

Freshers' Fair Report

A report by Lily Topham Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

Freshers' Fair

This happened on Tues 7th Oct, and my thanks to everyone who helped – especially the CSC/FU Execs who turned up at 7:30am to help set up, manned the Information Stall, looked after different locations during the day and helped tidy up. It was one of the most successful Fairs we've ever had and everyone who came seemed to have lots of fun. A good relationship was maintained with Security, the Fire Officers and College Electricians during the day (apart from a few minor incidents which were quickly resolved) which is promising.

Due to the weather forecast for Tuesday 7th, the Wet Weather Plan was implemented for the day which moved clubs from Queen's Lawn and Upper Dalby Court to Tanaka Foyer, JCR and the Union Building. When the plan was rolled out on the Monday, plans were put on the Union website, a link on the College website, in the Union Reception, Student Activities Centre, Student Hub, Ethos Reception and an email went out to all students. There was an Information Stall in Beit Quad on the day distributing maps and orientation advice. The Introductory Talk on Mon 6th proved very useful in updating clubs on what was going on and briefing them about how to work with the wet weather plans. Despite the general lack of rain on the Tuesday the plans seemed to work well, especially considering the near-gale-force winds on Upper Dalby Court, with both Union and College locations very busy all day. A special thanks to Paddy Jackman and Jane Neary for saving the Wet Weather Plans at the last minute.

Power is something which will have to be addressed in the future. I tried to sort something out this year for clubs – the SAF, MDH, Ante Room and Great Hall all had power available for clubs. In the Great Hall I organised for additional power to be provided to clubs in the centre of the Hall as this was not too difficult and it removed the substantial Health & Safety issues associated with clubs trailing power cables from the pillars and walls in the Great Hall. It was a practical impossibility to provide power for clubs on the Queen's Lawn and on Upper Dalby Court, though this proved less of an issue this year as many of those clubs actually ended up with power in the end due to the wet weather plans.

Freshers' Fair Afterparty

This ran for the first time directly after Freshers' Fair from 4:30pm on the stage in the Union Marquee. Its aim was to bolster the number of people coming to the Union after Freshers' Fair, provide a showcase for Clubs & Societies which they could advertise during the Fair and create a celebratory environment for students and particularly Clubs & Societies after the biggest Clubs & Societies event of the year.

The stagershow and the night itself was a great success. The show included the following clubs: Chamber Choir, Musical Theatre Society, String Ensemble, Dance Company, Classical Guitar, Gospel Choir, Afro-Caribbean, Hindu, Funkology, Capoeira, Dance Club, Music Technology, Jazz & Rock and was brilliantly compered by student Billy Feenan and teched by Dramsoc. All my thanks and congratulations to all involved and to Malcom and the Ents and Stewarding teams who helped the night run smoothly. Again, there was a great atmosphere all night, people said there was a great community feeling, it was a great chance for Clubs & Societies to show what they can do, and it was also a commercial success as the bar takings show: £7261.64 this year compared to £3501.76 in 2007. Hopefully this has set the night up well for the future, so more clubs may want to get involved.

I would highly recommend something similar to happen next year.

Clubs & Societies Introductory Talk

A talk was held for all Clubs & Societies on the first Monday of term in the Great Hall. All club Chairs, Treasurers and Secretaries were invited though the invitation was extended to any other committee members with a maximum of 3 per club.

The talk was aimed to give clubs an overview of the year ahead, let them meet and see the other 300-odd clubs in the Union, be introduced to all the CSC/FU Execs, the Sabbaticals and Union staff, update clubs on the Beit Redevelopment, give a quick brief about Freshers' Fair (including the wet plan, Health & Safety, and the need to be considerate), distribute the Club & Society Year Packs and introduce them to the Clubs & Societies Officers' Handbook and wiki. Around 600 people attended and the talk was a great success – the feedback which I've received was that it was informative and was particularly nice to see all the other clubs in the Union and had a good 'Clubs & Socs' atmosphere. My thanks to Ian Gillett (College Head of Health & Safety who gave a quick talk), all those who helped out and who turned up to be introduced!

Clubs and Societies Board
14th October 2008

I would also strongly recommend that this is repeated in the future. If anyone has more feedback on the session please do get in touch.