

Executive Committee
26th May 2011

ICSMSU Possible Club Closures
A note by the ICSMSU President David Smith

Dance

Due to having several shows and then the run up to second year exams we had not pressed everyone to have membership - We have been doing classes and have a lot of people turning up so I shall email around and ask them to get the membership asap.

As for reasons why we can't be merged with IC - We are doing **completely different dance styles** and taking very a **very different approach to the way dance is taught** and socialising within the club - with several club social nights etc this term.

Quite a few of our members are non-medics and come to dance with us because of the **relaxed atmosphere, modern music and accessibility** for beginners.

RE: The forms that appear to still be outstanding: Maria went to the union about a month ago and filled several out and the others, we have both done online. We were not sure what to do regarding the running of the clubs quizzes as we have both done and passed them but they are still not disappearing from the 'to-do' list.

I emailed the dancers over the weekend and we **now have full membership**. We have also definitely handed in all the forms: The financial responsibility form was handed in over a month ago in south ken and the contact details/next year contacts has been completed but is still appearing as outstanding (I have clicked 'submit' several times to make sure).

Maria and I have also both filled out and passed all the training quizzes and again, to ensure that we had, we re-did them over the weekend and they are still not disappearing. The only training quiz that has not been completed is by the secretary and we are waiting on her to complete it.

We **now have 24 members** on the union website (rather than 4) and are still waiting for a few of the dancers to sign up.

The financial responsibilities form was handed in a month ago and Heather emailed me today saying she had forgot to tell us there was a problem with it so we will get that sorted out asap.

We have also applied for the ICSM Alumni Association clubs and societies grant and so if we get it it should hopefully cover the cost of equipment for next year even though we missed the deadline for the union grant.

Subaqua

I would greatly appreciate your help in keeping our club going, as it has been since 1967! There are a great number of reasons for this, which I have detailed below. However, if you feel that it would be a benefit to the club to meet up regarding these issues and you wouldn't mind doing that then I would be more than happy to do that too.

1.) Grant (a note from our treasurer)

Thanks for bringing this to our attention, we have been beset by a number of issues this year which have made us slow spending our grant, but we have begun. In addition it should be taken into account that the **majority of our training and costs will occur over the summer** months, as it is **far too cold to train in the open water over the winter** in the UK. Our trips have just begun and will be happening about twice a month until October

Also there are a few issues with the number you quote as us having remaining from our grant:

Consumables: £48

This **will be spent** on airfills during training trips.

Equipment: £243 (**actual remaining: £30**)

Last week I put in two expense claim forms totalling (£155 for a new cylinder and £58 for other kit), they are being processed and I will make sure the cheques are put in ASAP. Also our regulators have been put in for their essential yearly service, we do not have an invoice for this yet but it is certain this will be well over the remaining £30 left in the equipment budget.

Ground Hire: £172 (**actual remaining: £0**)

This money was been released to us for getting greater membership numbers, after the payment for St Marys pool hire was removed. The deficit was covered by our SGI, therefore this money should be transferred back to our SGI and not be counted as an underspend- I will be contacting the group treasurer about this. I also believe that once this is taken into account we actually we still need money from our SGI to cover the full cost of the pool hire.

Instructors: £68

We will spend this reimbursing our instructors for some of the training dives over the summer.

Travel Expenditure: £76.50

We **only dive in the summer months** (its quite cold in the UK in winter), so we will be spending this on our "tour" in May.

Therefore we actually have £225 remaining (if that due to the regulators being serviced) I will make sure that this is spent during the next few dive trips, more specifically on the tour in May.

2) Membership

As previously mentioned our club carries out the majority of its activity in the summer months,

Executive Committee
26th May 2011

therefore even though we **only 'need' 3 more members** it is likely we will exceed this in the coming time as previous years members join again for the upcoming trips.

It is also worth mentioning that two of our freshers this year we have just been welcomed on to our committee for next year as the secretary and treasurer. Along with another new older medic as our social secretary, with the promise that we will start to take part in more of the medical school activities, such as the occasional sports night.

3) Reasons against the merger

Firstly, this club has **a long history of teaching medics to dive at St Mary's, since 1967** and we would like to keep it going! Our club is different from the IC club in that we **work to the medics timetables**...as you know medics have varying timetables from the rest of the college and even between each year. As a medic club we work the training and trips around the medic timetable, in order to make sure that it is possible for the medics to attend, we also offer additional flexibility and catch-up sessions when students are unable to attend due to placements etc...something I don't think the IC club do or can offer. We also train on Monday nights, unlike the IC club who train on Wednesdays, which means that our members can participate in other clubs/sports if they so wish, which a lot of our members do!

Our club used to **participate heavily in research**, which we are once again starting to do. Next weekend (9th April) we will be collecting samples for the geology department and recently funding has been gained to carry out a study on gas composition expired following diving. We feel that this expands our activities as a club giving younger members a very interesting and unique opportunity to get involved with research.

We also focus more on the 'medic-like' additional training courses such as O2 administration, which are taught by trained doctors who are also diving instructors. These kinds of courses, for obvious reasons appeal more heavily to medics.

There are many other reasons that we could argue as to why our club should be kept, such as the majority of our members would not 'merge' with the IC club and in doing so (from what I can make out) the union will actually be losing money since they seem to allocate around 3 times as much as we get per member in grant...so surely we are comparatively a cheap club to run.

A quick personal note...as **a fresher I tried to join the IC underwater club but was quite honestly told to go away, so then I went to the ICSM Subaqua and was warmly welcomed**, I don't want medics to be turned away from a dive club. University diving is easily the cheapest way to get access to a very expensive sport and therefore very important!

Debating

I am the current President of ICSM Debating and I wish to explain our situation. I initially took over presidency late in term 1 as the society was having some difficulty. At the time of joining the **treasurer and secretary had both left** and I found myself trying to fill these roles until a replacement could be found. From this period I have been trying to build up a suitably sized committee and gather interest in ICSM Debating. Currently we have managed to get a new committee passionate about ICSM Debating but regrettably it is too late to demonstrate this in the current academic year. At the moment we have been doing small scale discussions groups regarding ethical and topical issues in medicine which require no funding and hence why our grant has not been used this year; but more importantly we have been planning ahead for next year's hard-hitting headline debates (which ICSM Debating was formerly known for) and they require up to 6 months of notice for the guest speakers involved. Depending on the outcome of the decision we are looking to hold an AGM soon and give ICSM Debate the start it should have received.

In regards to the previous question on whether we should be combined with ICU Debating, this would not work. I have previously been involved and spoken with committee members from **ICU Debating and their setup is radically different to that of ICSM Debating**. The topics covered by ICU Debating are rarely medically related and have a more political or ideological basis as the majority of their members want this. **ICSM Debating is catered towards medical/surgical issues which affect us on firms and our future jobs; it provides us with insight into our decisions which is a vital attribute to becoming a successful doctor**. ICSM Debating also requires to exist as a separate entity for the same reasons why ICSM sports societies do – the timetable and location of a medical student make it incredibly difficult to participate in IC-centric events.

To conclude, ICSM Debating has established a passionate **committee looking towards the future** an event profile consisting of large scale controversial debates while still maintaining a student led ethos.

Ramit Prashar
ICSM Debating President 10/11

Self-Defence

I think the only argument we have to stay open is that we were **created 'mid year'** which meant that **fellow students aren't in a particularly receptive mode** for joining us or are pre-occupied with projects etc. We are confident that this will not be an on-going issue.

In view of the club being fledgling, we would be keen to continue running it into the next academic year when we would hope newer students might take over.

Arts and Photo

Basically the main issue with getting our required membership number is the way that we operate and with the new system of purchasing. Ever since the electronic system had been electronicised, it had reduced the number of our membership in the past few years. This is because that most of our events, which is the main attraction for our society, have been one-off in nature. (Eg. The Mary's exhibition, set painting for Drama and Opera) We encourage any participation from everyone (medics or not) to join for however long they want or able to spare. Therefore it had been **hard for persuading them to spend the effort to search for us online and get the membership afterward**.

Executive Committee
26th May 2011

Also, it is very hard to make sure that they are a member for the attendance to any events. It was slightly easier with the paper system before as they generally do not mind contributing the £6 for a society which holds events of a different nature to our IC equivalent (the leo soc), but was just less motivated to deliberately search for us online afterward.

We have previously got in touch with the ICU for special permission for the paper membership but was denied. Afterward, we have tried to encourage more of the participants from the other societies to join which had worked but slowly. So there seems to be a solution to our problem, but a bit more time is needed to fully resolve it.

It will certainly be a shame to have our society axed as it is a really good channel for **medical students and non-medics to get together and do something creative on a different scale and media which I think is unique to our society**. I hope this email will explain the difficulty in our situation, and maybe it can be considered for giving **us one more year to try for**? I will in the mean time continue to attempt for achieving the minimal required level. Any decision from the union will be respected and followed, but I do hope it will be the right one.