

Imperial College Union
ACC Chair's Report
By Henry Abbot – ACC Chair

1. ACC Financial Summary

The ACC received a total grant of £149,202.11 for the 2011/12 financial year, a 1.7% rise on the 2010/11 amount which was in turn a 9.1% cut from the 2009/10 allocation.

Of the allocated grant over half is already spent. Much of the remainder is expected to be spent in the near future except in the case of summer sports – particularly Boat with a grant of £8,666 much of which will not be spent until the summer term.

The ACC has a total membership target of 2690, of which 103% has already been achieved. Of the 53 ACC clubs, only 3 have yet to achieve 50% of their membership; these are Rounders, Shorinji Kempo and Shaolin Kung Fu. The ACC Exec is working with these clubs to help them attract additional interest from the student body. Clubs already emphatically surpassing their membership targets include Tae Kwon Do (200%), Cheerleading (187%), Boxing (176%) and Archery (163%).

2. Union and College Facilities and the ACC

The ACC relies heavily on both Union and College owned facilities which are essential to the undertaking of most activities. With a large number of indoor sports within the ACC and further demand from the RCC pressure on union spaces is great inevitably resulting in some disappointment. Competition for these spaces is further increased by their hire by external clients.

a. Union Gym

Several clubs have raised concerns in their reports over the condition of the Union Gym. This includes floor and ceiling condition in addition to the more general condition of paint and plasterwork.

b. Storage Space

Storage space in South Kensington is a further key challenge. This problem has been combatted through better utilisation of currently available space such as the recent clean-ups of Storage Room 5 (used by Rugby, Football, Hockey, Netball and Gaelic Sports) and the co-ordinated effort between both the ACC and RCC to improve the state of the Union Gym Store used by 16 separate clubs. These efforts have reduced the complaints from many clubs but the involved clubs have somewhat outgrown this space: The movement of one or more of these clubs (perhaps boxing) to another location would be highly beneficial to keeping equipment accessible.

c. East Basement

Space available in the east basement is felt by several members of the ACC to be underutilised. The CSB is asked to consider the merit of the current use of this space

in order to abate these concerns and offer alternative uses for this space with the objective of increasing utilisation.

3. Sport Imperial Support

The College, via Sport Imperial, offers financial, equipment and logistical support to clubs pursuing sporting endeavours for them to carry out their objectives and improve the quality of their performance.

a. Direct Funding

This funding, totalling roughly £14,000 between the 53 ACC clubs, has previously been decided on a subjective merit basis but this is felt by Sport Imperial to lack transparency and fails to incentivise performance. A new system has been devised, effective from 2012/13, whereby clubs are awarded an amount of funding proportional to the number of BUCS points achieved by clubs within the past three years. Due to the size of Imperial, performance is naturally lower in team sports than individual sports thus funding from sport imperial for these clubs is often due to be drastically reduced. Additionally several sports have very few BUCS points available to them and these clubs are penalised compared with the level of funding they require to subsidise their activities to a level which makes them financially accessible to the student body. Whilst final figures will not be available until the points achieved in the 2011/12 season are finalised, reliable predications can be made upon historic evidence: The most significant cuts are expected to occur to Judo (£1300), Hockey (£1200) and Waterpolo (£1100). These cuts are asked to be considered by the CSB during the budgeting process for 2012/13.

b. Other Support

This year Sport Imperial has given all clubs competing competitively first team kit. This has mostly been well received and put to good use. In the case of the Cricket club who already had sponsorship for their equipment lined up by another manufacturer the desire from Sport Imperial for this club to play in the 'official' kit has caused some friction due to the lack of communication of this deal.

Additionally, the Sports Partnership Officer offers logistical support to clubs for arrangement and rearrangement of fixtures as well as liaising with sport's governing bodies.

4. Boat Club Budget Appeal

Following CSB budgeting in 2011, ACC Boat was allocated £7,090. This was a significant cut on the allocation in 2010 of £10,931, itself a significant cut on the amount allocated in 2009 of £13,399. This was due to Boat's running at a surplus for several years with the intention to purchase a new first 8 in 2011 at a cost of £38,000. This planned expenditure was not declared to the ACC Exec and thus overlooked by the CSB.

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The ACC subsequently allocated Boat a further £1,576 from their own budgets. The remaining £2,265 deficit has resulted in Boat being unable to attend competitions or in some cases members are now required to pay their own competition entry fees, often in excess of £30. It is hoped that erroneous budget cuts are considered by the CSB during 2012 budgeting.

5. Union Commercial Services

Whilst somewhat beyond the remit of the ACC Chair the particularly intense uptake the Union's commercial services from those I represent has resulted in my becoming a point of collation of much feedback on the recent changes to the SK bar's operations. The reaction from the DPFS on this feedback is felt by the ACC to be unsatisfactory.

6. Barnights

a. ACC Exec Barnights

The ACC has held one barnight this term with a second scheduled for 7th December. The first night was lukewarmly received by the ACC's membership with the night nonetheless selling out and turning a profit in the region of £850 for the ACC Exec. Based on the performance of the first night, the second is expected to generate in the region of £650 due to the loss of the £200 sponsorship from TeachFirst. The ACC Exec budget approved by CSB in the last financial year has costs of £8332 but only a subsidy of £7560 was awarded. It is therefore essential that the ACC raises money in order to facilitate its clubs ongoing core activities, expand its activities or perhaps now will look to subsidise BUCS entries for clubs which do not currently compete here. The rationale for this comes from section 3.a.

b. Club Barnights

Several ACC clubs have outsourced their barnights to alternative venues e.g Cheerleading to Sports Café generating in excess of £500 on each of two nights and Rugby to Château Six, generating in excess of £900. Other traditionally profit making nights at the union which have previously subsidised clubs' activities and tours have either been cancelled or budgeted as loss making events.

7. ACC General Meetings

The ACC has had two general meetings this term which have been somewhat uneventful. Tenpin bowling has its dormancy ended as it is currently performing well (95% of members now achieved) and the name of Kickboxing was changed to Muay Thai. Additionally, Sport Imperial's funding plans for 2012/13 (Section 3) were unveiled.

8. Individual Club Reports

An appendix of club reports follows. Several have been edited for complaints about staff which have been passed to the ICU President.