



# Felix

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London

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## What the hell are the SACAs?

### NEWS

**Alejandro Luy**  
Deputy President  
(Education)

*And why do they matter?*

**Y**ou've been spammed with too many emails, you've seen the green posters, flyers and triangular table things in the cafes. Maybe you've grabbed a free tea or

green apple at one of the stalls or seen someone running around in a ridiculous green morph suit. All just to grab your attention and tell you to nominate a member of staff for a Student Academic Choice Award (SACA). What's it all for and why should you care? The short answer: *this is how we change Imperial*. You spending 5 minutes of your time to submit a nomination can make all the difference. Don't believe me? Let's see if I can convince you.

Surveys like SOLE,

the SES, NSS, PTES and PRES (the major student surveys run at Imperial) make it all too easy to complain about what needs to improve. And we *love* to make it abundantly clear (trust me, I've read through the comments and seen how brutal students can be). Have you ever thought about how hard it must be to read through hundreds of negative comments about you, multiple times per year? I work with these staff every day, it's part of what I do as Deputy President (Education), and I can tell you that it

gets demoralising. Even our best staff that try their hardest to deliver the best possible experience get worn down. There's no mention of that time when they stayed two extra hours to help someone work through a difficult problem. Nobody has acknowledged that they reply to emails or mark dozens of pieces of coursework over the weekend when they should be spending time with their families. All of that is too easily forgotten. Giving your honest feedback is extremely important, but it's only

half of the solution.

**"All of that is too easily forgotten"**

This is where the SACAs come in. The SACAs are a simple, powerful way of recognising all the hard work that staff put in to make our experience just a little bit better. By praising the staff that go the extra mile, the student body sends

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Nominations open Monday 4 February

[imperialcollegeunion.org/elections](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/elections)

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## Election season is upon us...



Andy Djaba – Felix Editor

As I officially pass the halfway point of my tenure as *Felix* Editor and, with nominations for the 2019 Leadership Elections opening on Monday, I can't help but acknowledge that the changing of the guard is coming sooner, rather than later. I also can't shake the feeling that people can't wait to get rid of my fellow Full Time Officers and me. This wasn't helped by a meeting we were in on Wednesday in which we were effectively told that Union staff are going to be pricks to us for the next six weeks as election season hots up. Oh joy...

Anyway, this term's improved performance continues as I'm writing this editorial before 10pm. Still not quite hit the 7pm target but we move. I also stumbled upon how to use spell check on Adobe InDesign, which can only mean good things for the quality of the paper going forward.

This week's issue of *Felix* sees the return of the popular Postgraduate section. The monthly instalment in the paper, brought to you in

collaboration with the Graduate Students' Union, is now in its third issue and is going from strength to strength! I encourage any postgraduate students reading this Editorial to submit content for the section to ensure it is as engaging as possible. In particular, I think the "Supervision Stories" series in particular provides an important forum for open dialogue about the crucial student - supervisor relationship and its associated dynamics.

This week, I also had the pleasure of interviewing Emma Tucker, the Deputy Editor of *The Times*. I also

had a seat at the table for her meeting with Professor Lord Robert Winston and a selection of MSc in Science Communication students. The discussion was interesting and these are the perks of the job that I'm really grateful for.

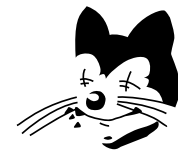
This week also saw the return of another messy ACC sports night in the Union. I actually almost went to this one. I even wore pink (on Wednesdays, we wear pink), but I couldn't bring myself to actually set foot inside. Mabe next time.

I got my hands on a copy of Warwick's student newspaper, *The Boar*. I

tend not to pay any attention to the other student publications out there - don't want to glorify the competition. However, I think I'm justified in saying *Felix* bangs in comparison.

Section of the week for this week goes to the Books Section. I want to say a special thank you to our Books Editor, Jingjie Cheng. JJ has done an amazing job of singlehandedly steering the Books section this year. Sadly, she has her Medicine finals coming up soon and I am really going to miss having her around the office.

*Note: This editorial has been so so dull. I can't really be blamed though, not much has happened this week. In fact, I was really scratching my head to think of anything noteworthy. I don't even know why people read this far. In fact, I've received multiple compliments about how "open" and "heart-on-your-sleeve" I am in these. Whatever floats your boat, I guess... I'm flattered. If I could blush, trust me I would be bright red.*

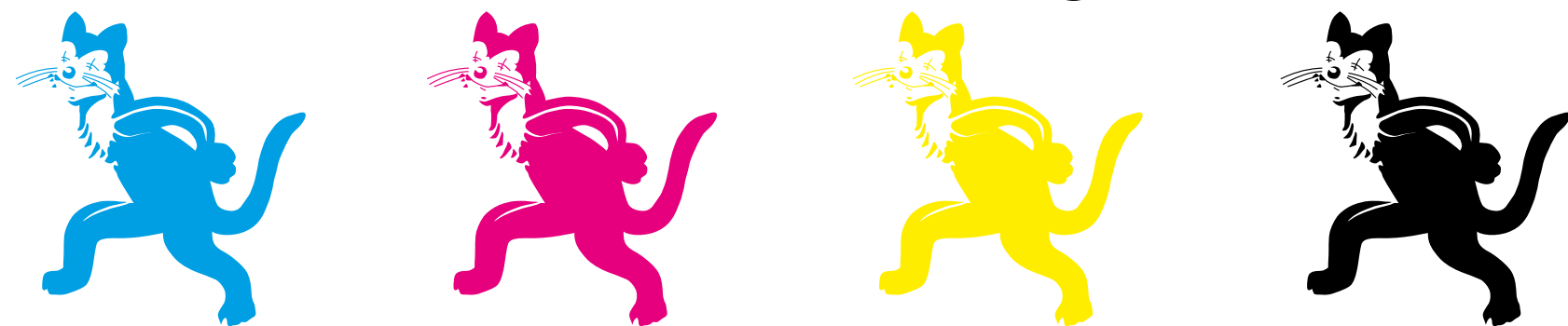


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## Felix is recruiting!



**We want you – yes, you! We're looking for writers, photographers, editors, illustrators, reporters, computer experts and grammar nerds to join our team. No experience needed – we'll teach you everything you need to know. If you're interested, send us an email on [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk)**

# NEWS

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Imperial welcomes Deputy Editor of *The Times*

**NEWS**

**Andy Djaba**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Imperial played host to Emma Tucker, the Deputy Editor of *The Times* on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January. After viewing a Data Observatory showcase in the Data Science Institute, Emma sat down with *Felix* for a brief interview:

*Felix: How do you think fake news has affected your job or the job of being a journalist over the years?*

**Emma:** Well I think, in a way, it clarified our role. Sometimes I say there's never been a better time

to be a journalist because our mission is so clear because, if you've got a lot of fake news being put out and you're from a reputable publisher, your job is to tell the truth. Shine light on the truth, report accurately.

*Do you have any advice to aspiring journalists?*

My advice to aspiring journalists is do journalism. School, college, wherever it is that you are, try and get involved in whatever journalism is on offer and write. If you can't get involved in a local paper or a student publication, write a blog. Just get used to writing and show your commitment because it's a bit of a vocation, journalism. You've got to really want to do it.

*What qualities would you say make the ideal student journalist?*

Tenacity, a slight sense of mischief, curiosity and a slight pig-headedness. You've got to be stubborn, you've got to keep going.

*What's your opinion on the media's role in Brexit?*

I feel that it wasn't the media's finest hour. I think in many ways, we got to where we are because large parts of the British media didn't report the European Union sufficiently correctly or even broadly enough. It was reported in a very trite, facile way and a lot of it was seen through a filter as if we weren't part of it, as if it was somehow imposed on us and the end result was, I think, a lot of people were very

ill-informed about the part we played in it. With some notable exceptions, not all the press did that but, by and large, it wasn't treated seriously and I think Brexit could partly be blamed on that.

*What are your thoughts on remaining relevant in the digital landscape and the future of print media?*

The old legacy publishers have to embrace data journalism. You won't find any serious newsrooms that don't have a data team. It also opens up so many more possibilities for investigation, stories, analysis. A good data team can supply half your news list if they're really on top of their game so I think it's an exciting new branch of journalism.



Professor Lord Robert Winston looks on as Emma Tucker engages in dialogue with MSc Science Communication students // Jo Mieszkowski

*In an increasingly globalised world, how do you decide which news to focus on?*

That's such a good question. I think people, by and large, want to read about what they know so, obviously, we give more priority to events that happened in the UK. I think you have to accept that you can't report

everything and, more often than not, if you're picking out a foreign story, it's got wider relevance. Obviously you're still going to report catastrophes, events, accidents, earthquakes but, by and large, the sort of stories you choose to report will be because they've got some sort of relevance or broader point to make.

## What the hell are the SACAs?

**NEWS**

(cont.)

a clear message that we value excellence, rather than just complain when something isn't great. By putting five minutes into submitting a nomination, you can (anonymously) tell a staff member that, despite all the ways in which they could improve, you appreciate them and the impact that they've made on you during your time at Imperial. That you appreciated that one time that they gave you some solid advice, or that they are trialling innovative teaching methods even if it doesn't always work out. The SACAs make it easy and mean so much to

staff. See for yourself:  
*"I felt really honoured to be nominated. I take care to deliver the best teaching I can and receiving a nomination from the students makes a big difference to the way I feel about spending that extra time." - Nominee*

**"The more nominations, the louder the message"**

*"It was great to feel appreciated by the students, especially given all the hard work that goes into it that they don't directly see." - Short listee*  
*"I regard it as one of*

*the biggest, most meaningful, and most gratifying awards of my career. It provided me with tremendous motivation to strive to improve and modernise my teaching further such that it continues to be worthy of the world-class students that Imperial attracts. It also gave me a lot of legitimacy, and credibility, when providing input and feedback to other academics in terms of how to improve their teaching in order to maximise the students' learning experience." - Winner*  
So, what does this all have to do with changing Imperial? Well, every staff member that gets nominated, whether it's by one or fifteen students, receives a special mug

even if they don't actually win the award for that category. That mug is then a daily reminder that they are appreciated by students. So why does that matter? Let's be stereotypical Imperial students and do some #quickmaths. Assume that receiving a mug makes a staff member feel 5, 10, maybe 20% more confident in what they do. Now imagine 10 members of staff in your department putting that little bit extra in. How about 20? What about 200 across a faculty? What about the 11 award winners feeling empowered to continue championing change? Students gave out over 900 mugs across Imperial last year. That's 900 members of staff continuing to be

motivated to go the extra mile for YOU. Get the picture?  
The bottom line is that every nomination you submit sends the message that students value

**"It's up to you to make sure that deserving staff aren't missed"**

excellence and the hard work that staff put in for us. The more nominations, the louder the message.  
So, who will you nominate?  
It's up to you to make sure that deserving staff

aren't missed. There are 11 categories to choose from and you can nominate as many staff as you like. The more convincing nominations a staff member receives, the higher chance they have of being shortlisted and winning an award at the ceremony in May, so get your friends to nominate too!  
Head to [imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas) to find out more.  
Not convinced? Let's have a chat – I'm available at [dpe@ic.ac.uk](mailto:dpe@ic.ac.uk)

**"Who will you nominate?"**



# The Imperialites win the Global Case Competition at

## NEWS

**Benoit Dubief**

MSc Innovation,  
Entrepreneurship and  
Management

While studying at Imperial College London, one of the top ten universities in the world, one would expect to be faced with many opportunities take advantage of, perhaps even more so as a Business School student. However, the Global Case Competition was not one I had expected upon arrival, back in September 2018, as part of the MSc in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Management.

This programme is the third Master's degree I am pursuing, after being enrolled in a Master's in Business Law from La Sorbonne in Paris as well as an MSc in Management from a French *grande école* called EMLyon Business School. As a former entrepreneur in the first years of my undergraduate law studies, I have always been interested in solving today's digital-related strategy issues and this cross-curricular background resulted in a six-month digital strategy consulting internship at Capgemini Consulting (now called Capgemini Invent) in Paris. Even though I declined my penultimate-round interview at McKinsey London to start a full-time position at Facebook Europe upon graduation and, after experiencing an amazing summer internship there, I have never stopped enjoying strategic case-solving; quite the contrary.

Fun fact: I actually heard about the Global

Case Competition on Facebook. For those unaware of such business games, the concept is the following: gather the best students from the world's best universities to try and solve whatever kind of corporate strategy cases they are given. Hence, the GCC is one of the most prestigious contests hosted by Cambridge Consulting Network and ETH Zurich's Graduate Consulting Club every year at the University of Cambridge's St John's College. Participants are required to form a team of four in order to apply. Most of them are ideally selected among their university's consulting club members so that each team stands the best chance of taking the top spot.

Fun fact number two: I decided to take a shot at the competition the day before the deadline, which means forming a team was quite a challenge in itself, not to mention that I was not part of any consulting club at Imperial. However, the MSc programme I am enrolled in is all about innovating, therefore I could not miss such an opportunity to apply concepts in the field.

**"I decided to take a shot at the competition the day before the deadline"**

Despite such starting conditions and several withdrawals from potential teammates due to the limited availability of students around mid-January, I was lucky enough to get full support from one of



The Imperialites immortalising their first prize in St. John's College yard, University of Cambridge. From left to right: Edward Vernon, Simon Jensen, Benoit Dubief & Charles Jalali-Farhani // University of Cambridge Consulting Network

my closest classmates, Edward Vernon, who I had been working with since October as part of our course's group work. I noticed his very strong business acumen on top of his flawless team playing skills along the way, which made him an obvious partner in such a challenge. He told me about another classmate Simon Jensen, with whom Edward used to practice consulting case studies for interviews, making him a solid addition. Finally, we were missing only one member to complete the team, and I thought of another fellow Business School student, Charles Jalali-Farhani, who is pursuing an MSc in Economics and Strategy for Business. As President of Imperial's venture capital society, he previously reached out to me in December to help him create communication media to raise awareness about a VC Talks event gathering

some of the world's best VC firms such as Accel. Again, I noted his sharp mind and collaborative attitude when it came to working together on business-related topics. He also used to practice consulting case studies during his BSc in Economics at LSE. I felt he could be the right match for our team and he immediately accepted my offer to join.

Even though we were now a proper team, the online application portal still required our team's name. Considering that the "Fabulous Four" and the "Fantastic Four" had already been taken by quite successful squads in the past, we needed to come up with something else. Then I remembered one of the coolest words I had read, thanks to my McKinsey buddy Nas Andriopoulos, Imperial alumnus and former President of the Union: "Imperialite" (as all Imperial students are known).

As some of you may have guessed at this stage of the story, this is how we ended up officially applying as "The Imperialites".

The competition started on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> January. During the afternoon, all the teams were required to work on a case about the healthcare industry. We had two hours in order to make a recommendation about whether an Argentina-based medical hardware manufacturer called Conexia should enter the U.S. market or not. Their main product was a real-time claims adjudication system which consisted of an IT solution allowing health insurance companies to pre-authorise medical services before they are rendered to patients by doctors. Even though Conexia was a strong leader in Argentina, the U.S. healthcare system was different and far more fragmented than its domestic market. During this

round of the competition, all teams were required to feature whatever recommendation they came up with in a maximum of four slides. Needless to say, the 2-hour challenge felt quite tricky for an 11-page case. On top of it, we were not supposed to present our conclusions, which meant our entire thinking process had to fit into these four slides.

Beyond the sole hurdles of the case, we were immediately struck by the devastating effects of these hard time constraints. None of us had any specific knowledge of such a niche market, which led us to analyse the case for about half an hour before even starting to discuss it together. We then struggled to settle on an efficient structure which could be both clear and extensive. It took us about another hour to get to this point, while we still had not yet started producing any content.

# Cambridge

**"We ended the day not convinced of our deliverable at all, quite disappointed with our overall performance"**

As soon as we agreed on content, there were only 15 minutes left to design our presentation's layout, which translated into hardly anything. Witnessing the flawless workflow of some of the world's best talent around us was not helping either. In a nutshell, we ended the day not convinced of our deliverable at all, quite disappointed with our overall performance.

Nevertheless, we did not get that much time to process or improve what we had done, given that one of the best parts of the weekend was about to happen. Indeed, all teams were invited to attend a private formal dinner held in the Great Hall of St John's College. It was a great opportunity to network and engage in friendly conversations with the different teams and participants, as well as staff and jury members, in an incredible place. Our team got to talk with one of the two Cambridge teams as well as the ETH Zurich team, made up of

brilliant Engineering PhD students who seemed to be enjoying the moment as much as we were. Getting involved in such intelligent discussions with bright minds from all over the world, while being surrounded by centuries-old historical paintings, almost felt like a scene straight out of *Harry Potter*. Thereafter, we headed towards St John's College Bar where we shared a few drinks before going back home in order to get in shape for the next day.

**"Getting involved in such intelligent discussions with bright minds from all over the world, while being surrounded by centuries-old historical paintings, almost felt like a scene straight out of Harry Potter"**

The competition's next and final round was held on Sunday morning.

Before starting work on a new case, the staff made us aware of Saturday's general ranking. Suffice to say, we were expecting the worst, which happened. Overall, we earned the second lowest grade. However, none of us gave up aiming for the top three. Such a mindset was all the more important in light of Sunday's rules - Sunday's score would count twice as much as Saturday's towards the final average score. This is because teams were allocated three hours instead of two in order to solve the case, before introducing their recommendations to the jury with an 8-minute presentation followed by a Q&A session in the afternoon.

Sunday's case was about WorldLabs, a London-based startup developing an online platform that connects the innovation ecosystem's stakeholders in order to foster innovative ideas through funding, resources, collaborations and support. The venture's management was looking to scale both their customer base and funding. Thanks to the hardships our team went through the day before, we immediately agreed on a splittable structure such that each of us could work separately while providing content which could be directly featured in the presentation that I had started working on just 15 minutes after the round had begun. Although we felt more familiar with such an

innovation-related case, our refined approach to communication, productivity and time-efficiency was key to the overall quality of what we delivered as a team. We then had barely 15 minutes to rehearse our oral presentation and make sure our public-speaking strategy was as impactful as our slides.

**"Even though our second performance felt solid, we truly believed that the first one would prevent us from taking anything beyond the third spot"**

Sunday's jury was composed of WorldLabs' CEO and COO as well as strategy consultants from LEK. We were the second team to present, given the descending order following Saturday's ranking. Once all teams finished their presentations and Q&A sessions, the jury was out for about half an hour before we were given the final results from the competition. Quite frankly, even though our second performance felt solid, we truly believed that the

first one would prevent us from taking anything beyond the third spot. This is why our hopes were dashed when that third spot was awarded to the ETH Zurich team, which had already been brilliantly ranked first following Saturday's round. Further to this announcement, the pressure became increasingly difficult to take as second prize was awarded to another team composed of Master of Engineering students from Imperial College London, who delivered tremendous work throughout the weekend.

Then came the announcement of the competition's overall winners. It would be an understatement in the extreme to say that we were not expecting to hear our team's name, nor did we overflow with happiness after realising we had won first prize. I especially felt like I achieved one of my oldest and most rewarding dreams. A dream which started fulfilling itself with my admission to Imperial. I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to my teammates Edward, Charles and Simon for their stellar contribution, both in terms of quantitative processing abilities and emotional intelligence, their trust in my endeavour as well as the enlightening and unforgettable human experience we have been through as a team.

In retrospect, I assume that our story shed an even brighter light on Imperial College Business School's motto: "Imperial

means intelligent business". It strengthened what I already believed in as well as what we are constantly provided with in class. Sometimes, the most cliché catchwords are also the most genuine, especially when it comes to competing for success globally: never give up on your goals, ramp up your strengths while overcoming your weaknesses. At the end of our journey, we were honoured to represent Imperial with such values in mind, and even prouder to be able make our university stand out thanks to the spirit it fosters every day.

**"In retrospect, I assume that our story shed an even brighter light on Imperial College Business School's motto: Imperial means intelligent business"**



## Nominations open Monday 4 February

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Details inside



## COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Yemen: an unseen issue

*President of UNICEF on campus, **Stevie Lam**, writes about the terrible famine in Yemen occurring out of sight of the world's media*

## COMMENT

### Stevie Lam

*Comment Writer*

The world has a problem. Absent from the front pages of our newspapers and digital screens is one of the largest humanitarian crises in modern history. Often referred to as “The Forgotten War”, Yemen has been caught in the middle of violent conflict between the Houthis forces – an anti-government militant group – and the Saudi Arabian led coalition – a group of nine African and Middle-Eastern countries, of which the UK and US have provided intelligence and logistical support. In the past 3 years, widespread destruction has erupted across the country with bombing and shooting threatening the security of its people. This has driven the country into an emergency where 22.2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, making up approximately 75% of the entire population.

Food supplies and clean water are scarce, precipitated by attacks on local infrastructure. Strategic aerial and naval blockades imposed by the coalition to stop Houthi military supplies has limited the Yemeni people from receiving even the most basic of goods. With 90% of Yemen's food supply being reliant on foreign exports, these blockades have had disastrous consequences on the people's access to food. Worsened by the



Children are especially badly affected / *voiceofpeopletoday*

deteriorating economy – with the Rial losing nearly 50 per cent of its value – affected families struggle to purchase food as a result. All of this means that Yemen is now struggling with one of the largest famines in history: an estimated 12 million Yemenis, including 2 million children, will be dependent on food assistance in 2019.

Diseases that have almost been eradicated from the country have reappeared, with outbreaks of cholera and diphtheria posing a threat to Yemen's health infrastructure. Violence has

led to the destruction of water and sanitation facilities, allowing cholera to spread quickly. Over a million cases of cholera have been reported thus far, meaning that Yemen is currently facing the world's largest ongoing cholera outbreak. Furthermore, those who require medical treatment can't afford it and with some 20% of health facilities having been destroyed, the health system is in a state of near collapse. This, amongst targeted attacks on civilian homes and buildings, contravene international law.

This atrocity cannot be

ignored within campus. Therefore, charity societies on campus including Amnesty, Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children and Unicef have decided to collaborate on a week-long campaign kicking off on Monday 4th February, to shed light on the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. Some of the work of these NGOs are shown below.

Amnesty is working to stop the flow of weapons to Yemen. The UK and the US have made and sold weapons to Saudi Arabia that were then used to destroy schools, hospitals and other civilian

infrastructure in Yemen. These arms sales only fuel the ongoing conflict, and by stopping the sale of weapons, violations against civilians could be curbed.

Unicef has been tackling Yemen's cholera outbreak with the improvement of sanitation and access to clean water. The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme allowed 6 million people access to drinking water through the operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of public water systems.

Save the Children is treating sick and injured

children through over 150 fixed health facilities, 21 hospitals and five mobile health and nutrition teams. They are involved in the prevention of hygiene related health diseases with raising awareness. They also train health volunteers in the preven-

**“Come to our lunchtime stalls from the 4th of February to the 8th of February”**

tion and management of malnutrition.

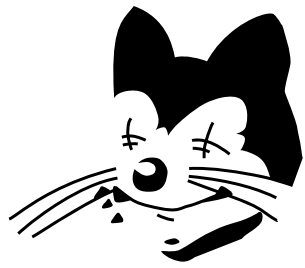
MSF (Médecins Sans Frontières) are fighting against malnutrition in Yemen. Between January and October 2018, MSF hospitals and supported health facilities have treated 4,855 cases of malnutrition. With over 2,200 MSF staff working on-the-ground across 12 hospitals and health centres, they have so far treated 973,098 patients in their emergency rooms.

Please come along to our lunchtime stalls from the 4th of February to the 8th of February to donate and find out more. We are also hosting a charity dinner on the 5th of February and a speaking event on the 7th of February. Details can be found on our Facebook page @humanitarian-week2019



## COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



# Les Gilets Jaunes: protesters or extremists?

*Xiu Xiuchen argues that whilst the gilets jaunes began as a protest against fuel taxes, it has mutated into an extremist movement*

## COMMENT

Xiu Xiuchen

Comment Writer

The yellow vest (gilets jaunes) movement began in November 2018 and was named after the high-vis jackets worn by motorists who started the movement. Although the gilets jaunes started by protesting against rising fuel taxes, the movement has become increasingly extreme with the manifestation of anti-government sentiments. To fully understand the evolution of the movement, we must take a closer look at events that have led to the current state of affairs. The first major protest on November 17th saw large scale barricades of roads. The protests attracted over 300,000 people and caused major chaos. By 21st November there had been 585 civilian injuries and two deaths, which led to President Macron deploying troops to combat the violence. The gilets jaunes has no official organisation, no identified leader and no political affiliation, so just how did the movement become such a threat to the French government?

It all began initially with a single online petition to lower fuel taxes launched in May by Priscillia Ludosky. The petition quickly gained great momentum, and by mid-October it had over 300,000 signatures (and now has over 1 million signatures). The anti-fuel tax petition resonated with middle- and working-class motorists in



The French people doing what they do best // Flickr

France, especially as there were impending further fuel tax rises proposed by

**“The anti-fuel tax petition resonated with middle and working class motorists”**

Macron to take effect in January.

Following the petition, social media played an important

role. The idea for a national blockade was launched by Éric Drouet and Bruno Lefevre through the creation of a Facebook event. Also, around this period, a viral video was posted by Ghislain Coutard which proposed the use of high-vis jackets during the protests, the yellow vest has since then become the symbol of this movement. Another important viral video was by Jacline Mourad who criticised Macron’s policies as they favoured the rich. The video resonated with the people of France,

as many believed the environmental duties are placed unfairly upon them as the problems were caused by big co-operation’s.

Following the initial protest, increasingly violent protests ensued. On 24th of November, protesters set fires in the streets of Paris, and police started using tear gas to deter the protesters. By the beginning of December, an antiMacron protest was organised, marking the beginning of the change from anti-fuel tax to more anti-governmental protests. More than

100 cars were burned on 1st December, and the protests resulted in the death of a second motorist and an elderly Algerian woman. The estimated property damage was 3-4 million Euro.

By 4th December, the proposed tax rises were suspended. However, the protests continued, as the anger with Macron’s pro-business policies spread like wildfire. Right now, the gilets jaunes crisis is becoming increasingly difficult for the government to deal with, as the movement has gained

widespread support in France (polls found that 70% of French people supported the gilets jaunes). The influence of the gilets jaunes has also spread internationally, with similar protests occurring in multiple countries including

**“The influence of the gilets jaunes has spread internationally with protests in Canada, Russia and Croatia”**

Canada, Russia, and Croatia.

The situation in France is also worrying as the movement is slowly being high-jacked by anarchists and extremists. Indeed, a poll has shown that many protesters had either not voted or voted for far-right or far-left candidates during the 2017 presidential elections, and it is clear that many of the protests are insurrectionist in nature. The future of France is shrouded in uncertainty as the protests continue; will the government regain its stability or will the country spiral further into chaos.

# COMMENT

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## A case study in Fake News

*Theodor Videnberg discusses a recent incident that caused an online uproar as a prime example of fake news and proposes some measures to combat it*

### COMMENT

**Theodore Videnberg**  
Comment Writer

A recent incident that was circulated on social media showed a confrontation between high schoolers, some of whom were wearing MAGA hats, a Native American man, and a group calling themselves Black Hebrew Israelites, in Washington D.C. In a snippet that was circulated later the smiling teenager (Nick Sandmann) was painted as an arrogant, racist and xenophobic young man, who ridiculed and belittled an old Native American and Marine veteran (Nathan Phillips), who was beating his drum. The incident gained virality and sparked intense online reactions.

Longer videos that were later posted on Youtube showed a more complicated story, where the high school students stand at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial waiting for their bus and Mr. Phillips walks straight into the student group and starts beating his drum in close proximity to Mr. Sandmann's face, who smiles but does not react verbally or physically. Slurs and derogatory comments are being shouted by another Native American man and members of the Black Israelite group, while the teenagers perform high school chants. The whole story can instead be seen as a stare-down, common in boxing fights. Sandmann's smile can be seen as either arrogant,



Do you like this music? // Youtube

disrespectful or due to the teenager's bafflement or confusion at the situation.

**“The incident seemed highly trivial to make national news”**

Either way, the incident seemed too trivial to make national news.

Meanwhile the occurrence spiralled out of proportion and led to angry protests and death threats against the teenage high schoolers and their

parents. Online activists even called on potential universities to reject future applications from the teenagers. Instead of calming the otherwise minor situation, online pundits from CNN, NBC and Daily Mail as well as social media activists on Facebook and Twitter started an online campaign against the private all-male Covington Catholic High School, in particular, and against Trump supporters in general.

It seemed that some viewed the incident as a proxy war, a battlefield on which to protest against

US President Trump, the MAGA slogan, his border wall proposal and pro-life supporters. Looking at the case it is likely that the media reports amount to little more than slander and libel. The case is unlikely to just disappear, with defamation suits in the courts and should serve as a prime example of fake news.

Ever since US President Trump coined the term “fake news”, it has been evident that various journalists have abandoned their primary job descriptions (i.e. reporting reality and hard truth backed up by facts and statistics) and

have instead become political and social activists. A system where media companies are required to generate webpage visits and views to be financed through advertising proceeds as well as an overflow of information and the lack of time to critically engage with complex topics, has led to a toxic environment on social media, where speed beats reality. Denzel Washington, a respected Oscar winner, famously described the effects of too much information as “the need to be first, not even be true anymore”. By reporting fake news and spreading inaccurate stories, the media companies endanger themselves and their most-important asset: credibility, which is hard earned but can be lost fairly quickly and is not quickly regained. Readers, are fed up with the fake reporting, and are abandoning the traditional media outlets for alternative media providers or online personalities on YouTube. As a result YouTube's net revenue, as a proxy for viewership, has surged by 75% since 2015.

How can this vicious circle of fake news be broken? Three parties should be involved: I believe that it starts with the media companies. They need to realize the danger that fake news poses to them and their guild and start retracting proven fake news stories and issuing apologies to their victims. Journalists, who purposefully spread twisted or fake stories, should be disciplined appropriately. Additionally,

the government needs to think about introducing financial and regulatory penalties for journalists, who spread falsehood. A journalist, whose articles are retracted, e.g. say 5 times, could lose his accreditation; media companies could lose

**“Government needs to introduce financial and regulatory penalties for journalists that spread fake news”**

their license. These could be measures. The government also needs to address the issue of corporate tax evasion (e.g. of Amazon, Facebook, Google etc.) and how the additionally received funds might be used to reimburse media companies whose content is being used by social platforms. This should reduce the need for posting clickbait or fake news stories. Last, but not least we as readers need to recognise our responsibility to critically evaluate the facts, employ multiple sources and call out fake news with arguments backed up by statistics and science. Readers need to build their opinion through own research, instead of blindly repeating media statements or spin stories.





# ARTS

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## La Traviata continues to delight

### ARTS



**Where?** Royal Opera House

**When?** Until 31st Jan

**How Much?** Prices vary

### Jingjie Cheng

Arts Writer

Verdi's *La Traviata* is undoubtedly one of the most well-loved and familiar operas of all time. First performed in London at Her Majesty's Theatre in 1856, it is now the most-performed opera in the world. This particular production of the Royal Opera House, directed by Richard Eyre, celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

Across the years, many sopranos have sung Violetta in various

productions. But few have managed to embody Violetta, the famed courtesan and 'fallen woman' of the title. Angel Blue is certainly one of them. In the American soprano's Royal Opera House debut, Violetta blossomed into life on stage, drawing the audience into her tale of passion, sacrifice and sorrow. From the heights of merriment in the drinking song - *Libiamo ne' lieti calici* - to the troughs of sorrow and longing in her last song before she dies, Blue perfectly embodies the rich emotion that carries Violetta and the opera through.

Blue was a delight as part of the second cast of this production. Her voice was rich and multi-layered, and the emotion in her arias so palpable one could almost touch it in the air. Violetta's passion, and subsequent sacrifice of her happiness

for the reputation of Alfredo, were beautifully put across. In one of the most perfectly-executed scenes, Giorgio, Alfredo's father (Simone Piazzola), comes to ask Violetta to leave his son for the sake of his family's reputation. The tension hangs in the air as Giorgio starts off contemptuous, only to be gradually touched by Violetta's sincerity. Violetta is devastated, then remorseful, as she agrees to sacrifice her life with Alfredo for Giorgio's daughter, telling him that his 'young and pure' daughter must know of her sacrifice in the future. Piazzola's Giorgio fully understands that his request is a selfish one - however, it is one he believes he is entitled to in view of Violetta's status as a courtesan. The way he flinched when Violetta asked him to embrace her as a daughter was telling of his contempt that later melts into respect and

remorse.

Blue's Violetta stands her ground, walking a fine line between self-respect and her unconditional love for Alfredo. She plays neither the innocent victim nor the wronged woman. Instead, she faces her fate with a kind of stoic resignation and a respectability at odds with the reputation that Giorgio accuses her of.

Benjamin Bernheim's Alfredo, on the other hand, starts off shy and tentative as he meets Violetta for the first time at her party, then shines with happiness when they are living together in the country. When Violetta leaves him at his father's behest, Alfredo reveals his stubbornness - his belief that the Baron had taken Violetta away from him made him truly unpleasant at Flora's party later on, where he throws his gambling winnings at her as 'payment' for her



Ermonela Jaho and Charles Castronovo as Violetta and Alfredo // Catherine Ashmore

time with him. Bernheim perfectly captured the hurt and insult that Alfredo felt, and the loss of control that led to his outburst, and the remorse that wrecks him immediately after.

*La Traviata* is such an oft-performed and classic opera that it is difficult to do anything fresh without appearing con-

trived. However, in this production the cast have provided subtly fresh interpretations of their roles in front of a grand, gilded set that transports us to 1850s Paris. It definitely ranks as one of the more interesting productions of *La Traviata* in recent years.

## The Wedding – a powerful portrayal of the society

A stellar physical theatre performance from Gecko, tackling the issues of today's society through an uplifting and challenging piece

### ARTS



**Where?** The Globe Theatre

**When?** Until 29th Nov

**How Much?** £23; £16 students

### Rebekah Byford

Arts Writer

Physical Theatre company Gecko have produced *The Wedding* to tackle the large social issues we face today. Performed many times since its development in 2015 and toured in 2018, this presentation was

shown at the Barbican as part of the London International Mime Festival 2019. Created by Amit Lahav, it fuses impressive staging, movement, fast choreography, music and minimal dialogue composed of many languages.

The show opens with giggling and laughter, with the performer sliding down a chute landing on teddy bears representing the innocence of childhood. In no time a wedding dress is fitted and the performer after brief hilarity is quickly wed to the workplace. This sequence repeats and we see how *The Wedding* is about our marriage to society as much as the process.

The workplace seems stifling and oppressive. At one point four performers are inside a tiny box, three managers quizzing one man. The small window begins to steam up and you feel the pressure rising, as if you were also inside. In a striking moment the man rises from the box, appearing to be hung from his own tie. In another a woman fights for her individuality among the many, struggling to breathe while trying to convince others to join her. The use of breath is extremely powerful throughout the piece and really heightens the tension at crucial moments.

Other workplace problems were explored as well. A striking scene

using white props shows an internal struggle between the domineering work life and alcoholism. Another moment shows the strive to become a manager, with them all reaching for a red suitcase during some beautiful group choreography, for it ultimately to be won at random.

The fast-paced nature of the workplace is sharply contrasted by the refugee characters. What starts off as a humorous addition, one character coming from a suitcase followed by three others later becomes tragic. Towards the end, one of the refugees is sickeningly turned into a dancing monkey for the bosses clothed in a bomb vest and

gun. This leads to a brutal hate crime, in a scene hard to ever forget.

Alongside these struggles the elite are shown towering above on a high table, without the need to step through the marriage process. Thus, it is immensely cathartic watching the socialist revolution rise at the end, where the elite is pulled down from their stilts. Followed by a moving group choreography where all are entwined to rebuild each other. The final rhythmic chorus of the show brings hope of a collective unity, often found lacking in these political times.

The whole piece is led by a strong cast of nine who were given a

well-deserved standing ovation. It was refreshing to see a piece not shying away from a political narrative, regularly breaking the fourth wall to connect with its audience.

With impressive staging and lighting throughout, the choreography and music perfectly combine to make an unmissable performance. One which will leave you full of hope for society, alongside anguish at the many injustices.



# ARTS

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## No Cirque du Soleil - show

Traveling all the way from Edinburgh, *No Show* is here to redefine what can be 'backstage' and 'onstage'

### ARTS



**Where?** Soho Theatre  
**When?** Until 9th Feb  
**How Much?** From £11

**Amanda Hertzberg**  
Arts Writer

Following the theme of circus that started with last week's almost painfully perfect *Cirque du Soleil*, the show I am reviewing this week is about all the not-so perfect stuff that goes on behind the scenes. Scottish circus performer and show director Ellie Dubois has created *No Show*, a show bringing failure, defeat and frustration to the spotlight. Dubois created this theatre/mini circus to

show the general public (by that I mean us, non-circus people) more than just "the tip of the iceberg, the 1%" that we are normally exposed to. *No Show* won a Herald Angel Reward at the Edinburgh Fringe Award in 2017 and has received numerous positive reviews.

The show focused on five women dressed in matching striped outfits, interacting frequently with the audience, each getting her own 15 minutes in the spotlight. Each of the women shows off her own unique talents, from the ever-so-dangerous steel-wheel to handstands. One woman gets lifted up by some sort of a trapeze attached to nothing but her ponytail. During these acts the women fall victim to critique and harsh words from their colleagues. As the show promised all the women fail at some point and are

met with disappointment and neglect. "Better luck next time", "You can try again tomorrow", "Push that smile" and "Could you show us more splits, we've paid for more splits" are phrases thrown at these poor women by their own peers. More often than not though, they succeed at performing very skillful tricks, leaving the audience is stunned. Altogether, the show leaves a lot to desire for the audience. Instead of seeing them fail time after time, instead of seeing sweat and tears we get seemingly very scheduled missteps mixed in with a bit of ill-performed dark humour. The show is predictable. During the 65-minute long playtime we barely delve any deeper than 10% down from the tip of the iceberg. Towards the end one of the girls gives us a heartfelt story about going to circus



All striped up // Tristram Kenton

school alongside boys and always being "good... but for a girl". It is a topic worth exploring of course, but the superficiality of it all leaves something to desire. A bit over an hour is not a long time to go in-depth of course, but there could be less jumping around and cart-wheeling and more explo-

ration of the actual topics. The show tries so hard to reach that next level but doesn't quite get there. Sportsmanship and failure for women is a concept that has definitely been explored before to more success, with films such as *Million Dollar Baby* and last year's *Battle of the Sexes*. That's not to say

the show isn't well-practiced, the tricks do really deserve applause. But it's a visually entertaining 65 minutes at most. The plot and the acting lack that little bit of extra oomph. So, I say: "better luck next time" *No Show!*

## Anywhere – an exploration with ice

Bringing the story of 'Oedipus on the Road' to life with a thought-provoking melting ice puppet

### ARTS



**Where?** The Barbican  
**When?** No longer running

**Rebekah Byford**  
Arts Writer

*Anywhere* is a tempting marvel, promising a puppet made mostly from ice, which slowly dissolves throughout the piece.

This is the debut UK performance of *Anywhere* as part of the London International Mime Festival 2019. L'Théâtre de L'Entrouvert was formed in 2009 by Elise Vigneron and aims to create a contemporary approach to the

art of puppet theatre.

*Anywhere* is based on Henry Bauchau's 'Oedipus on the Road'. Oedipus begins the journey back from Earth as a blind beggar, seemingly rejected and alone. He is followed by his daughter Antigone. The more Oedipus walks the clearer the path becomes until he reaches the crossroads of the worlds.

In the intimate space of The Pit at the Barbican, the performance starts with a lit block of ice. Upon which a hooded figure writes the first lines of the poem, accompanied by a crisp voiceover and discordant music. The black writing melts and drips down the block symbolising tears, creating a chilling effect instantly drawing you into

the performance. The mix of sound, live raindrops, visuals and eerie lighting creates a phenomenal sensual experience.

The ice puppet is then revealed at the back, covered in fabric to represent Oedipus the blind beggar. Using a white cane and some small rock obstacles, you instantly believe in this full-fledged silent character, wanting to reach out to help. A huge crash, as the ice block crumbles to the ground, jolts the audience out of this state.

At this point Antigone, Vigneron, joins the puppet, removing the clothing and revealing the beautiful ice structure. Vigneron fully captivates the audience whilst carrying the puppet round the slate circle. The audience are on

tenterhooks, feeling the pain of walking barefoot on the many precarious pieces of slate whilst understanding the deep connection between the two characters.

Throughout the piece this connection is fascinating; moving from tenderness to desperation and by the end loss and despair. This is beautifully matched by the slow melt of the puppet, with the white ice becoming clearer throughout the piece. As the puppet begins to melt, the live rain falls. At the climax, where pieces of ice fell off the puppet, the stage is covered in mist as Oedipus ascends into the sky.

During the performance little attempts are made to hide the puppet strings. The choice to

hoist the puppet from long strings, controlled side of stage by Hélène Barreau, is made a feature at many points. This highlights the inevitability of the path Oedipus would lead and the struggle Antigone would have to let go. It is marvellous to observe the precise control and points where turmoil was represented through the twisting of these strings.

Whilst I loved this performance and marvelled at its uniqueness, I am not sure I would have fully understood the story without reading up on it first. Although, created by a theatre company which strives to provoke thought and asks the audience to question, perhaps this is no bad thing.



Ice, ice, baby! // Vincent Beaume



## ARTS

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# A hilarious ode to the UK we know (not so) well

## ARTS



**Where?** The Bunker  
**When?** Until 16th Feb  
**How Much?** £10, £12, £16

**Maria Portela**  
*Arts Writer*

Abdul waits during the entire show, perching in the top of a ladder and having nightmares about his wife who is trapped back in Syria. Debby stands for almost half an hour, strapped to a spider's web with a pig-masked guard always by her side, a theatrical version of her days in the modern slavery sub-world. Abdulrahman spins in a hamster wheel, victim of an administrative bingo game. Baraa is caught in the pinball of finding all the documentation needed to settle in a new country in 28 days, running against homelessness. Mohand combines several jobs with the dream of becoming an actor.

Despite the harshness of the stories, the tone is never self-pitying. On the contrary, we are invited to laugh at their misadventures and in a way learn some shocking

facts about the regulations asylum seekers face that challenge us to redefine "generosity". There is an underlying feeling of resilience, as they know that sharing their stories is a way to fight for better opportunities, to expose their experiences to a blissfully ignorant audience and to give hope to others like them.

The show itself is a lovely collection of personal stories, humour and creative theatrical tricks.

From the beginning, the audience is invited to send their dreams to the stage, in the form of balloons. Light-hearted pictures of migrant's everyday life alternate with the plottings of a system devoted to creating a "hostile environment". Witty parody songs with hilariously crafted lyrics are an essential part of the show, from a cabaret describing how to cope with multiple jobs to a spoonful of missing paperwork. Brexit makes its appearance, prompting Europeans to join the refugees in the "one person, one question" race for a passport. Beloved British characters, such as Mary Poppins, William Shakespeare and one or two royals are also invited to the fun.

Hats off for some extraordinary performances, including a hilarious interpretation of *Romeo and Juliet* in "who has the strongest accent" version, and the best stand-alone moment of the whole show, a parody of a Home Office interview with intense witchcraft.

Almost as valuable as the show itself was the Q&A session that followed. The audience had the chance to get to know the actors behind the characters and to understand the creative process of the company. There were lots of questions regarding the regulations mentioned during the play, and many more about how much of the stories were true. Turns out they all are, albeit embellished and satirized. Abdul shared the good news: his wife obtained a visa, so they will be reunited after four years apart.

*Welcome to the UK* fills the stage with humour, horror, live music and candy floss, a satirical portrait of the UK, as director Sophie Besse describes it, "with a Sudanese, Italian, Syrian, Gambian, Iranian, Iraqi, Afghani, Zimbabwe, Armenian and French touch".



Fantastically farcical // Hivemind

# Lord of the Game of the Ring of Thrones

## ARTS



**Where?** Museum of Comedy  
**When?** 22/02 29/03 26/04  
**How Much?** £7-£9

**Eamon Farhat**  
*Arts Writer*

London has many museums, the V&A, Science Museum, Natural History Museum and even some outside of South Kensington! One of these is the Museum of Comedy, located in Bloomsbury. On the last Sunday of every month for the foreseeable future, the small venue inside is seized by the "Hivemind" improv group for what they promise to be a night of hilarity in a one of a kind fantasy tale.

The show, aptly named *Lord of the Game of the Ring of Thrones*, applies the classic art of improv to a story from a faraway land. Confining themselves to this type of fantasy storytelling allows for a framework which ensures at least the sem-

blance of a plot, usually an issue for improv shows. Presenting themselves as "travelling bards", the performers ask the audiences what story, from the seemingly infinite stories, they want. After a few awkward silences from the audiences interrupted by some overzealous individuals, the world and the story are created.

The tale will take place in the great land of Domtherea (named after Dom, the first audience members pipe up with a suggestion). The capital city of this legendary land is the city of Curloss, known for big hair but small hats, as shouted out by one lady in the front. Finally, an audience member who probably had a tough week described the land to the east as being known for "people with the weight of existential dread wedging down on them" and "kittens". Finally the great upside down mountain, inhabited by horse sized ducks, aptly named huck, was introduced. The plot was to be centred around an inhabitant or this very mountain: George, the smallest of the horse sized

ducks.

Now that the scene has been set, without even a millisecond to discuss anything, it's time for the actors to come up with an hour long show. The key to an improv show is good chemistry, and Hivemind definitely ticked this box. The group is made up of ex-Cambridge students who were part of the legendary "Cambridge Impronauts". Today, they all seem to have top jobs in the city so are by no means improv professionals but the fact that they have known each other and have trained together for years, means they play off each other with ease. There were definitely some moments of awkwardness but these were usually played off comedically by the actors.

Being part of and witnessing something being created right before your eyes is something unique to improv. It's exciting. If you want to laugh so much you're face starts to physically hurt while watching a fun plot - that you had a part in creating - unfold, this is definitely the show for you!



Mohand's big dreams // José Farinha



# BOOKS

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## Mary Oliver: a poet that speaks to all

*In light of the passing of one of America's best-loved poets, Books Editor Jingjie Cheng reflects on the poetry of Mary Oliver – her celebration of nature and her universal appeal.*

### BOOKS

**Jingjie Cheng**  
Books Editor

When Krista Tippett interviewed the late poet Mary Oliver on her radio show 'On Being' back in 2015, she referred to Oliver's poem 'Wild Geese' as "a poem that has saved lives". This might seem an exaggerated claim, but for me at least, it holds some truth.

For a teenager in the last year of school, caught in the frenzy of applying to universities, success seemed rigidly defined. Six years of formal schooling was successful if I got into the university of my choice. Failure was not getting the requisite grades at A-levels. We were writing and con-

stantly reworking essays for American colleges to make ourselves sound interesting, outstanding. I was torn between what a future career should look like, and what I desperately wanted to do.

This period of time, although so distant and so inconsequential now, felt tumultuous then. It was a time when we were trying to give our nascent, till then constantly-evolving identities, some shape.

It was during this period of uncertainty that a friend slipped 'Wild Geese' into one of my notebooks, and thus introduced me to Mary Oliver. "You do not have to be good", read the opening line. "You only have to let the soft animal of your body / love what it loves." While I was caught in the decisions of my small life, the poem reminded me that "meanwhile the world goes on", like the wild geese that are



Mary Oliver (1935-2019) // Rachel Giese Brown

heading home again, like any other day.

While the poem certainly didn't save me from a burning building, it went some way to saving some part of my soul. It reminded me that there were larger things in life, that expectations were externally imposed after all. It reminded me to look to nature and wonder at its vastness and my place in it. "Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, / the word offers itself to your imagination", and no one can take this connection from you.

As I discovered more of Oliver's poems, I realised that this was the beauty of her words – to evoke nature so simply and deftly, and relate it to personal struggles. Oliver's poetry is rooted in the Romantic nature tradition, and reminds one of Emerson's essays and the poetry of Whitman and Wordsworth. She writes of vast painterly landscapes – the sky, the

sea, the rivers – but also celebrates the smaller detail of nature. "How great was its energy, / how humble its effort", she writes in 'Song of the Builders', contemplating the efforts of a cricket moving the "grains of the hillside", then relating to "each of us going on / in our inexplicable ways / building the universe."

Rather than ostentatious displays of natural beauty, Oliver chooses to focus on quiet, unassuming images of nature. In capturing these so perfectly, her poems encourage a constant sense of wonder and appreciation of the beauty all around us. As she describes in 'When Death Comes', "When it's over, I want to say all my life / I was a bride married to amazement / I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms." Indeed, if her poems are any indication, she has certainly lived her life amazed at the world, humbled by its beauty.

While Mary Oliver is one of America's best-loved poets, she had often not been taken seriously by poetry critics in her lifetime. None of her books received a full-length review in *The New York Times*, and in its review of a magazine in which Oliver was interviewed, David Orr laughed at the idea of poetry as self-help, revealing the general contempt of poetry that

**"To speak to people of all walks of life is, I feel, a marker of poetic success."**

meets popular culture. Oliver was by no means unrecognised, though – she won the Pulitzer Prize in 1984 for her fifth poetry collection *American*

*Primitive and New and Selected Poems* won the National Book Award in 1992.

In fact, it is precisely the accessible nature of her work that makes her such an important poet. A few of her books have appeared on bestseller lists; Gwyneth Paltrow reads her, and Cheryl Strayed used her poem 'The Summer Day' as an epigraph to her memoir *Wild*: "Tell me, what is it you want to do / with your one wild and precious life?"

To speak to people of all walks of life is, I feel, a marker of poetic success. Her poems are in blank verse, easily understandable but by no means basic in its construction. The images are deftly woven together, the cadence of her words bring out these images. To reveal the simple beauty of mundane images is her forte. To inspire personal responses with these images is her genius.

### *Wild Geese*

Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees  
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.  
You only have to let the soft animal of your body  
love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.  
Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,  
are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting -  
over and over announcing your place  
in the family of things.



## FOOD

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## Naked Dough: the good, the bad and the ugly

Have always wanted to try cookie dough but never gotten around to it? Fear not, we're back with a full-on comprehensive review of (almost) everything Naked Dough has to offer, and our honest opinions (hint: they're very good, but read on to find out). We promise your taste buds will be tingling after this one

## FOOD

Julia Dabrowska

Eva Tadros

Food Editors

Remember that cute little stand that sells big tubs filled with mouthwatering cookie dough that we told you about in the "2 Girls, 1 Dessert" article earlier this year? Well, we felt like we just had to go back and satisfy our cravings, so we bring you the ultimate guide to (almost) every single Naked Dough

## Decision, decisions

To get a full-on experience for taste testing, we decided to visit Naked Dough's Westfield branch, which is the most adorable little bright pink stall that smells like a piece of heaven. Honestly, it's a massive real-life marshmallow and we are SO here for it. With neon signs everywhere

product so that when you go there yourself, you know precisely what you want (I mean, isn't that always the hardest thing when getting food? We certainly think so).

and the cutest little pentagon-shaped tables, our Instagram feeds were also loving the trip there. The queue of people vying for cookie dough certainly added to the conviction that this would be a good experience.

But it was time to get down to business - was the cookie dough they offered up to the Felix Food standard? Was it worth all the hype people were raving about? In one word, yes. But here's a more comprehensive view on the flavours we tried (pretty much everything, yum!) and exactly what we thought:



A mouthwatering assortment of Naked Dough flavours // Julia Dabrowska

## Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough

*Julia says:* A classic cookie dough that can be found anywhere, but certainly doesn't disappoint. Perfectly curated to not be excessively sweet, but also to give you that sugar high that you so desire (because clearly, a sugar high is the best kind of high). The only thing that could make it better is more chocolate chips!

*Eva says:* Your bang-on classic cookie dough flavour - you just can't go wrong with this one. As someone with a massive sweet tooth, I've tried my fair share of choc chip cookie doughs, but this one definitely takes the crown. I was obsessed straight away, and luckily, each tub comes with two scoops of cookie dough, so I had enough left over for another week or so!

Rating: 4/5

## Kinder Bueno and Nutella

*Eva says:* This was my all-time favourite flavour. Whether you're a seasonal chocolate eater or breathe, eat and sleep chocolate, this will 100% satisfy every single one of your cravings. We recommend pairing this with soft whippy ice-cream (as with all the cookie dough) else it's slightly too rich and will have you reaching for that bottle of water!

*Julia says:* Who doesn't love Nutella? Chances are, you probably love Kinder Bueno as well as all things Ferrero. Coming at a close second for me, the combination of chocolate paired with the hazelnut twist that we know all too well from our eating-Nutella-with-a-spoon binges is a match made in heaven - although you can't really taste the Kinder Bueno in here, does it matter?

Rating: 4.5/5

## Vegan Cookies n'

## Cream

*Julia says:* If you're vegan and concerned about the ingredients used in typical cookie dough, this is the answer - one of two great vegan flavours offered at ND. Tastes just like a super chocolaty and rich brownie (and for the No-Meat Monday haters - you really wouldn't be able to tell it was vegan!), smells great and is slightly less sweet than the rest.

*Eva says:* Honestly, as someone who's always wanted to go vegan but was always too worried

"Honestly, it's like a massive real-life marshmallow, with neon signs everywhere and the cutest little pentagon-shaped tables"

about missing out on yummy food following an awful experience at a vegan restaurant, this cookie dough restored my faith in vegan food and felt just like the push I needed. Probably the least sweet cookie dough on the list, cookies n' cream is probably the only flavour you can have with no ice cream without it feeling too sickly.

Rating: 3/5

## Salted Caramel and Honeycomb

*Eva says:* Caramel is one of those words where everyone's complaining about the pronunciation - is it car-mel or car-mel? Well, one thing we won't be arguing about is how delicious this salted caramel and honeycomb

cookie dough is. With bits of honeycomb adding a wonderful texture to the dough and the salted caramel adding a little extra oomf, this was definitely one of my favourites.

*Julia says:* Although this flavour is particularly sweet, that should not be taken as a vice - the perfect combination of sweet & salty in a tub, plus it being one of the more original flavours definitely appealed to me and places this in my top three favourite flavours. Add some marshmallows on top and you've got a match made in heaven.

Rating: 4.5/5

## White Chocolate Chip

*Julia says:* My favourite thing about this is the noticeable flavour of the chocolate chunks, which are often enveloped too much in the dough to actually taste them. Although a bit too sweet for my liking (dark chocolate fans hit me up!), it was still definitely worth a try and will probably become one of your favourites if white chocolate is your preference (is it really chocolate though?).

*Eva says:* White chocolate is one of my favourite things ever, and that combined with cookie dough is definitely something worth swiping right for. This is your classic chocolate chip with a twist and is the most amazingly indulgent tub of cookie dough. The small chunks of white chocolate literally melt in your mouth, and the after-taste is something I wish I could savour forever (and always).

Rating: 4/5

## FOOD

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## Sprinkles &amp; Marshmallow

*Eva says:* Unfortunately, after trying so many amazing flavours, this was not the one for me. It tasted like something they served us in school lunches way back. Definitely the sweetest of the doughs, this flavour was a little difficult to eat, even with ice cream to kill the sweetness a bit, and gave me the classic "sugar headache".

*Julia says:* This flavour is like your classic cookie dough with a little boost - you think you're having the typical, until you encounter a chewy marshmallow within which makes this flavour super cool. The texture is also smoother than the other flavours, making it melt in your mouth - only caveat is its over sweetening effect if you consume too much.

Rating: 2.5/5

## Vegan Lotus Biscoff

*Julia says:* My number one top flavour, left for last! If you've ever had the Lotus spreadable Biscoff

"Whether you're a seasonal chocolate eater or breathe, eat, and sleep chocolate, this flavour will 100% satisfy every single one of your cravings"

(or the true Speculoos), you'll get an immediate feeling of déjà vu (déjà goûté?), along with pure happiness from the indulgent texture that is the essence of cookie dough. This flavour is the one I'd make an exception for and definitely not leave any for later.

*Eva says:* This is the



Tubs filled with Vegan Cookies n' Cream, Salted Caramel &amp; Honeycomb and other flavours // Eva Tadros

cookie dough flavour that got me absolutely hooked. Lotus Biscoff Biscuits have always had a special place in my heart, but the vegan lotus biscoff was just out of this world. Pair it with toppings such as sprinkles, marshmallows or even an oreo (double cookie - genius, right?) and you've got a tub of

divine heaven right there. Rating: 5/5

The ultimate lowdown on our top 3? If you've got to pick any, we've made the decision for you: go for Kinder Bueno & Nutella, Salted Caramel & Honeycomb or our fave, Vegan Lotus Biscoff - we promise you won't be disappointed!

## DIY Dough Cookie

After our amazing experiences at Naked Dough, the next step was to try their DIY cookie dough to see how it compared to all the mouthwatering flavours we got at Westfield. Does DIY cookie dough live up to the high standards of professionally curated recipes?

As soon as it arrived in the post, the excitement began. The cute packaging and the pink tissue made for memorable first impressions. When it came to actually making it, we got some friends together to truly make the most of the experience. The instructions on the package were pretty simple: add the cookie dough mix to some butter and milk, and stir until combined, and

you get a whole 8 portions for you and your friends to share (or just you, of course!). Initially, we were worried about the proportions of milk and butter suggested on the packaging, but with a little patience (a good exercise to practice the skill of not eating the whole thing while mixing!), you will end up with something that looks exactly like the cookie dough served in their shops. Magic at work basically.

The taste? Almost identical to the store-bought chocolate chip cookie

"This flavour is like your classic cookie dough, until you encounter a chewy marshmallow within"

dough - amazing. And the best part of the whole thing is, you can store it in your fridge or freezer for a few weeks or even

months (not like it will last that long, who are we kidding), so you can just nibble on it whenever you feel like it! This also solves the problem of getting into a sugar coma after consuming an entire tub from the store, but that's all easier said than done really...

Overall, although it costs £10, the DIY kit is a pretty worthwhile investment if you're satisfied with the classic flavour and yields many more servings than your typical tub, plus it makes for a super fun bonding activity with your friends!

Also, special shoutout to Steph for allowing us to try all these different flavours, and of course our friends for trying them all out with us!

So what are you waiting for? Head straight down to your nearest Naked Dough and you'll see exactly what we've been raving about! Stores in Westfield London or Camden Market are waiting.



My DIY cookie dough order arrived // Julia Dabrowska





# Imperial College Charity Fashion Show

8<sup>th</sup> February 7pm  
Union Concert Hall





# GAMES

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## NJGames Presents: All you need to know about the

### THE RISE OF ESPORTS

Five years ago, esports was a newborn enterprise, with small audiences and even smaller purses. Today, games like League of Legends and CounterStrike sell out arenas and pay out millions of dollars. Check out this great infographic explaining just how we've come so far. Welcome to the future of spectator sports!

#### HISTORY OF ESPORTS

**THE FIRST ESPORTS TOURNAMENT**

1980  
SPACE INVADERS TOURNAMENT  
10,000 participants.

**MOST POPULAR TOURNAMENTS IN HISTORY**

1997  
CLIQUE GAME  
2,000 participants.  
The winner received lead developer of Quake's 1987 Ferrari 328 GTS.

2005  
CPL WORLD TOUR  
A year long gaming competition.  
9 international stops around the world.  
Finals event held in New York City, televised by MTV.  
The total purse was \$1,000,000 with \$50,000 at each international stop, and a \$500,000 final.

2018  
THE INTERNATIONAL 2018: DOTA 2 CHAMPIONSHIPS  
Largest prize pool tournament.  
Purse - \$25,532,177.

#### ESPORTS BY THE NUMBERS

#### ESPORTS AUDIENCE GROWTH

in million viewers

Year	Viewers (Million)
2012	134
2014	205
2017	335
2021	557

40% of viewers do not play any of the top esports games, showing signs it is becoming a spectator sport.

#### DEMOGRAPHICS AS OF 2014

62% Male, 38% Female

BY AGE

Age Group	Percentage
10-20	18%
21-35	58%
36-65	28%

#### ESPORTS REVENUE GROWTH

Calculated by total game publisher investment, sponsorships, online advertising merchandise, licensing, tickets.

Year	Revenue (Million)
2012	130M
2014	194M
2017	468M
2021	1,385M*

\*Forecast

#### ESPORTS GLOBAL REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE IN 2018 - \$904M

Category	Percentage	Revenue (Million)
Advertising	19%	\$173.8M
Game publisher fees	13%	\$116.3M
Sponsorship	40%	\$359.4M
Media rights	18%	\$160.7M
Merchandise/tickets	11%	\$95.5M

#### ESPORTS STREAMING

##### TWITCH MEDIA

In 2014, Amazon bought Twitch for \$970 MILLION in cash.

Accounts for 1.8% of total internet traffic, only behind Netflix, Apple, Google.

Accounts for 43% of all live-video streaming traffic, more than anybody else.

Accumulated more than 8 MILLION unique users after its first month. Now has 55 MILLION users.

7.58% of Twitch users spend more than 20 hours a week watching videos on its site.

On average users spend more than 100 minutes per day on their site.

##### MOST WATCHED GAMES ON TWITCH FROM 2017

Game	Viewers (Million)
LEAGUE OF LEGENDS	274.7M
CS:GO	232.9M
DOTA 2	217.9M
HEARTHSTONE	76.9M
OVERWATCH	25.2M
STARTRAF II	95.5M

##### YOUTUBE GAMING

Monthly active streamers have grown by 36.6% for YouTube Live in 2018.

YouTube Live generated \$940K total tip volume in the first quarter of 2017.

##### MOST WATCHED GAMES ON YOUTUBE LIVE BY SEPTEMBER 2018

Game	Viewers (Million)
FORTNITE	16.5M
BATTLEGROUND	13.3M
LEAGUE OF LEGENDS	13.3M

# GAMES

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## world of eSports and its potential!

#### INVESTING IN ESPORTS

Fortnite: 33.1M HOURS, CS:GO: 16.5M HOURS, LEAGUE OF LEGENDS: 13.3M HOURS, COUNTER-STRIKE GLOBAL OFFENSIVE: 6.6M HOURS, GARENA FREE FIRE: 6.3M HOURS.

The NBA and Take-Two Interactive Software, makers of the NBA 2K video game, are partnering to form an esports league centered around the NBA 2K series source.

Electronic Arts Inc., the NFL, and ESPN announced the launch of the Madden NFL 19 Championship Series (MCS).

The NHL organized the NHL Gaming World Championship event. The league's next steps include getting all 31 teams involved.

#### ESPORTS WAGERING

\$5.5B was wagered on major eSports titles worldwide in 2016.

It is estimated that the growth of major eSports titles worldwide will be more than \$12.9B by 2020.

Brands will invest \$694M in the eSports industry, 77% of the total market.

The total esports audience will reach 380M by the end of 2018, a year-on-year growth of +13.5%.

The number of eSports enthusiasts worldwide will reach 1165M in 2018.

#### TOP ESPORTS EARNINGS

##### INDIVIDUAL ATHLETE EARNINGS

Player	Game	Earnings
KLIRIKY (Kuro Takhasomi)	DOTA 2	\$4,097,926.95
NITFL (Johan Sundstein)	DOTA 2	\$3,733,970.56
MIRACLE (Amer Al-Barkawi)	DOTA 2	\$3,671,337.28

##### TEAM EARNINGS

Team	Earnings	Tournaments
TEAM LIQUID	\$23,987,734.23	1403
EVIL GENIUSES	\$20,696,040.79	734
TEAM OG	\$17,562,308.50	49

#### FUTURE OF ESPORTS IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES

IOC committee to make a decision on 2024 Paris Games as a demonstration sport.

The Olympics president has an issue with violence in esports, does not agree.

2022 Asian games already included esports as a medal event.

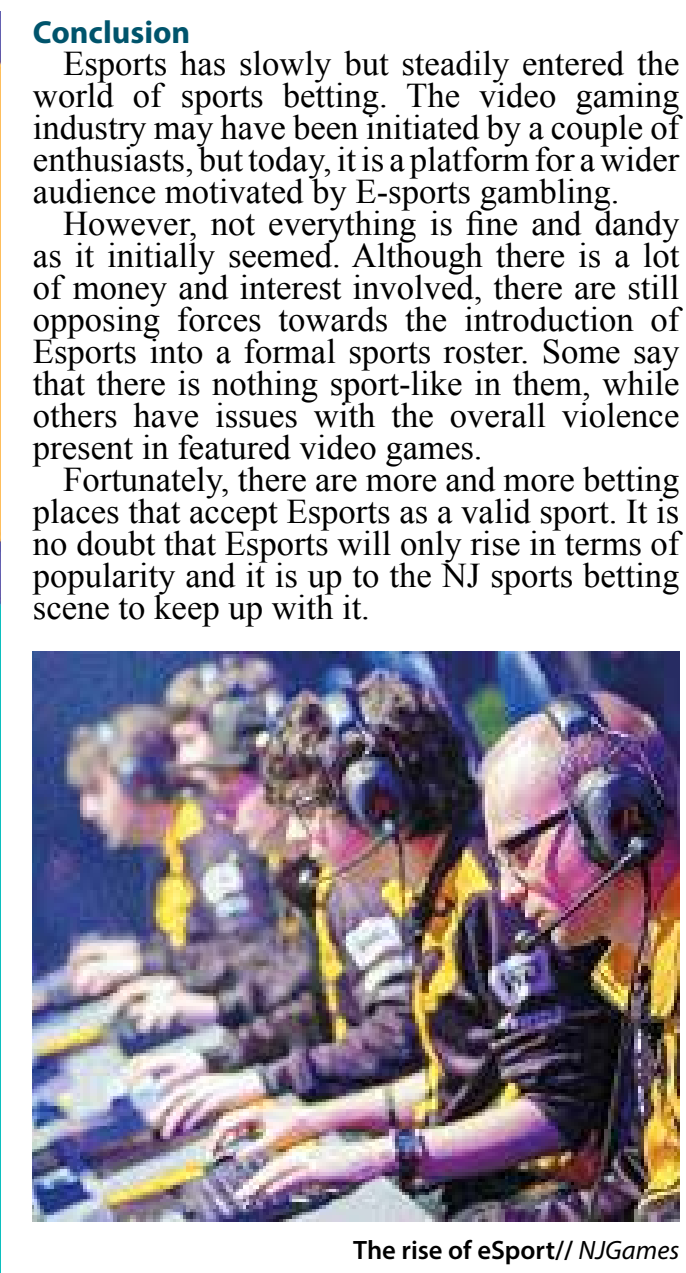
#### SPORTS LEAGUES

#### CONCLUSION

Esports has slowly but steadily entered the world of sports betting. The video gaming industry may have been initiated by a couple of enthusiasts, but today, it is a platform for a wider audience motivated by E-sports gambling.

However, not everything is fine and dandy as it initially seemed. Although there is a lot of money and interest involved, there are still opposing forces towards the introduction of Esports into a formal sports roster. Some say that there is nothing sport-like in them, while others have issues with the overall violence present in featured video games.

Fortunately, there are more and more betting places that accept Esports as a valid sport. It is no doubt that Esports will only rise in terms of popularity and it is up to the NJ sports betting scene to keep up with it.



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# GAMES

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## Smash Corner - King K. Rool, the new King in Town

### GAMES

**Michael Cognet**

*Games Writer*

Enough talking about the veterans, let's look at one of the new faces of Smash. Say goodbye to Bowser, King of the Koopas and to King Dedede, there's a new king of the playground, character #67 of the roster, King K. Rool. This big bad crocodile is the main antagonist of the Donkey Kong series, and is now a brand new Heavy fighter in Ultimate. His hefty mass not only gives him very powerful attacks at close range, but his unique moveset grants him a decent mid range as well as protection from enemies.

Slow as he may be, King K. Rool still packs quite a punch at close range and only needs to hit a few normal, tilt or air attacks on his enemy to get them at kill-percent for any smash attack. Although his attacks may be impressive the real highlight of his moveset is his Super Armor. K. Rool's golden chest plate passively blocks any incoming attacks, preventing him being interrupted when using a 'belly-attack' (neutral-air, side-tilt, up-smash and down-smash). It can however break like a shield, leaving you very vulnerable, if hit too much or too hard. Hence an incredibly powerful tool to use often but wisely.

King K. Rool also does a decent job at medium range thanks to his neutral- and side-special attacks. Indeed, with no input

from the stick, K. Rool will take out his Blunderbuss, a gun which fires a slow cannonball, dealing a lot of damage. Furthermore, if you hold down his neutral-special, the gun can suck an opponent back in and throw them away. This move can kill most light characters at 100% damage! For his side-special, K. Rool will throw his crown like a boomerang, creating additional pressure for your enemy as it comes back. In addition to these projectiles, King K. Rool has 2 more tricks up his sleeve. His down-special is his Gut Check, which will block a frontal attack with his Super Armor and counter it immediately. And finally, K. Rool has the best recovery of all Heavies, with his up-special Propellerpack, which not only brings him back on stage from anywhere



The Kremling King comes aboard the Smash train // Nintendo

but slightly damages enemies overhead preventing any spikes.

Now the problem is that your opponents are usually too fast for you, making it hard to actually hit them especially with your slow smash attack. But worry not, as some combos exist to help you secure the kill. The first one is the 'Bury & Flop' which simply consists of a down-throw or -tilt immediately followed up by a down-smash; it will bury

your opponent and can kill them from 60% and up! An the other one is the 'Suck & Cuck', a cheeky combo that uses the neutral special off stage as you are falling to suck and throw your opponent under the map. You can then laugh diabolically as they fall to their death whilst you recover easily with your up-special!

Overall, King K. Rool can be considered as the best Heavy in the game, however he can still

suffer against fast and/or ranging characters such as Sonic, Pichu or Marth. This brings him in low- to mid-tier in competitive play, but at low level, the players sometimes struggle to punish him properly, bringing him up to high-tier. But more importantly K. Rool is incredibly fun to play so lock him in already and get smashing!

## Smash Corner - Ness, Totally Not Sans

### GAMES

**Freddie Ugo**

*Games Writer*

This obscure character originates from Mother 2, a game originally released in Japan but given a western release in 1995 as "Earthbound". Despite his little-known status, Ness has appeared in every Smash Bros. game since the original on the N64. He has come a long way since, with ridiculous air mobility and combo potential this character has enough depth to get any fan excited!

The name of the game for Ness is in his throw combos and following aerial strings. At low percent down throw

combos into most aerials and at high percent back throw is one of the strongest kill throws in the game. Forward air has a huge hitbox with plenty of priority; at low to mid percent it can even combo into itself. Up air has a similar effect and can be used to juggle the opponent while racking up decent damage. Back air on the other hand is one of Ness' main kill options able to kill in the low 100's if hit near the ledge.

Ness' depth comes from the unique ways he can use the majority of his kit. His side special is PK Fire. This is your main zoning tool as well as a combo starter. If you can hit the opponent with this they will be stuck in hit stun for a considerable amount of time.

Ness' down special is

PSI Magnet. It is a very unique move as it has both a hit box and functions as a projectile absorber, healing Ness when any energy-based projectile comes into contact with it. PSI Magnet can also be used to stall Ness' falling speed, allowing his less than stellar recovery to be much less predictable.

His neutral special, PK Flash while having potent kill power is not a viable move option due to it being easy to avoid and having a long charge up time. This move should generally be avoided except for in very specific situations.

PK Thunder, Ness' up special, is a steerable ball of lightning that can hit either Ness or his opponent. Hitting your opponent, a great way to harass the enemy when off-stage. Using the ball



An around the world with Ness's yoyo // Nintendo

to hit yourself is the main way you'll recover as Ness, and if you manage to catch the opponent with your subsequent flying ball of Ness it will likely lead to a kill.

If PK Thunder and PK Fire aren't enough to stop your opponent getting back to stage, charging down smash while at the ledge (facing inwards) causes the yo-yo to stall there, effectively preventing the enemy grabbing

the ledge.

A good combo to get you started is as follows: PK Fire into a grab and then down throw. Immediately follow up with a string of rising forward airs to knock the opponent offstage.

This deals around 60% and gives you significant stage advantage right from the get go.

I would place the boy from Onett solidly in mid tier. He has outrageous po-

tential in the neutral with high priority moves and relatively high kill power (see forward smash), however his exploitable recovery leaves him in a tricky situation against anyone with a counter or a reflector. If you're looking to learn more, I recommend checking out Jtails on YouTube. Happy Smashing!



# TRAVEL

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Gdansk Waterfronts // Wikimedia

## Weekend getaways: Poland

*Let me tell you why you're missing out on some of Europe's best kept secrets!*

### TRAVEL

**Joana Correia**

*Travel Editor*

Poland is probably the most under-rated country of the Baltic states. It sounds distant, cold, under-developed, stuck in the past. None of which is true. Speaking from personal experience, I too was apprehensive about visiting Poland. In simpler words, I was not excited at all. But on a student budget it seemed like a great idea at the time. And what a great idea it was!

Poland is cheap: from

flights to accommodation, food and drinks, it is an ideal destination for a weekend getaway.

It is a known fact that it is almost impossible to escape from history in a country like Poland (or any European country for that matter...). We all think we know, the brutality of its wars and invasions, the liberation and re-birth of a country and the deep marks all of it left on the country and its people. It is still very visible what Poland has had to endure throughout history and that extends well beyond its borders. But if anything, it makes visiting Poland even more special.

In memorium to the

victims of World War I, the Polish-Soviet War, World War II and Holocaust there are countless museums, monuments, churches, talks and tours, all of which are truly unique. The Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp is a must visit for what it teaches us, for how it makes us feel and for what should never be forgotten. If history is your not-so-secret guilty pleasure, the Museum of Second World War in Gdansk is indescribable.

**So where should you go in Poland?**

**Gdansk, Wroclaw and Krakow** for the historic

city getaway. Think colourful old city centres, flea markets with handcrafted goods and paintings, food stalls and music. In Gdansk get hold of amber jewellery at Mariacka Street; in Wroclaw find the gnomes (there's over 300, each with a different story!); in Krakow visit the Wieliczka Salt Mines.

**Warsaw**, while its old town is still very impressive (check out the view from St. Anna's Church!) Warsaw is a modern city with a solid night life and growing street art scene. It even has a vegan district – can you find that in London? Must do's: POLIN museum, Copernicus Science Centre and Palace of

Culture and Science; free Chopin Concert (May to September); the pub crawl in Pawilony district.

For a longer holiday **Masurian Lake District and Trata Mountains** is a must for the thrill and nature seekers. Skiing in the winter; camping, rock climbing and kayaking in the Spring-Summer.

**What should you eat**

**in Poland?**

Absolutely everything! And if you don't have any dietary requirements step out your comfort zone, save some money and eat where the locals eat. The Polish – contrary to popular belief – are very friendly and welcoming to tourists so ask a passerby

where they usually eat. You will not understand a word, the menu will be in Polish, but you will not be disappointed! Food is a way of travelling too! Pro Tip: google some dishes in advance if you're a fussy eater. Traditionally must try's: "pierogi" (just look it up!), "bigos" (meat stew), paczek (wild rose jam donut) or zapiekanka (mushroom and cheese open sandwich).

*Keen traveller and writer? Tell your travel adventures, favourite places, pro-tips, do's & don'ts at Felix! Email the travel team to feature!*



# SUSTAINABILITY

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## FRIENDs for life

*Environmental society hosts a visit to an animal sanctuary*

### SUSTAINABILITY

**Xiuchen Xu**  
Sustainability Writer

Upon arrival to FRIEND animal sanctuary, we were greeted by the loud clucks of chickens and the turning heads of cows. We made our way through the muddy terrain to an open field, where we were welcomed by Dave, who was a full-time volunteer at the sanctuary. Behind him followed Ging whose puppy eyes gleamed with excitement at the sight of a big group of visitors. The early start did not seem to have taken its toll on anyone, and just like Ging, we were all hyped for the day ahead.

We started by assisting the sanctuary with its daily chores; trainers were exchanged for wellington boots, and backpacks for shovels and spades. My small group started by wheelbarrowing fresh hay to the cow shed. Distribut-

ing hay amongst the cows was slightly daunting at first, but the mighty cows were incredibly tranquil and undisturbed by our presence. Some were even quite playful; they approached us, eager for a pat on the head or to be showered with confetti of hay.

Overall, the volunteering work was very minimal, as there was a huge group of visitors on the day. By noon, we were free to just spend time with the animals. It was lunch time for the pigs, and their diet is surprising to say the least. From big trays, we grabbed avocados, bananas, melons and pineapples and fed them to the pigs. Donated by supermarkets, the fruits were either slightly past shelf life or didn't fit EU standards and would have otherwise been dumped in landfills. The pigs smashed open the melons with forceful bites, and they gobbled down the bananas and avocados. Once they were satiated, they each tottered back to their own

paddock and went back to sleep (relatable).

Clouds cleared briefly and we were blessed with warm sunshine as we fed tangerines to the cows who would extend their tongues and swiftly sweep the fruit from your palm. If you weren't quick to retract your hand, you may feel the sharp graze of the rough tongue of the cows. The cows had fur that felt like velvet, and they each had their own unique mop of hair.

'FRIEND was established in 1994, when its founder Marion bought a disabled lamb at a livestock market. She then decided all animals that came would have a life of peaceful existence for the rest of their days. Today FRIEND Farm Animal Sanctuary is run with a vegan philosophy of education about animal welfare and the need for a world of compassion to all its inhabitants, fauna and flora alike. As well as educating visitors about the animals, we are working to make the sanctuary an example of ecological



Each of the animals has its own personality \ \ FRIEND

sustainability, for example planting native trees and growing food as part of a permaculture design.'

'Our mission is to offer sanctuary to unwanted, neglected and abused animals, while educating about animals, veganism and ecological sustainability. We hope to contribute to a world in which humans and animals can live in a mutually sustained environment through practices like vegan organic permaculture farming systems.'

Most of the animals

at FRIEND were either rescued from horrific living conditions or from slaughter. Animals are definitely capable of suffering in the same way as humans. They have a central nervous system, meaning that they have the capability to suffer. Pigs are more intelligent than dogs and human babies, so if people believe that dogs and babies can suffer then pigs can too. Since it was my first time being so close to pigs, chickens or cows, it was very moving

to see them live so happily at the sanctuary. For the first time, I truly saw the animals as affectionate individuals. Each had their own personality, and it is difficult to think that they could have been chopped up and served up on a dinner plate. The experience at FRIEND is a touching memory that I will cherish, and I hope someday to return and see the animals.

# SUSTAINABILITY

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## Environmentally Friendly Upcoming Events

The following is a two-week events schedule for any environmental / sustainability related activities that will be carried out by ESoc/ VegSoc/ APES. The Second week of February will be Green Week 2019, in which there will be more events than usual. There are also additional events that are still in the planning stage, so be sure to follow the societies on their Facebook page, just search:

- ESoc – Imperial College Environmental Society
- VegSoc – Imperial VegSoc
- APES – Imperial College APES: Animal Protection and Education Society

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
4TH	5TH	6TH	7TH
Meat Free Monday	Deadline for any Felix Sustainability column articles		Want to make the most difference? introduction to Effective Altruism @ SAF 121, 6:30 PM
11TH	12TH	13TH	14TH
Meat Free Monday Dr Bike (Repair) @ Beit Quad, 9AM – 5PM Small change, Big Difference Wood waste workshop, Room TBC, 6PM - 7PM (Ticket required - see Esoc Facebook Page)	Deadline for any Felix Sustainability column articles Living the Change Film Screening @EEE 408, 6PM-9PM	Garden Painting and Gardening session in the ESoc Secret Garden, Time TBC	

## Book Review: *Green Giants*

*How smart companies turn sustainability into billion-dollar businesses.* By E. Freya Williams

### SUSTAINABILITY

**Monami Miyamoto**  
Sustainability Editor

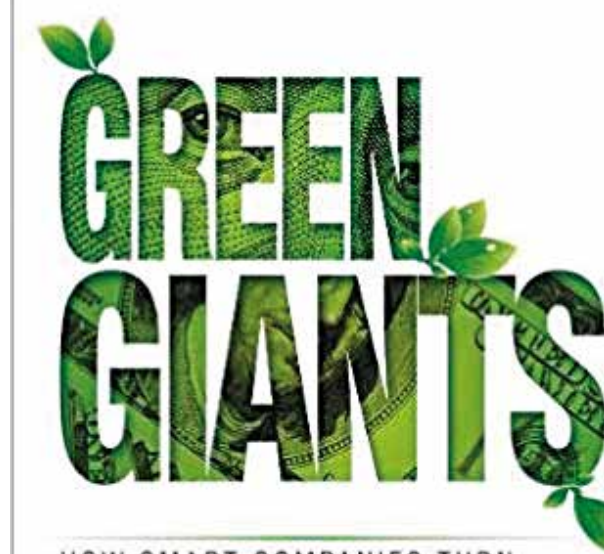
Although 'sustainability' is a constant buzzword in our society and people seem to understand that its somewhat important, I feel that many of us don't know what it *really* means to be sustainable. Should we stop using plastic all together? Should we abandon eating all meat and dairy? Should we never purchase fast fashion ever again? How can we, as a society become more environmentally conscious? Making these incremental changes as individuals

will undoubtedly add up, but sometimes it can feel like it will take months, years, or even decades until we see noticeable impacts. But in *Green Giants*, Williams explores the ways in which some of the biggest companies in the world have managed to implement sustainability into their business plan to tackle environmental issues at its core and enable our society to take large strides forward. Natura, Chipotle, Toyota (Prius), Tesla Motors, IKEA, Whole Foods, Unilever, GE (Ecomagination) and Nike (Flyknit) are the 9 'Green Giants' that are mentioned in this book. They are the pioneers of the inexorable green business revolution. What is

truly incredible is that the annual revenue of these companies together represents over \$100 billion dollars, showing us that with the right strategy and vision, companies have the potential to transform societal needs into business opportunities. As a reader passionate about sustainability, but not so aware of business management, this book made me realize just how powerful companies can be, in contributing to solve the greatest challenges of our generation. The book starts off with stories about the individual leaders of these companies that started it all and proceeds to go into details about what it takes to lead businesses that can succeed in the long term

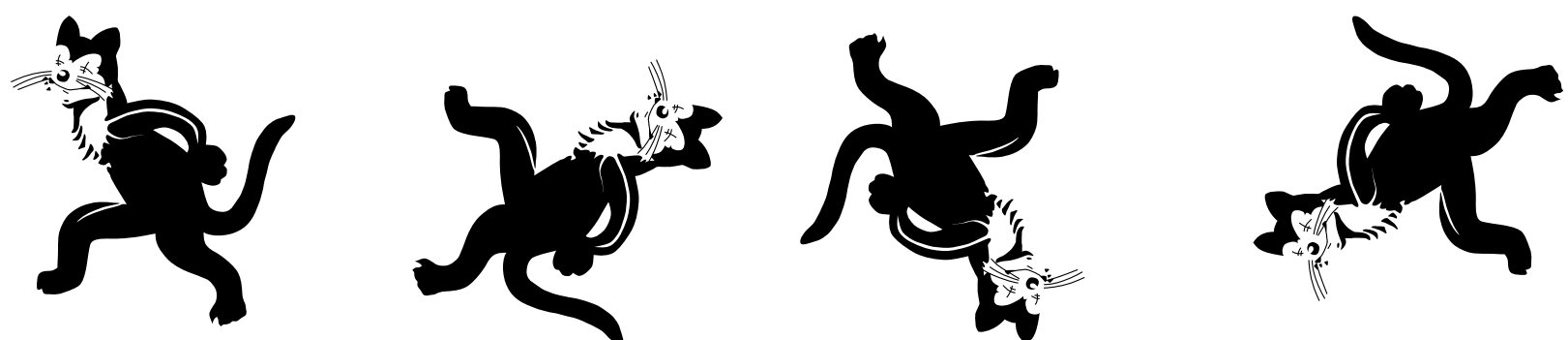
- not just economically but also environmentally. Although my previous impressions about 'green businesses' was that being environmentally sustainable often came at the expense of corporate success, reading about these companies proved to me just how vital and possible it is, for sustainability to become deeply integrated into business, where it has the potential to influence society on a much larger scale than we can imagine. By tackling environmental problems on both a societal and individual level, we can all aspire to build a more sustainable economy. I would highly recommend this to anyone interested in business management or sustainability.

E. FREYA WILLIAMS



HOW SMART COMPANIES TURN SUSTAINABILITY INTO BILLION-DOLLAR BUSINESSES

## Want to be on the *Felix* team this year?



**Felix is recruiting new section editors and copy editors for this year!**

**If you've enjoyed reading the paper, and want to help create it each week, apply to join the team! All training is provided, as well as weekly cake, so come and join us!**

**If you're interested, please email [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk)**



# POSTGRADUATE

gsu.president@imperial.ac.uk

## What is GSU Connect?

### POSTGRADUATE

**Clare Chan**  
GSU Events Coordinator

**Hannah Jones**  
GSU Events Officer

**Sam Yu**  
GSU Academic Welfare Officer (Business School)

**Y**ou are a scientist and have an entrepreneurship idea? Confused about how to make a business proposal or get the idea off the ground? Or, do you want to learn how you could turn your expertise and knowledge into a kick-starter that could change the world?!

If you think you have what it takes to:

- Make an exciting business proposal
- Network with other students to form a business plan
- Present the idea to win up to £1000

... then GSU Connect is the event for you!

GSU Connect is an

event that aims to exclusively connect postgraduate students from the Imperial College Business School to students from the rest of the College. Students with entrepreneurship ideas requiring the expertise of business management, finance or marketing are introduced to students from the Business School, who can use knowledge from their studies to aid these students to move forward with their ideas. Even without an idea at hand, you can still come to GSU Connect and meet other students who could help you turn your science into a game changing product.

This two-day event begins with students spending an afternoon participating in networking events, leading them to form inter-departmental teams with whom they can spend a week developing a business proposal.

Following the first day, teams of 4-5 members can register to compete at the second event a week later, where they will have the opportunity to compete against each other (to ensure teams have a fair

mix of skills, we are asking that each team has at least one student from the Business School).

Student teams will be given a chance to present their business proposals to our panel of judges. There will be two rounds of judging to nominate a group to win a cash prize of £500. Another group will also be awarded a cash prize of £500 based on an audience vote.

In addition to our wonderful cash prizes, we're offering participating students free refreshments at each event and the chance to network with our panel of specialist judges.

The two-day event will be hosted on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> February at the Imperial College South Kensington Campus. Please note, this event is only for postgraduate students.

So, if you're excited about learning how to transform your innovative science, medicine and engineering into a potential business idea, or you already have a budding idea, this is the event for you!



**GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION PRESENTS**

**GSU Connect 2019**

**HAVE AN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IDEA? IN NEED OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT/FINANCE/ MARKETING EXPERTISES? NEVER THOUGHT YOUR SCIENTIFIC IDEA CAN TRANSFORM INTO A BUSINESS?**

**Come and join us and you will have a chance to win a CASH prize up to £1000\*.**

**Scan here to sign up!**

\*Each GROUP with 4-5 members will have a chance to win £500 from the judges and/ or the audience.

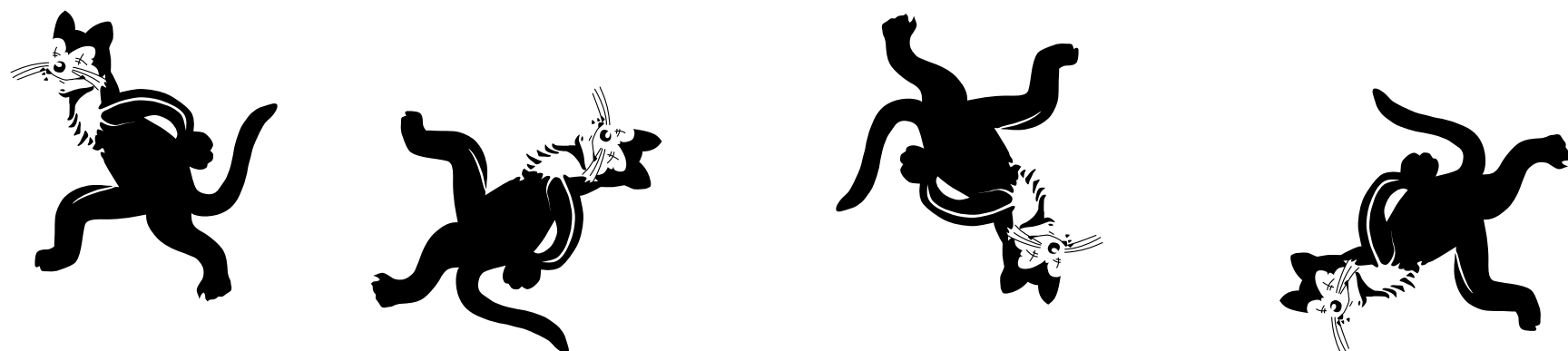
**FEBRUARY 20 & 27, 2019**

(1ST DAY) 6PM - 8PM • SOUTH KENSINGTON CAMPUS  
(2ND DAY) 4:30PM - 7:30PM • SOUTH KENSINGTON CAMPUS

[f /IMPERIALGSU](#)

**SPONSORS: IMPERIAL GRADUATE SCHOOL  
IMPERIAL COLLEGE BUSINESS SCHOOL**

## Want to be on the *Felix* team this year?



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**If you've enjoyed reading the paper, and want to help create it each week, apply to join the team! All training is provided, as well as weekly cake, so come and join us!**

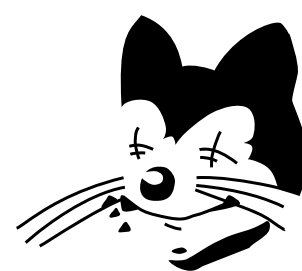
**If you're interested, please email [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk)**

# POSTGRADUATE

gsu.president@imperial.ac.uk

## Women in STEM: Report from a conference

*(Or how I lost my favourite umbrella)*



### POSTGRADUATE

**Anonymous**  
Engineering PhD Student

**I** was at a conference and a guy from a research centre approached me. Initially our conversation

was on research but then he asked if I would like to go to a bar with him after the gala dinner. He looked at me in an erotic way that made me feel very uncomfortable. I told him that I couldn't go with him because I had arranged online meetings with people in another time zone. I returned to my seat and, when another session of presentations started, he suddenly sat next to me and started to whisper his comments on the presentations. I hinted for him to stop talking but it seemed as if he just didn't get it. During the presentation his arm

and whole body leaned against me - essentially occupying the table in front of me so I had to lean back to escape his body contact. I even tried to ask to him to reposition. However, because of the ongoing presentation, I couldn't say it very loudly so he pretended that he couldn't hear or even understand me. At the end of the presentation, while people asked questions, he asked me again if I would like to go to the bar with him. I said no and, at that moment, I knew I wanted to stay as far away as possible from this person. I started to

think about how to avoid him for what remained of the conference. As soon as the session ended, I said that it was nice talking to him and immediately left (ran). The next day, during a break, he asked me for my name card, to which I replied that I didn't have one; then he asked for my phone number (instead of my email). I wrote down an incorrect one. During the second (final) day I tried to avoid him as much as I could. Whenever he approached, I tried to have conversations with others or stay close to my colleagues.

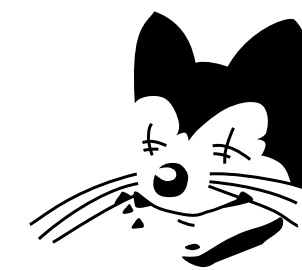
Finally, the confer-

ence ended and, when I returned to my hotel to pack, I noticed my umbrella was gone. I recalled that I left it in the conference room on the day when that guy sat next to me. Since all I was thinking at the end of the session was getting rid of him, I forgot my umbrella. Unfortunately, I no longer had the time to return to the conference centre as I had to catch a flight. I called the centre at the airport and asked if they had found an umbrella, thinking that my friend in that city could pick it up for me. The centre staff told me that everything

had been cleaned up and no umbrella was found.

The umbrella has a small Totoro image on the outside and small flowers inside. It was a gift from my grandma bought from the Japan Centre during a World Expo. She has never travelled to Japan but remembered that I like Totoro. To this day, I regret the loss of my favourite umbrella because I was too hasty, running away from a douchebag who came to an academic conference to hit on women.

## Supervision Story



### POSTGRADUATE

**Anonymous**  
Postgraduate Student

**D**ialogue. I believe that in the thorough yet enjoyable experience that the PhD can be, we all go through times of self-doubt and questioning. Not only about the research itself, but about our own capabilities and the, sometimes, fearful prospect of having

to finish. I am glad to have a supportive supervisor. However, our relationship would probably not work so well if I did not feel like I could talk to my supervisor. I can rely on him for guidance regarding my research, and I also trust I will have his support when I am going through hard times in my PhD or my personal life, affecting my work. Knowing that my supervisor is aware that I am a human being who makes mistakes and has limits but is still ready and willing to give their best for their work allows

**"I am glad to have a supportive supervisor"**

me to step back during stressful times; because I know I have support.

What I find interesting about my relationship with my supervisor is that he gives me as much guidance as I ask for. For the rest of the time I am free to conduct my research in the direction I would like to take it. This allows me to be independent and at the same time, I am certain that I can rely on someone for guidance. At this stage of my PhD I am still unclear about what my immediate future will look like. However, having the possibility to experience relative freedom in my research gives me a taste of what it would be like to pursue a career in academia. In my Department, I observe some fellow PhD students being very much guided

in a specific way, which is often appreciated. Others are practically left alone, with only their peers to ask for moral support.

**"Our relationship would probably not work so well if I did not feel like I could talk to my supervisor"**

Different supervisors behave differently with different students, and the supervisor-student relationship requires respon-

sibility from both parties. Nevertheless, I believe that students should never feel trapped in this relationship. Unfortunately, many students have the impression that there is no way out if the relationship doesn't work and that they must stick with their supervisor until the end of their PhD. In my department, new guidelines are now being put in place so that such situations could be resolved. But in the past, I have discussed with fellow PhD students who have been ignored by their post-graduate tutors when they sought help. Hopefully this will not happen any longer, and I wish that any new student at College will understand that no matter what their situation is, they can always find support near them.

**"The supervisor-student relationship requires responsibility from both parties"**

Through the relationship with my supervisor and others around me, I have observed how feelings of isolation can be exacerbated by the lack of dialogue, as well as how beneficial an open dialogue is for our well-being and performance.





## Nominations open Monday

Nominations open at noon on **Monday 4 February** for The Leadership Elections 2019. This is our biggest democratic exercise, where you get to decide who will be your representatives in the next academic year. There are hundreds of positions available, including President, four Deputy Presidents, Felix Editor, Student Trustees, Council Chair, and Liberation & Community Officers.

We are also electing the committees of Constituent Unions and Clubs, Societies & Projects, along with Academic and Wellbeing Departmental Representatives. Nominations close Friday 1 March while voting opens Monday 11 March.

To nominate yourself on Monday, go to [imperialcollegeunion.org/elections](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/elections) and follow the instructions.



## Hit refresh with New Year Fair

Get inspired, grab some freebies and connect with potential employers at the New Year Fair! No matter your course or level of study, there is something for everyone and you don't want to miss this.

You can meet with the likes of PwC, Bright Network and London Business School. Check our exclusive deals from brands such as The Economist, NowTV and International Paintball Group. You will also be able to find out how you can get involved in your local community and have a chat to the likes of Action Tutoring, Teach First and Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. Magnet.me will also be offering free professional headshots.

Join us on **Tuesday 5 February, 10:00-15:00** in the **Great Hall, Sherfield Building.**



## Have you made a SACAs nomination yet?

Great teachers make a difference! We know this because none of us would have got this far without them. So why not show your appreciation with a Student Academic Choice Award nomination? There are 11 categories and you can submit as many as you like.

The award recognises both academic and support staff, so let's show that performance matters by rewarding excellence. Every nominee gets a coveted mug and winners are announced at the award ceremony in May.

Nominations close 10 February. Submit yours now at: [imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas)

Develop & grow

### Imperial Plus

Challenge yourself and get inspired to invest in your personal and professional development while you study at Imperial.

Learn and implement key skills in leadership, management and self-awareness.

Sign up now: [imperialcollegeunion.org/ipworkshops](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/ipworkshops)

[imperialcollegeunion.org/imperialplus](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/imperialplus)

Make great memories

<b>1</b> February, Friday <b>Common People</b> Beit Bars   20:00 - 02:00 <b>PGI Friday</b> h-bar   19:00 - 23:00	<b>4</b> February, Monday <b>Comedy Night</b> The Union Bar   20:00 - 23:00	<b>7</b> February, Thursday <b>Pub Quiz</b> h-bar   19:30 - 21:30 <b>Battle of the Bands: Heat 1</b> Reynolds   19:00 - 23:00
<b>3</b> February, Sunday <b>Super Bowl</b> Beit Bars   23:00 - 04:00	<b>5</b> February, Tuesday <b>Super Quiz</b> FiveSixEight   20:00 - 22:00	<b>8</b> February, Friday <b>IPOP</b> Beit Bars   20:00 - 02:00 <b>PGI Friday</b> h-bar   19:00 - 23:00 <b>Battle of the Bands: Heat 2</b> Reynolds   19:00 - 23:00
<b>6</b> February, Wednesday <b>CSP Wednesday</b> Beit Bars   19:00 - 02:00		

[beitbars](#) [hbarpub](#) [reynoldsbarc](#)



Use your voice



#icuElections

# STAND

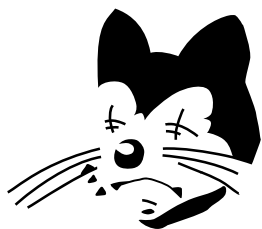
**Nominate yourself for a role  
and lead the change at Imperial**

- ▶ President
- ▶ Deputy President (Education)
- ▶ Deputy President (Welfare)
- ▶ Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)
- ▶ Deputy President (Finance & Services)
- ▶ Felix Editor
- ▶ Student Trustees
- ▶ Council Chair
- ▶ Liberation & Community Officers
- ▶ Academic Departmental Reps.
- ▶ Wellbeing Departmental Reps.
- ▶ Constituent Union Committees
- ▶ Clubs, Societies & Projects Committees

**Nominations: Monday 4 February - Friday 1 March**

**[imperialcollegeunion.org/elections](https://imperialcollegeunion.org/elections)**





# Hangman

## Negafelix editor ousted for sleeping in office

**HANGMAN**

**Negafelix**  
Editor-in-Chief

**N**egafelix, the Union Newspaper and source of #FakeNews, is under new management, as the Negafelix editor was kicked to the curb for failing to stay awake during work hours. Sandy Djembe, who

was elected to the role last February, was seen outside Beit Quad yelling obscenities towards the Union Building.

“The role is f\*\*\*ing nocturnal, of course I’m asleep during the day!”, Mr Djembe remarked, “if the Union team sent their pages in time, maybe once I’d manage to get the paper in by the actual print deadline!”

It is suspected that the sacking was influenced by the College, with Negafelix’s ever-trustworthy

source in the Faculty Building reporting the oust being signed off by none other than Janice Fast, College Overlord. “Yeah, she was pretty pissed about all those

horoscopes. It was only a matter of time – I heard she wanted her oil friends to deal with him the way they deal with indigenous people.”



*Valentine’s is coming...*

**H**ave you ever wondered if your crush likes you back? Well wonder no more! Imperial College Exposed is giving you the chance to find out whilst fundraising for Mind - The Mental Health Charity. For just a £3 donation, you get to enter their initials, course and year and, if they do the same to



you, we’ll let you both know! Head on over to [www.icexposed.com](http://www.icexposed.com) to participate now.



**ARIES**

This week you’ve still not turned the heating on.

When you wake up there is ice on your bed. You decide that saving the planet can wait.



**TAURUS**

This week you wear pink on Wednesdays

Hands up if you’ve been personally victimised by Regina George



**GEMINI**

This week you piss into a Dyson handryer

Never has it been so easy to spread your passion for watersports



**CANCER**

This week you are hackey sac

You burn a book at ACC. Union sanctions are incoming



**LEO**

This week you break your phone immediately before a Tinder date.

God has clearly decided that you must be alone



**VIRGO**

This week you attempt to ban social media.

After failing you decide if you can’t beat ‘em You endorse bullying



**LIBRA**

This week you spot Apple lowering it’s prices

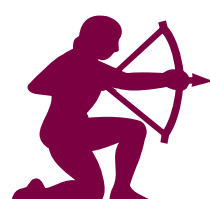
You couldn’t back Huawei fast enough



**SCORPIO**

This week you are not the God of democracy

You are the ICSMSU President



**SAGITTARIUS**

This week you attend IC hack

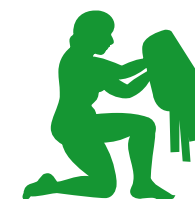
After collecting the grease from the participants’ foreheads, that’s your cooking oil sorted for the next three weeks



**CAPRICORN**

This week the laws on obscene pornography are relaxed.

You stop masturbating to the Felix centrefold

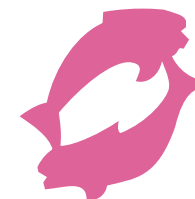


**AQUARIUS**

This week you accept that Britain is leaving the EU

You don’t know where, you don’t know when or on what terms.

But nor does anyone else



**PISCES**

This week you are still outraged by meat free Mondays

Wing Wednesdays, Turkey Tuesdays and Fry-up Fridays shall be a thing!



# INVESTMENT

[icui.investmentsociety@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:icui.investmentsociety@imperial.ac.uk)


## Electronic and Algorithmic Trading: Fixed Income Securities

### INVESTMENT

**Dike Dijemeni**  
**Esuabom Dijemeni**

*ICIS Members*

Electronic trading has become an increasingly important part of the fixed income market landscape in recent years. The rise of electronic trading has enabled a pickup of automated trading (including algorithmic and high-frequency trading) in fixed income futures and parts of cash bond markets. These recent changes have resulted in a transformation of the fixed income market structure, the process of price discovery and the nature of liquidity provision. Electronic trading's advance and structural consequences will have implications for market quality and functioning that are yet to be fully explored. This article provides a view of the rising use of electronic and automated trading in fixed income and related derivatives markets – a process we refer to as “electronification”.

Algorithmic trading is a process of buying or selling a security based on some pre-defined set of rules which are backtested on historical data. These rules can be based on technical analysis, charts, indicators or even stock fundamentals. For example, suppose you have a trading plan that would buy a particular stock if it closes in red for 5 consecutive days. You can formulate this rule into an algorithmic trading system and even automate it so that a buy order is placed automatically when your condition is met. You may even define your stop loss, target and position sizing in the algorithm which

would make your trading life easier.

Algorithmic trading strategies can be roughly grouped in three categories: Trade Execution; Market-making; and Directional, Relative Value and Arbitrage Strategies. Trade Execution is when execution algorithms are often concerned with minimising the price impact of a transaction. Market-making is to profit from the bid-ask spread, while ensuring tight risk control over inventory positions and minimising the risk of transacting with an informed counterparty. Directional, Relative Value and Arbitrage Strategies are strategies that attempt to exploit systematic short-term patterns in asset prices or arbitrages; may also implement strategies identifying arbitrage opportunities in markets with fragmented liquidity.

The impact of electronic trading in fixed income markets and the resulting shift in various aspects of market structure have had a noticeable impact on market quality and its optimal measurement. Electronic trading is having a significant

impact on the structure of fixed income markets and the interplay of various participants in the market ecosystem. Electronic trading has also contributed to changes in market-making business models, a growing presence of firms employing automated trading, and greater weight being placed by investors on improving execution.

The extent of electronic trading in fixed income markets varies significantly but has been growing over time globally as shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.

Despite the phenomenon's growing importance, policymakers direct access to continuous and comprehensive data on electronic trading in fixed income markets is so far limited. It also presents the results of an ad hoc survey of over 30 platform providers conducted by the Markets Committee Study Group. In some fixed income segments, electronification is now nearly as developed as in cash equities and foreign exchange.

In some markets, an increase in electronic trading has been driven

directly by technological improvements that have facilitated a reduction of the marginal cost of providing intermediation services and lowered the barriers to entry for companies with a technology advantage. Electronic trading is most advanced in those markets in which assets are most standardised and highly liquid – in particular, futures and the inter-dealer on-the-run US Treasury market.

In conclusion, it is clear that electronic trading in fixed income markets is advancing and that this is

creating efficiencies for many market participants, improving transparency and reducing market segmentation. It is important to note that the appropriate responses may differ across jurisdictions because of the heterogeneous nature of fixed income markets as well as the varying degrees of “electronification”. Four core areas for further policy assessment include: data, disclosure and monitoring; market quality and stability; risks and risk management; and trading practices and regulation.

**“You may even define your stop loss, target and position sizing in the algorithm which would make your trading life easier.”**

### Electronic-Trading Electrified

Investors using online trading platforms reached new peaks last year

■ Investment Grade ■ High Yield



Note: Data reflects percentage of surveyed institutions including funds/advisors, hedge funds, insurance companies, banks and others

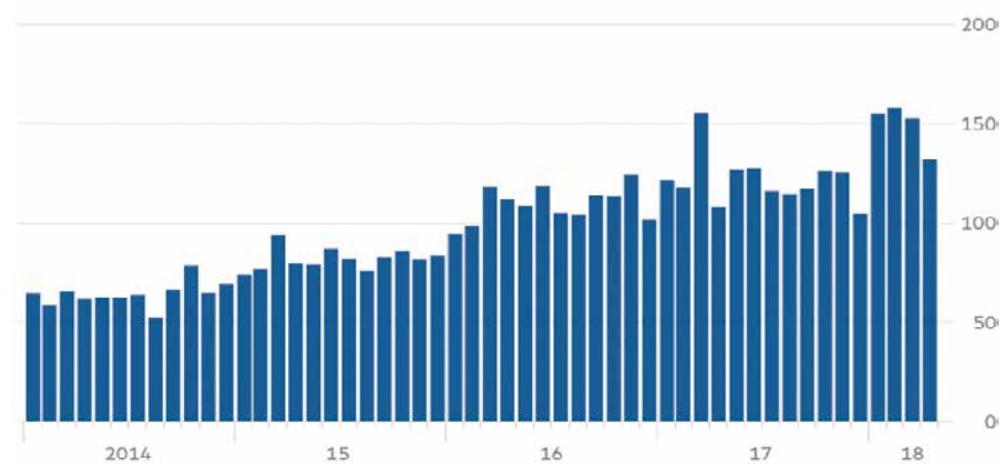
Source: Greenwich Associates 2017 U.S. Fixed-Income Study

**Bloomberg**

Figure 1: Growth in fixed income electronic trading on both investment grade bonds and high yield bonds // **Bloomberg**

### The great migration to electronic trading

Monthly volume on bonds traded on MarketAxess (\$bn)



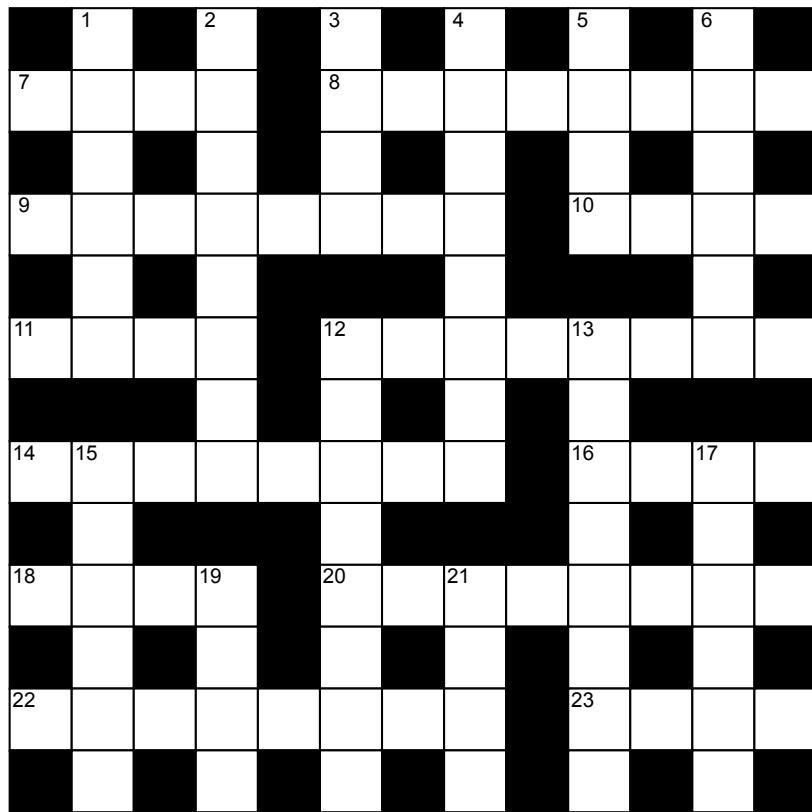
Source: MarketAxess © FT

Figure 2: Growth of electronic in fixed income (bond) market // **Financial Times**



# PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk



**Across**

- 7. Italian greeting (4)
- 8. Red, black, and green disc (8)
- 9. Tuesday's compulsory food (8)
- 10. Ready to eat (4)
- 11. Poems of admiration (4)
- 12. Frozen happiness (3,5)
- 14. Pre-Lent party (8)
- 16. Black bird (4)
- 18. Glory (4)
- 20. Human-powered taxi (8)
- 22. Essential component of a bed (8)
- 23. For birds (4)

**Down**

- 1. Studies at Hogwarts (6)
- 2. Comfortable leather shoe (8)
- 3. A long way (4)
- 4. In summary (8)
- 5. The correct way of cooking a steak (4)
- 6. Perfect place (6)
- 12. Upside down (8)
- 13. Hiking bag (8)
- 15. 2009 sci-fi film (6)
- 17. Doesn't rhyme with anything (6)
- 19. Uber's food delivery brand (4)
- 21. Tangible money (4)

**FUCWIT**

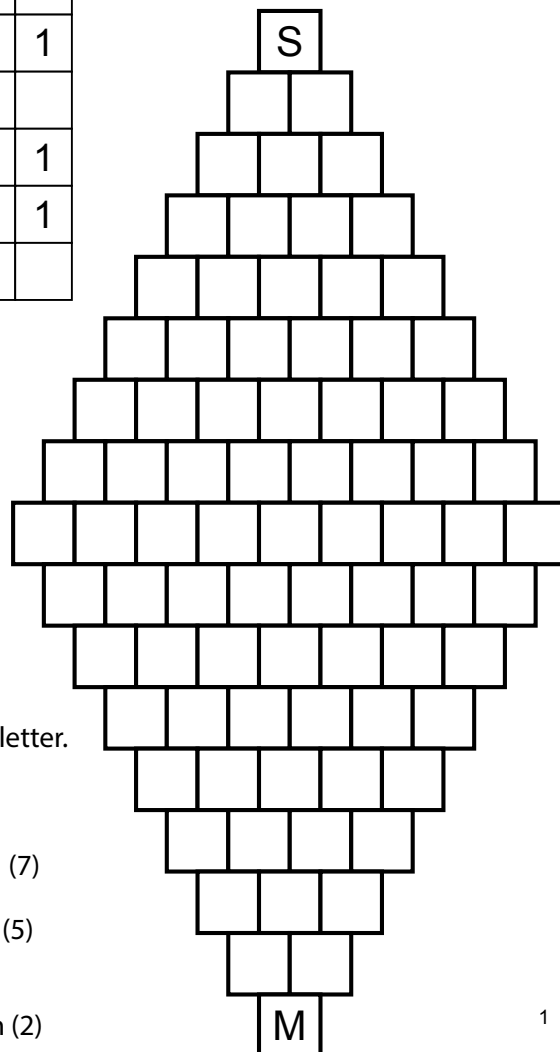
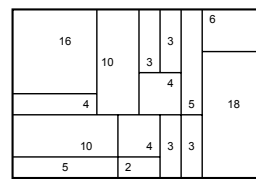
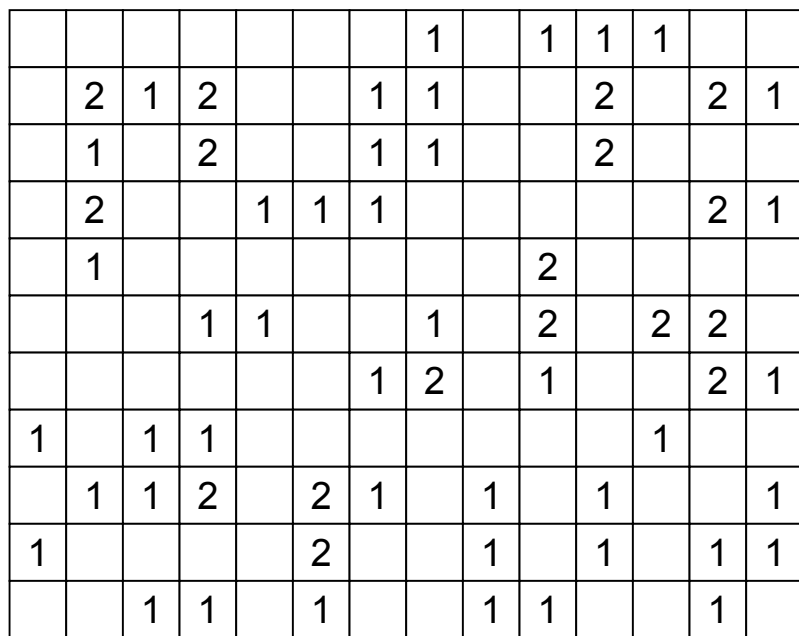
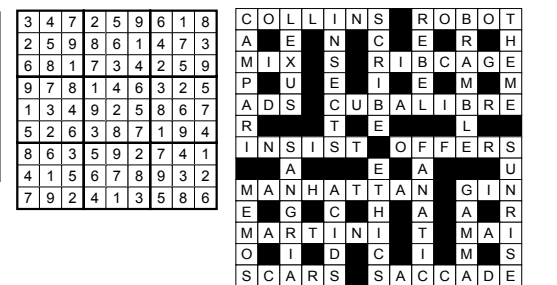
1	DQ	50
1	Maxiane	50
1	Trollheim	50
1	Wooloomooloo	50
5	Shark	49
6	Big H's Boys	47
7	Flesh and the tooters	45
8	Rock, Flag & Eagle	44
8	Yeet Infection	44
10	KBLB	42
24	M.C. Potato	14
26	Nemi	11
26	Vanilla Chocolate	11
28	Philippides	10

Send your solutions to [fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk) before Wednesday midday to take part in the leaderboard!

**Points available**

Crossword	5
Minesweeper	2
Word pyramid	3
Nonogram	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

**Last week's solutions**



**MINESWEEPER**

The number in a cell represents the number of mines adjacent to that square (up/down, left/right, diagonal). Find and mark all of the mines to clear the board.

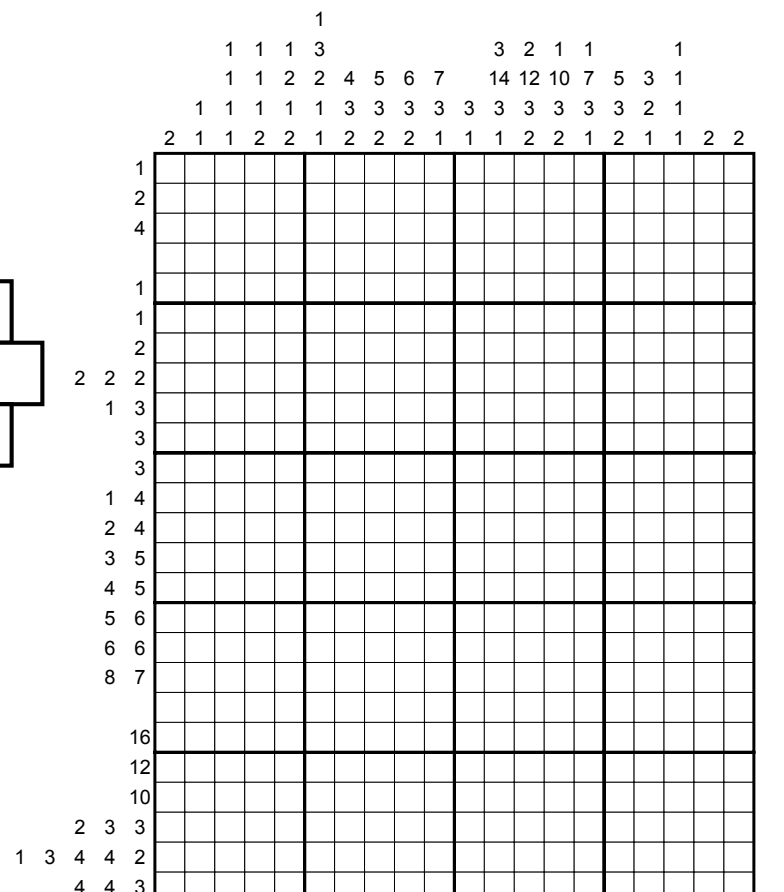
**WORD PYRAMID**

Each row is an anagram of the previous, plus or minus one letter.

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Clues, from top to bottom:   | Pretty flowers (9)         |
| Standard system of units (2) | Blood bubble (8)           |
| Plural of y (3)              | Smith, Jones, or Brown (7) |
| Curvy function (4)           | Animal refuse (6)          |
| Engaged (2,3)                | Provide with weapons (5)   |
| Apple Store worker (6)       | Average (4)                |
| Start a riot (7)             | Adult boy (3)              |
| Unpausing (8)                | Amplitude modulation (2)   |

**NONOGRAM**

Colour in some of the squares to make a picture. Each number represents a block of consecutive black squares within that row/column. Each block needs to be separated by at least one white square.





# SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Imperial Cross Country on verge of greatness with one race left in the LUCA XC League

*After a strong showing at last week's penultimate league race at Alexandra Palace ICXC sit atop both the women's and mixed standings with UCL clipping at their heels*

### SPORTS

**Fergus Johnson**

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**A**s dawn broke on Alexandra Palace, the birds began to sing and the mud glistened brightly in the morning sun.

The day was set to be a cold one, with a gentle dew hovering over the freshly watered grass, and patches of bog forming after the recent rain.

Meanwhile, away from the tranquility, Imperial's Cross Country Club were beginning to assemble in Beit Quad with rumours flying of the treacherous hill and deep mud that awaited them 16 stops away on the Piccadilly line in the outer-reaches of Zone 3.

The trek from Wood Green tube station up to Alexandra Palace will be familiar to those who are fans of reasonably-sized gigs, the World Darts Championships, or the recent Masters snooker.

However, the squad were not making this journey to be entertained.

They were making this journey to compete in the fourth race in the London Universities and Colleges Cross Country League.

After a successful outing at the third race in Wimbledon Common back in mid-November (see Felix, 23rd November), the club were seeded 3rd in the men's league, were leading the women's league by a sizeable 97 points, and were also top in the Mike Baggs Trophy Standings

with the notorious St. Mary's just 2 points behind.

The Mike Baggs Trophy is in its inaugural year and combines scores from both the men's and women's teams in all the races, with teams scoring 8 points for a win, 7 points for a second place, and so on.

In doing so, the Mike Baggs Trophy has become the top prize in the London Universities Cross Country scene, and Imperial travelled to Ally Pally looking to inch closer to lifting this prestigious award.

After a hasty warm-up and a rousing team talk from the club captain, the runners once more gathered on the start line for another cross country

**"The compulsory face paint masked their grimaces as the incline began to take its toll"**

race, questioning why they continued to subject themselves to such unappealing exploits.

As usual, the starting whistle caught all the runners by surprise and the stampede began, thundering along the bottom of the park, hugging the treeline, and transverseing the most waterlogged part of the course.

A number of participants were clearly seen to



A King's athlete couldn't help but defect for the traditional pre-race team photo//ICXC

be regretting their choice of shoes, with flat, grippless road shoes very much unsuited to the terrain.

Slipping and sliding their way to the first corner, the mass of runners were directed around a hairpin bend and the slow, steady ascent of the hill began.

By this stage the race had begun to stretch out, with Imperial's famous navy and red vests packing well up the order, notable for their depth and faces of determination.

The compulsory face paint masked their grimaces as the incline began to take its toll and soon mud turned to harder ground with those wearing spikes struggling to maintain good running form on this new surface.

After what seemed like an age for the runners but in reality was probably less than 1km of uphill, the route took a sharp turn and led the runners down the steepest part of the hill, reminding some of the athletes about various differentials from lectures.

This part of the course

saw the athletes taking a number of different tactics, with some opting to take the tarmac, others cautiously descending on the muddy grass verge, and a few simply closing their eyes and hoping for the best.

The outrageously steep and hazardous descent led back to the start/finish, leaving the women to complete one further lap and the men two additional circuits.

In the women's race Imperial scored the first 1-2-3 of the year, with the podium filled by Georgia Curry (1st), Kate Olding (2nd) and Alex Mundell (3rd).

This was a dominant performance from the girls, with Mundell finishing 43 seconds ahead of the 4th placed athlete.

Remarkably, Imperial's final scorer for the A-team, Chloe Baker, came home just 4 seconds behind 4th to finish in 5th, giving the Women's A team an almost perfect 593/594 points for the fixture.

In the overall standings,

Curry and Olding sit joint first on 595 points with a 30 point lead over 3rd.

The champion will surely be decided by which of them can win at the final fixture.

Hopefully this competition will rub off on the team who - barring disaster - will retain the Women's title ahead of UCL who currently lie 122 points behind.

Back in the men's race, Imperial's Niki Faulkner cruised to a bronze behind strong performances from St. Mary's and UCL athletes.

Second home from the boys was rising star Charlie McFadzean who finished in the top 10 for the first time with a 9th placed finish. Just outside the top 10 was orienteering scholar Mihaly Ormay in 11th, and the A team was rounded off by good runs from Mark Pollock and Fergus Johnson who finished within 1 second of one another.

This was Imperial's best Men's performance of the season, all-but-guarantee-

ing them a podium with Reading languishing far behind in 4th place in the league.

It is also worth noting the depth of Imperial's squad, with Imperial leading the B, C, D, and E(!) teams in both the men's and women's leagues.

In fact, Imperial's Women's B team are currently in bronze medal position overall which could result in an unprecedented double-podium at the final race next month.

Additionally, with St. Mary's failing to field an entire women's team, the result now leaves Imperial 3 points clear in first place in the mixed Mike Baggs Trophy Standings with just one race to go.

With UCL close behind, Imperial will need that both their men's and women's teams average second place in the final race to ensure they bring home the title.

The final race of the season takes place at Wormwood Scrubs on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February.