

Council  
13 October 2014

Imperial College Union  
**Council Report**  
*By Abigail de Bruin, Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)*

**BUCS Conference**

Before handover I attended British University & Colleges Sport conference at Cardiff University with ACC Chair and two staff members from Sport Imperial. I attended a large number of seminars which led to interesting discussion and the conference was a great opportunity to meet sabbatical officers and staff from other universities who I will be meeting at regional BUCS meetings throughout the year.

**Handover**

Handover was spent split between introductory sessions with various union staff to learn about the structure and processes of Imperial College Union, and learning about the finer details of the role of Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) from the previous Deputy President Clubs & Societies. It was a busy few weeks with a huge number of introductions to the permanent staff at the Union and College with whom I have since been working and will continue to throughout the year.

**Redevelopment Projects**

Significant progress has been made on the redevelopments of both the Concert Hall and the Media Basement. There was a great deal of interest in the Basement space by students at the Freshers' Fair and promises a good start to the year for the clubs involved. The huge amount of work by students and staff towards these projects has been greatly appreciated.

**RAG Conference**

At the end of August I attended Raising and Give conference at York University with a union staff member and a number of RAG committee members. The conference gave me more insight into RAG and I had the chance to meet sabbatical officers and staff from other universities and charities. This was an interesting opportunity to discuss how the Union can engage with students to increase volunteering participation, particularly in light of the continuing success of the Imperial Plus programme and our volunteering scheme Community Connections.

**NCC and NPC**

The formation of New Clubs was put on hold over the summer to allow for new policy to be formed in the form of the New Activities Committee. There have been a large number of applications and are heading towards a very exciting new start to the year. Via email vote of CSPB it was decided to de-merge the Medics Careers groups, 'creating' 13 new clubs. This decision came from CSPB rather than NAC as this was the body that originally decided to merge the Medics Careers groups.

**Officer Training**

This summer has held a large number of Officer Training Programmes. The two days of New Officer Training at the start of October were incredibly well attended, with over 200 new officers registering for the sessions. These provided both an excellent chance to interact with the officers of different clubs, meeting many for the first time, and also to ensure that the student volunteers felt appropriately trained to approach the year ahead. Including the Freshers' Fair briefing during one of the workshop sessions at this as well as running the same session three times on other days meant that approximately 200 stallholders were briefed ready for the day. Hopefully this was a contributor to the incredibly smooth running of Freshers' Fair this year.

The beginning of October also saw a well-attended Management Group training afternoon which allowed for discussion of any potential issues the chairs could foresee for the year ahead, a small amount of financial training, and an informal atmosphere to meet one another. This meeting led to productive discussion of papers in the process of being written by DPCS/FS and thorough discussion of the potential concerns about Freshers' Fair.

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### **Freshers' Fair**

Security, the Fire Officers and Soft Services were all consulted before the plans for Freshers' Fair were finalised and no changes to the Freshers' Fair logistics needed to be made after these meetings. Few layout changes were made from last year and, as previously, I tried to group similar clubs close together in a logical way to make stalls easier to find. Having the QTR entirely booked out to externals this year meant more stalls than usual in Beit Quad which seems to have worked well, though this may have largely been thanks to the good weather. There was no wet weather plan due to lack of space for stalls to move in to in the event of rain, but outside stall holders were made aware of this and advised to prepare in advance by bringing appropriate clothing, umbrellas and paper sign-up sheets.

As previously, external companies and organisations turned up the fair without bookings and were dealt with smoothly and efficiently by Union staff, Security and the Police. The College Main Entrance and outside Beit saw stalls set up on the road, which as not on site were difficult for us to control however did not cause any significant problems. The Union staff and volunteers were very good in looking out for external people who should not be in attendance and dealing with them swiftly.

As last year, we had a dedicated team of volunteers from Management Group and Constituent Union execs who started at 07.30 with setting up. They were very good at helping stall holders if there was any confusion and ensuring the day ran smoothly. Many also stayed late to help clear up both tables and litter; the extra effort was greatly appreciated. The #helloicu volunteers were also very good in assisting throughout the day. They handed out maps, Give It A Go guides and answered questions attendees had. Many of the volunteers not allocated maps were asked for them and pointed students towards the Felix pull-out, this seemed to work well but may be worth considering whether all volunteers should be allocated maps during the day rather than just #helloicu.

Crowding was a problem in both Queen's Tower Rooms and the Great Hall with capacity nearing the fire limit at times. This was dealt with by Union Staff and Volunteers by implementing a one way system. The number and popularity of stalls in this area makes it difficult to manage and difficult for attendees to talk to people on stalls of interest but the crowding was well monitored throughout the day and did not end up causing significant problems.

The space on Queen's Lawn set out for sporting demonstrations was left this year for groups to use and share with no timetable which worked quite well. Overall the event seemed to be successful with positive feedback on the day and after the event. I would like to formally thank all the volunteers and Union staff who helped out in the planning stages, behind the scenes and on the day to make it a great event for student activities.

### **Give It A Go**

The Give It A Go (GIAG) scheme was launched for the second year with a calendar of events happening throughout October that do not need membership to participate in, nor are sporting trials. This initiative worked well last year and so we are continuing it for Clubs, Societies & Projects. Booklets were distributed at Freshers' Fair containing information but also directing people to the website for up-to-date details and more events. This allowed the clubs that did not engage in time for the printed booklet to still be a part of the programme. I will be following up to gain feedback on the scheme and monitor how the programme impacts membership.

### **Teddington/Heston**

After several meetings involving College and ICSMSU, many of the questions and concerns concerning the Teddington sports ground have now been answered. ICSMSU has been given time at Teddington to say a last goodbye on the 18<sup>th</sup> October with their upcoming Teddington Alumni Day and work is still progressing to ensure a satisfactory ICSMSU presence at the new grounds in Heston. The official launch of the new grounds will take place on the first day of fixtures on 15<sup>th</sup> October and has promising interest from not only sports clubs but also musical and dance groups for the inside spaces.