

Imperial College Underwater Club RCC Contingency Claim

Richard Cameron, Underwater Club Treasurer

6th March, 2013

The Underwater Club owns a Rigid-hulled Inflatable Boat (RIB), which is currently 7 years old and extensively used every year as our primary diving platform on club trips. As well as professional maintenance performed on the boat each year, club members carry out regular upkeep throughout the year. However, recently the boat has experienced some issues with its electrics. These issues seem to be the result of a failure of one of the watertight seals on the boat's driving console which has resulted in the internal wiring being exposed to salt air and water while stored at its mooring. While we check for leaks and rinse the boat down to remove salt water after every trip, the necessity of storing it by the sea prevents us completely stopping exposure to a salt-environment between trips. In addition, extended bad weather towards the end of last year prevented us going diving for some time and meant that we therefore did not have the opportunity to find the damage to the wires directly after it began .

While we have performed some in-house rewiring in the past to deal with slight electrical issues, on this occasion we were unable to solve the problem and the boat was recently sent in to Ribcraft (its manufacturer) to repair the electrics. We received a quote from Ribcraft last week, stating £4802.72 for the repair - significantly higher than expected. This is because Ribcraft have determined that the corrosion of the electrical wiring is not confined to the console area and believe a complete rewire of the boat is the only way to ensure that the electrics work properly again. Other companies will not provide formal quotes for the work without seeing the boat (which is obviously somewhat impractical and costly to deliver to them), but it has been indicated to us that given the number of hours required for such a job, that this is an appropriate quote for the work. In addition, due to the complexity of a complete re-wiring, we believe that Ribcraft, as the boat's manufacturer, are the only company sufficiently qualified and familiar with the boat to carry out this work in a timely and cost-efficient manner, and to ensure that the boat is again seaworthy and a safe diving platform. Attempts to use other companies in the past have led to sub-standard work which quickly required re-doing (obviously, given the scale of this work, something to very much be avoided).

We have some budget normally allocated to us for boat inspection and maintenance work, but this repair work is greatly beyond the scope of the maintenance normally required. Since this is an unexpected and large upkeep cost required for our continued use of the boat, we ask that the RCC approve this as a valid contingency claim for forwarding to CSB.

Proposal: To award Imperial College Underwater Club £4802.72 from contingency to fund crucial repairs to the club's boat.