

15th March 2010

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Report

A report by Jenny Wilson

Room Bookings

Clubs have persisted in exploiting the good will of departments. Huxley have now had to implement martial law whereby any thing left anywhere other than its precisely allocated place will incur a charge to the club. This has taken some time to quell and bring them to agree on reasonable measures. Clubs in the wrong have been notified and chastised, because this really is the last straw with this department. A reminder email will go out before the end of this week, when room bookings open for the Summer term on Monday 22nd March.

Sport Imperial Meetings

I chaired the Sports Partnership Board meeting on 1st March and attended the Central Sport & Leisure committee meeting on 4th March, and then another meeting with the Director of Sport, Head of Commercial Services, ICU President and Phil Power. Issues raised at these meetings were looking at updating the Service Level Agreement between ourselves and Sport Imperial, and procedures for helping elite athletes with their studies. With regards to the SLA, since it has now existed for 3 years this is an exercise in tidying it up to reflect what practically goes on, but also laying down the paperwork foundations for the future. I also tried to report to these committees on other sporting activity that doesn't necessarily cross their radar, such as the Frank Morton Cup and Bottle Match, with a mind to Sport Imperial having a better grasp of all the sport that goes on outside of BUCS.

BUCS Championships & Varsity

BUCS Championships occurred in Sheffield from Wednesday 10th - Sunday 14th March. We had 12 teams/ individuals competing in a range of sports. I went to support our Fencing and volleyball teams on Friday. Results may be available by the time of this council.

Varsity is occurring on Wednesday 17th March – buy your tickets! The main event is the JPR Williams Cup (Rugby) happening on Wednesday evening at Old Deer Park Stadium, or you can make a day of it and watch the other matches from 12pm onwards.

Documentation

There are a couple of deadlines for documentation coming up at the end of this term – apologies for the initial confusion over dates. Forms to be submitted include New Committee Contacts, Inventories and any updates on Club Constitutions or Code of Conducts. These are now all online so this is exciting because it was a manifesto point. This has taken a lot of burden off of SAC for data entry. Many thanks to Ally Cott and Phil Power for all their work on this.

Training

Council

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We're now in the process of reviewing training for the Summer term club officers. This has been a case of looking at problems arising from this year eg. not everyone disseminating the information that they should have done. As a result we are looking into appropriate audiences and content. With this has come the necessity to review the handbook and its contents. I've now got to the stage of updating the text to reflect current practice and am in the process of reviewing the best way to present it before going to print hopefully at the beginning of the summer term.

New Clubs

I've had a couple of new club applications that have need some in depth discussions with the submitters – some which I am excited about and some which have required a redirection of efforts. I've also redesigned the New Club Application form to make it a bit more grilling, but only the questions that naturally come up in the presentation stage anyway. This way, I hope to dissuade those who are anything but very serious about applying.

Arts Imperial

A big leap forward in this has been finding a member of College staff who would be willing and enthusiastic to take this project forward. Paddy Jackman has been very kind in helping to find this person. We now have a meeting set up to go through particulars on the 25th March. In preparation I've been writing up the proposal and a draft SLA with inspiration taken from the Sport Imperial SLA. More news to follow afterwards. Other than that, I've been going to lots of the concerts and shows of the clubs from the Arts & Ents Board.

Budgeting

This went as smoothly as one could hope, with a mere 5.5 hour meeting on Monday 1st March. We unfortunately had to cut 12.5% from the overall pot for clubs due to budgetary constraints and clubs should get their final allocations on the 22nd March. From then, appeals may occur. To help to mediate the impact on clubs, more depth will be gone into in the finance training to better equip officers with skills. We also hope to analyse the information we got from clubs regarding sponsorship, to try to put together an online resource for assistance on this.

Storage

I've had many requests for storage this term. Unfortunately I am not able to fabricate space in central London, so this has taken a fair bit of my time nagging clubs to keep what they have tidy and inspecting the store rooms for potential unused crevasses. This was partly to make space, and partly for H&S reasons. This will be an ongoing problem that requires regular review. With the inventory deadline coming up, I'm pleading clubs to rationalise what it is they have versus what they need, and if they are hoarding equipment that is no longer required, could they please do the kind thing and get rid of it.