



The Open
University

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY CLUB

**AGENDA AND ASSOCIATED
PAPERS FOR**

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: 7 July 2016

TIME: 12.30PM

VENUE: HUB THEATRE

The Open University Club

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THE OPEN UNIVERSITY CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the Open University Club will be held on Thursday 7 July 2016 at 12.30pm in the Hub Theatre.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome**

2. **MINUTES**

To confirm: the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on (OUC/AGM2015/A)

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

To consider: any matters arising from the minutes not referred to elsewhere in this agenda.

4. **CHAIRS REPORT**

To receive
& consider: the report of the Chair of the Open University Club, on the general activities of the Club during (OUC/AGM2015/16/1).

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

To receive
& consider: the report of the Treasurer of the Open University Club on the finances of the Club during (OUC/AGM2015/16/2).

6. SPORTS REPORT

To receive
& consider: in the report of the Sports Chair, a report for the year ended 31 July 2016 (OUC/AGM2015/16/3).

7. ENTERTAINMENTS REPORT

To receive
& consider: in the report of the Entertainments Chair, a report on the OU Club's Entertainment Programme for the year ended 31 July 2016 (OUC/AGM2015/16/4).

8. AFFILIATED CLUBS REPORT

To receive
& consider: in the report of the Affiliated Clubs, a report for the year ended 31 July 2016 (OUC/AGM2015/16/5).

9. NATIONS AND REGIONS REPORT

To receive
& consider: in the report of the Affiliated Clubs, a report for the year ended 31 July 2016 (OUC/AGM2015/16/6).

10. ALAN BURRELL – DIRECTOR OF ESTATES

To receive: General Statement.

11. ELECTIONS

To consider: the election of Officers and Committee members for the year 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017.

12. RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

13. ANY OTHER PREVIOUS NOTIFIED BUSINESS

The Open University Club

Minutes of the forty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Open University Club held on Thursday, 10 July 2015 at 12.30 p.m. in the Hub Theatre

Present: Dave Phillips (Chair), Debi Cruz (Treasurer), Peter Dazley (Committee Member), Sara Flemons (Committee member), Sandra Guerreiro (Secretary), Natalie Mott (Committee member), 36 Affiliated Club members, 30 Non Club members, Region 7, 8 and 11 + video-link to Region 3, 4, 6 and Natalie Eggleston (Committee Member) via Skype

In Attendance: Julie Hope-Gratton, Mary Legge (Head of Operations, Estates), Susan Scimè (Club Coordinator) and Gail Plunkett (Events Team)

Apologies: Carol Baker (Committee member), Christine Clark (Committee member), Brandon Cook (Sports Chair), Kevin McLeod (Committee Member), Barry O'Sullivan (Committee Member) and Louise Thomas (Entertainments Chair)

1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Noted: The Chair welcomed colleagues present at Walton Hall and attending via video link to the forty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Open University Club.

1.2 Noted: The Chair confirmed apologies for Committee members that were unable to attend the meeting.

2.0 MINUTES

2.1 Confirmed: That the minutes of the forty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Open University Club held on Thursday, 10 July 2014 were proposed and seconded by Mike Davies and Liz Camp.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Noted: 10.6 – ML discussed with Human Resources the concerns that staff had in attending lunchtime activities especially staff from East Campus. JH has joined the Wellbeing Group and confirmed that a statement should be added to their website encouraging Heads of Unit to let staff attend Wellbeing events. This is a guidance from Human Resources and any issues need to be raised with them.

4.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

- 4.1 Noted: The Committee have put a lot of effort into building a relationship with Regional & National Centres and Affiliated Clubs and is pleased with the increase of activities that have occurred.
- 4.2 Noted: SS was thanked for all her hard work with the Club.
- 4.3 Noted: The Chair confirmed he had attended a meeting to discuss the Club's budget cuts.
- 4.4 Noted: The Chair confirmed that the VCE had made the cuts without consulting the Committee. VCE have confirmed the areas where monies are to be spent.
- 4.5 Noted: The budget will not be spent on social trips, coach travel and cinema. Committee will continue to offer staff discounts. These reductions will disappoint staff and clubs but money will need to be spread out fairly between everyone. Big items such as equipment will not be subsidised.
- 4.6 Noted: A meeting with all Club Treasurer's will be set up to ensure that everyone is aware of which items can be incorporated in the bids for 2015/16.
- 4.7 Noted: VCE has also confirmed that previously considered ring-fenced monies for music clubs will no longer be available.
- 4.8 Noted: Laurence Holden (OU Orchestra) asked if VCE have given a direction on how to spend the budget. Chair confirmed that VCE did not attend a Committee meeting or confirm their reasons for cutting the budget but did give directions on how the budget is to be spent.
- 4.9 Noted: Laurence Holden also asked if the Committee were aware of the initial cut. ML confirmed that the Committee were aware that the budget proposed had been reduced to £70,000 which was about 15% but then VCE decided to reduce the budget to £34,000. Social trips, coach travel and cinema tickets were targeted.
- 4.10 Noted: Any queries regarding the rationale of the cuts to the budget need to go directly to the VCE. DP proposed to raise.
- 4.11 Noted: Tim Hunt (OU Orchestra) asked if the VCE was invited to the AGM. Chair confirmed that an invitation was sent to the VCE but no response was received. Chair confirmed that Committee did not receive anything in writing direct from VCE confirming the cuts.
- 4.12 Noted: DC confirmed that commitments from 2014/15 would be carried over to the 2015/16 budget reducing it by a further £2,500.00.
- 4.13 Noted: Bill Strang (OU Choir) confirmed that the Affiliated Club would probably be able to continue the next academic year with the cuts but was concerned with further cuts in the following year and the implication this would have on the OU Choir. Bill was asked to email his concerns to SS.

- 4.14 Noted: Michael Street (Cricket Club and CD Library) wanted the Committee to know that the decision to cut the budget so severely was deplored by members of staff.
- 4.15 Noted: The Chair confirmed that the cuts would also have a big impact on the constitution and the Wellbeing Group. Laurence Holden added that it would also have an impact on the University's reputation.
- 4.16 Noted: Peter Barnes (OU Choir, retired member of staff) commented that the VC has confirmed that the University's biggest asset is staff – is the VC aware of these cuts – damage has been done to the public profile of The Open University. It was acknowledged that VC is a part of the VCE.
- 4.17 Noted: Laurence Holden offered his assistance to the Committee to find a way forward.
- 4.18 Noted: ML confirmed that information in an email from the VCE was passed onto the Chair who confirmed its receipt, however, there was no direct contact from the VCE with the Committee.
- 4.19 Noted: Liz Camp (OU Choir) enquired if fundraising was allowed as concerts are normally free of charge. Fundraising is allowed and JH confirmed that the University still have the lottery license allowing raffles to take place.
- 4.20 Noted: Chair will put a case forward to the VCE with Laurence Holden's support. **Chair to action.**
- 4.21 Noted: Kate Fawcett (Tennis Club) raised that clubs have not had the chance to review their subscriptions and that cuts should be phased.

5.0 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- 5.1 Noted: The Club is forecasting in 14/15 financial year to spend £94,000 which is £10,500 over budget. The main areas have been Events (£37,500), Affiliated Clubs (£16,900), Regional and National Centres (£23,700) and cinema tickets (£4,000).

6.0 **SPORT'S REPORT**

- 6.1 Noted: BC single-handedly organised another excellent campus cricket six-a-side tournament on behalf of the Club.
- 6.2 Noted: This year's cricket tournament completed yesterday.
- 6.3 Noted: The OUFC has had a very difficult season with the death of Dick Skellington and filling the gap he left has proved to be difficult.

- 6.4 Noted: The Dick Skellington Plate, named in his honor was won by Odds and Sods and the Desmond Dribble was shared by Athletico MEG and RocTox Reelers.
- 6.5 Noted: The Table Tennis Club has had another good year with the number of members increasing to 76. OU Newcomers won the title of the divisional Top 8 tournament.
- 6.6 Noted: Congratulations to Open University A (Tennis Club) for finishing 2nd in Division 3 and being promoted to Division 2 next season.
- 6.7 Noted: Tim Hunt (OU Choir) wanted to clarify who covers the costs of clubs using the University's facilities. ML confirmed that these costs are covered by Estates and maintenance of these facilities are included in the Estates plans.

7.0 ENTERTAINMENT'S REPORT

- 7.1 Noted: The Entertainment's group has been incredibly busy in the past year. Trips organised are based on doodle polls. A lot of work is also put into getting discounts for staff.
- 7.2 Noted: The events abroad will probably cease due to the cuts.

A subsequent meeting took place after the AGM where it was acknowledged and agreed that this statement was not a true reflection of the situation going forward.
- 7.3 Noted: A contract has been put in place with a coach company.

8.0 AFFILIATED CLUBS REPORT

- 8.1 Noted: Thank you to the 24 clubs out of 31 that submitted reports.
- 8.2 Noted: It is good to see clubs attracting new members and the variety of events that take place. All the clubs were thanked for their hard work.

9.0 REGIONAL AND NATIONAL REPORT

- 9.1 Noted: Regional and National Centres have their own activities and have done really well.

10.0 MARY LEGGE – HEAD OF OPERATIONS

- 10.1 Noted: Thank you to all of the committees for their reports.

- 10.2 Noted: Affiliated Clubs continue to thrive and all volunteers work really hard.
- 10.3 Noted: ML confirmed that all Units of the University have been asked to look at their budgets and that everyone needs to be mindful of the current situation.
- 10.4 Noted: ML acknowledged that the next financial year would be hard and thanked the Committee for their contribution.

11.0 ELECTIONS

- 11.1 Reported: That at the closing date, nominations for Officers and Committee Members, to serve on the Club Committee for the year 1st August 2015 to 31st July 2016 had been received as follows, and that all those nominated were elected unopposed:

CLUB CHAIR:	David Phillips (Interim)
TREASURER:	Debi Cruz
SECRETARY:	Sandra Guerreiro
ENTERTAINMENTS CHAIR:	Louise Thomas
SPORTS CHAIR:	Brandon Cook

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carol Baker
 Peter Dazley
 Sara Flemons
 Angie Jones
 Natalie Mott

5 Committee Member vacancies

12.0 RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

- 12.1 Noted: DP has confirmed that due to his retirement in March 2016 he has stepped down as Chair of the Committee. DP is happy to act as Interim Chair while the Committee finds a replacement.

13.0 ANY OTHER PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED BUSINESS

- 13.1 Noted: Everyone was thanked for attending the meeting.

Sandra Guerreiro
 Secretary
 July 2015

The Open University Chairs Report 2016 Annual General Meeting

Welcome to the forty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the OU Club.

Over the past year it has been good to see the Regions & Nations and Affiliated Clubs being active. We will hear more about them in a report later in the proceedings.

The main Club has been active with trips, events and cinema tickets for staff at The Open University. So many of the activities we have seen have been due to the hard work of this years' committee and I would like to thank them for their support and effort in the past year.

I would also like to thank the many staff in Estates that help behind the scenes, Alan Burrell, Mary Legge who retired earlier this year, Julie Hope and Noel Fernandes. A special thanks to Susan Scimè for all the support she has given me and the rest of the Committee, whilst dealing with the day-day running of the OU Club.

What does 2016/7 bring?

As you are all aware, The Open University has had to make major savings across the board. Due to this the VCE Committee decided to cut our budget to £34K last year – almost a 60% cut in funds. As advised at the last AGM, the Club did approach the VC's office in regard to the significant cut and put forward a case for further funding. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in securing further monies, being told that there was no further funds available as it had all been allocated. We understand that budgets will be reduced, but as you can expect, that cut has had a major effect on the running of the Club meaning that not all bids made by Affiliated Clubs were able to be funded in their entirety by the Club.

We were hoping not to receive further cuts to our budget for the next year as the Committee had their work cut out trying to distribute the funds in a fair and equal manner. I hope that all the Regions & Nations, Affiliated Clubs and staff will understand the hard decisions the Committee has and will have to make, and support them as much as possible in the coming months. We will continue to advise on and support fundraising by Affiliated Clubs. I am also able to report that the restrictions by VCE on how the Club utilised its budget have been lifted for the coming year.

We will see in a few moments the figures for spend in 2015/16 and proposed budget in 2016/7. It will be another challenging year financially for all of us and hope we can work together to offer support with activities in the social calendar for all staff.

Risk Assessments

We have been working with the University to ensure that Health & Safety measures are met by Affiliated Clubs, this has meant that procedures carried out within the University have to be addressed by all Affiliated Clubs. Maximum capacities for all rooms used can be found on the Estates booking system (Resource Scheduler) and should be adhered to, as should all other University policies when staff are on Campus whether for work or as part of club activities. We recognise that the additional paperwork does take time to complete and are grateful to those Clubs who have already completed the yearly risk assessment forms to meet this University requirement. We would also like to thank those that took the time to attend the Risk Assessment workshops that were arranged to support Affiliated Clubs in managing this required procedure.

We would also like to offer thanks to Carina Kennedy, the University's Health and Safety Manager, who arranged and ran these workshops for us.

We would like to remind the Affiliated Clubs who utilise facilities, that University business does take priority over room bookings and any portering overtime requirements. The Clubs are not charged for these facilities and services which allows the many Clubs to run with lower overheads and we are grateful that the University continues to allow the Clubs to benefit in this way. However, we fully expect that with pressure on budgets and the new larger Super-Faculties that space in the larger rooms, such as the Hub Theatre, will be at a premium and Clubs should be aware of this and that this may impact on their events. We endeavour to make sure that all Affiliated Clubs run safely to ensure that we can and will be able to continue to offer a range of activities and Clubs to all University staff now and in the future.

Natalie Mott
OU Club Chair 2016

The Open University Club

Treasurers Report 2016 Annual General Meeting

Introduction:

2015/16 has been a busy and complicated year with the reduction in budget and the guidelines for expenditure, we are currently forecasting spend of £34K which is the full budget. We have managed to obtain group discounts in order to still offer a great range of trips whilst keeping it cost neutral to the Club.

The main areas of spend for 2015/16 has been:

- Entertainment: Social Trips/Events £64K with income at the same value (at the time of printing) - It should be noted that we have had to cancel many events due to lack of numbers, three quarters of staff surveyed conveyed that this was due to price, we can no longer subsidise trips and rely solely on obtaining discounts through group booking and strong negotiations by the Ents Chair and Committee
- Cinema tickets: with income and expenditure of £1.1K
- Subventions – Nations/Regions £8K (at the time of printing, however this figure may not be exact at the AGM)
- Subventions – Affiliated Clubs £12K (at the time of printing, however this figure may not be exact at the AGM)
- Lunchtime concerts, Choir and Orchestra £7.8k (at the time of printing, however this figure may not be exact at the AGM)

We are still in discussions with IT regarding the feasibility of taking online (credit/debit card) payments for Social Trips/Events, however, this is looking increasingly unlikely due to online security concerns and the cost involved in obtaining licenses and third party fees. The website currently available is not suitable for the OU Club's needs and we currently do not have enough budget to create a new website.

Our budget bid for 2016/17 was £73K however, a budget of £34.6K has been indicated, which has yet to be signed off by VCE.

This has been an extremely busy year and my thanks go out to Louise Thomas, who has worked tirelessly to offer a variety of trips at discounted prices, Julie Hope, Susan Scimè and all the Committee members for their support and co-operation over financial decision making activities.

I would specifically like to thank David Phillips for his support and guidance over the years and wish him all the best during his retirement, he will be greatly missed, also to Natalie Mott and Peter Dazley for stepping into his shoes for the remainder of the year.

Debi Cruz
OU Club Treasurer
2015/2016

The Open University Club

Sports Chair Report 2016 Annual General Meeting

Badminton Club

Badminton have continued in the MK Mixed 2 and Beds Medley 1 divisions, finishing 3rd of 5 and (provisionally) 7th of 8 respectively and with plenty of competitive games in both leagues. Membership has remained stable for the last couple of years.

Boot Camp Club

OU Bootcamp has seen numbers increase with 38 new members, this is a whopping 79% growth! Our total member base is now 86 and 65% attend on a weekly basis. Classes have been mixed up a bit following member demand. We have started the very popular Legs, Bums and Tums on Tuesdays. PiYo is continuing to drive new member growth, especially with runners, as it mixes flexibility with strength and core. The latest class is kettlebells, which will bring more members to the Club and also increase diversity to our Club.

Cricket Club



Our Saturday XI gained promotion to Division 2 of the Four Counties League.

Our midweek league XI again had a good season but didn't achieve promotion to the premier division.

There was no Yorkshire Tour in 2015 (and there will be none in 2016) due to insufficient numbers of players able to make the commitment.

There was a full set of Thursday-night and Sunday-afternoon friendlies, with growing success in terms of wins.

Brandon Cook again single-handedly organised another excellent campus six a side tournament on behalf of the Club. The tournament was won by Cricketers from MCT who beat Estates in the Final.

In general the standard of play particularly in the friendly sides has improved, but the proportion of players who are OU staff continues on a downward trend. We are having to manage finances more carefully due partly to the subsidy required for nets and teas, while the total number of members is not increasing.

Football Club

The OU Vets team finished 14th in the Milton Keynes Veterans League but struggled with numbers for most of the season.

The six a side football tournament, which was usually played through March and April, became the seven a side tournament and began in January. This meant more games for the teams. The final was played on May 3rd and was won by Perry Venables, from LTS, who beat BDU's Fiorentina Turner 1-0 in the final. The Dick Skellington Plate was won by SRFs Galaxy and the Desmond Dribble was shared by What er State and Seven SEES.

Martial Arts Club



The Martial Arts Club continues to progress well. This year has seen us run a series of free, women-only, basic self-defence classes with an OU based trainer, Geoff Aldridge. These classes were well received and we may see if he is willing and able to hold another round of these classes in the coming year. The Aikido sessions have been unified under a single federation, with both classes now being supported by a larger club around the Milton Keynes area, the Kai Shin Kai. A canvas has also been purchased to provide a more traditional, and smoother, training area [photo shown here]. Shotokan karate sessions are continuing with steady advancements for the students. Saturday classes are now offering Escrima/Kali in a separate morning sessions to the Kobujitsu sessions later in the day.

Running Club



The Club now has a new committee. Rachel Dell is Chair, Yvonne Raw is Secretary and Deborah Mannion is Treasurer. The club is very grateful to Mick Bromilow and Nicky Moss for their dedication to the club over the years.

The Club has c.300 members (according to names on the 'Ind-OU-Runner-List'). Membership continues to be free and the club remains unaffiliated, although this is something we may review in future. The Club had some OU-brand OURC running tees and vests made by Ronhills. OURC has a website (that needs to be updated and relocated) and a Facebook page.

Nick Minns and David Phillips have been organising the monthly handicap races and the club is very grateful for David's past and ongoing support for these events. These races are run over distances of 5km, 5 miles and 10km and attract a regular 30 - 40 participants.

The Club runs a weekly 10km Fartlek intervals session on Tuesdays, and a short-distance intervals session on Fridays. In addition to that members arrange lunchtime runs themselves by email. Graham Wakley and Yvonne Raw have organised lunchtime programmes for beginner runners, although the drop-out rate has been significant due to time constraints and other factors. Kevin Church, Dan Weinbren, Hazel Carr and David Phillips organised the annual Les Irvine memorial relay which took place on Wednesday 27th April with 52 teams taking part. 28 teams were from the OU itself with the rest from other organisations around Milton Keynes. Teams travelled from as far away as Tring for the event.

The clear winners were a combined team from Marshall Milton Keynes Athletics Club. Their winning time for the 4 x 1.1 mile relay was 23.17. The first OU team was Marketing Endorphiends 1, one of five Marketing teams, in fifth place and a time of 26.53. There were certificates for the first teams in six different age related categories with combined ages of less than 120 years, to ages over 280 years. Milford Callow, President of the Marshall Milton Keynes Athletics Club and most senior runner in the race, presented the winning teams with their awards.

Pictures of the event are available via the [Les Irvine Facebook](#) page.

Sailing Club



Last summer some of our new members completed RYA qualifications. A few members race occasionally, for some of us success is not being disqualified! This year our membership is down, which puts the long-term viability of the Club in doubt.

Society of Potholers



Soup has had two weekend caving trips this year resulting in four new members.

Table Tennis Club

The Table Tennis Club still maintains a good number of members and is very active. Members practice 4 days a week and the weekend sessions are often attended by over 20 people. Four teams are competing in the Milton Keynes Table Tennis League. Although no trophy was won this season, a number of people qualified for their divisional Top 8 tournaments.

A team from the Table Tennis Club also competed at the Milton Keynes Workplace Challenge and won the title for the second time.

Touch Rugby Club



In 2015 we took part in the Bedford Touch league again, winning the Championship Final by 8 tries to 7 against Ampthill Extras after extra time. We are taking part again this year.

James Barnett our captain has been selected to play for England in the European Touch Championships 2016, in the over 40's age category, in Jersey later this year.

Ultimate Frisbee Club

The Club ran Ultimate sessions weekly through to early September but were unable to secure enough interest to run indoor sessions through the winter months. Weekly outdoor sessions resumed in April 2016.

Numbers remained fairly steady in 2015, with a bit of a drop-off in 2016.

The Open University Club

Entertainment's Chair report 2016 Annual General Meeting

Due to the VCE's rulings on our budget, we have been unable to subsidise trips for OU staff members in 2015/16 and this has obviously had a big effect on our trips. In the past a large percentage of our budget went into these subsidies.

Due to the increased prices and hence lower sign up, we have had to cancel a number of trips this year. However, those who attended our trips still had a good time and we still get lots of 5 star feedback.

Trips throughout the year

The Ents trips continue to be popular with over 700 staff, family and friends attending a wide range of events.

- In August and September we had over 200 people attend coach trips to London for a guided tour and visit to Buckingham Palace.
- In October a small group went to Marrakech
- November saw over 150 people going to Blenheim Palace and another coach off to our annual trip to the Good Food Show in Birmingham and another coach off to scare themselves at the London Tombs.
- For December we had 2 coaches shopping in London, an overnight stay and Thames Christmas Cruise and a 2 long weekends in Prague.
- One of our Affiliated Clubs, RocSoc organised the Burns night Ceilidh held at the OU in January and invited OU staff to attend. Thanks to all their Committee for the hard work.
- In April we visited the Shard in London.
- May saw a visit to Blenheim Palace to their Food show
- And July sees us off to Harry Potter world again!

Cinema discounts, the OU Club is also working with Filmology to offer staff members discounted tickets; to date over 700 people have registered and over £13,000 has been spent on tickets, drinks and snacks saving some £4,500 on full price.

The future

We have a number of weekend trips booked overseas later in 2016/7 as these take longer to organise and to get the best prices we need to book well in advance. These are to Iceland and Budapest, Disneyland Paris, Ireland and Krakow. We also have a London medieval banquet, a trip to the British museum and 4 nights in Ireland in 2017. Many of these are already sold out!!

I'd like to take this time to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported our trips, we've worked hard over the last few years to build up the events, and thank you to the 300 of you who responded to our recent survey.

Despite the current climate and cuts in the budget we are very pleased to confirm we now have permission from VCE to manage our budget which means we will be able to offer small subsidies on trips for staff. It should also help us to avoid changing prices when a trip is not 100% full. We will still organise events making use of group discounts and negotiation of special rates. There will be a new Doodle poll with a range of trips and events on at the end of the financial year.

Please complete the Doodle poll, so you can select those trips you'd like to see happening. We try and put on events for everyone, so it really helps us if we know what you really want to do!

As always the Ents would not run without a loyal group of supporters, both those on the Committee, those who do the behind the scenes arrangements and those who look after coaches and of course those who attend the trips. Our own Ents Committee does the planning and organising, and we are always looking for volunteers to join this Committee. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved on the Ents Committee, and everyone who has looked after trips for us this year. We even hosted a mini club fayre to release a wide range of events.

A special thanks to Debi Cruz, Natalie Eggleston, Julie Hope and Susan Scimè for all their hard work this year.

Please get in touch if you have ideas for an event. However, remember it takes about 3 months to arrange a trip, so something you fancy next week isn't going to happen!

One final thank you goes to David Phillips who stepped down as Chair of the OU Club Committee this year, his support, calmness and guidance over the years will be sorely missed and I want to wish him all the best during his retirement.

Louise Thomas
Entertainment's Chair
2015/16

The Open University Club

Affiliated Club Report 2016 Annual General Meeting

NB: Sports Clubs are NOT included in this report – they form part of the Sports Chair Report

All Affiliated Clubs were asked to submit a *brief* summary for this report. Some reports have been shortened/edited.

Thank you to the 14 out of 31 Clubs who submitted reports.

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Once again another busy year for the Radio Club. Thanks to the sterling efforts of Jeff (and myself) we have managed to clear 40 years' worth of accumulated surplus electronics equipment and finally are able to use the workshop again. It's great to have some extra space so we can work on more elaborate antennas and equipment. Unfortunately we are getting a bit squeezed for real estate on the field site but managed to keep all the antennas operational while estates build around us. We also attended the Dunstable Downs Radio Club once again this year and managed to raise around £200 through sales of surplus equipment. We are planning to put this money towards some new tool kits for the workshop.

Sadly this year attendance has been a bit low and we've lost some key members due to retirement and personal issues so 2016-2017 will be a recruitment drive for new members!

BELLY DANCING

Bellydance Classes

These continue to run on Wednesday lunchtime but currently the Beginners and Improvers Classes are melded into one mixed ability class due to low attendance numbers.

Bellyfit Classes

Our Bellydancing Tutor is now taking Bellyfit classes on Thursday lunchtimes. This is a very popular class and concentrates on strengthening core muscles, building stamina and improving flexibility.

Bollywood Workshop 13 June 2015

This workshop was well attended. It was a mixture of contemporary dance and classical styles.

Children in Need Charity event

It was decided not to hold an event in 2015 due to low audience numbers (and donations) in the last couple of years. A lot of hard work goes into preparing the event so it was agreed that this would take place every two years in the future.

Due to committee commitments elsewhere there has been minimal activity outside of the class programmes in the last 12 months. However, we are trying to arrange a 'Baladi' workshop in the next few months. Baladi is oriental dancing, including Arabic pop and traditional Egyptian dance music, though the term also refers to the basic structure of the Baladi rhythm, played on the Darbuka.

CHOIR

The OU Choir draws in around 60-70 singers each term, from OU staff, retired staff, and the local population. This makes it a vibrant community, and we always welcome new members. This year (2015/16) has been another successful season, with a fabulous concert of Cherubini's Requiem in C minor with a large orchestra in November 2015, and a very special concert off campus in St Mary and St Giles Church in Stony Stratford in April 2016, with brass, organ and percussion. Concerts off campus are unusual but this was a return to the church following a visit six years ago, in order to celebrate the restoration of the church's organ, the fundraising for which one of our members has been heavily involved in. We also sang in the Carol Concert in December 2015, a wonderful OU community event.

The summer term 2016 has been somewhat disrupted as the Choir had to move from its usual concert venue. Every year since 1979, our summer concert has been held in the OU Church. However, this is no longer possible due to the change in the church's capacity following risk assessment, which, given the choir's size, means we would now be unable to invite an audience! The concert will therefore take place in the Hub Theatre, making the unaccompanied repertoire we perform in the summer rather more challenging. However, it is part of the Choir's strength that we are able to rehearse and perform such varied music, and it will no doubt be just as successful (at the time of writing the concert is still a month away).

DANCE GROUP

Independent workshops, (30 April) supported by the OU Dance Group, were successful. The Hula Hoop workshop had around 10 people, and the Yoga-Dance workshop was at full capacity with around 24 people. These workshops are designed to bring students to classes and to the summer workshops, to experience what the OU has to offer.

Zumba classes, led by our two campus based instructors, are going well with an additional Thursday lunchtime class added, as requested by regular attendees.

FILM SOCIETY

Since the last OU Club AGM in July 2015, the Open Film Society has screened an entire season of 26 films, starting with *The Connection* on October 7 last and concluding with *The Homesman* on April 13.

This year's movies spanned the globe linguistically, being in French (6), Polish (1), Spanish (4), Farsi (1), Swedish (1), Turkish (1), Russian (1), German (2), Arabic (2), Italian (1), Georgian (1), Mandarin (1) and English. Locations varied from Patagonia to Anatolia and from Timbuktu to Manchuria. Genres included thrillers, police procedural, horror, domestic drama, western, Sapphic romance, Chinese martial arts and screwball comedy.

The audience was made up of the usual suspects: a mixture of OU staff, retired OU staff and folk whose only connection with the university is the Film Society. Attendance varied between 50 and 120. The Society has an email list with 198 internal names and 427 externals. People on the list get a newsletter in advance of each screening and a few out-of-season newsletters also. The Society also maintains a website, which is well supported.

During the season, OFS acted as booking agent and advisor to two affiliated societies who were showing films of their own:

Selma screened by BME Students last autumn;

Milk screened by LGBT in January.

We are presently helping with a University screening of *Carol in conjunction with LGBT and Enablingstaff@OU Networks* on June 8 and with OUSA screening of *Irrational Man* on 17 June.

The Society has agreed a set of dates and films for next season and the committee members are busy writing short reviews for our posters/leaflets, which will be mailed to consenting regulars in August. Start date is 5 October with *La Famille Bélier*.

GARDENING CLUB

In the last year, the Gardening Club has enjoyed talks on: “Death in the Garden” about poisonous plants; iSpot and Kew’s Go Wild project; the virtues of composting; and trees. We also had an Easter Basket competition, a trip to Blenheim Palace Flower Show, enjoyed a picnic lunch in a member’s garden, took photos with Dave Phillips from the OU Camera Club, had our annual plant sale, a Christmas flower arranging demonstration and a Christmas social event. And we now have a Facebook page!

GO CLUB

The OU Go Club met most weeks, and members attended tournaments around the country. We ran our own tournament last June, which attracted 33 players from our and other clubs, all of who had a good time. We won exactly half our matches in the online inter-club league. A couple of new players joined during the year. More are always welcome.

MIND BODY SPIRIT CLUB (MBSC)

MBS Club continues to offer free meditation sessions every Tuesday lunch time. This is offered to everyone interested in meditation regardless to membership to the Club.

We also continue to offer talks in Health and wellbeing to members and non-members of our club.

We had talks on Nutrition, Acupuncture, Chiropractic, fitness and Naturopathy.

ORCHESTRA & CHAMBER MUSIC

The OU Orchestra continues to grow, presenting three public concerts and two events for local schools. The first concert, "Agincourt and the stuff of legends", celebrated the 600th anniversary of the battle. This was followed by our traditionally lighter concert, themed 'At the Movies', with favourite film tunes from James Bond, Titanic, Star Wars and Frozen. The final concert of the year was devoted to just one composer, presenting a lunchtime feast of Beethoven's music.

The Orchestra helps the University's engagement with the local community, and last year we played to over 1,000 members of staff, people living in Milton Keynes and local school children. We have also provided music for the OU's Charter Day, conferences, and the Midsummer event. During the summer, a couple of members of the orchestra have run more informal sessions to explore other orchestral and chamber music repertoire, which proved very popular.

OPEN VOICES

This has been another successful year for Open Voices which continues to grow. We have several members who have been part of the group from the start or from early on, and we have recruited a lot of new members this year.

We held two concerts over the last year, in July and December, and received good feedback from the audience. The chosen charities were grateful for the money raised at the concerts.

We took part in the OU Carol Concert at Christmas, and Open Voices members joined the Choir Club for some of the carols, in addition to performing our own.

PILATES

Whilst classes have been well received and always fully booked, our teacher is no longer available to run these classes and we have struggled to find a replacement. Therefore the Club will be looking into closing. Thank you to all our students for their support.

TAI CHI

The OU Tai Chi Club continues to be successful. We have 22 members with an average attendance of 16 per week representing a significant increase in numbers from last year following an influx of new members in September 2015. Given that many new members were new to Tai Chi it is pleasing to note progress made by members and all made possible by the dedication and skill of our Tai Chi teacher. Subs have been maintained at £6 a session for monthly payment and £8 for individual sessions and which is felt to be good value by its members.

THEATRE GROUP BOOKERS

We've had another very successful year and continue to be one of the largest Affiliated Clubs. We have 2 new bookers Julie and Pauline, and said goodbye to Karen, Tracy and Vic.

So far this year, we have booked over 4750 tickets from 1526 individual bookings for almost 85 performances at MK Theatre, Aylesbury Waterside and the West End (5% increase on tickets sales from last year. Our bank account has seen over £110K through it.

As always our Panto booking is the largest we have with almost 1000 seats and 50% + of these already sold, and the cast not even announced yet!

As last year, we've arranged a range of 'money can't buy' events in conjunction with MK Theatre including events with Matthew Bourne, and in the pipeline are events with Joseph, Thriller Live, Rocky Horror at MK Theatre, and plans for a London event coming soon. Our events usually consist of very informative pre-show talk/Q&A with members of the creative team (and some cast members if they are available), a post-show backstage tour and a reception with members of the company.

YOGA

The two Iyengar lunchtime sessions and the two evening Hatha classes have regular commitment from a core group and attendance is stable. The Club appreciate being able to use the Church for the majority of the yoga sessions, it is an ideal space. The issues with the heat in the Church during the winter have been mostly resolved and draughts have been dealt with as far as possible. Stacking of chairs is now well controlled.

A risk assessment for yoga activity has been completed.

End of report
Report compiled by Natalie Mott (June 2016)
OU Club Chair 2015/16

The Open University

Nations and Regions Club Report 2016 Annual General Meeting

Although a challenging year, we have seen a wide range of activities taking place along with new Committee members appointed which is very encouraging.

Our successful trips and events include:

Theatre trips

Boat trip

Ten pin bowling

Yoga classes

Head massages

Edinburgh Fringe

Razzle Dazzle pot painting

Halloween and Christmas Parties

We also have a lot of keep fit enthusiasts amongst us who have signed up for fitness centre membership and taken part in Men's Health Survival Fitness....crazy fools!

The Nations and Regions have also taken advantage of the discounts for the cinema that has been organised by the OU Club Committee which has been well received by lots of staff.

Although the reduction of funds has made it a little more of a challenge to get staff interested in team activities, those that have attended trips like the chocolate workshop were well attended and enjoyed.

Please remember if you need any support from the Committee on bid submissions, ideas for trips/events or just have a question related to the Social Club, then please do get in touch with Susan in the Club Office who will be more than happy to help you.

Carol Baker
Committee Member 2015/2016

ON A FINAL NOTE.....

The Committee would like to invite staff to get involved with the OU Club in some capacity. This can be by joining its Committees, Affiliated Clubs or even assisting with arranging some fun trips and events.

The University actively encourages participation so why not contact the Club Office, we are here to offer help and advice.

If you have any questions, suggestions or wish to get involved, we would love to hear from you!