

Reactivation of the Royal College of Science Union Sports Clubs

A note by the RCSU president
Seconded by the RCSU VPO and RCSU Sport officer

Introduction

One of the Unions central aims is to promote the sporting interests of our students. We do this via clubs within the athletics clubs committees (ACC) and via faculty union sports clubs. The constitutions of the faculty unions make clear that one of the aims of the faculty union's is to:

“To promote and encourage the interest by students in matters outside the College curriculum, especially cultural, social and sporting interests.”

In the past the RCSU fulfilled this goal by administering faculty sports clubs including RCSU Rugby, RCSU football, RCSU Hockey and RCSU Netball to name just a few. Several years ago the RCSU was split. This was a decision taken by ICU. The result of this decision was that the RCSU clubs were forcibly removed from the Union support structure. Some social teams survived but found it difficult without recognition from the union. With the reformation of the RCSU these wanted to be restarted. Last year an application was made to the New Clubs Committee to restart RCSU Football, Rugby and netball as a new clubs. This proposal was turned down as the NCC standing orders stated that new clubs whose aims and objectives substantially overlapped with existing clubs could not be started, which was fair enough. However, this was not the appropriate forum for this decision as this is not a case of starting up completely new clubs or restarting clubs which had simply died a death, but of reinstating clubs who had been effectively forced to close down due to events outside of their control.

Furthermore, in the past these teams have made an important contribution to Union life and are central to the main aims and objectives of the Royal College of Science as a Faculty Union. The clubs also play a central in organising the Spark's Cup (a sporting tournament pre-dating Varsity). This year if these clubs are recreated we hope to organise a larger version of the Spark's Cup where Engineers, Scientists, Miners and Medics can compete over a long period of time. This tournament would be the largest sports tournament seen at Imperial and would be a significant step for the Union helping to integrate the four colleges.

These clubs have received significant support for student scientists, members of college and from senior officer of the union. In fact, last year at 20 names were present for each club although 100 people registered their support for each club. More importantly, the clubs currently exist in an 'informal' fashion, which demonstrates that there is currently active and solid support for these clubs. RCSU rugby plays Keelbe College (Oxford) and does so without support from the Union. If reinstated as an official RCSU club, as they always had been, they would be able to get sponsorship, apply for grants and importantly, be subject to the same regulations and checks as other Clubs & Societies and have access to the same resources as other Union clubs which is currently not possible.

Imperial College Union Believes

1. That sport is one of the aims and objectives for all the Faculty Unions.
2. The RCSU requires sports clubs to:
 - a. Reach the aims and objectives set out by Central Union.
 - b. To successfully engage with its members.
3. That there is sufficient demand to create these clubs.
4. That all other options have been tried.

Decisions Required

1. To have the committees of these new clubs contact the DPCS who will advise and guide clubs through the procedure for setup.
2. To allow the reinstatement of:
 - a. RCSU Rugby Club
 - b. RCSU Football Club
 - c. RCSU Hockey Club
3. To allow these clubs to submit budgets to be considered by the RCSU chair, DPCS and DPFS.
4. To fund these clubs from a source decided by the DPFS.