



OUClub

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY CLUB

**AGENDA AND ASSOCIATED
PAPERS FOR**

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: 7 July 2022

TIME: 12.30PM

Microsoft Teams

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 2022 at 12.30pm via Microsoft Teams.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome**

2. **MINUTES**

To confirm: the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on (OUC/AGM2021/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/AGM2021/22/1).

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/AGM2021/22/2).

6. **SPORTS REPORT**

To receive
& consider: in the report of the Sports Chair, a report for the year ended 31 July 2022
(OUC/AGM2021/22/3).

7. **AFFILIATED CLUBS REPORT**

To receive
& consider: in the report of the Affiliated Clubs, a report for the year ended 31 July 2022
(OUC/AGM2021/22/4).

8. **NOEL FERNANDES – BUSINESS SERVICES & PLANNING MANAGER - ESTATES**

To receive: General Statement.

9. **ELECTIONS**

To consider: the election of Officers and Committee members for the year 1 August 2022
to 31 July 2023

10. **RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS**

11. **ANY OTHER PREVIOUS NOTIFIED BUSINESS**

The Open University Club

Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting of the Open University Club held on Thursday, 8th July 2021 at 12.30 p.m. viaTEAMS.

Present: Natalie Mott (Chair), Brandon Cook & Tracey Bean-Williams (Co-Treasurers), Joy Cook (Secretary), Ed Daynes (Sports chair), Andrew Braidley, Louise Thomas, Page Munro and Stephen Cafferty (Committee Members), and Affiliated Club, Nations, Manchester and Nottingham members.

In Attendance: Noel Fernandes (Business Services & Planning Manager Estates representing Director of Estates) and Susan Scimè (Club Coordinator)

Apologies: None received.

1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Noted: The Chair welcomed all present.

2.0 MINUTES

2.1 Confirmed: That the minutes of the fiftieth Annual General Meeting of the Open University Club held on Thursday 9th July 2020, were approved.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Noted: There were no Matters arising.

4.0 CHAIR'S REPORT (NM)

4.1 Noted: Chairs report attached.

4.2 Noted: NM thanked everyone for their time for supporting their clubs and members of the committee.

4.3 Noted: MN thanked Events, Estates and Health & Safety for their hard work for the Clubs.

4.4 Noted: Covid 19 advice added to report.

4.5 Noted: The Sports Pavilion is currently being refurbished.

5. TREASURERS REPORT (TBW))

5.1 Noted: Treasurers report attached.

5.2 Noted: Bids may be accepted from Affiliated clubs after their AGM's.

5.3 Noted: Late bids may be accepted but may not be fully funded dependent on funding residue.

5.4 Noted: The timetable for bids is to be reviewed after many clubs expressed a later date may be more prudent for them. Some clubs advised that a later submission date would not be appreciated.

5.5 Noted: Noel Fernandes advised that later bids equate to later funding dates, especially with the new Finance systems now in place.

5.6 Noted: Noel also advised that a standalone screen is being installed in the Church, with WI-FI availability to be reviewed.

6. SPORTS REPORT (ED)

6.1 Noted: Report attached

7. AFFILLATED CLUB REPORTS presented by Louise Thomas

7.1 Noted: All reports were highlighted and are attached.

7.2 Noted: That Nations & Regions reports were included.

8. Business Services & Planning Manager Estates (NF) on behalf of Director of Estates

8.1 Noted: Report attached.

8.2 Noted: Many thanks to Susan Scimè for her work in updating the website.

9. ELECTIONS

9.1 Reported: That at the closing date, nominations for Officers and Committee Members, to serve on the Club Committee for the year 1st August 2021 to 31st July 2022 had been received as follows, and that all those nominated were elected unopposed:

Club Role	Name	Proposer	Second
CLUB CHAIR	Natalie Mott	Andrew Bradley	Tracey Bean- Williams
TREASURER	Tracey Bean-Williams	Brandon Cook	Noel Fernandes
SPORTS CHAIR	Edward Daynes	Andrew Bradley	Brandon Cook
Committee Member	Louise Thomas	Joy Cook	Tracey Bean-Williams
Committee Member	Paige Munro	Louise Thomas	Stephen Cafferty
Committee Member	Stephen Cafferty	Noel Fernandes	Joy Cook
Committee Member	Andrew Bradley	Joy Cook	Tracey Bean-Williams

10. RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

10.1 The Chair advised that there are committee spaces available, plus the role of Secretary, so please do get in touch and talk to current members if you are interested in joining.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Andrew McDermott – can club equipment be stored while its activities are on Hold? Noel advised that the Campus is currently closed so permission to do this would need to be gained and possibly a Risk Assessment approved.

11.2 Jennifer Fung – can clubs meet offsite for activities? Noel advised that currently up to 30 people may meet up outside. Risk Assessments are still required for this. Forms are available from the OU Club Office. RA's previously submitted may need to be updated and resubmitted where there have been any changes.

11.3 Dasher McDonald – thanked Louise Thomas for her outstanding work for the OUTGBC, including processing £20K in refunds for people.

- 11.4 Louise Thomas thanked Claire from Health & Safety, Noel Fernandes and Susan Scimè for their assistance with Risk Assessments.
- 11.5 Lisa Holland advised that the Hub refurbishment included new double-glazed windows, Air-Conditioning being installed, new curtains, plastering of the brick wall between the Theatre and the adjacent meeting rooms, a regraded floor, new seat coverings and electric blinds.
- 11.6 Victoria Stead asked about the possibility of singing outside under cover – Lisa Holland advised this may be possible.
- 11.7 The Chair advised that the Club is nor currently aware of any future OU actions, but will notify all affiliated clubs once any are known.

Joy Cook
OU Club Secretary 8th July 2021

**The Open University
Chairs Report 2022
Annual General Meeting**

Welcome to the fifty-second annual general meeting of the OU Club.

The main Club has been active with supporting Affiliated Clubs, Nations Manchester and Nottingham with events for staff across The Open University. Many of the activities we have seen have been due to the support of this years' committee and I would like to thank them for their hard work in the past year.

Thanks go to the staff that run the Affiliated Clubs and Social Clubs for their time and hard work which helps the Committee to endeavour that all Affiliated Clubs, the Nations, Manchester and Nottingham can, and will be able to, continue to offer a range of activities to all university staff.

Over the past year it has been good to see that we have begun to get back to some normalcy following covid and that slowly clubs are beginning to run again both on and off campus. We will hear more about these in a report later in the proceedings.

What does 2022/23 bring?

At the time of writing both the government and University have lifted all covid restrictions, the only caveat the University continues to add is that anyone with symptoms of or testing positive with Covid should not come on campus for 10 days. This applies to all our clubs and should be included in your risk assessments and communicated to your members. Please remember that activities will only be allowed to restart after an updated Risk Assessment has been completed and approved to make sure all University guidelines have been taken into account.

We continue to work on ideas for all staff for activities that can be enjoyed remotely or in person, please check our intranet site for links and ideas for staff and their families and links to the different clubs to find out what is currently running.

We are, as always, looking to find ways in which we can engage with all staff, including homeworkers, and promote the various Affiliated Clubs and activities across all University sites. We are also working to provide more National discounts for all staff, and to work with the Nations, Manchester & Nottingham to support local discounts where possible.

The OU Club Committee continues to discuss and work on how and what we can do to support the aims of the University. We truly believe that supporting OU staff, with the benefits the OU Club works hard to source, remains important to all University staff, and that the connections and good standing we and the affiliated clubs build within our Local Communities are equally important and beneficial to the reputation of the University. With the continued possibility of social distancing and changes in the university to ways of working, the OU Club is investigating ways we can continue to offer online options for our affiliated clubs to enable as many staff as possible to benefit and take part.

I would also like to remind clubs that part of your constitutions allow that all Affiliated Clubs will submit AGM reports on a yearly basis with financial reports where appropriate.

OU Policy Compliance

We have continued to work with the University to ensure that Health & Safety measures are met by Affiliated Clubs. We recognise that the additional paperwork does take time to complete and are grateful to those Clubs who continue to complete the yearly Risk Assessment forms in line with University policy. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that this is a mandatory requirement and all Affiliated Clubs must submit these forms. Failure to complete these may mean your bookings of rooms, or use of equipment, is restricted. Please note that maximum capacities for all rooms used can be found on the Estates Resource Scheduler system 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. Please do note that due to Covid-19 and University policy, clubs will not be able to run/restart on campus until they have completed a Risk Assessment and had this signed off by the University.

The Information Rights Office have advised us that they will be undertaking checks to ensure that all clubs are meeting data protection requirements with a view to putting a procedure in place. Please make sure that this is included in your constitution and that an up-to-date copy is filed with the OU Club Office.

Budget

We have submitted our budget request for the next year. As a minimum, we are hoping to retain our current level of funding into the next year, subject to approval by VCE. In the last couple of years, the Committee has had their work cut out trying to distribute the limited funds in a fair and equal manner. I hope that the Nations, Manchester and Nottingham, the Affiliated Clubs and Staff will understand the difficult decisions the Committee faces and will have to continue to face in light of increasingly squeezed budgets, and we appreciate your ongoing support of our Committee. We will continue to advise on, and support, fundraising by Affiliated Clubs.

We will see in a few moments the figures for Club spend in 2021/22 and proposed budget in 2022/23. Financially, funding will be tight for all of us, however, the Committee will be working together with Nations, Manchester & Nottingham and Affiliated Clubs to continue to offer support with activities in the social calendar for all staff.

I would like to thank the many staff in Estates that help behind the scenes, particularly to Noel Fernandes for the support he provides to the OU-Club. I would also like to thank the Events team and the Health & Safety team for their support and hard work in this last year. Thanks also go to Stephen Caferty who has stepped down from his role as Nations, Manchester and Nottingham representative on the Committee after 5 years, and to Ed Daynes who is stepping down as Sports Chair after 5 years to be a committee member. A special thanks goes 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.

Natalie Gaffey
OU Club Chair 2021/22

**The Open University Club
Treasurers Report 2022
Annual General Meeting**

For 2021/22 we were awarded a budget of £45000.

In September 2021 the bid Committee sat and awarded over £25,000 to the Clubs who submitted bids, a second round of bidding awarded a further £3k. A further bid is still under consideration.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent restriction of all OU Club activities has left us with a current surplus of around £2500. The OU Club Committee will determine the best way to use these funds.

We appreciate that many clubs will have unspent funds, we would normally ask for these to be repaid but the Committee have decided to allow clubs to carry these funds forward and use them for their activities in 2022/23 This does not preclude you from bidding for more funds should you need them.

We are hoping to review our bidding process and funding guidance for the next financial year. Bid forms will be sent out as soon as possible in July and the return date is still to be agreed. The Bid committee will sit as early as practicable. We are aware that Covid restrictions have impacted OU Clubs, and we are prepared to be as flexible as we can be regarding funding activities. This may include further rounds of bidding later in the financial year if/when things are more certain.

Thanks, as always, go to Sue Scimè and Noel Fernandes for their help and guidance this year and all the Committee members for their support and co-operation over financial decision-making activities.

Tracey Bean-Williams
OU Club Treasurer 2021/22

**The Open University Club
Sports Report 2022
Annual General Meeting**

OU Cricket Club

Cricket returned to OUCC in 2021 following a break due to COVID. We had good support from the OU Club during the season to get the risk assessment approved in record time permitting to play away games due to non-availability of home cricket ground. Thanks to Mahesh (Club Treasurer) for being a wonderful support in seeking the approval.

Overall, it was a difficult season mainly because of Covid. We only managed to play Saturday's league games. One of the major problems was that the home cricket ground was not available. We struggled to arrange alternative grounds. With wonderful initiatives from the club captain, treasurer and secretaries we however managed to have access to Pagers Park in Leighton Buzzard and Emberton cricket grounds. We didn't have any place to do net practice during the season. This impacted the team performance badly and we finished second last on the points table. Yet, the team survived in Division 3. The availability of players was another problem, even though we registered quite a few new members, but still we struggled to stand eleven players on the field in some matches. Due to Covid and other factors, there were a limited number of Umpires available throughout the league, thanks to Mahesh (Club Treasurer) for being available to stand as an Umpire in quite a few matches.

We could anticipate all these problems but still considered play the season. We believe it was the right decision considering if we let all the existing members play elsewhere, it would have been very hard to pull together all these players again. And it may be the end of the OU cricket club and its long history, which would be very sad. Thanks to all the core members of the Club and the new members as well for understanding the problems and their support to me in all ways they could in difficult situations week in, week out.

With situation improving regarding COVID, we look forward to have a better season in 2022 with access to home ground and nets at the Open University.





OU Cycling Club

The Cycling Club has now been running for seven years, although sadly membership has recently declined to its lowest ever level. A lack of willing volunteers to help organise and manage the club has seriously reduced our ability to run events and activities. In addition, the main club activities were always lunchtime training sessions starting at Walton Hall campus, so we have been badly affected by the post-pandemic shift to home working. Milton Keynes is also well-served by several large cycling clubs which compete for members in the local area.

We still provide a selection of annual member benefits, including supply of cycling tools and spares on campus free for members, affiliation to the national governing body, British Cycling, and passes for access to local off-road cycling routes. A handful of activities are still organised for the small number of remaining members. We still keep in touch and participate in active travel initiatives on campus, and a number of members still participate in events and rides locally – give us a wave if you see the distinctive OU Cycling Club jersey out and about. We are keeping the club ticking over on a skeleton committee of Chair and Treasurer, in the hope that we may see a return to higher member numbers and more activities in the future.



OU Golf Society

The OUGS was fortunate to weather the pandemic in reasonably good shape being one of the fortunate groups of people participating in sport and recreation outdoors. The rules of social distancing were of course applied and while play was minimally affected by rules around touching flagsticks and there being no rakes in bunkers, initial fixtures did not allow us to congregate indoors as per usual society outings.

Fortunately were able to rebook most of those fixtures that were suspended during the first lockdown and indeed the society has gone from strength to strength with a health level of regular participation in each day and a full Committee.

Our society does not compete against others and we actively pursue a policy of inclusion rather than selection. As a result we are delighted that in our midst we welcome players of all standard from the very good regular players to the newer recreational players.

Our golf season spans two academic years each season and is played from April to November. There is little joy in winter golf. That means that we have 8 outings, and according to the available light we play competitions over 9, 18, or 36 holes. The formats are intended to ensure that people can socialise, compete and improve irrespective of their standard or physical capacity. And of course the golf handicapping system also ensures that we can level out competitions to spread the opportunities to win prizes.

In addition to the outings, we also run a “Greensomes” competition which is a knockout competition played in pairs. This competition is paid for purely by the members but increases the opportunities for both play and socialising.

We are delighted to have increased the number of women playing and to have a range of age groups now from staff employed at the OU, retired OU staff, family of OU and a small number of associate members. In total we have 45 people on our regular mailing list of which 5 were new this year.

We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support of the OU Club as this enables us to not only ensure that outings are more affordable but it also provides coaching for the members.



OUGS Club Chair centre with society members Brian Bamber, Dave Gibson, Phil Thomas and Dave Emburey



OU Golf Society members preparing to tee off at Abbeyhill GC (Treasurer Tony Coyne in foreground with former Chair Nick Clansey)



The Duchess at Woburn Golf Club where we play annually to commemorate Jessica McGill (former member and OU staff member)

OU Running Club

The Running Club has had a quiet year as there just aren't enough staff on site to support a higher level of activity. The monthly lunchtime races have continued virtually, as they did through lockdown, with runners being invited to run the set distance for the month (5k, 5m or 10k) on a course and at a date/time of their own choosing. However, since October we have also organised monthly lunchtime events close to campus to enable runners to complete their runs together using our establish course routes.

Tuesday and Friday lunchtime interval/fartlek sessions have also continued through the year. We are aiming for the annual OURC Tour and Relay Race to return at some point in the future, but these events are very much dependent on more staff returning to campus.



Squash Club

Another difficult year with initial access to courts being restricted to OU Staff only. OU staff enquiries have escalated significantly during the lockdown and more so now that Walton Hall site has opened up again. It should also be reported that external membership enquiries have escalated to such an extent that we have had to place a hold on these membership numbers.

Current membership stands at:

Internal Members 43

External Members 39

Retired OU Staff 4

Total Membership 86

The club has continued to pay for England Squash affiliation along with the court booking system. Available funding continues to cover this expenditure with sufficient funding remaining in the bank. No membership fees have been charged for a two-year period. The Squash Committee will be reviewing fees moving forward, now that full access has been granted to all our registered members. We are hoping to revisit new fee structures in June 2022.

Risk Assessment protocols have been implemented along with additional special cleaning routines. Thanks go to all who have enabled us to open up and play squash again. Thanks also go to the players who have signed and acknowledged the rules and regulations associated with the new Risk Assessment document.

Player satisfaction as a result of the opening up of the courts was high however, due to shower refurbishment activities and the time taken to complete this task, our players were not very satisfied. I am pleased to report that the works are now complete, and I have had positive feedback on these up-graded facilities.

We will continue to apply stringent Risk Assessment protocols and players are encouraged to stay safe and be aware that we are all responsible for applying good H&S practices.

Table Tennis

The table tennis club has resumed activities since September 21. Thanks to the financial support from the OU Club, we were able to hire an external venue for weekly practice and hosting our home league matches before club activities were allowed in the campus in April 22. Two teams were competed in the MK league this season. One team finished in 5th in Division 1, another also 5th in Division 3. Individually, two of our players qualified for the Top 8 tournament and one of them came second in Division 3.

The Club is now practising twice a week in the Hub Theatre on Saturday and Sunday mornings. More and more members are returning. Ten to fifteen people are practising in each session recently.



Tennis

The club is now back up and running after not being in a position to have activity due to COVID-19. Our current members (n=51) are now able to play on club nights and book the tennis courts to play on. We opened up for new members in May 2022, we have had 11 new members join at that time. We hope to be able to start back up our team matches soon and also offer coaching in 2023.

Ultimate Frisbee

The Ultimate Frisbee club resumed play on campus from the start of April, after a 2-year gap due to COVID restrictions. Our attendance so far has been an average of 12 players per week, which is roughly the same as it was for the start of our last outdoor season in 2019. It has been a great pleasure to be able to play back on campus again and our sincere thanks to all those in the OU Club and Estates who helped make that happen.

On individual successes, we have two club members taking part in the World Club Championships in Limerick (25 June – 2 July): Joanne Kearns in the Masters Mixed division (30+) and Simon Church in the Great Grand Masters Open division (48+).

**The Open University Club
Affiliated Club Report 2022
Annual General Meeting**

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

CD and Vinyl Library

The CD and Vinyl Library have been closed but are hoping to reopen on Wednesday 7th September with the library open each Wednesday provisionally.

OU Choir activity 2021/2022

The OU Choir, despite the continued problems for group activities caused by the pandemic, has explored various creative ways to make music in 2021/2022.

There were two strands to our activity during this period. Firstly, the production of our first music video *A different kind of living*, secondly learning a selection of shorter seasonal pieces through the year, which could be managed via a combination of Zoom and face-to-face rehearsals.

The *A different kind of living* project had commenced in December 2020, with music composition by Dr Liz Lane (Associate Lecturer) and words by Judi Moore, rehearsals via zoom and individual audio recordings completed in June 2021. The video element of the project included a video shoot on 3 locations in Milton Keynes (The Light Pyramid in Campbell Park, the grounds surrounding the OU Church and the Concrete Cows in Bancroft Park) with Bill Strang conducting 8 singers (we were limited by permitted numbers for outdoor gatherings at the time) who sang to the audio backing track we had used for the audio recordings. We are grateful to the MK Parks Trust and The Open University for allowing us to use those locations.

The final production and publicity phase of the project took some months to complete, and we launched the video plus the discussion video about the piece in December 2021 on the OU Choir's new YouTube channel [A different kind of living - YouTube](#). We are very proud of our achievement on this online performance project and the main video has had 603 views to date, while the discussion video *Making 'A different kind of living'* has been viewed 247 times. We are planning further promotion of the videos.

The choir committee continued to meet regularly, via online methods (Zoom) only.

The choir resumed some face-to-face rehearsals in October 2021, at hired off campus locations (Old Stratford Community Hall, Aspley Guise Village Hall and St Mary & St Giles Church, Stony Stratford) because at the time we could not yet return to campus. A lot of careful preparation was made to ensure the rehearsals were as safe as possible, including asking members to wear masks until they had reached their seats with chairs spaced 2 metres apart in each large well-ventilated space. We also live-streamed as many of the face-to-face rehearsals as we could, depending on the Wi-Fi strength available, and alternated the occasional face-to-face rehearsals with Zoom only rehearsals.

The choir was finally allowed back on campus on 2 December when we made recordings of 2 carols, in the hub theatre, for the OU Christmas Carol Concert (held online again). The OU Choir finished the term with a short carol singing mini concert on the Mulberry Lawn on 16 December,

an informal event attended by about 40 people. In January and February, with virus cases high, the choir rehearsed via Zoom, returning to campus on 17 March (Berrill Theatre). Since then, on campus rehearsals have been held in the Hub theatre, Berrill Theatre and from May 2022 the OU Church, with live-streaming from Hub and Berrill Theatres possible due to the availability of Wi-Fi. We have live-streamed twice from the Church using a mobile phone as a personal hotspot as the Wi-Fi being installed is not yet ready for us to use. From September we plan to continue live-streaming rehearsals for those who are not well enough to join face-to-face but want to participate.

The choir is currently in the final rehearsals for a planned concert on in the Hub Theatre on campus scheduled for Friday 8 July featuring the seasonal music we have been rehearsing since June 2021.

Core Fitness



OU Core Fitness Club has not been running for the last two years, due to the pandemic, although many members have been participating in the online classes that are arranged by our Tutor, open to the general public to book. We are extremely grateful to Hannah for continuing to offer these.

We have not requested to resume campus-based classes yet due to lack of demand at the moment.

Our 5th AGM will be in November 2022. We will inform the OU Club once we have agreed the date.

Craft Club

The Craft group has not met on campus during the last twelve months.

We have however had a few lunches out at a local pub, to discuss our individual projects.

There is no planned return to meetings on campus for the foreseeable future, as most of us are still working from home.

We may use Teams to meet in the future.

Contact Debbie.crouch@open.ac.uk for updates and information.

No fee required to join.

Dance Club

The dance club originally restarted contemporary dance classes in the evening off campus and are now back on campus and are hoping to run summer school this year. The lunchtime Zumba and Strong classes have not resumed at this point.

Gardening Club

The Gardening club are pleased to report that we now have a new chairperson, Babette Oliver and we are running meetings once every 2 months this year. We are pleased that we've got 40 members after having no meetings since March 2020 and we are looking for a new Treasurer.



Our plant sale in May was a great success, most members sold all of the plants which they brought to campus.



Hula Fit

Natalie is on maternity leave so nothing to report from last year! Congratulations on your new arrival Natalie!

Open Voices

We started the year singing together remotely, learning a mix of songs, maintaining our little community and starting to prepare for a massed choir performance in London but had to take a break in the summer as I had a cancer diagnosis. I was delighted to have recovered from surgery in time to join some of our singers at Sing for Water London '21, part of the Thames Festival, raising money for WaterAid.



As Covid restrictions lifted we were able to meet outside and record ourselves singing a gospel version of Away in Manger, videoed for the OU Carol Service. It was fabulous to see and hear each other face to face again.

Since the Spring of 2022 we have been meeting on campus again, with Covid risk mitigations in place. The singing has sounded lovely and been a real highlight to the week. Numbers have been lower but are starting to rise as we're joined by former and new members.

We are exploring opportunities to perform locally and are signed up to sing at Sing for Water London '22 in September.



OU Orchestra and Chamber Music Club

Looking back at the past 12 months

After a break of 20 months, we resumed on-campus rehearsals on 5th November 2021. Almost all our members chose to return, and rehearsals have been well attended. Initially we maintained very tight covid restrictions in line with our risk assessment and OU policies, and we continue to keep our members safe by maintaining socially distanced rehearsals and with good ventilation in the Hub Theatre.

We held our AGM on the 12th November via MS Teams. This was very well attended and gave us the opportunity to canvas opinions about future rehearsals and concerts.

In December 2021 we recorded several pieces for inclusion in the streamed OU Carol Concert.

We resumed collecting membership subs from our players from January 2022 after an 18-month break and have received 33 subs to date this year.

Exactly 17 years since the orchestra's inaugural concert, we gave our first in-person concert since the pandemic on Friday 20th May. We performed Elgar's Bavarian Dances and Tchaikovsky's 2nd Symphony, conducted by Catherine Rose. The concert was streamed online to the wider OU community, watched live by 38 people, and was attended in person by an audience of 101 staff, friends and family with free tickets booked via EventBrite. The orchestra would like to thank the AV department for streaming the concert via Stadium, and Estates for supporting our rehearsals and our recent concert.

Changes made for a new working landscape

To meet the challenges presented by hybrid working for many of our members, we have trialled a new rehearsal schedule. Since November 2022 we have held two Friday lunchtime rehearsals per month, with a longer monthly Sunday afternoon rehearsal all in the Hub Theatre. This has been well received by our member but needs to be regularly reviewed, and a return to our weekly Friday lunchtime rehearsals has not been ruled out at this stage.

Into the future

Our committee has recently requested additional Club funding to support the purchase of a third timpani and orchestral bass drum and are delighted to have been successful in our application.

We are very keen to resume our extremely successful schools outreach events. We recognise the challenges that welcoming school children onto campus may create and are considering the best way to proceed with these events. We will, as always, work closely with the Club, Estates and Health & Safety in this matter.

We will now recommence our usual twice-yearly public concert programme, and commence rehearsals for our next public concert, scheduled for October 2022, from June.

The committee recognise that, as more staff and events return to campus, there may be increasing use of the Hub Theatre in the coming months. As this remains our only viable on-campus rehearsal and concert space we will be working closely with the Events Office to secure advance bookings and protect key rehearsals and concerts where we can.

We would like to encourage recruitment of new members from the increase in OU staff and will seek to publicise the orchestra, with Club support, in the coming year.

We aspire to once again provide free chamber music and small ensemble bi-monthly lunchtime concerts which are open to OU staff and the wider community.

RocSoc

January 2022 – May 2022

After few difficult years during the pandemic, RocSoc returns in 2022! We have started the year with organising a few fun events for our members, while looking forward to doing at least five more by the end of the calendar year.

1. Ninja Warrior MK



In March, we went to the Ninja Warrior adventure park in Milton Keynes. The PGRs were faced with a variety of physical challenges that are not really common in our university environment. Although most of use were unable to do a single pull-up, we took advantage of the inflatable obstacles course, a.k.a. a giant bouncy castle! As you may have figured out, we took this photo after the event.

2. Cocktails/Mocktails

We decided to give an opportunity to PGRs to experiment with cocktails and mocktails. RocSoc provided a selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, as well as a rich variety of fruits and garnishes. PGRs had to either use their imagination or borrow ideas from a recipe's book. Everyone enjoyed the evening and there were a few requests to repeat in the near future. Next time, we will probably have a professional to come and demonstrate.

3. Cadbury World with OU Trips



RocSoc teamed up with OU Trips for a visit to Cadbury World! We were very grateful to OU Trips for inviting us to a trip to Cadbury World in Birmingham. 'Too much chocolate' was some of the feedback we received from RocSoc members!

4. Weekly social gathering

We also re-instated our weekly social gatherings, where members are come to join us for a tea or coffee and have a chat! It is definitely fun and a great way to socialise and blow-off steam!

OU Theatre Group Bookers Club

Since August 2021 we've had groups at over 40 theatre performances, so we are catching up for lost time due to Covid-19 where £85,000 worth of tickets were rescheduled.

Huge thanks to Claire Gallego at OU H&S and Susan Scime, Natalie Gaffey and Noel Fernandes at OU Club for their support with the numerous risk assessments!

Our London shows are regularly over 40% off full ticket prices. This year we've been to old favourites like Phantom of the Opera and Lion King to new shows, such as Back to the Future, & Juliet and repeat visits to Frozen and Harry Potter and the Cursed Child.



Our largest group visit to MK Theatre was over 220 people to see the three times postponed 20th Anniversary production We Will Rock You and it was worth the wait!

We've already sold over 600 for the Snow White in 2022 this December. Please see our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) for all details of the fabulous new shows booking.

Our social media continues to grow with nearly 550 people on Facebook and 460 people on Twitter, and we have over 1400 members on our mailing list.

We're trying to get back to hosting some events face to face – so watch this space!

This was our 22nd birthday as we've been selling tickets under some guise for that long and our 12th year as OUTGBC.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all at OU Club for their support and thank you to all our bookers and to the staff at the ticket agencies for all their help. We look forward to next year!!!
OUTGBC Committee

OU Theatre Group

Another difficult year but we managed to put on a mini panto 'Rats!' 15th – 19th December, 2021, a fantastic fusion of the Pied Piper of Hamelyn with Dick Whittington.

We had a great ensemble cast which rose to the occasion and colourful fun was had by all.

We had great OU support from Health & Safety, Estates, IT-AV and Security.

Hub Theatre audience numbers were restricted, observing all the OU safeguarding requirements.

We will continue to apply stringent Risk Assessment protocols and members/cast are encouraged to stay safe and be aware that we are all responsible for applying good H&S practices.



We are preparing for our 2022 panto – Treasure Island, shiver me timbers and avast behind! Arrrrgh! *Michael Spours (Chair)*

OUTrips Club

OU Trips Club Annual Report for OU Club

Our 5th full year operating as an affiliated club and despite Covid-19 postponing or stopping some trips, we've managed to keep busy.

Whilst there were no trips arranged for the first 4 months of the financial year, owing to the pandemic, some restrictions were lifted and we took 19 people to Blenheim Palace on 2nd December 2021 for their Illuminated Night Trail and Palace Tour, based on The Nutcracker. The stunning illuminations walk, and the Palace all decorated as Nutcracker for Christmas. We lost count of the Christmas trees.



Photos from our Facebook by committee and members – Bath Abbey, Blenheim Palace and Illuminated light trail.

On 5th and 6th December, we took a socially distanced double decker coach to Bath for a long weekend to enjoy the Christmas lights and all that the beautiful historic city has to offer.

The New Year of 2022 saw further restrictions lifted on coaches, and May saw the return of an old favourite with 2 coach loads heading to Cadbury World. A LOT OF CHOCOLATE WAS CONSUMED.



On 8th to 13th May we had our first overseas trip since February 2020 and a group of 21 people visited Tuscany, this trip had been postponed from September 2020. Despite the group leader and his partner being unable to go at the last minute, due to contracting Covid, one of the group (Thanks Jenny!) stepped up and did an admirable job of organising everyone on to all the excursions, coaches, trains, and flights. The trip took in Florence, Pisa, Lucca and Chianti.

We have continued to have regular social meetings via Zoom with our travellers, these have included quiz nights, a Garnish Masterclass, Gin Tasting and a Vodka tasting Masterclass, as well as simple 'Chill n Chat' evenings.

The Icelandic trip has been postponed several times also and is now taking place this November. We have a SOLD OUT Legoland, and Windsor Castle trips this summer.

We are currently taking bookings for the Imagna Valley in Italy this October, a mini break in Scotland in 2023, and there are plans afoot for more day trips and Belfast in 2023 and a Caribbean cruise in February 2024.

Thank you to Claire in H&S and Noel and Natalie for supporting the Risk Assessment process this year, and a big thank you to the OU Club for supporting us.

Our social media continues to grow with over 425 people on our Facebook group (OU Trips) and we have over 1300 members on our email list.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all our followers for their patience and support and enthusiasm. Look forward to seeing people on trips soon.

No reports were submitted by the following clubs:

OU Amateur Radio Club

Astronomy Club

Chess Club

Christian Forum

Go Club

Hooke Society

Open Film Society

Salsa Club

Tai Chi Club

The Open University

Nations and Regions Club Report 2022 Annual General Meeting

OU in Scotland Social Club Activities 2021/22

1. Coffee Roulette We have had a huge number of new staff start over the last 6 months. We have started a Coffee Roulette programme which randomly pairs members of staff up with colleagues for an informal chat over coffee/tea. This is a great way for people to meet or catch up with colleagues and we have a large number of staff participating.
2. Christmas Cinema Night We hired out a local cinema in Edinburgh to host our OU in Scotland Christmas Movie Night. After a very close vote, the chosen film this year was Elf. There were a surprising number of attendees who had never seen the film – and an equal number of attendees who could nearly quote the entire film! There were a lot of laughs and we have received a request to host another movie night over the summer.
3. Return of the OU in Scotland Annual Bowling Night Following its absence for 2 years, we were delighted to be able to bring back the annual OU in Scotland Bowling Night. This is one of our most popular activities and this year we had 30 bowlers attend. The competition was fierce but in the end Patty Watters from our SRSS Team took home the trophy and the honour of being able to call herself the OU in Scotland Bowling Champion in her email signature. This year's event was especially nice as so many new staff attended and got to meet a good variety of colleagues.
4. Looking ahead We are in the process of organising several more activities for the next few months. We are going to arrange another movie night as this has proved very popular. We have also had requests for a night of crazy golf which we will look to do as well. We are also looking at the possibility of hosting crafts nights and board game nights in the office now that our communal areas are back in use.

**The Open University
OU Club Report 2021/2022
Annual General Meeting
Business Services & Planning Manager Estates (NF) on behalf of Director of Estates**

Another difficult year has been experienced by all our clubs. Outdoor activities including being able to play Football, Cricket, Golf and Cycling etc along with our music clubs and now indoor activities such as Film Society, Table Tennis and Martial Arts remain core to current University club activities. Estates would like to recognise and thank all our clubs for the superb efforts put into revising their ways of working. Some of the changes made included finding new presentation methods, allowing for social distancing and ensuring staff wellbeing activities could take place. Well done on your efforts and thank you for the forethought and plans which you have made.

Special thanks also go to the Club Co-ordinator who has successfully dealt with changing operational practices associated with COVID. The return to site club activities have generated a huge amount of additional work which included keeping up with changes being made to University guidance, H&S procedures, Government legislation and the management of revised submissions of Affiliated Club risk assessments. Well done Sue and thank you.

The club continues to further support club operational initiatives through the development of new home presentation activity initiatives, the installation of TV screens in key function rooms and the provision of new sporting equipment. We look forward to further extending digital services into the Church, the Pavilion Activity room and possibly the Green Room.

Our OU Club and Affiliated Club websites continue to be revamped and maintained to conform with GDPR regulations. Enhancements to our Wellbeing and Mental Health information website continues to be updated on a monthly basis.

Unfortunately, not all of our Clubs have been able to commence operations. We will work with these clubs and open them as soon as possible. We were also unable to undertake regular events such as our annual OU Club Fayre, etc. We look toward welcoming you once again to these events once our facilities open-up further.

Special thanks need to go to the committee members for the tireless work that they have undertaken during this difficult year, so thank you for your continued support and exceptional hard work.

Noel Fernandes
Business Services and Planning Manager - Estates

ON A FINAL NOTE.....

As always, we would like to invite all staff to get involved with the OU Club in some capacity.

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, please email OU-Club, we would love to hear from you!