

Council
28th April 2008

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Report *A Report by Alistair Cott*

New Clubs Committee

As a meeting has not taken place over the holiday Classical Guitar, Armenian, ICSMU Darts, Swiss, Surf, Vegetarian/Vegan, Dodgeball, European Medical Students' Association, and Afghan Societies are still in the prospective stage, with Mexican, Hong Kong, Mixed Martial Arts, Graduate Medical Societies joining them on the list of clubs wishing to set up.

One-to-one meeting with new Finance Manager

On the 17th of April the Membership Services Manager and I met with the new Finance Manager to walk her through what clubs and societies are. I hope that she now has a good understanding why they are there and how the finance department will interact with them during the year.

Database Work

This has been ongoing, with the whole online finance pages idea reaching a standstill unless a problem with the claiming system can be resolved. It all revolves around receipts and who and how the various levels of authorised people need to see them.

I used my time to further the transfer of the main Union database to a SQL server and create web front-ends for the more widely used forms. There haven't been major problems due to the work occurring, however the finance system used which interacts with both the database and the club transaction pages has been creating problems of its own. Part of my time is helping the Business System Consultant trying to work out solutions to them, this has now involved a number of trips to ICT to try and sort out the various problems. The main problem is how long queries take to run; this has ramifications to any online club transaction page which needs queries to run instantly instead of the eight minutes which I have seen. There is a solution now I view and we just need to persuade ICT to agree to it.

I have also started to transfer the database which looks after the minibus booking system and so the minibus pages will be updated as soon as bookings are put in and changed instead of a batch upload.

Holiday

I took two days holiday on the 4th and 7th of April, I went to the Lake District and got snowed on.