

Report on the SRCF 2010–2011

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1 Financial Report

The financial position of the SRCF remains reasonable though a loss was made in the 2009-2010 academic year due to large hardware purchases. However we did not submit our accounts before the 31st December deadline as this was not done during term¹. It was not possible to complete this process outside of term as since our bank had failed to correctly set up internet banking and since the box containing the bank statements was in the UK while the Junior Treasurer was in Japan. This meant that it was not possible to sign off to say that we had a particular quantity of money as we could not be sure that our electronic records were correct. At the beginning of January we owed various people in excess of 1000 (though we had the money to pay them) and had failed to submit our accounts. We were also missing 8 of our bank statements and had two unopened letters from the bank.

A the beginning of this term Daniel was given the treasurer box and a meeting of the committee voted to give the Chair emergency powers² to fix the accounts and (if necessary³) get us re-registered as a University Society (Elliott was absent and Daniel abstained). The Chair was able to audit the accounts, balance the books and ensure that all the receipts were numbered such that there is a auditable paper trail for all income and expenditure. Fortunately all our accounts were in order if slightly disorganised. The Chair wrote cheques to all those who were owed money by the SRCF and the Treasurer signed them.

Visits to the bank revealed that the signatories on the account were incorrect as some previous committee had incorrectly filled in the Society Mandate form removing the Senior Treasurer and a new form had not been filed after the EGM to add the new Chair as a signatory and remove the old Chair.

Fortunately this should now all have been resolved and our documentation on this has been improved in an effort to prevent this occurring in future.

1.1 Summary of accounts

A summary of the accounts will be circulated on paper at the AGM. We made a loss in 2009-2010 and a smaller profit so far in 2010-2011.

1.2 Future

Since the SRCF continues to grow and now has more hardware than at any previous point the SRCF will need to increase the size of its insurance fund. Since the SRCF relies on donations donations would be appreciated (<https://www.srcf.ucam.org/donate>).

¹there were assurances that this was under control

²These powers expire at the AGM.

³we haven't been informed that we de-registered or that we re-registered but if we had de-registered we should now be re-registered

1.3 Thanks

Particular thanks are due to CAUV, CUHaH, EBC and Romance.ucam.org for donations as societies, to Third Light for their large donation and to Open Market (formerly MX Telecom) who sponsored our garden party. Annabel Banks, Chris Hinde and various other individuals who wish to remain anonymous have also made donations this year. Kristian Glass and Malcolm Scott have been owed large sums of money for many months by the SRCF over the last year mainly due to our not getting around to writing the cheques and the SRCF is very grateful to them for bearing with us.

2 Chair's Report

I was not originally intending to become the Chair of the SRCF this year but when our previous Chair Han-Ley Tang resigned at the beginning of Michaelmas having accidentally graduated I stood for election at the EGM⁴. I was previously Secretary on the Committee so I can still relate what happened during the whole period of that committee.

2.1 Events

The SRCF Committee should organise a number of events over the course of an academic year: Michaelmas is particularly busy with the Freshers Fair, Welcome Social⁵, talks to both the Part IA, IB and II CST students about the SRCF and potentially a Machine Room Tour (MRT) though in practice those have happened in Lent term on the last two occasions. In Lent there is the AGM and potentially the MRT. In Easter there is the Garden Party and the 'Annual'/Anniversary Dinner.

In terms of events this year went reasonably well with only a few hiccups — for example the 'Annual' Dinner though advertised never actually happened, hopefully the next committee will be able to rectify this.

2.1.1 Easter

In May we attempted to obtain sponsorship from Bloomberg and Elliott and Richard Whitehouse went to give a presentation but unfortunately we were not successful. Han-Ley also attempted to obtain sponsorship from Accenture but we were again unsuccessful. We considered seeing whether we could use <http://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/giving/search.php?all=y> to allow people to donate to the SRCF at the suggestion of Kristian Glass (Sysadmin and ex-PR Officer) but it appears no progress was made on our plan to do so.

We held a successful Garden Party on the Trinity Hall Wychfield site which was sponsored by OpenMarket (formerly MX Telecom). As noted previously we failed to organise the dinner we were intending to organise.

2.1.2 Michalemas

The Freshers Fair (FF) resulted in some 104 people signing up to receive one email informing them of how to sign up and numerous people were informed of our existence. Many

⁴There was some additional fail on my part regarding this, enquire at curry if curious.

⁵not a squash after confusion in previous years when we were thought to be the University Squash Society

people indicated some interest in potentially helping on the committee or as sysadmins but we did not really follow up on that.

On the evening of the first day of the FF we held our first EGM⁶ which had reasonable attendance of 12 people and was followed by curry which was good. Charles Board a fresher NatSci at Trinity Hall was persuaded to stand as Secretary (and is willing to continue in that position onto the next committee) as part of our program for recognising young talent.

One of the people who had his membership terminated under the previous committee had his membership and account reinstated on this committee as per the conditions made on the termination and at his request. Another person remained terminated at his request⁷.

We gave brief talks at the Part II CST project briefing on how people could use the SRCF for that and at the IA induction lecture (where wifi and other transient bugs with the desktop service resulted in my making an amusing fool of myself).

We held a Welcome Social in the Bridgetower room of Trinity Hall (thanks to Malcolm for booking this) which had good attendance and conversation (though that was a little slow to start).

A brief talk was given to the Part IB CST students at their Group Project briefing about how they could use the SRCF for their group project.

We had to cancel the MRT at short notice due to increased security as a result of the occupation of Old Schools by student protests.

We epically failed at submitting our accounts and so may have ended up de-registering as a University Society — this should have been covered in more detail in the Treasurer's report.

2.1.3 Lent 2011

We held a very successful MRT with a large number of people and it was great fun with many amusing stories related which was followed by a visit to the Anchor Pub by a sizeable number of people and more interesting discussions on various topical and technical issues were had before the Anchor closed⁸.

2.2 Membership

We did not manage to beat our record for October signups this year though we still managed to do better than any previous year excluding the previous year. Sign up rates this year have been slightly lower than the previous year but still fairly high.

Membership exceeds 6267 and we have over 2370 users and host over 890 societies.

⁶the ability to hold EGMs was added to the constitution the AGM before last (2009)

⁷for further details see curry

⁸at the antisocially early hour of 23:15