

CSB Report: Recreational Clubs Committee

A note by Jenny Wilson, RCC chair

Financial Report

The RCC Exec contingency pot currently stands at:

Opening Balance		£1000
Outdoor Club (10/2008)	£18.90	£981.10
Canoe Club (11/2008)	£300*	<u>£681.10</u>

These contingency claims covered the replacement damaged equipment. In particular the Canoe club's claim was for a new canoe as they lost it rescuing a member of the public. Their actions were commended at the Central Sport & Leisure committee and they received a complimentary letter from the Rector of the College.

Additionally, the RCC Exec have £162.49 of equipment grant which we are in the process of deciding what to spend it on, as well as £1,876.68 in SGI.

Clubs Financial Report

£11,982.40 has been spent from a possible £67,500 of grant which is 17.75%.

Having said this, there are a lot of clubs which have not been spending from their grant allocation, and some issues where SGI has been charged instead of grant. Much of this figure is made up of a few clubs spending lots of money. As well as this 24 clubs still have frozen budgets due to incomplete documentation.

Exec Meetings

This terms meetings have been on 16/10/2008 and 13/11/2008 and our next is on 11/12/2008.

Constitution Changes

10/2008 Meeting

Floorball tabled a new constitution to include a Liaison Officer, to organise matches.

Power Kiting's constitution was submitted, then withdrawn at the meeting as it needed significant modification. Another has not been submitted.

11/2008 Meeting

Backgammon tabled a new constitution to include a Vice Chairman as they wanted someone to be in charge of organising tournaments.

Club Membership

Average membership of all clubs (excluding outliers who will have underestimated expected membership) is 77%. There are 7 clubs with 5 members or less, but 18 who have reached or exceed their membership target. However there are many clubs with disappointing levels of membership, which is something that we'll be addressing.

Tours- Winter 2008

Canoe	Fort William to kayak local rivers	1 week
Caving	Yorkshire to do the harder caves	1 week
Exploration	Ice Climbing, Rjukan, Norway	8 days
Gliding	Portmoak Airfield, Scottish Gliding Centre, Kinross	5 days
Mountaineering	Fontainebleau	3 nights
Outdoor	Cairngorm National Park	1 week

*Fellwanderers' tour was rejected on the basis that it didn't differ enough from their normal activity.

Socials

Notably Outdoor and Mountaineering clubs had a very successful joint bar night in the union. It was well attended, and the attendees all had a good time with the themed games- the Membership Services Manager was present to ensure these were conducted safely!

Club issues

- Minibuses- quite often it was the case that clubs which use them regularly were finding them expensive- the overall sentiment was a combination of the prices being high, and grant allocation being too low. We'll address this by considering them for more funding next year, however parachute note 'One thing I would note is that, compared to other universities I have spoken to , minibus rental is rather expensive.'

Storage space- Mountaineering report that: ' We are have problems with finding space to dry our tent after a weekend trip as our stores is now half the size it used to be....A new area to dry out tents would be very useful... and prevents our stores from being used properly whilst they are hung out to dry.' Caving also reported: The West Basement seems to have got noticeably more damp in recent years (our steel work rusts). We don't know why this may be, but some kind of dehumidification, possibly based in the laundry, might be an idea. Some of our records and books were damaged last year when a pipe leaked in the crawl space above our stores, and fell directly onto the library....Having someone from estates checking the whole area might be an idea, as it seemed to have been due to a PVC pipe joint unscrewing itself.

- Space- particularly for Croquet, Dance Company, Skate or Yoga for their normal activity. I think this will be largely alleviated when the union redevelopment is completed. Wargames are interested in negotiating with DramSoc for one of their 8 rooms which would consolidate their storage and decrease their significant number of room booking requirements, freeing up space for other clubs.
- Underwater are in the midst of sorting out their boat situation.
- Weather- Some clubs have been finding this detrimental to their activity, but have been gracious in not blaming the union for it being inclement.

Achievements/Upcoming events

- Funkology are aiming to put on an Inter-University Urban Dance competition, aimed at London universities, but inviting many others.
- The Annual RCC Nighthike planning is coming on, with the working dates being the 21st-22nd February.
- Dance Company have more teams than ever going to their main annual competition in Edinburgh this coming February, and have secured sponsorship to fund most of the expenses.
- Fellwanderers had record numbers of Freshers attending their Fresher trip, taking 70 people.
- Underwater were presented with the Rector's award for H&S at the end of last year, which is notable as this is normally presented to a College department.
- As mentioned above, Canoe club's actions when rescuing a member of the public were commended by the Rector.
- Gliding have 210% membership with 90/35 members (charging £30 membership), which is due to a very effective committee this year.

Summary

Overall the RCC still seems to be gaining momentum for the year, with many of the key annual activities taking place in the Spring term. Key issues to address across the board are mainly financial ones and reminding them to un-freeze budgets and use their grants effectively. Having said this, it seems that many clubs do have specific plans in mind for grant expenditure, and that those clubs that are active are being very active and making us all very proud!