

Royal College of Science Union

**Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Science Challenge Committee**

Held at 12:00 on 13th January 2017 at the RCSU Office (Sherfield 214D)

**PRESENT:**

- Lloyd James – RCSU President (LJ)
- Michael Edwards – RCSU Honorary Secretary (ME)
- Rani Mehta – RCSU Science Challenge Chair (RM)
- Ben Sharpless – RCSU Broadsheet Editor (BS)

**APOLOGIES:**

- Ben Collier – RCSU Publicity Officer (BC)
- Griffin Farrow – RCSU Honorary Junior Treasurer (GF)

**ABSENT:**

**OBSERVERS:**

*Meeting opened at 12:00.*

**A. Launch**

**RECEIVED:** RM delivered this item

**NOTED:**

1. It was agreed to use college catering as Imperial Societies could not cope with the large amount of people. Due to the number of children it was decided tea and coffee would be served with small snacks eg. tortilla chips to accompany.
2. The keynote was decided to be Dr Stephen Webster, Head of the Science Communication Unit.
3. It is now too late to get a professionally printed handbook so a printable pamphlet was decided. This should include the key dates (entries open on the day of the launch, entries close on 1<sup>st</sup> March, Final Dinner is 21<sup>st</sup> March and the school winners tour of the House of Lords is on 5<sup>th</sup> April), Bios for the judges and spaces for their questions to be written in and possibly some quotes from Lord Winston.
4. Instead of an article before the Launch in Felix, it was decided an article after, reporting on the Launch and saying the entries are open etc. would be more suitable. BS to attend the Launch as a reporter in order to write it up.
5. As the website registration system has still not been sorted, it was decided registration for the event would be easier using an Eventbrite platform.

**RESOLVED:**

- a. RM to contact college catering regarding the Launch.
- b. RM to approach Keynote and ask him to speak
- c. BS to create pamphlet in the next week

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- d. RM to create Eventbrite

**B. Schedule of the Launch**

**RECEIVED:** RM delivered.

**NOTED:**

- 6. It was decided the Launch would run in the following order:

6-7pm

Demos in the Foyer

7-8:30pm

LJ – General Introduction

(Tom Welton – Welcome)

Dr Webster – Keynote (15mins)

RM – Specifics about competition

Judges x 4 – Introduction of Questions (5mins)

Questions

Science Demonstration

LJ – Closing

8:30 – end

Refreshments in the Foyer

**RESOLVED:**

- e. LJ to contact Tom Welton about opening
- f. ME to find demonstrators for the opening and the finale

**C. Questions**

**RECEIVED:** RM delivered.

**NOTED:**

- 7. The questions proposed by the judges were read out and the following were decided upon.

Prose – Jon Butterworth

High-energy physics probes the smallest structures in nature, often using accelerators to get subatomic resolution. In the future, will we run out of resolution? What technologies might help us do better? And why should we even try?

Feature Article – Alice Jamieson

Choose one idea, discovery or technology to explore how science can prepare us for the future.

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#### Creative Writing – Emily Mayhew

This question is set in memory of Dr Piers Sellers, scientist and astronaut who died in December 2016. You can read about his extraordinary life and achievements here and see a photograph of Piers on board the Space Shuttle Atlantis:

<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-administrator-remembers-nasa-scientist-astronaut-piers-sellers>

Piers was interested in all aspects of science, from climate change to space physics to medicine. Above all he believed in the human capacity for progress in the face of change, writing:

"First, we should brace for change. It is inevitable. It will appear in changes to the climate and to the way we generate and use energy. Second, we should be prepared to absorb these with appropriate sang-froid. Some will be difficult to deal with, like rising seas, but many others could be positive. New technologies have a way of bettering our lives in ways we cannot anticipate. There is no convincing, demonstrated reason to believe that our evolving future will be worse than our present, assuming careful management of the challenges and risks. History is replete with examples of us humans getting out of tight spots. The winners tended to be realistic, pragmatic and flexible; the losers were often in denial of the threat."

Imagine you are reading these words sometime in our evolving future, looking back at the Earth from the International Space Station (or International Moon Base). What does the Earth look like in 2117, or 2317 or even 3017? How did we get out of our tight spots? In what ways are our lives more dangerous? In what ways are our lives better? You choose the time and place in which to write your response to Piers' vision of our human future and our capacity to shape it.

*p.s. This quote is taken from an article Piers wrote in January 2016. You can read the complete piece here:*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/17/opinion/sunday/cancer-and-climate-change.html>

#### Digital – Vidish Athavale

How will AI shape our future world? What the possibilities, what are the dangers? How far along this road have we come so far?

### **RESOLVED:**

- g. RM to confirm these with the judges and prep them for their speeches

### **D. Publicity**

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**RECEIVED:** RM delivered.

**NOTED:**

8. As the Launch is fast approaching, publicity needs to be focussed on. It should mostly revolve around winning £1000.
9. Lecture shout outs were agreed upon for next week by the committee.
10. LJ to send around an email with the poster attached
11. BC to make very high res poster to be put on the banner – needs to be done as soon as possible
12. BC to make posters to put around Imperial as well as small handouts for café tables etc.

**RESOLVED:**

- h. BC to create a Facebook Event for Launch
- i. RM to write up and circulate a lecture shout out for everyone on the committee to give
- j. BC to design banner ASAP so can be bought
- k. BC to create Imperial posters and handouts
- l. BC and RM to stick up posters next week

**E. Other**

**RECEIVED:** RM delivered.

**NOTED:**

13. The Terms and Conditions have been changed by RM to match the agreed criteria for this year.
14. The prize money was decided to be the same as last years, as it advertised on the website.
15. RM to find trophies appropriate for the final.

**RESOLVED:**

- m. RM to send around T&Cs for approval
- n. RM to find trophies

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**Action Points**

Lloyd James	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Contact Tom Welton about speaking at Launch</li> <li>II. Check we have SAF Foyer booked for Launch date</li> <li>III. Send around an email with the poster, inviting everyone along (saying there'll be food).</li> <li>IV.</li> </ol>
Michael Edwards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Find demonstrators to perform experiments for the Launch</li> </ol>
Griffin Farrow	
Ben Sharpless	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Create pamphlet for the Launch</li> <li>II. Email Lef about change in Felix article</li> </ol>
Ben Collier	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Create high res image for the banner etc.</li> <li>II. Design banner</li> <li>III. Create FB event for the Launch and invite everyone to it.</li> <li>IV. Design posters and handouts for Imperial</li> </ol>
Rani Mehta	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Contact college catering for Launch</li> <li>II. Contact Dr Webster to be the keynote</li> <li>III. Sort advert in Felix for next week</li> <li>IV. Create Eventbrite</li> <li>V. Email schools asking them to attend Launch with EB link</li> <li>VI. Send around T&amp;Cs for approval</li> <li>VII. Find trophies</li> <li>VIII. Prep judges for Launch speeches</li> <li>IX. Circulate lecture shoutout</li> </ol>