

RCS Motor Club, RSM Motor Club and Veteran Vehicles Motor Club's Budgeting Report and Request for Further Funding

In June 2011 CSPB (then CSB) conducted a review of the Motor Clubs including how the clubs were funded. As part of the process there was a lengthy discussion about how the Clubs operate and hence how the clubs are funded by the Union.

As a result of this discussion CSPB decided that the Clubs would submit budgets as part of the budgeting process, however because the Clubs require a markedly different level and style of funding from most Clubs, the budgets would be considered separately from other clubs and the funding would be ring fenced at the budgeting meeting:

RESOLVED:

4) Motor clubs must be present at Clubs and Societies Board budgeting to present their budgets and they will be treated as separate entities.

Minutes of CSB Meeting June 21st 2011

The review of the management of the Motor Clubs was reevaluated in December 2012 and at our request the management is set to be on CSPB's Agenda for December 2014/January 2015 when it will be assessed again. When it was reassessed it was decided that the system was working and that the proposal that were in place should continue:

RESOLVED:

2) To review the Motor club Management Structures in 2 years with the clubs to continue to submit termly reports to Clubs and Societies Board.

Minutes of CSB Meeting December 12th 2012

In summary, the reasoning behind the decision to fund the Clubs separately is that the Clubs operate for the purpose of maintaining the vehicles for all the students of Imperial College and that the costs of keeping the vehicles running and road worthy is independent to the students involved and the number of members of the club. It was decided that the Union would cover the costs of keeping the vehicles in a state such that they are able to fulfil their role as Mascots – as such most of the club's budget requests are well above 'normal' grant levels – and that no individual member of the College should be expected to pay to maintain the vehicles because they are involved with a club: the vehicles belong to all the students.

Of course, the club also operates as any other club in that we teach our members skills, run social activities, and generally make use the vehicles. The cost of these activities should not be funded above that of other clubs and as such we request lower or comparable levels of Grant for these purposes, with all of the remaining costs paid for by the individuals taking part in the specific events.

An important point is that due to various legal reasons the clubs cannot make a profit from any of our events where the vehicles are being driven – we are explicitly forbidden from using the vehicles for "hire or reward" by law. We are allowed to charge for the petrol used in an event. As such the club is unable to generate its own income and we are reliant on the Grant from the Union to fund the upkeep of the vehicles. When the Grant is insufficient to enable us to carry out work either it does not happen or we are reliant on being able to find other sources of funding – previously there was a dedicated pot of funding for the Motor Clubs to use in the event of a need for funding for a major repair job.

Where possible the Club does as much work as we can in house and at better than cost price – we never charge for man hours: we carry out all the work because we are interested and want to do it. This includes the various alumni who support the club in donating their skills and expertise completely free of charge.

Clubs, Societies & Project Board
18 March 2014

This year when the budgeting process was being reviewed, we enquired whether the changes that were being implemented would affect our budgeting process and we were informed that we would be done as per previous years – i.e. as a collective at the CSPB budgeting meeting. However this has not happened and we have thus far been considered in the same manner as other clubs. As such the level of funding that we have received has been comparable to other clubs and is thus drastically insufficient for the operation of the Motor Clubs.

Based on the level of funding we received last year and the budgets we have submitted this year, we propose that the Clubs collectively receive £5400. This amount is in line with the level of funding we have received over the last two years of budgeting though this process and comes from an increased subsidy on those lines which are related to the maintenance of the vehicles and hence need a greater level of funding above that allocated – the spread sheet included shows those lines which we need higher level funding awarded for (in red).

We also propose that in future years that our budgets continue to be awarded this manner – i.e. as a group but as a separate part of the budgeting process – as this has been found to be both effective in providing funding for the club, not wasting excessive time of the CSPB at budgeting meetings, and reflects the unique nature of the Clubs and our relationship with the central Union and the student body.

