

Imperial College Union
ACC Chair's Report
By Jake Woods – ACC Chair

1. ACC Financial Summary

The ACC received a total grant of £138,732.60 for the financial year 2012/2013, a 7.0% decrease on 2011/2012 which in turn was a 1.7% increase on 2010/2011.

At the time of writing, over half of the allocated grant has already been spent with much of the remainder expected to be spent in the near future. This is particularly applicable to the summer sports such as Boat and Cricket who principally compete in the summer term.

The ACC has a total membership of 3039, which despite being more than 110% of the required total membership target, still leaves 23 of the 53 clubs below their individually required target. The ACC Exec and the Student Activities team are working with these clubs to identify any possible solutions. Special mention should be given to Triathlon, Cheerleading and Cycling who have attained membership levels of 177%, 207% and 210% respectively.

2. Facilities and Spatial Concerns

The ACC relies heavily on both Union and College owned facilities which are essential to the continued success of the various clubs. This year in particular has seen a greater demand on space due to the impacts of Sport Imperial's Strength and Conditioning sessions rendering a squash court predominantly unavailable and the closure of the sport's facilities at Wilson House.

2.1. Union Gym

Every club who uses this space have raised concerns over the condition of the Union Gym which is vital to many clubs within the ACC. A particular concern raised by several clubs is the continued degradation of the floor and the ceiling in the Union Gym with many saying it is now impacting their training and many have raised concerns relating to its hygienic condition.

2.2. Union Gym Storeroom

The clubs who use the Union Gym inevitably store their equipment in the storeroom at the far end. The condition and organisation of this space has been a continual problem for both clubs and associated management. Having discussed the problem with Henry Whittaker (DPCS) and Anthony Crowther (Student Activities Manager) shelves are to be installed with each club being allocated a section based on their equipment's number and physical size. This solution should go some way to identifying 'lazy and unorganised' clubs and the equipment which is no longer used.

2.3. Storage Space

A restriction in storage space is an inherent problem for a university located in South Kensington. Store room 5 in particular (used by Football, Gaelic Sports, Hockey, Netball and Rugby) would benefit from proper allocation of space and a review of the 'required' equipment which is currently stored.

2.4. Closure of Wilson House

Sport Imperial's decision to close Wilson House has led to a major impact on the clubs who trained there; for the ACC this was predominantly limited to ACC Archery. Last year Archery finished with 168% of their membership target and adjusted their membership target and price accordingly, the club has been offered training slots in Ethos Sports Hall as a result with the difference in cost removed. This has resulted in decreased training hours for the club (8 hours to 3) and thus decreased interest from the students of Imperial College resulting in a failure to reach their membership target.

2.5. Strength and Conditioning Training – Squash Court 3

Sport Imperial have launched Strength and Conditioning training for the elite athletes of the ACC. Due to space restrictions this has been located in squash court 3 impacting severely upon ACC Squash. Owing possibly due to the Olympics and their success at BUCS last year, the squash club has become the largest club at Imperial College with 189 members to date (203 including Life and Associate members); the impact of training with so many members and 4 competitive teams with one less court has become a real problem.

3. Sport Imperial

Sport Imperial's support for the ACC continues to be vital in many clubs success; this support can come in the form of financial, logistical or equipment based offerings. As mentioned previously (albeit in a negative light), Sport Imperial has offered strength and conditioning sessions free of charge for the elite athletes amongst the ACC. The ACC would like to thank Sport Imperial for this as the feedback from these sessions has been overwhelmingly positive with many saying they have become an essential part of their training.

3.1. BUCS-based Funding

This year has seen the introduction of a 'BUCS-based' funding approach from Sport Imperial following a move to increase transparency and provide more widespread support across IC and Medics Unions. The scheme awards approximately £8.00 per BUCS points averaged over the last 3 years with bonuses given dependant on the level of competition. For clubs that do not compete at a competitive level, support in terms of club kit and equipment is offered.

Inevitably there have been problems with this approach that has left several clubs struggling financially. To go some way in alleviating these problems the relevant clubs were identified by last year's ACC Exec and an increase in Grant allocation was awarded; this however is substantially short of the deficit in funding for some clubs. The ACC and Sport Imperial have been working with such clubs to identify other forms of support.

3.2. Further Support

Sport Imperial has also granted scholarships to clubs through the Development Excellence Scheme (DES) to which any high-achieving or expanding club can apply. Additionally the Sport Partnership Office officers offer logistical support for clubs by liaising with the opposition on match days. Clubs and Societies Board 11th December 2012

4. ACC Executive Meetings

4.1. Contingency Claims

The ACC has had one contingency claim from Swimming & Waterpolo for £240. The club historically trains alongside a commercial booking to ensure pool hire is financially viable (i.e. they share pool space and associated fees); the commercial entity withdrew from Ethos following major cutbacks. The ACC awarded them £120 by majority vote. Cheerleading is likely to bring a contingency request to the next meeting as they have found themselves with a substantial increase in members and cannot fund their national competition entry.

4.2. Dormancy

The ACC voted to impose dormancy upon Filipino Martial Arts for having no elected committee, and Fives and Rounders for insufficient membership numbers. In the case of Filipino Martial Arts no committee has been elected despite numerous attempts by the previous Club Captain and the club has since been shut down.

5. Barnights

5.1. ACC Barnights

The ACC Vice Chair (Gilles Stassen) has been working closely with the Commercial Services team to alleviate some of the problems with the ACC Barnights of last year. The first bar night was a resounding success producing profits of approximately £800, and the drinks selection increased to include wine, spirits and Jagerbombs led to a wider range of students attending. The most recent barnight was scheduled for 5th December; at the time of writing profits are unknown but are expected to be higher due to a change in ticket prices to allow a greater subsidy of the next barnight.

5.2. Improvements to Commercial Services

Following a meeting with the Commercial Services Managers organised by the DPFS, the RCC Chair and I presented a wide range of improvements for Metric, 568 and the general organisation of the Union bars. Hopefully these suggestions will come to fruition as they are the views of the ACC and its members.

6. ACC Individual Club Reports

An appendix of the individual ACC Club Reports follows.