With the budget considered, the unaffordable venues of The Globe, Royal Society (Kohn Centre), Guildhall and Old Royal Naval College were removed from consideration.
11. Videos and pictures for a few of the venues were then watched.
12. Middle Temple was liked but it was felt that Inner Temple was preferable as it is more luxurious for not much extra.
13. A vote was held to hold the final at Inner Temple, which was passed unanimously.
14. Rooms were then considered based on pictures and size.
15. It was noted that a tour of the venue can be held with ease to make the final interesting to guests.
16. A vote was held to use the Luncheon Room, which was passed unanimously.
17. The schedule of availability was considered, with a provisional date of March 23rd chosen and a fallback of 20th.
18. A vote was held to approve these dates, which was passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- a. To hold the final at Inner Temple.
- b. To use the Luncheon Room.
- c. To hold the Final on March 23rd, with a fallback date of the 20th.

ACTION: JG to book the venue as resolved.

F. PUBLICITY TIMELINE

RECEIVED: This item was verbally presented by JG.

NOTED:

19. Agreement of the timeline was passed onto next meeting to save time.
20. Previous publicity has been themed on specific branches of science – last year was mathematics; the year before was physics.
21. Biology/the life sciences was suggested as an alternative.
22. The committee examined all the suggested theme backdrops, shortlisting two biology ones.
23. A vote was held to pick the backdrop desired. The 'shutterstock' image was picked by a majority of two votes.
24. There is a charge for the shutterstock image but 5 images are included so Broadsheet can make use of the purchase too.

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RESOLVED:

- a. To use the 'shutterstock' image for Science Challenge publicity.

ACTION: *FP to investigate purchasing license for the image.*

G. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

Meeting closed at 18:20.