

RCC Report

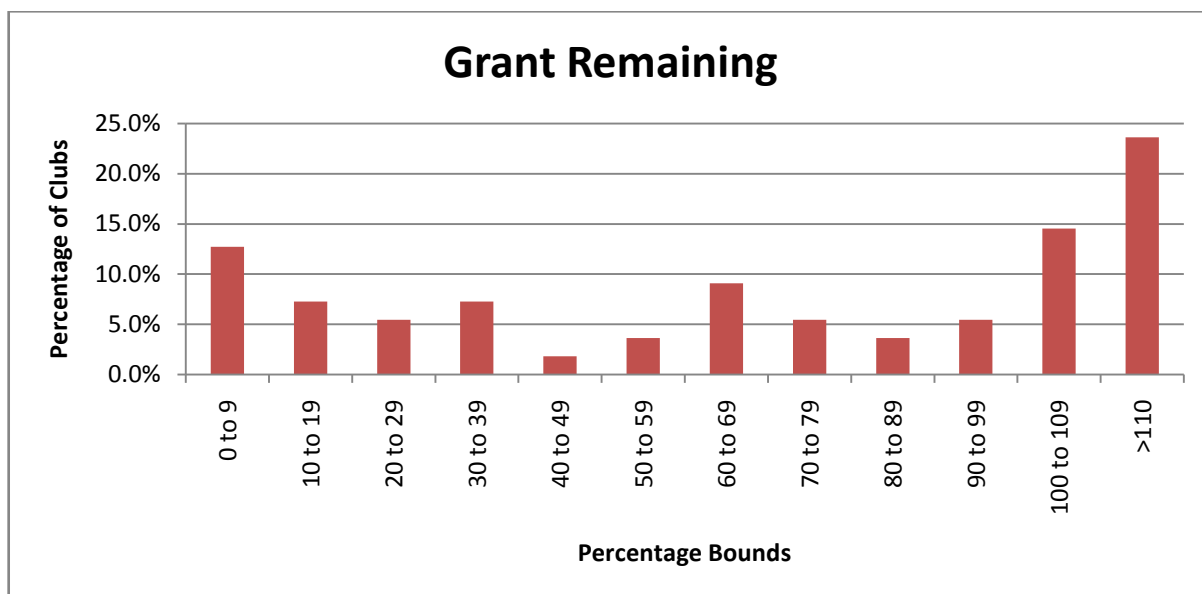
Report by Nathaniel Bottrell, RCC Chair.

Date submitted, 21/01/11

Financial Report

Grant

The RCC was allocated £63,076.84 in budgeting last year. At the time of writing the RCC has £29,490.04 grant remaining. This is total percentage of 47%. However, on average the clubs have 69% of grant remaining. The breakdown of grant is shown in the graph below.



Currently 40.9% of clubs have less than 40% of grant remaining. Most clubs are half way through the majority of the activities they will undertake. Taking this into account the amount of clubs with less than half their grant remaining could be higher. On the other hand, 23.6% of clubs have 90% or more grant remaining. The individual club reports detail why this is the case.

Last year £2,633.49 of grant was unspent. At the end of the spring term the RCC will work with the clubs to reduce this number by redistributing the amount within either the club or management group.

The general complaint about budgets is that clubs are not receiving enough money. This means their members are required to pay more for their activities. During this budgeting round, clubs that have underspend will receive less to support the clubs that have higher costs. The aim is to reduce the total RCC underspend.

During the meeting the clubs have been advised on methods of raising more equity for their clubs.

Software society asked for their grant to be removed in order for them to have free membership. The grant allocation was moved into the RCC contingency pot.

The RCC has £95,709.92 of SGI. This may seem a lot but after considering the clubs activities this isn't much. Many clubs in the RCC undertake expensive activities that need specialist equipment with a limited lifetime. Some of this specialist equipment is required for safe practice. Thus, these clubs require large amounts of cash to replace their assets.

Currently only two clubs have negative SGI, these are Skate and Synchronized Swimming. Skate have -£91.55 which is due to ground hire and Synchronized Swimming have -£223.14 caused by pool hire costs. The RCC is working with Synchronized Swimming to alleviate their cash issue.

At the beginning of the year Wakeboarding started with -£161.20 and have managed to turn that around as their SGI at the time of writing is £137.64. Ice Hockey started with -£1,171.50 which they aim to reduce to -£600 by the end of the year. Currently their account is £2,700.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship needs to increase within the RCC to relieve the funding issues and grant shortfall. The RCC has tried to push this but so far clubs have not been successful in obtaining it.

At the beginning of the term the RCC was approached by Blacks with a discount offer. Blacks were offering clubs 15% off equipment. This was not taken up by clubs despite being pushed at RCC meeting and within emails. The discount would have been operated by club chairs by sending members names to Blacks. Blacks would then print out a card that gave that person the discount for a year. Every student already gets a 10% discount at Blacks. Managing a card that gives an extra 5% doesn't seem worth the effort. Also, Black doesn't always sell the specialist equipment that some clubs require or sell major brand names where no branded equipment from other companies is cheaper.

Other

Underwater were allowed to keep the money that was added to their accounts due to a previous accounting error. This decision was made by the Union Exec committee.

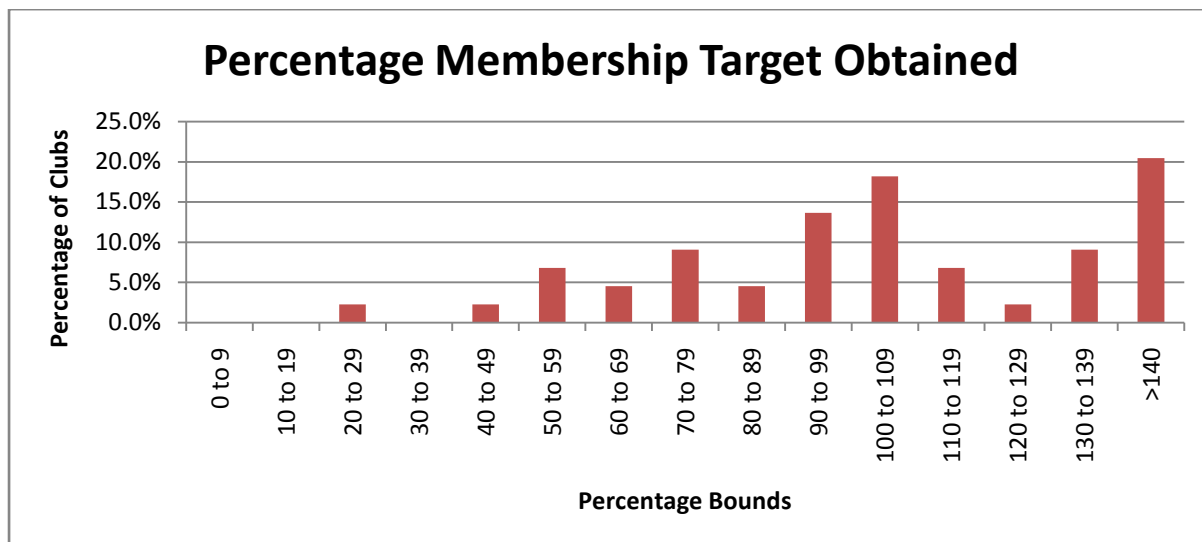
Constitution Changes

This year the RCC has passed constitutional changes for two clubs. The first was Cooking society which passed at the first RCC meeting on Thursday 14th October 2010. The second was IC LINKS which passed on Thursday 11th November 2010. Cooking society enlarged their committee from three to six in order for Cooking's growing society to get more people involved. IC LINKS' change was a clarification of their aims and objectives. The aim "To further First Aid training in both the local and College community" was added, which may qualify the club to become a project.

The RCC needs to update its Standing Orders to be in line with other union policy. Fashion has moved from the RCC to the AEB.

Club Membership

The RCC currently has 1,929 members within 44 clubs. On average, the RCC clubs membership is 106.5% of their target. Within the 44 clubs, 25 clubs (41.7%) have reached or surpassed their targets. A sizable proportion of this has reached over 140% of their target. Most of the clubs who have not reached their target are confident that they will do so. The graph below shows the breakdown of the membership target.



Wakeboarding had the most innovative membership drive by buying new members a drink at the end of their freshers event if they purchased membership then and there.

Exec meetings

Exec meetings have been well attended with clubs getting involved in discussion about important RCC club decisions.

Contingency awards

None have been submitted. It is expected that Outdoor Club will make a contingency claim for equipment damaged after an accident in the Lake District. The RCC has many broken tents and a broken cupboard which it may claim on contingency.

Tours

At the start of the academic there was some confusion about the new electronic application system. This was not helped when the system had technical issues. For this tour period clubs have successfully applied online. One issue is when non club officers are running tours, which has happened for both Canoe and Underwater. These clubs have used authorised logins to allow the organiser to submit the tour application. To develop the tour application further it would help if there was a guide to the tour system on the tour application page. This guide would include what each box is for and any formulas that are used within the system. Also, most of the input boxes could do with being larger to encourage clubs to provide a detailed description.

It seems to mainly be the outdoor groups that go away on tour. For the winter period the following clubs applied.

- Canoe - approved,
- Caving - approved,
- Exploration - approved,
- Fellwanderers – unsuccessful,
- Gliding - approved,
- Mountaineering - approved,
- Outdoor Club – approved.

Gilding and Canoe cancelled their winter tours due to the weather being incorrect for their activities.

For the spring period the above clubs, with the exception of Exploration, and Dance Company, Parachute, Poker and Underwater have applied.

During October the clubs were asked to submit plans for their tours. This was generally unsuccessful since clubs were unsure of tour destinations, couldn't judge attendance for such tours and/or hadn't started planning. The plan of getting clubs to submit tour applications is useful for CSB when deciding on the tour pot. However, this is not necessarily practical for clubs to judge. From the data given the general trend seems to be that the winter tour period has the least RCC applications and the summer tour period has the most applications, for trips that are more complex.

Socials

In general the RCC has many socially active clubs which attracts a higher number of members to our clubs. Most clubs organise social activities such as weekly pub meets or one off dinners. Mountaineering summarises the importance of socials in one sentence, "The club recognises that creating a good social atmosphere is essential to creating a sense of belonging for new members".

Many clubs organise bar nights within the union. Typically the club will buy its members a selection of alcohol. The RCC as an Exec has not organised any socials so far this academic year. The RCC's main social is the Summer BBQ and to some extent the Night Hike.

Any particular club issues, e.g. instructors, cost of transport, naughty clubs

Although it is mandatory for clubs to fill up the minibus fuel tanks at the end of use, this is not always done. As a result those clubs that fill up correctly are left with the extra cost.

Of the clubs with a frozen budget, the majority have not completed the risk assessment. It is possible that more training is needed for assessing and preventing risks. A risk assessment workshop was held, however none of the clubs with this flag were in attendance. It is an aim of the RCC to unfreeze all budgets.

The RCC has four dormant clubs, these are:

- Fitness
- Radio Controlled Model
- Synchronised Swimming
- VegSoc

The RCC will try and work with these clubs to take them out of dormancy. The club with the major issue is Fitness; this club has two members and many red flags. If Fitness doesn't submit a budget, the RCC will submit a paper to close the club.

Coffee was dormant for more than 12 months and has now been closed. Sadly there was not a demand for the club and attempts to attract more members failed. The club also struggled to obtain a coffee machine on which to teach their members the art of coffee making. This resulted in poor membership and a vote to close the club was passed.

Fitness felt that the AEB could give their activities more support than the RCC. The society submitted a paper to change management group. This paper was passed.

Facilities/Storage

Storage at Imperial is a well known problem. The recent building works have also been problematic for some clubs. Below is a table of the main storage and facilities issues.

Belly Dancing	Were not allocated any storage space, currently sharing an unlocked cupboard. Previous groups not leaving in time. Were not allocated a room with mirrors even though this is a club requirement.
Canoe	Raw sewage leaking over equipment.
Cooking	Have a lot of pots and pans but no union space to store them. Storage is currently in Bernard Sunley Halls. Use of kitchens on campus is currently not possible.
Croquet	May have to move pitch as the current one may close.
Fellwanderers	Booking the bar night was an issue as no one knew whose job it was.
Gaming	Their Wii was stolen.
Mountaineering	Insufficient storage space, especially for bouldering mats. Were unable to book the union for bar nights during the week. Were told stewards are needed for an attendance of 40 when the regulations state that stewards are required for attendance of 100 or more.
Parkour	Storage space.
Skate	Equipment from Wilson House was stolen.
LINKS	Unable to access equipment in shared spaces and store cupboards in rooms when in use by other societies.
Table Football	Room provided is of insufficient size. Storage and cupboard in room are taking up a lot of space. Unsecured Meeting Room Bookings during society days. Poor ventilation of room, windows cannot be opened.
Underwater	Had equipment issues when builders drilled through the ceiling of a store room holding breather apparatus. All has now been resolved.
VegSoc	Predict a requirement for storage and would like space for cookbooks.
Wakeboarding	Storeroom mess made it difficult to access equipment. This issue has now been resolved.

Club Reports

Every club was asked to submit a report; 82% of RCC clubs submitted. These reports were compiled into an 84 page 24,000 word document. The reports were used to construct the issue list above and will be consulted when deciding how much grant each club should receive from its submitted budget. This document will be posted online for all clubs to read. It is hoped that some clubs will learn from others and future RCC chairs will be able to refer to this document to aid their understanding of club issues.

Large Events

Most clubs are organising a range of events to attract members and promote their activities. The RCC is currently organising its annual night hike event for 26th February 2011.