

MANCHESTER
DEBATING
UNION

Term card
Autumn 2013

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JUST WORD
FOR IT...

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your advice
be?

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Chair's Welcome

A warm welcome to our new members and welcome back to our old members!

This semester the Manchester Debating Union are holding a huge variety of debates, from the existence of God to the rise of China. The MDU has a range of exceptional speakers this semester including Peter Hitchens, Lucy Anne Holmes and Graham Stringer MP.

As well as weekly public debates the MDU holds weekly training sessions for our members to improve their public speaking and debating skills. Whether an absolute beginner or a veteran debater the MDU offers training to build confidence and develop your abilities.

Debating in Manchester is just the start. We encourage all our members who attend training to apply to compete and represent the MDU at Inter-Varsity competitions at other Universities.

I look forward to meeting all of you during our events or afterwards in the pub!

Henry Phipps,

MDU Chair 2013-2014



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This House Would Legalise All Drugs

UoM Welcome Week 17th September 5pm—Location TBC

A fun informal pub debate to welcome debaters new and old. The war on drugs has been running for 40 years, but despite billions spent on enforcement laws, drug use has not declined. Should drug use be a personal choice, or should the government continue to crackdown on drugs? The Manchester Debating Union asks the question—Should we legalise all drugs?

Proposition



Lucy Penny

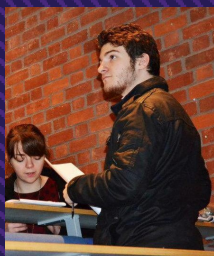
Former training officer of Manchester Debating Union, Convener of the European Universities Debating Championships.

Opposition



Christian Barrow

Current MDU Training Officer, Christian has written on drugs legalisation as a columnist for the Mancunion.



Jack Mellish

Manchester Debating Union Externals Officer, committee member of the Liberty League.



Becky Montacute

Secretary of the Manchester Debating Union, Neuroscience PhD student at the University of Manchester.



This House Believes That Porn Empowers Women

University of Manchester Welcome Week 19th of September 5pm

Is working in the porn industry the ultimate sign of women's sexual freedom and empowerment? Or does porn re-enforce stereotypes of women as nothing more than sexual objects, present only for the pleasure of men? The Manchester Debating Union asks the question—Does porn empower women?

Proposition



Renee Richards

Renee is a former porn actress and winner of performer of the year at the 2008 UK Adult Film and Television Awards.

Opposition



Lucy-Anne Holmes

Lucy is the founder of the No-More Page Three campaign.



Dr Jude Roberts

Lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London. Specialises in gender and sexuality in fantasy fiction.



Speaker TBC



This House Regrets The Legacy Of Margaret Thatcher

Manchester Metropolitan Welcome Week 26th September 5pm

Loved and loathed in equal measure; one thing is certain, Margaret Thatcher changed Britain forever and created the country we live in today. Was her legacy mostly positive, or should we regret the legacy of Margaret Thatcher?

Proposition



Kim Singleton

General Secretary and former parliamentary candidate for the Socialist Labour Party.

Opposition



Graham Brady

The Conservative MP for Sale and Altrincham in Greater Manchester and Chairman of the 1922 Committee.



Graham Stringer

The Labour MP for Blackley and Broughton in Greater Manchester and Manchester City Council Leader from 1984-1996.



Dr Stephen Davies

Director of Education at the Institute of Economic Affairs.



This House Fears The Rise Of China

3rd of October 5pm - Roscoe Building Lecture Theatre B

In the past decade China's power on the world stage has expanded as its economy has rapidly grown. Living standards for many of its citizens have increased, but many still remain in poverty. China is still a one party dictatorship and the country lends its support to regimes widely regarded as enemies of the west. The Manchester Debating Union asks— Should we fear the rise of China?

Proposition



Hugo Brennan

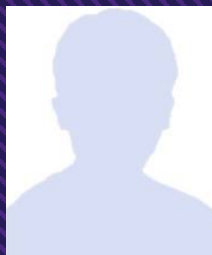
Hugo is the China Fellow at the Henry Jackson Institute.

Opposition



Dr Zhang Yang Wen

Senior Lecturer in Chinese History at the University of Manchester.



Speaker TBC



Dr Shogo Suzuki

Lecturer in Politics at the University of Manchester and expert on China and International Politics.



This House Believes That Capitalism Has Failed

10th October 5pm - Roscoe Building Lecture Theatre B

Following one of the worst financial collapses in history, much of the world faces stagnant growth and huge inequality. Yet despite there being no end in sight to the economic crisis in many countries, critics of capitalism are charged with being unable to propose any realistic alternative. Against this backdrop the Manchester Debating Union asks—Has capitalism failed?

Proposition



Robert Griffiths

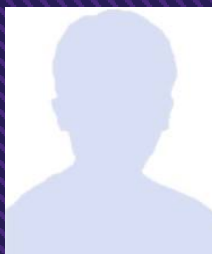
General Secretary of the Communist Party of Britain.

Opposition



Alessio Rastani

Financial Trader. He stated in 2010 that “Goldman Sachs rules the world”.



Speaker TBC



Dr Richard Wellings

Deputy Editorial Director at the IEA Senior Fellow of the Cobden Centre, the Economic Policy Centre and the Libertarian Alliance.

the big animal research debate

This House Would Ban All Forms Of Animal Research

17th October 5pm - Roscoe Building Lecture Theatre B

Animal research is currently key to the way we develop drugs and other medical treatments. However, many animals suffer and are killed during research. Can the benefits to humans outweigh the harm to animals, or is the suffering caused never justifiable? As part of a nationwide series of debates, the Manchester Debating Union asks— Should we ban all forms of animal research?

Proposition



Dr Stephen Cooke

Philosophy researcher at the University of Manchester specialising in ethics and Animal Rights.

Opposition



Professor Werner Muller

Bill Ford chair in Cellular Immunology, researcher at the University of Manchester.



Jack Mellish

Biomedical student at the University of Manchester and External Officer of the Manchester Debating Union.



Becky Montacute

Neuroscience PhD student and Secretary of the Manchester Debating Union.



This House Believes That Internet Piracy Is Justified

24th October 5pm - Roscoe Building Lecture Theatre B

The internet has made it increasingly difficult for companies to protect copyright, increasing numbers of people download films and other media for free. Is piracy morally equivalent to theft? Is it killing the music industry? Does it allow talented artists the best chance of exposure? All these questions and more will be answered when the Manchester Debating Union asks— Is internet piracy justified?

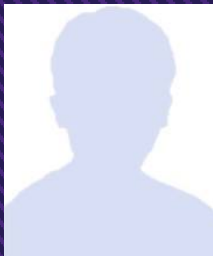
Proposition



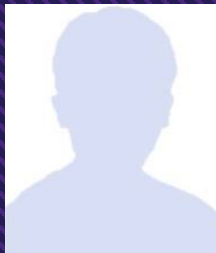
Loz Kaye

Loz Kaye is the leader of the Pirate Party UK. Part of the party's policy is the reform of copyright law.

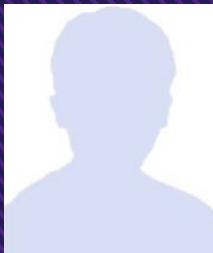
Opposition



Speaker TBC



Speaker TBC



Speaker TBC



This House Would Legalise Cannibalism

31st October 5pm - Roscoe Building Lecture Theatre B

In October 2013 a viral outbreak from the Life Sciences Department of the University of Manchester turned many of the MDU into the flesh-eating dead. Given that zombies retain dim memories of their past existence that erstwhile debaters met even after their death to discuss the morality of flesh-eating. Come as a zombie to Jabez Clegg Beer Hall, prizes for the best dressed and a social to follow!

Followed by Zombie fancy dress Halloween Social!
Oxford Road Pub Crawl



This House Regrets The Arab Spring

7th November 5pm - Roscoe Building Lecture Theatre B

In 2010 a wave of protests swept the Arab World leading to the collapse of many authoritarian regimes and the rise of Islamist governments. The repercussions of the Arab Spring continue to this day in the Syrian civil war and beyond. Should we see the Arab Spring as a victory for democracy and hope for the Middle East, or does the Arab Spring risk becoming an Islamist winter?

Speakers To Be Announced Soon!



Students' Question Time

14th November 5pm - Roscoe Building Lecture Theatre B

The MDU hosts a panel discussion on current affairs between political societies at the University of Manchester. Questions, just as with Question Time, will be asked from our audience - so come with questions prepared!



This House Would End No Platform

21st November 5pm - Roscoe Building Lecture Theatre B

The National Union of Students and unions including the University of Manchester Students' Union bar some speakers from our Universities. Is the best way to deal with those with hateful views to challenge them in a public forum, or to deny them publicity? Does this protect students, or take away the principles of free thought long associated with Universities?

Proposition



Christian Barrow

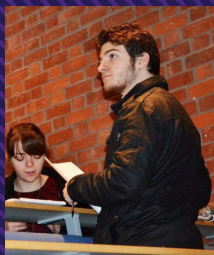
Training Officer at
Manchester Debating
Union.

Opposition



Grace Skelton

General Secretary of
the University of
Manchester Students'
Union.



Jack Mellish

Manchester Debating
Union Externals Officer,
committee member of
the Liberty League.



Emma Bean

Treasurer and former
Chair of Manchester
Debating Union.



This House Would Not Believe In God

28th November 5pm - Roscoe Building Lecture Theatre B

The number of Britons with no religious conviction has been steadily on the increase and the recent popularity of the New Atheist authors seems to indicate a growing boldness amongst advocates for atheism. But what are the philosophical arguments for this position, and can theists give an adequate response? The Manchester Debating Union asks— Should we not believe in God?

Proposition



Speaker TBC

Opposition



Peter Hitchens

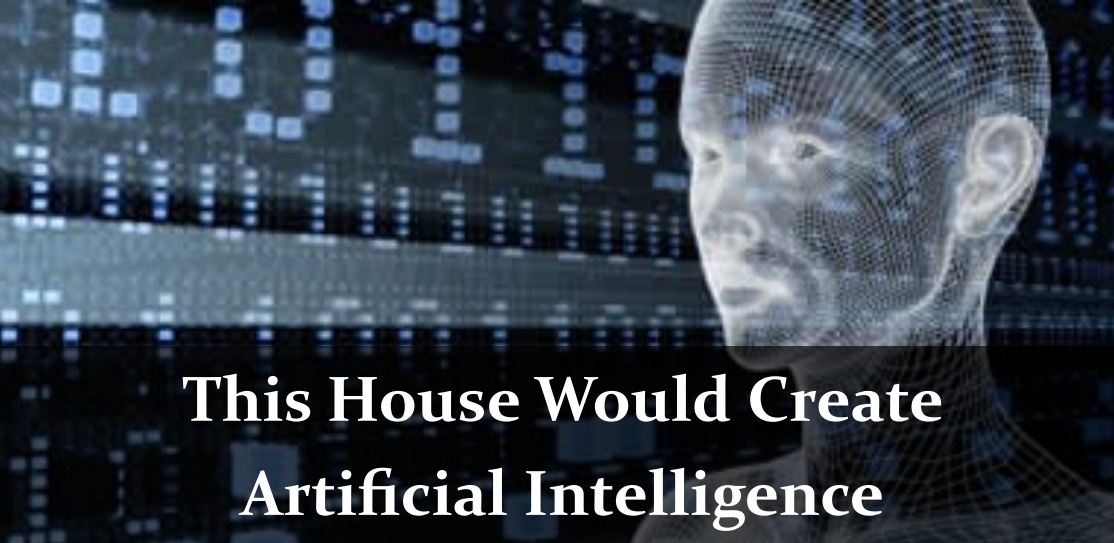
Columnist for the *Mail on Sunday*, foreign
correspondent and
author. Member of the
Church of England.



Speaker TBC



Speaker TBC



This House Would Create Artificial Intelligence

5th December 5pm - Roscoe Building Lecture Theatre B

As computing power increases the software created using such machines is becoming ever more complex. Could a machine be created to be self aware? Feel emotions? This week the MDU asks if such an endeavour should take place in— This House Would Create Artificial Intelligence.

Speakers To Be Announced Soon!



Christmas Comedy Debate

12th December 5pm - Roscoe Building Lecture Theatre B

To round off the semester the MDU are holding a Christmas comedy debate followed by a Christmas Social. Bring your Santa hats and tinsel!

Socials

Debating is thirsty work and after a cracking display of public oratory there is nowhere better than the nearest pub for digesting the arguments of both sides or continuing the discussion over a round of drinks. That's why the Manchester Debating Union has approached several of the finest pubs and bars in Manchester and secured discount offers on food and drink for anyone who presents their membership card – which is issued to every paid up member of the MDU!

On top of that, this semester will see some excellent socials including the Halloween Zombie Walk, a post-Freshers' Week Political Pub Crawl, and an excursion to Manchester's famed Curry Mile right after our first training session.

In partnership with the Royal Exchange Theatre, the MDU will also be offering very special ticket deals to our members during the first week of every new show in the next theatre season. And you can ask any of the MDU's older members if you want to know about the best places in the city to drink fine beverages or eat fine food.

Here is just a taste of the splendid social opportunities that you'll be able to enjoy during your first semester in the Debating Union!

Tom Lee,

Socials Officer 2013-2014



USE YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD

For discounted or FREE food and drinks at ~

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~ and ~

MANY OTHER FINE
ESTABLISHMENTS!

THE HALLOWEEN ZOMBIE WALK

**Fancy Dress Pub Crawl
Ending in FabCafe!
Thursday 31st October**



TRIPS TO THE THEATRE!

In cooperation with the Royal Exchange Theatre, the Debating Union will distribute ten FREE TICKETS for each of this season's shows among lucky members of the Debating Union!



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ON THEATRE
TICKETS & OTHER
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Manchester European Universities Debating Championships 2013



This summer Manchester Debating Union was proud to host the European Universities Debating Championships. Over 700 students from across Europe took part in 28,000 minutes of speeches across 500 debates, in the most prestigious debating competition in Europe. Venues included Manchester United's Old Trafford and the Palace Hotel. Our army of MDU volunteers were crucial to the event's success. We would like to say a big thank you to all of you for your hard work!



Competitive Debating

Manchester Debating Union offers competitive debating training free to all members. Our training sessions are held every Tuesday night during term time at **5pm** in the **Samuel Alexander Building Class Wing A7**. We cater to all levels of ability and welcome novices at any point throughout the year. Debating helps you to gain confidence when speaking in public, improves your career prospects, helps with essay writing, improves your general knowledge, helps you think on your feet and to properly structure and analyse arguments.

Competitions

The Manchester Debating Union sends teams to competitions across the country almost every weekend during term time, but you can attend as few or as many as you have time for.

We send all members, from novices to experienced debaters to competitions. Attending competitions helps you to vastly improve your debating whilst also giving you the opportunity to travel the country and the world. In the last year we've sent teams to international competitions in Serbia, Germany, Sweden, Israel and the Netherlands.



How To Join

Non-members are welcome at all of our public debates and can attend two of our weekly training sessions before they purchase membership.

Benefits of membership include,

- Access to our weekly two hour training sessions
- Access to our socials
- We will pay your entry fee for all competitions at which you represent the MDU.

In order to purchase membership attend one of our events and talk to our treasurer Emma Bean.

Lifetime membership is £20 but throughout September is half price!

No matter if you're a member or not keep updated on the Manchester Debating Union by joining our Facebook group!



Who's Who

Manchester Debating Union Committee

Executive



President
Will Stobart



Chair
Henry Phipps



Treasurer
Emma Bean



Secretary
Becky Montacute

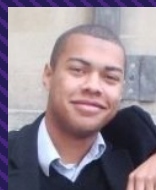
Committee



Head Convener
Chloe Romanis



Externals
Jack Mellish



Training
Christian Barrow



Communications
Jennifer Ho



Socials
Thomas Lee



Director of Debating
Laura Sears

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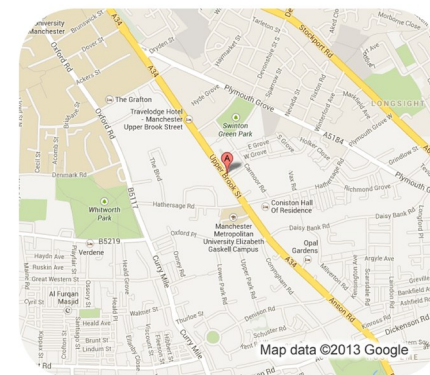
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