

Overseas Societies Committee Report
A report by the OSC Treasurer and OSC Chair

Overview:

The new OSC Exec are working very hard to turn around what has commonly been perceived at CSB level to be a 'weak' CSC. In fact, the OSC contain some of the most fanatically dedicated club officers throughout the Union, with some clubs going above and beyond their A&Os as an overseas club to promote culture, awareness and debate, not to mention raising significant amounts of money for charity. We hope that with the correct guidance, OSC clubs can learn to organize their clubs and finances as expected by the Union, to complement the diverse range of activities which they currently run.

Many thanks to Lily and Christian for their patience and support in helping to support the OSC clubs and some of our more demanding club officers.

Re-Branding:

A lot of effort has been put in to differentiate this year's OSC exec from that of last years, with none of the OSC Exec holding a senior committee position in an OSC club.

- Last year's unallocated budget of £6500 was re-allocated for this year in two budgeting rounds in early September
- OSC website updated for the first time in over two years (progress still being made, and maybe can lead to a 'standardised' CSC club page one day when the code driving the RCC/SCC/ACC websites break in a year or two)
- Last year, a lack of communication between club officers and the exec was the primary source of difficulty in regulating club management. This year, all members of the Exec have email access to CSC email accounts which they now check on a regular basis.
- OGMs held regularly monthly, again improving communication this year
- Treasurer meetings held weekly, with the OSC Treasurer often helping clubs with cheque raising at irregular times as well
- Processing unsigned claims from last year
- Pushing clubs to use club@ic.ac.uk addresses rather than personal or club Yahoo/Gmail ones is having mixed success, but the advent of Workbench is helping to change this. Each OSC club should now have a function club email account.
- Finally, attendance of the OSC in Union meetings has increased by an incredible infinity percent¹ from last year

Some past events:

The OSC holds a lot of cultural social events; some of the events that have been brought to the attention of the Exec are:

- OSC Football World Cup and bar night, won by the Arabic Society. The event attracted 21 five-a-side teams from OSC and SCC societies. Accounts are still being settled but the event made enough of a profit to host an OSC bar night, the first in the OSC Exec's memory
- Iraqi Cultural Exhibition was held earlier this term; this event hosted organizations such as The British Museum and had about 200 attendees and attracted the attention of a TV crew
- Various talks held by Pakistani and Iraqi societies
- Various start of year events such as Italian Night in conjunction with other Italian Societies of London universities

¹ Technically increase is $x\%$ for $x \rightarrow \infty$

- Malaysian Nottingham games
- Chinese Soc Nottingham Games
- A range of bar nights, debates, food festivals, karaoke events, and sports organized by other societies. It's worth mentioning that OSC clubs do represent Imperial at Sport at inter-university level (e.g. at the Nottingham Games) and there are some extremely good sports players within these clubs

Some upcoming events:

Every OSC society is subsidised for one 'big' event a year; some societies will be hosting theirs soon, others plan to host end of term/Christmas events including:

- SHAAM Charity dinner (Pakistan soc), an annual event that in the past raised over 1,000 pounds for charity. This year it is to be held in Hammersmith Town Hall
- French tour of Paris, discussed in CSB in November, and going in Feb/March
- French Night in Boujis in conjunction with other French Societies of London universities
- Hellenic society Annual Party

In addition, preparations are underway for International Night, a showcase of the OSC societies – this will be held in the Great Hall on 13th February and should be an exciting spectacle which is in danger of not losing money this year!

OGM news:

Two OSC OGM's have been held with the following output:

- Constructive input about the International Officer, with requests to include EU students to those being represented by the International Officer pushed through as a result
- Electing Fumiyo Nakagawa to the post of International Night Chair, with the Great Hall already booked for the event
- Welsh Society escapes from the venomous clutches of the SCC and is welcomed by the gloriously benevolent OSC (story to be sold to the D**ly M**I shortly).

Club info:

The OSC has many varied clubs with many unique characteristics:

- 31 Active clubs (not including Exec and clubs with zero membership)
- 1678 members, meaning around 54 members per club
- Total SGI of around £23,000 pounds
- 39% of clubs have reached their target memberships, with French achieving 240% of target membership and Indian being the biggest club with 164 members
- Grant spending this year is already at 23% of all the grant money spent last year even though no society has yet hosted its annual 'big' event
- Money going through the OSC cheque book for OSC clubs accounted for £11,548.28 with more money going through internal transfers and petty cash

Naughtiness:

For the sake of balance it should be pointed out that some OSC clubs have been naughty this term, all incidents are reported below:

- CSSA has been breaking finance rules through ignorance, this problem was spotted and is being fixed
- Afro-Caribbean Society lost 80 pounds through a careless error, the Treasurer has been briefed on how to avoid the problem occurring again
- Several naughty officers who did not attend finance training are now being contacted individually by the OSC Chair and Treasurer