

Tour Committee Report to CSPB 23rd February 2016

Stephen Ball – Meeting Chair (RCC Chair)
Henry Harrod – Tours Committee (Media Chair)

As requested by CSPB the tours committee has reviewed a number of late applications from Societies for the Spring Tours period. We have made recommendations about each application. As we were not quorate at our meeting, we require CSPB to approve the recommendations.

We received eight applications by 18:00 on Monday 15th February. This delayed deadline was approved by the DPCS as clubs were not informed of the applications period being open until after the CSPB agreed deadline. We received two subsequent applications from RCC Dance Club and A&E A Cappella.

Due to a decision not having been made until CSPB votes at its meeting, the DPFS has agreed an extension of the period for submitting budgets to 18:00 on Friday 26th February.

Our recommendations are:

- I.** ACC Cross Country – a valid application
- II.** ACC Rugby – not a valid application
- III.** RCC Canoe – a valid application
- IV.** RCC Dance Club – not a valid application
- V.** RCC Fellwandeers – a valid application
- VI.** RCC Mountaineering – a valid application
- VII.** RCC Outdoor – a valid application
- VIII.** RCC Skydiving – a valid application
- IX.** RCC underwater – a valid application

The application from A&E A Cappella posed the committee more trouble.

The application is for the Techtonics to attend the final of the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) in New York. This application only become appropriate after the Techtonics came first in the semi-final on 21st February.

A&E A Cappella made another tour application for the Spring Tour period in January 2016 that CSPB accepted. As such, should this tour application be accepted then this society would have two tours during the Spring Tour period.

CSPB had only agreed for the tours committee to consider those applications from societies that had not submitted applications in January, as such this application requires CSPB to make a decision upon it.

Due to the pressing time constraints of the CSPB Meeting of the 23rd February, the tours committee thought it would be prudent to discuss the application and make recommendations to CSPB to help focus conversation.

As a result of our conversation and consultation with members of CSPB including the DPCS and the DPFS, the tours committee has the following to say:

- The ICCA final is a prestigious event, and the attendance of the Techtonics will benefit the Union and the College.
- The application for the Techtonics meets the required level of club activity to be considered for a tour.
- A Cappella are running a tour that CSPB has agreed to fund and which is open to all its members.
- Almost no members of Techtonics are going on the existing A Cappella Tour.
- Whilst the Activities Development Fund could provide funding for this application, this would have a significant impact on the operation of the ADF and contingency claims for the remainder of the year. We feel that the Tours Funds would be a better place to source money from.
- A Cappella would have made this application to CSPB for special consideration independent of the issues with the Spring Tour Application Period.
- Techtonics typically go on tour during the Summer Tours period.
- The tours policy is due to review before the end of the academic year.

Based on this we recommend:

- X.** CSPB accepts the A Cappella Tour to New York for the ICCA Final subjected to the following criteria:
 - i. Only full members of Imperial College Union who are members of the Techtonics are eligible for funding for this tour.
 - ii. Members of the Techtonics will only receive funding for one Spring tour.
 - iii. The Techtonics will not receive further funding for a Summer Tour.
 - iv. A Cappella are to work with the Union to identify how they can avoid this situation from happening again.

Resolutions:

- 1. Accept the recommendations I to IX.**

- 2. Accept the recommendation X: that the extra tour application from A Cappella be accepted subject to the criteria set out above.**

APPENDIX – A Cappella Spring Tour Application to ICCCA Final

Purpose of the Tour:

The ICCAs (International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella) is the largest singing competition of its kind in the world - featuring over 300 a cappella groups across the globe, groups compete through quarter finals, semi finals, and the finals to win the internationally acclaimed award. With over 50 events, the competition is huge. "Pitch Perfect", the internationally acclaimed feature film is based on the ICCAs, and groups through to the finals are featured on the US television show "Sing It On", as well as numerous magazines, articles, and shows. Previous finalists and winners have performed on Britain's Got Talent, The Sing Off (a US variation of X-Factor/The Voice), and performed personally for the President of the USA. Being in the Final is EXTREMELY prestigious.

This year, The Techtonics, the Imperial All-Male a cappella group (under the A Cappella Society) steamrolled its way through the Quarter Finals in Durham, and just smashed the competition to win the UK National Semi-Finals at Imperial, beating all other groups in the UK. The aim of the tour is for The Techtonics to take up their position in the Finals in New York, and perform on the Broadway stage alongside the best a cappella singers in the world - it would put Imperial on the map as the best location for A Cappella in the UK (as the only University in the UK with 2 groups in the Semi-Finals), and would give an unprecedented opportunity to showcase the Imperial singers on a global stage. A international producer has already agreed to mentor the group towards the final in NYC.

Planned Activities:

The plan is to fly out Friday afternoon/evening to JFK. After staying overnight in New York City on Friday night, the group would do the extensive sound check during Saturday (depending on timings to be confirmed), and perform in the show on Saturday night to a sold out audience of 2,500 a cappella enthusiasts, who have paid up to \$200 for a ticket. After then staying overnight Saturday night, the group would then return Sunday, either in the morning or the evening. Since the 1st May (Monday) is a bank holiday, flying back overnight on Sunday is not an issue.

Date From: 29th April

Date To: 1st May

Number of Current Students going on the tour: 13

Number of others going on the tour: 1