

CSBP

16 June 2015

Social Clubs Committee Report June 2015

Report by Tom Rivlin (SCC Chair)

List of SCC Clubs as of 16th June 2015:

- SCC ABACUS (203)
- SCC Advertising Society (243)
- SCC Ahlul Bayt (204)
- SCC Ahmadiyya Muslim Students Association (210)
- SCC Alternative Music (205)
- SCC Amnesty International (206)
- SCC Animal Protection & Education Society (238)
- SCC Anime (207)
- SCC Architecture (246)
- SCC ArtSoc (209)
- SCC Atheists, Secularists and Humanists (294)
- SCC Book Club (297)
- SCC Bright Futures (242)
- SCC Buddhist Society (217)
- SCC Caledonian (470)
- SCC Catholic (221)
- SCC Cheese (285)
- SCC Christian Union (222)
- SCC Conservative (224)
- SCC Consultancy (293)
- SCC Debating (225)
- SCC Economics (477)
- SCC Empower (484)
- SCC Energy (462)
- SCC Environmental (227)
- SCC Erasmus (230)
- SCC European Union Society (480)
- SCC Every Nation Christian (236)
- SCC Fairtrade (231)
- SCC Feminist (476)
- SCC Film (232)
- SCC Finance (233)
- SCC Friends of Medicins Sans Frontiers (288)
- SCC Hillsong Powerhouse (479)
- SCC Hindu Society (235)
- SCC Imperial Entrepreneurs (228)
- SCC Innovation Society (298)
- SCC Int. Tamil (245)
- SCC Investment (247)
- SCC IQ (Imperial College LGBT+) (239)
- SCC Islamic (248)

- SCC Jewish (251)
- SCC Krishna Consciousness (450)
- SCC Labour (254)
- SCC Law (255)
- SCC Lego (481)
- SCC London Forum for Science & Policy (244)
- SCC Management (467)
- SCC Model United Nations (276)
- SCC Oil and Gas Forum (482)
- SCC Overseas Christian Fellowship (471)
- SCC Pass (454)
- SCC Pharmacology (709)
- SCC Philosophy Soc (264)
- SCC Punjabi (289)
- SCC Quiz (475)
- SCC Rock and Metal (265)
- SCC Rotaract (474)
- SCC Sci Fi (266)
- SCC Sikh (269)
- SCC Speakers (469)
- SCC Tandem (485)
- SCC Tea Society (296)
- SCC UNICEF (278)
- SCC Wikipedia (468)
- SCC Writers' Society (483)

1. Key Points

- 1.1. Several management group meetings have been held since the last report was submitted in December. There was a significant problem in many of these meetings with attendance – we struggled to reach quorum in many of them. Having spoken to some of the clubs, it seems to be the case that the threat of dormancy isn't a strong enough pull to convince clubs to come to meetings they see as boring and pointless. There was only one meeting this term due to exams.
- 1.2. We made only one club dormant last term at our dormancy review, despite many being eligible for it. Even in cases where it was clear that dormancy would be appropriate, the club officers present didn't vote to make any of them dormant, with the exception of one club with zero members (Fairtrade, which can now be closed due to the existence of the Imperial Cooperative club ensuring we maintain our Fairtrade status). Due to this, I am increasingly becoming of the opinion that dormancy is inadequate as a control measure for misbehaving clubs.

- 1.3. Many new clubs have been created in the last six months, and a very large proportion of those clubs have been put in the Social Clubs Committee. I have some reservations about this. Firstly, I want to point out that there has been very poor communication over this issue. We have to manually add club committee members to our mailing list, and so if no one informs us that a new club has been created, it is possible that the club may miss out on vital information from our mailing list if we don't happen to spot the club's presence in eActivities in time. This almost happened for budgeting, with some clubs nearly missing the deadline because they were created just before it without us being informed, and there were several cases of clubs almost missing SCC meetings because of this.
- 1.4. Secondly, I have always been concerned, and am now increasingly concerned, with the sheer *number* of clubs in the SCC. There are currently 66 clubs – significantly more than the number for the next highest management group (which is also too big, in my opinion). Furthermore, the unifying features of the clubs in the SCC seem to be a lot harder to pin down than for other management groups. I believe many of the clubs in SCC belong in RCC or one of the charity management groups, including some clubs created this year. Had I been consulted on which management group to place the clubs in, I would have been able to inform this decision. Currently it seems as though which group a club is placed in is decided on a whim. Evidence of this was presented to me when a member of the committee in charge of creating new clubs suggested a Darts society be created and placed in SCC, when such a club would clearly be much better placed in RCC. I have often remarked off the record, in jest, that the SCC should be renamed the Miscellaneous Clubs Committee. I hope it is clear why I think this, and I hope it is clear that I don't *want* this.
- 1.5. We still do not have a committee for next year. An email vote is being organised by the secretary, and we do have two people who are considering standing for secretary and treasurer respectively, but having spoken to the person standing for treasurer, she seems to have become less inclined to consider standing in this email vote. The reason for this seems to be mostly because of the budgeting meetings. When I described them to her she seemed considerably more reluctant to stand for treasurer. Work is ongoing to find a committee for next year before term ends, but it is looking increasingly likely that we will not have a chair for next year, and possibly not even a treasurer. We are doing all we can but if no one wants to stand there is not much we can do.

2. Clubs with causes for concern:

- 2.1. There are still several clubs in the SCC with fewer than 20 members, despite them making pledges last term to rectify this. This is an issue I fear there is not enough time left in the year to deal with. I take full responsibility for not dealing with this – I have been focused on exams for the past few months and have not had time to look into this, along with some other issues the SCC has faced.
- 2.2. There are no clubs with major financial issues, as far as I am aware. There are some clubs who are in the red, but none of them have raised with myself or my treasurer any significant issues concerning their finances, and I am hopeful that this situation is temporary and that they have ways to regain the money.

3. Budgeting

- 3.1. Budgeting was, of course, stressful for many of the clubs in the SCC. Many clubs received no grant from the Union, many more received only very small amounts. For most of these clubs this is an acceptable state of affairs – they have other sources of income, or their activities aren't that expensive, and so the Union should not be funding them large amounts of money. In general I am more or less satisfied with the amount of funding given to SCC clubs at budgeting, and I think the process was as fair as it could have been for my clubs, although I have misgivings about the budgeting process in general, as many of us do.
- 3.2. There were clubs, however, who did suffer in budgeting, and I have been working with them to ensure they have the money they need to continue. For more information on this please speak to me in person.

4. Tours

- 4.1. Only a handful of clubs submitted tour requests for the Easter holiday tour period, and no clubs submitted requests for the Summer tour period. All submitted claims were approved without issue.

5. Club feedback

- 5.1. Unfortunately, I was not able to gather feedback from clubs for the end of the academic year in time to complete this report. We have encouraged clubs to fill in the Union's many questionnaires and feedback forms, though.