

ICU Athletics Clubs Committee

A.C.C. Executive

ACC first quarter report 2008-09

Introduction

The ACC currently has 50 clubs, not including the non-membership 'Varsity', 'BUSA' and 'Exec' ones. This year we welcome two new clubs already, Filipino Martial Arts (FMA) and Dodgeball.

We have had two meetings this year - 16th October 2008 (EGM) and 25th November 2008 (GM). The latter was particularly well attended.

Committee and committee communication

A new treasurer was elected on 16th October, as the one elected at the last AGM, was unable to take up the post. A new e-mail address has been created for the vice chair, and two others have been re-activated. The committee, their positions and contact details are currently as follows:

Chair – Samuel Furse	acc.chair@ic.ac.uk
Vice chair – Charles Murdoch	acc.vc@ic.ac.uk (new address)
Treasurer – Joseph Lees	acc.treasurer@ic.ac.uk
Secretary – Ashly Black	acc.secretary@ic.ac.uk (re-activated address)
Assistant Treasurer – Elvin Tsang	(refer to treasurer)
Executive	acc.exec@ic.ac.uk (re-activated address)

ACC plan

This was drafted by the current ACC Chair after fact-finding and attendance at various meetings and events, and has been given broad approval by partners and the ACC executive amongst others. The main aims of the plan are:

- To foster greater homogeneity within the ACC;
- Encourage a greater breadth of membership;
- Activities and involvement in competitive events (especially martial arts clubs);
- Improve the financial running of the ACC, especially areas such as transport;
- Reduce the administrative burden on clubs;
- Collective Sponsorship, in which the ACC is sold as a 'brand' and drafts in additional funding for all participating clubs – this is a longer term project;
- A useful website.

All of these projects are on-going and showing signs of success and/or viability.

Finances

Most clubs have now reached their membership targets, despite difficult a financial climate and marketing issues surrounding the (necessary) changes to Fresher's fayre earlier in the year. Full membership is expected in time for budgeting for 2009-10.

A transport sub-committee has been set up in order to attempt to save as much money as possible in the wake of substantially increased transport costs (~25% rise in cost of diesel since last budgeting, 30% increase in booking costs by the current coach company). Currently we have increased efficiency with effective sharing of vehicles on training nights.

The subvention given to the ACC for the current academic year is £158,087.46, compared to £150k for 07-08 (minutes of CSB 26.02.07). The turnover of the ACC in 07-08 was approximately £720k (including the £245k subvention given by College directly to the Boat club) and is expected to be around the same in real terms for 08-09. The budgetary increase for 08-09 took due account of four new clubs (Handball, American Football, Indoor Hockey, and Gaelic Football) and inflation at ~2.5%.

No contingency claims have yet been made. A late-invoiced payment for the Sailing club's previous involvement has been settled using funds from the Union Executive Reserve.

A long term measure, referred to as collective sponsorship, is currently being formulated.

Constitutional changes

Hockey, Yacht, and American football club constitutions have all been updated to reflect changes in their club membership and desires. Hockey has re-organised to increase the size of their committee which better reflects the diversity in their club. Filipino martial arts (new constitution) was accepted with a healthy majority.

Club activities & tours

These are progressing nicely despite the late running of projects at Harlington and Teddington and the changes required to work around the Union re-fit. Some club activities have been re-housed at a lower cost than the original ground hire. Due to reduced availability of Ethos, with respect to availability for other members' use, increased bookings at Wilson house have been made and are proving successful. A handful of clubs make use of ground hire facilities not owned or run by College or the Union.

Currently I am working on organising a dedicated outdoor range for the Archery club, at Harlington, in order for club and team members to practice all year round. Pitches for Gaelic football are now established and are the envy of many other clubs in the London area.

Two winter tours for ACC clubs have been approved -- polo players from the Riding and Polo club will go to Argentina in early January 2009, and members of the cricket club will go to the Bahamas to play against local schools. Several summer tours are planned, including Hockey (India), Kendo (Japan), and Tennis (TBC) so far.

Socials

Two of these so far, in the shape of bar nights on the 29th October and 3rd December, both returning a profit. Better marketing and a broader-based approach (both drinking and non-drinking wrist-bands are now available) have ensured a full and wider attendance, with more different clubs than ever before attending. Further widening is in the making, for the new calendar year.

Sport Imperial

We are working closely with SportImperial in a number of areas. The Developing Excellence Scheme now covers team applications more formally as well as individuals and has been awarded to a number of clubs. SI's coaching budget is currently being allocated. The emphasis is expected to be similar to previous years in which clubs are invested in long-term, though still weighted towards BUCS involvement. In 07-08, Imperial College gained its highest ever placing at 22nd nationally (Medics clubs (ICSM) are listed independently of the ACC (IC) ones).

Varsity and the IDEA league

The annual Imperial College 'SportsFest' will be staged at the Richmond Athletic Stadium. Arrangements are moving along nicely and it may yet prove to be the best yet. Wednesday 25th February 2009, a date for your diaries!


The IDEA league is a Sports league hosted in rotation by the institutions involved (Universities of Aachen, Delft, Paris, and Zurich) will next be held in Aachen in April 2009. Nominated sports are Judo, Table tennis, fitness/orienteering, and Floorball/Unihockey. We have active clubs for all of these and are expecting to send Ladies and Gents teams for all of them.

Pre-season training

This scheme is a centralised, annual, exercise and fitness programme run in partnership with SportImperial to help competitive and non-competitive sports people work off a bit of their summer bellies before the start of term and team trials etc. This year it was run for a fortnight rather than just a week, the first week of the fortnight being a gentler start as last year many found the intensive week alone too gruelling. The scheme was successful with good feedback from all participants.

Concluding remarks from the ACC chair

The ACC retains its reputed vibrancy but with a more inclusive approach as well as an uncompromising attitude to fixed tenets (e.g. available funds) a balanced and involved atmosphere has been formed which is fostering success and a positive outlook on sporting activity at Imperial College. I would like to thank my executive committee and club officers for their continued co-operation towards these ends in what is a less than easy year for them.



Samuel Furse
Athletics Cub Committee Chair 2008/09