

CGCU President's report to ICU Council: Summer Sabbatical Activity

This version revised and dated: 04-10-2007

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Itemised and discussed below are the major issues and projects which have concerned my time during the two month summer placement which I started on 1st August 2007 and for which I was paid for my time.

1. Faculty Grant

My first step was to liaise with the Faculty of Engineering (hereafter "the faculty") for Grant for activities and events for the year. We agreed on a figure of £6000, to be distributed as follows:

£1000 for the annual Dinner

£1000 for the Lord Mayor's Show entry fee

£1000 for Spanner

£1600 for Guildsheet

£500 for the wristbands project

£100 for each departmental society under CGCU and RSMU = £900

2. Spanner

The Freshers' handbook was designed by Nick Simpson (Guildsheet Editor) and distributed to Freshers. It included a competition, which has already generated interest, and looked really stunning.

£360 was budgeted for in Union grant.

£1000 was given by the faculty

£450 Advertising was secured

The cost was about £800. The profit will be given to CGU Media Group in recognition of Nick's work designing it.

3. Wristbands

One of my first projects was to increase exposure of freshers to the CGCU brand. The way I put this in place was to have silicone-rubber wristbands printed with the tagline "City and Guilds Engineered" on the front, which works to associate our name with our aims (as the historical name is often confusing for freshers). 2,500 were printed at a cost of £500, the same amount as the Faculty gave for this cause. This allows more of them to be given out to active faculty members and union officers.

Deutsche Bank paid £1,600 to have their logo on the back of the wristbands, and this will be distributed into events for which the wristbands will act as tickets or discount vouchers, eg. cinema nights and bar nights, which are already being organised.

4. Centennial Dinner

The CGCU's Centenary event will take place on Sat. 27th October, in the marquee, and will take the form of a black tie dinner available to all, followed by entertainments until 1.30am.

Sponsorship was secured from Whorley Parsons Engineers, to the tune of £3000, and £1000 from the faculty. Tickets will cost £25 for engineers and £30 for others.

5. Lord Mayor's Show

The annual Lord Mayor's Show float will be going ahead this year. After some rocky moments (mostly caused by late payment of entry fee), due to lack of handover, an Acting Lord Mayor's Show co-ordinator – Edward Judge - was appointed and plans are now fully underway. The show this year is sports themed, and initial designs include a large mechanism to drive stylised "sports game" puppets, to highlight our engineering background.

Sponsorship has been secured from BP – about £6000 – and from the Faculty (£1000).

6. Guildsheet

Guildsheet templates have been designed and an issue is on its way. There was a large financial hole to sort out – about £2600 – which arose due to problems sending and chasing invoices last year. As it stands, Guildsheet's SGI was used in conjunction with CGU Exec SGI to pay the emergency, and invoices have been sent out and are pending which will cover the deficit.

7. Deloitte

David Charles (RCSU VP(ops)) met with Deloitte representatives at their head office over the summer. They are interested in doing an with the combined RCSU and CGCU, taking the form of a presentation and buffet. They also want to meet with our Exec officers on a separate occasion. Preliminary budgets suggest that this will earn in the region of £800 for each of RCSU and CGCU.

8. Elections

Currently nominations are open to fill several open places on CGCU executive and other (departmental) committees. The timeline is the same as that of the ICU elections. I have been filling in the posts as best I can in the absence of officers, but it has been very hard work.

9. Holiday

I should report that I took one week of holiday in order to go on tour with the IC Symphony Orchestra. In my absence my email was monitored by Ashley Brown and Nick Simpson, who were instructed to act on any serious issues, though none arose.

10. Freshers' Barbecue

On Monday 1st October we staged a barbecue on the Queens' Lawn. It was raining horribly, but demand was high and we managed to make a small profit. A good beginner event for

11. Bar night

Our first bar night will be in the Union Bar on Thursday 11th October.

12. Extraordinary societies

I have been managing, in the absence of Michael Chan (VPFS), the CGCU extraordinary societies. Issues included claim forms,

13. Mascots

After some particularly hard days, when I decided I needed cheering up, we engaged in some light mascot stealing. Currently in the possession of CGCU reps are Davey the davy lamp (signed as violate by the RSMU president) and two of four parts of Theta the thermometer.

Each union is asked to raise £200 for RAG charity The Newman Holiday Trust in order to get their mascots back (rising to £300 after Oct 11th). I sincerely hope that they continue to hold to the spirit of the game and do raise the money for this worthy charity, which I have personal links with.

14. Annual Office cleanup

Some of the officers got together over one weekend and cleared out the CGCU office. It is now spick and span and a worthy office for our clubs to administrate themselves from.