

SCC report
A note by the SCC Chair Nicholas Massie

Introduction

This year 30 clubs responded to pleas for a report. This is an improvement on last year (30) but still inadequate and represents a significant problem in the SCC. Apathy towards the union and sometimes antipathy are often experienced in SCC meetings. SCC clubs do not feel they derive the same sorts of benefits from Union membership as ACC or even RCC clubs and are made up of a much more sceptical, cynical bunch. That said, the vast majority are very willing to work within the union and make efforts towards a mutually beneficial relationship.

Finances and Memberships

Over 70% of the £4209 SCC grant is unlocked but unfortunately only 10% has been spent. In the final SCC meeting of term, I will carefully explain the benefits of spending money in hopes of rectifying this situation. 23 clubs have exceeded their membership targets (with some such as Finance Society blasting their 100 member target to 366%), seven have almost exceeded (defined as achieving 90% of their target) and the remaining 29 have not met their targets. 23 clubs are frozen but were warned in the last meeting of "serious consequences" if they were still frozen at our last monthly meeting. Issues arising from membership relating to frozen status will be discussed in the "issues" section. The SCC has 2771 full members and 43 life/associate members. This year only two clubs have fewer than five members which is an improvement on the situation last year. This may be put down to restructuring efforts by Peter Mabbott (SCC Chair 08/09) and Jenny Wilson (DPCS 09/10). This number may be reduced further if the attempted merger of the essentially dead society "Student Pugwash" is merged with CASCADE and the new society Challenging Orthodoxy. The exec is financially sound.

Constitution Changes

Erasmus, Conservative Society, Imperial Queers, Law Society, Islamic Society and WSET (Women in Science Engineering and Technology). These have been minor changes mainly consisting of adding or removing positions.

Issues:

There are three main issues affecting SCC clubs at present. Catering rules, the process of membership acquisition and room bookings. The room-booking system has been streamlined and is under review; therefore it won't be addressed further here. SciFi, Sikh Society and ISoc have been especially vociferous in their complaints. The problem of catering is one experienced union-wide but perhaps experienced more acutely by SCC clubs as so many of their events revolve around food. The very beating heart of several SCC clubs, often referred to as "Chit-Chat-Societies" is a wholesome conversation fuelled by even more wholesome victuals. Unfortunately the new college policy does not allow for this because, in the words of LawSoc, "quality was poor and it was very expensive".

An attempt by the DPCS to merge Cascade, Pugwash and Challenging Orthodoxy into one society was met with resistance.

Of Note

Clubs are handling large amounts of money and running prudent events that seem set to turn a profit. Tamil Society is running Mega Maalai while Punjabi Society have put on the Bhangra Showdown at the London Palladium, turning a profit. Some societies have acquired large amounts of sponsorship which is particularly impressive in this economic climate. Debate managed 3000 from Glencore while the Finance Society have garnered over twenty thousand pounds, part of which they plan to spend on a trip to New York. Some unusual events include Fairtrade hosting an Open Mic Night with Cheese and Wine while CheeseSoc ran a Pub Crawl. Russian Speaking Society welcomed Imperial College's first Russian Cosmonaut as well as visitors from UCL, King's and other universities to great success and acclaim.

In Summary

The SCC is healthy and blooming after some aggressive pruning.