



FELIX SPECIAL

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WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE 1966

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RCSU to break even?

RCSU will definitely not be broke at the end of this year. After starting the year with £182 from the previous year and £1,000 of stocks it appears that they may have to draw on some of the money held as stocks.

DEFICIT OF £4?

Income so far this year has been £2244 and expenditure £1474; further bills which have just been recieved or are expected ammount to around £775. As there will be more receipts and bills to come in, because this is not the end of the year, this apparent deficit of £4 may turn out to be wrong by up to £100 in either direction. It is a feature of all Union accounts that the final expenditure for the year cannot be accurately known until well into the summer vacation. However, Imperial College Union Council does have a statement from its Senior Treasurer on the estimated financial situation before every meeting.

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

The grant which RCSU received from ICU at the beginning of the year between the competing interests and was then reviewed half way through the year. This gave a grant of approximately £700 to the Clubs Committee, £130 to the Ents. Committee and £250 to cover losses on dinners. This left about £100 for general expenses. It now seems that the Ents bill will be slightly greater and the actual losses on the dinners will be £266.

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apology

A GRAVE mistake was made in the last issue of FELIX in attributing the quotation, "A waste of public funds", to Mr H.J. Pain, Senior Treasurer of RCSU. Mr Pain never made this remark and FELIX would like to apologise for any embarrassment this error might have caused him.

Duke elected

CIVIL Engineer Postgraduate Tony Duke, was elected President and Metallurgist Brendon Parker was appointed Honorary Secretary of I.C. Union at the IC Joint Council Meeting on Monday. Mr. Duke who defeated Chairman of SCC Keith Guy commented that he was very pleased to be elected and that he regarded himself as a representative of the student body.

Union Meeting Extraordinary!

LAST Thursday, RCS Union attempted at an extraordinary general meeting to set its own mind at rest about its finances. A resolution was passed asking its representatives on ICU Council to demand a reelection for the post of Deputy President in view of the way in which an attack on Ian Williams had been permitted immediately before the election without giving him a chance to produce a defence.

CONFLICTING STATEMENTS

The meeting got under way with a motion from Mr Duckett asking that a full statement of finances should be given to the RCSU. He said that at the moment there were two conflicting statements running round the College. There was the FELIX statement that RCSU was broke and the letter of Mr Pain which stated that RCSU had £750. FELIX had got its story from the RCSU Committee meeting and

that as far as he could tell it was mainly accurate. In doing his research he had found that the minutes of the particular Committee meeting were a disgrace as they briefed over the whole business and told nothing of what had been said.

FINANCIAL EXPLANATION

Mr Pain then gave the meeting a very clear statement on the position of finances. He said that more bills were still to come in but it looked as though there would be about £750 left as stocks at the end of the year. (Fuller details of the finances are given elsewhere). Before doing this he went to great lengths to explain that he had no power to decide not wish to influence the way in which the Union spends its money. "All I do is keep the books and issue warnings in committee.

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COMMENT

My term of office as Editor of Felix began prematurely on Friday, 27th May with the resignation of Ian Williams. The day before, at the IC Union Meeting, he was attached in a letter read by Mr. Pain for having printed an article concerning RCS Union finances which was alleged to be mischievous and factually incorrect.

A. Fletcher, IC President, should not have allowed the reading of this letter. It contained a vague description of RCSU's financial position - £750 left, but also attached Ian Williams personally as being responsible for a 'a mischievous and factually wrong article' and questioned his integrity and ability. This came at a time which was calculated to influence voting in the following election for Deputy President, in which Ian was standing, but at no time was he permitted to defend himself.

The main purpose of this issue is to bring to our readers' attention the present state of RCSU's finances and correct those who might have been misled by the original article. Nobody has quibbled with the figures given in that article, only the conclusions reached. The new figures were eventually provided by President Scott. However, they were provided late because despite repeated promises to allow Felix to see the accounts he has been most elusive, relenting only at the eleventh hour.

Various points emerge from this fracas. Clearly RCSU executive have been overspending over the last year with very little control. This the ordinary members of the Union did not know and, but for the Felix report and the subsequent Extraordinary Union Meeting would never have known. Therefore Felix has brought out into the open some dubious spending which would otherwise undoubtedly have been covered up by the executive concerned. It was unfortunate that the article jumped to some wrong conclusions. If there had been co-operation between Felix and Mr. Scott the whole ugly business need never have occurred. It is essential that good relations should be kept between Felix and Union executive in order that harmful misunderstandings should not take place. RCS Union have in fact passed a motion requesting more co-operation next year, so they have learnt and so have Felix.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I should just like to point out through your columns that my sudden decision to hand over the Editorship of this newspaper at midnight on Thursday, 26th May was based not on any sense of guilt, but on the proximity of examinations. I regret having burdened you with this responsibility at such a time.

I deeply regret that Mr. Pain was misquoted in error. At the time of writing this letter (Saturday) no facts have been brought to light to disprove the financial basis in the story I published the last issue concerning the finances of RCS Union. I was as shocked as anyone else at the letter presented to Thursday's IC Union Annual General Meeting by Mr. H. J. Pain, the RCSU Treasurer - the more so since I had been previously assured by the Chairman of the Meeting that it was to bring to light facts about RCSU finances which would show the FELIX story to be at variances. This it did not, being merely a personal attack, calculated to be particularly injurious at that time.

Mr. Pain was wrong in his claim that he had no opportunity for reply in the columns of FELIX before October. On a matter of such import the FELIX Staff can be relied upon to produce, not by any means for the first time, a special issue. At any other time in the year I should personally have seen that the whole argument was cleared up; now, for me at least, academic work must take absolute preference.

In view of the contents of the letter and of his earlier discussion with FELIX Staff the President of the Union should have again consulted the FELIX Staff before the Meeting over the right to reply. The FELIX correspondence columns always allow this right to reply; Mr. Fletcher did not permit such at the Union Meeting.

D.I. WILLIAMS
ex-Editor, FELIX.

FELIX

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RCSU TO BREAK EVEN (cont. from P.1)

In the last two years expenditure has been running at a higher level than previously, apparently because Executive Policies have meant a looser control of finance. As Dave Christopher (last year's Assistant Secretary) said at the RCSU Meeting "We don't want to account for the last penny", - talking about the pedal-car race - and later "we went out of our way to spend our money".

In talking about RCSU finances the Senior Treasurer, Mr. Pain, said that he did not think the Union should have reserves, but he warned the meeting that if they went on overspending in this way they would be broke in two or three years. In answer to a question Mr. Pain said that two years ago cash reserves stood at £482 (of which £300 was spent last year) and that if stocks have to be sold this year it will be the first time whilst he has been Treasurer.

J. Cawson.

FREE HOLIDAY FOR RCS PEDAL-CAR SUPPORTERS

The report on the Pedal Car Race finances which was asked for at the RCSU EGM last week has now been posted on the notice boards. This shows that there was a total expenditure on items connected with the pedal car this year of £91, not £110 as quoted at the meeting. This is because one or two items which were originally thought to have been spent on the pedal car were in fact spent on Jez.

This £91 may be split up into three parts. £9 went onto this year's account, but was to pay for insurance on a minibus which was hired, but not used, last year. About £50 was spent on the team expenses and the reconstruction of the car to gain maximum benefits from the new handicap rules. A further £32 10s. was spent on providing supporters with a free trip to Bristol. This expenditure was approved by President Scott in the bar one night.

SID

SPORT

A new Sports Editor has been appointed for next year. He is Alan Robins, an Aero P.G.

COPY for the first issue next term should be sent to FELIX, P.O. Box 282, Irind Consort Road, S.W.7, by Wednesday, September 28th.

Any Felix Staff will be useful in the last two weeks of the vacation.

UNION MEETING EXTRAORDINARY (cont. from P.1)

During the discussion on the pedal car a series of questions was put to Mr. Pain and President Scott.

Q. Does RCSU budget for specific expenses?

Pain: Yes, and it is possible to keep expenditure by clubs within a pretty tight budget.

Q. Was a warning given to the Union about the high level of expenditure at the beginning of the year?

Pain: Yes, verbally to the committee.

Q. to Scott: Did you keep this warning in mind when approving items of expenditure like the pedal car?

Scott (embarrassed): Yes Vaguely.

It then came out that at least £30 of the expenditure on the pedal car was approved by Scott in the bar on a Saturday night.

The motion on the deputy presidential election was then proposed and passed after a little argument.

A spate of resolutions, counter resolutions and points of order characterised the meeting from then on. Nobody was surprised when a motion of no-confidence in the chair (Scott) followed one of Scott's non-rulings but a solution was found and the motion withdrawn. The meeting then proceeded in confusion until it ended after two hours.

J.C.

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

The Imperial College team under Darshan Pandya competing in the BBC World Service 'Quiz International' defeated on Monday a team from University College to become 'Champion of Champions'.

Commonwealth students from the six largest London Colleges competed in the two series of the quiz - Imperial won the first and University College the second series and IC on Monday defeated UC by 28 points to 27 to become overall winners.

The winning team was:

Ian Cummings (Canada)
Darshan Pandya (India)
Patrick van der Puije
(Ghana)

FOR SALE: 1964 Austin 1100 Gold Seal engine, £490 o.n.o. A good home is wanted for this affectionate little car. It's smiling face may be seen in Prince Consort Road. J. Cawson, Room 9, Old Beit.

MAIR TO INVESTIGATE MEANS TEST - JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

Barry Mair, ICU Welfare Officer, is to carry out a limited survey of Undergraduates at IC to determine the effect on them of the Means Test for Local Education Authority Awards. Mr. Mair, asking Council for approval to spend the necessary cash said that following the resolution passed at the IC Union Meeting on May 26th calling on him to investigate the means test it was planned to question 300-500 students.

Other points to emerge from one of the shortest joint Council meetings were a grant of £40 p.a. to the Constituent College Presidents towards their Hall bills, and the point that the Rector has agreed to a lump sum payment to IC Union tide over its difficulties next year before the increase in the per-capita grant becomes possible in 1967-68.

Adrian Fletcher announced that the surplus made by the IC Carnival this year was some £1,500. This puts Carnival back to 1962 since when totals of £1,673, £2,211 & £2,417 were collected. Chris Hocking, this year's Carnival Chairman, commented that the fall was due to shortage of staff, and choosing the same Carnival twice running, and suggested 'that the ambiguous comments I made at the beginning of the year probably did not help.

NEW LOOK FOR CARNIVAL

Five of this year's IC Ents. Committee are to take over the running of Carnival next year under the leadership of Jim Murray, this year's Ents. Committee chairman. This should ensure a 'new look for Carnival' and if they are as successful as they have been with this year's IC Ents Carnival should become a function of interest and enjoyment rather than the trial it was this year.

BALLS OF FIRE

Royal College of Science Union Mascot, Jezebel, is to carry a flame from the site of the start of the Great Fire of London in 1666 to Queenhithe on July 15th, where a number of Balls commemorating the fire will be held in aid of the Lady Hoare Thalidomide Appeal.

Paul Ward, RCSU Motor Club President said that every effort would be made to see that the request to borrow Jez received on Monday would be complied with, and that Jez, newly refurbished this year, would carry the flame.

RCS Motor Club also tell FELIX that they have their eye on a pump for Jez.

STAFF INTERVENTION IN UNION ELECTION

The IC Annual General Meeting on Thursday 26th May produced some rare sparks for the time of the year.

The prologue came in the form of a letter read to the assembly by the RCS Union Treasurer, Mr. H. J. Pain, who challenged certain facts reported in the previous days Felix and directed the meeting over its election of Deputy President. Dave McBain a second-year Mechanical Engineer, then went on to beat Ian Williams, ex-Editor of Felix, by 262 votes to 101.

Prominent among the representatives on next year's Council elected by the Union floor is David Reich, successful at his third annual attempt. IC Council will be graced by one more woman than usual with the election of Pam Pocock - previously defeated in her bid for the ICWA Presidency. The other floor rep new to Council is Dave Rayner. Pete Finch, Mike Wilson (Halls Representative this year), and Brendon Parker (RCC Chairman) - who produced some surprise publicity - were returned for a second session.

Union General Awards went to Hugh Dowley (RCC Treasurer), Eric Thorniley (of the Film society), B.R. McDonnell (of the Boat Club) and Jim Murray (Chairman of Ents.)

No report was submitted by the Carnival Committee, those from the Clubs Committee were made bearable only by the rather unorthodox treatment accorded by Keith Guy. Adrian Fletcher paid one of the highest compliments of the year to Felix by devoting the majority of his Presidential summing up to a criticism of it.

DIW/SID

ROBERTS ELECTED TO GUILDS

Pete Roberts is now the President-Elect of Guilds. He was voted in at the Guilds Union meeting last week. Phil Marshall will be the new Vice President and Ian Gledhill the Secretary.

The elections were carried out in the typical efficient and theatrical manner which Guilds displays at its meetings. Jill Mumford was given an award as the outstanding Guildswoman of the year. The award is a cuboid with vertical motif.

SID

A NEW DEPARTMENT

Received at the Union Office - a parcel addressed to the Department of Mythology, Imperial College. (Aetherius Society?).