



FELIX



NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

No. 192

FRIDAY, 14th JUNE, 1963

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WATSON ELECTED

Outsider chosen for Top Union Post

At the Joint Council Meeting (reported elsewhere in this issue) which took place last Monday, Dave Watson, a Physics Post-Grad., was elected to the post of President of the Union for the next session. The result came as a surprise to many people, in view of the fact that Dave Watson was not known very well generally, unlike the three other candidates. After the initial chit chat of the Council Meeting, the Election of President was reached

on the agenda, and in a tense atmosphere, votes were collected and counted. A straight majority is required, and plural voting is used—the candidate with the least number of votes in the first ballot drops out, then the next and so on.

John Madison dropped out at the first ballot, then Dave Loftus, leaving it as a straight vote between Preece and Watson. The last few minutes were rather tense, and to break the spell, the Chairman carried on with a few of the other elections. Apparently the voting was fairly close, but in the end it was Watson who was declared elected, congratulated and invited to sit in on the rest of the Council Meeting: "You're a member of Council as from just now."

H. D. D. Watson was born in December 1939, was educated at Belfast Royal Academy. In 1961 he was awarded a double first in Maths and Physics at Cambridge, and then came to IC to join the Theoretical Physics Group. He has always been a keen debater—some people will remember him speaking at the last NUS debate—and edited his College magazine at Cambridge. As far as sporting activities are concerned, he played for the first XV both at school and at Cambridge (St. Catherine's), and is interested in mountaineering. This year he has served as the President of the Mountaineering Club at IC, and is one of the organisers of this year's Greenland Expedition.

We look forward to his term of office.



PRESIDENTS—Past and Future.

PARTING SHOTS—UNION MEETING 28th MAY

The last Union Meeting of the term is usually similar to a mutual admiration society—all the boys have done a grand job, and so have I because they say so. This one was also injected with doses of David Frost designed to stir a little more reaction from the dying session. This year there will probably be a cabaret at the President's Ball—the entertainers are around and they even write their own material. Some of them tried it out on a non-paying audience and met with some setbacks. Doubtless they will rewrite a little, but much went down rather well. The Hon. Sec. started off with the opening number, "Minutes," which was brief and amusing.

One of the stars was missing, so instead of Taff Phillips we had his deputy, Dennis Foster, who recited the maestro's prose in measured, inaudible tones. The Sporting mob this year have had a bad year, what with the weather and that CEM place, and the Judo Club lost to the Met. Police. It is the subtle joke that wins

most applause from the sophisticated audiences present at Union Meetings; "more hostels will mean more sport" produced gigantic belly laughs from the Editor of a notorious College newspaper and Jim Carter, while everyone else creased silently.

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JOINT COUNCIL, JUNE 10th, 1963

On Monday last, Joint Council elected Dave Watson as President of the College and Dave Loftus as Secretary.

Four candidates were up for the election. During the voting, the other elections were carried through. The first ballot resulted in the elimination of John Maddison, the second ballot, announced amidst rising tension, left Preece and Watson. Council voted again and Watson was in.

This event was the most important one of the evening but previous to this, the ugly head of relations between the Union and South Side Halls of residence had been reared. A letter had been sent by the Tizard Hall Committee to the SCC and the RCC concerning the use of their gallery levels. The RCC and SCC were invited to hold meetings in South Side in the gallery levels of Tizard Hall. In a letter addressed to Council, the Tizard Committee apologised for writing direct to the RCC-SCC instead of to Council, and claimed that their intentions had been misinterpreted. The Executive and Council, with the notable exceptions of the Chairmen of the ACC and SCC were unanimous in their reply. Halls should concern themselves with their own residents, and should work with the Union to the best advantage of all the students of the College. Their activities should at all times be complementary to those of the Union, rather than competitive.

Two other important points cropped up. The President and Mr. Watson were both concerned about the Debating Society. This should be one of the most active in the College, its members com-

prising the whole student body. Instead, it has seen a decline of late, and Council expressed dissatisfaction with the conduct of the Society and urged the Chairman of the SCC to examine the matter seriously.

The second matter was brought up by Mr. Knight, the Old Centralians representative. After the announcement of Union General Awards, Mr. Knight showed Council why he had been one of the recipients. In an eloquent earnest speech, he put forward ample reason for caution as regards Union finances. The union receives some £700 p.a. from investments made by past Councils. As a rule, ten per cent. of our annual income is invested, with the result that finances are boosted by the interest. Estimates for the next session exceed income, and these do not even include the usual ten per cent. to be invested. Mr. Knight pointed out the folly of this: if investment decreases, so will income in the long run, due to lower interest. He did not disagree with the formation of new clubs, but Council must consider the wisdom of their present actions which could jeopardise future finances.

Apart from Mr. Knight, the following members of the College received Union General Awards:

Andrew Pawlowicz—
Editor of Felix
John Maddison—
Carnival Organiser
Dave Dean—Boat Club Captain
John Shepherd—Judo Club

These awards were made to the above for their outstanding contributions to the College in their respective fields.

B. HOOPER.

Union meeting (cont.)

After the warm up by the ACC, the best turn came, direct from the Ham. Soc., Laughing Don Pearson. After his customary "Mr. President, Sir," came the slow build up to various hackneyed gags. Politics are always good for a laugh, so the one about the Conservative Party membership being up by 30 per cent. was a big hit. More was to come—the Reds have decided to liquidate the old Marxist Forum and to form a Communist Society. The joke wore a bit thin with the rehash of NUS. Most people had already heard it all to drop that one and look for another gem in his depleted bag. Then Don read out the aims and objects of the newly-formed Flat Earth Society, starting with visits to the four corners of the Earth, trips in flying saucers, finally reducing the already helpless audience to laughing chaos with the punch line, "Safety precautions for ships sailing off the edge of the world." Laughing Don had scored a big hit, and this was acknowledged by "comper" Chandmal.

The next turn was the Haclin production of a take-off of the Kenneth Horne show "Beyond the Understanding." "The Square Dancing Society is finding its feet" started the groaning, but was soon topped by the one about the Riding Club having more horses than members. Not an outstanding script, but it had its moments. Obviously he had worked hard, and again the comper reminded us of this.

While all this was going on, the elections for Council Reps were also being held; the results were such that Dave Loftus could vote twice for himself at Joint Council, while Norman Price will be able to play ball on next year's Council. Then on with the next act, presumably a gap-stopper before the big moment when the comper could get in the act himself. The Carnival produced a great deal of money and odd references to Bristol by John Madison. A good straight act, performed quite smoothly. The best job was the one behind the scenes—Mrs. Rob had counted the money.

Now came the delicate, subtle, oriental Chandmal. Comedy laced with serious rubbish—and he got away with it. The man is mystery. Where did he get that one about the Phoenix rising from the Ashes? "Soho Printing" was perhaps a little crude, but he made up for this with a monetary joke. £14,000 are needed to pay for the increased costs of the new refectories.

This was accompanied by a superb aphorism, splendidly acclaimed: "Drinkers should not subsidise eaters." The President thanked his front-man, PRO expert J.B., and moved on with the humour. "Prominent"

figures are always good for a laugh, and compare Chandmal produced a superb character, called the Domestic Bursar. It appears that this man has a tendency to spend his time at a place called "the Catering Sub-Committee," waiting for something to turn down, occasionally providing comic relief when caught out wallowing in the puddles of an afterthought.

One of the backstage men took the stand now, to thank the comper for the good job that he had managed through the year, no doubt with the aid of many timely speeches. Heads nodded in agreement, and Mr. Liddle sat down. Mr. Chandmal had not quite finished yet, though—he still had to announce the names of those elected to the Entertainments Committee. This one misfired, because he read out the list of people with least votes to start with, but was soon corrected by one of the gentlemen who had counted the votes. The correct names were read out to applause from the crowd. That was great staging and a fitting climax to the show. You must see it again next year—its a wow.

B. LEVINN.

ED.'s Note—to be taken in small quantities, preferably with a pinch of salt.

Communist Society

At last the old Marxist Forum has been scrapped and a Communist Society formed. The Society has a long pedigree, from the early days when after the proposed Society was turned down in 1952, the Marxist sub-group was formed as an offshoot of the Lit. and Deb. Soc. After the old RCCcumSCC was split up and the SCC took on a "liberal" image, the sub-group was allowed to become the independent Marxist Forum.

The latest change is in a nutshell, out of the armchairs and into the streets, from a purely theoretical Society into a thorough-going political Society. This is necessary as it is recognised that mere preaching will not change society, but through political activity it is possible to change the world from capitalism and war to peace and socialism. At the same time political activity needs to be concentrated on short term objectives, e.g., for a real change in student housing, from poor digs and few hostels to more student controlled hostels and student flats, and for student controlled lodgings lists to ensure good conditions and to have more power over landlords who refuse to take in coloured students.

The Society is interested in spreading Marxist ideas and in bringing to an end exploitation and the rat race. All those of you who agree with these objectives are urged to join the Society and make your protest more effective, your ideals more tangible.

FELIX SMALL ADS

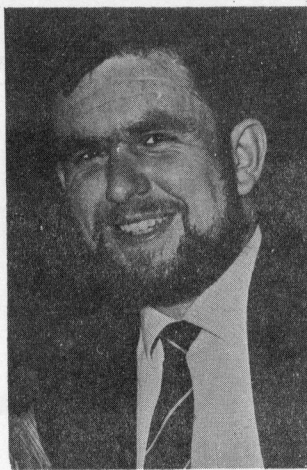
TO LET—comfortable room in Richmond (20 minutes by tube from South Ken.). Free lighting. Gas ring and heater. Use of bathroom. £2 10s. per week. P. V. Hobbs, KEN 5111, Extension 451.

FLAT WANTED during August and September only, preferably in South-West or West London. Two rooms, kitchen and bathroom. Contact D. G. Fearn, Physics PG via Union rack or internal post.

RCS REVIEW

The A.G.M. of the R.C.S. Union was held on May 23rd, in the main Chemistry Lecture Theatre. The election of departmental reps., trophy officers, etc., was conducted efficiently by the President. As a test of strength, the candidates for the two posts of trophy officer were required to lift the large bulk of the vice-president into the air. These candidates were also questioned about their moral suitability for the post. One 'gentleman,' who was proposed and seconded by 5 women, when asked what he wore in bed, replied that it depended upon whom he was sleeping with. He was elected. The other trophy officer elected was apparently under the influence of drink at the time. Enemies of R.C.S. should have an interesting time trying to steal Theta next year.

The only sporting success of the year was the winning of Sports Day by the Athletics Team. This was fortunate for it provided several cups and members of the Union used these filled with beer to drink the health of the Union. The Annual Reports were presented. During the President's Report, four individuals, one dressed as a priest and one as a hangman, descended from the back of the lecture theatre carrying some wooden beams. These were quickly converted into a set of gallows. The meeting waited expectantly. Mr.



CHRIS TYE

Harris concluded his report and handed over the chair to the new President. Having done this he was simultaneously arrested, tried and sentenced to death by hanging. The priest read the last rites; Mr. Harris refused confession. Just as he was being strung up, he was saved by a "giggle of nymphs" who transported him bodily (with head attached) to safety, much to the annoyance of the assembled mob.

Officers for the next year:

President Chris Tye
 Vice-President ... Simon Adlam
 Secretary Mike McMahon
 Assistant Secretary ... Andrea Sutherland

SILWOOD HOUSE BALL

An extremely warm evening and the pleasant grounds of Silwood Park combined well to give a romantic setting to the Silwood Ball. Initially the number of couples strolling in the grounds (and halting a while behind the bushes) was greater than the number dancing inside to Les Leyton's band. The buffet supper (prepared by V. Mooney and Co., S.W.7) was generally enjoyed, even allowing for the omission of coffee and the discrepancy between the printed menu and the meal served.

The dancers and the strollers (about 80 couples in all) were united by the cabaret provided at short notice by Mick Emery (vocalist in Alan Elsdon's Jazz Band) who sang beautifully to his own guitar accompaniment. The decoration of the main hall of the house in which the dancing takes place is always difficult. This year it was attempted by the use of clever lighting, but unfortunately the early failure of some colour filters spoilt this.

The front exterior of the house was flood-lit, providing a homing beacon for couples wandering in the countryside. One mischievous twit obtained great amusement from directing a

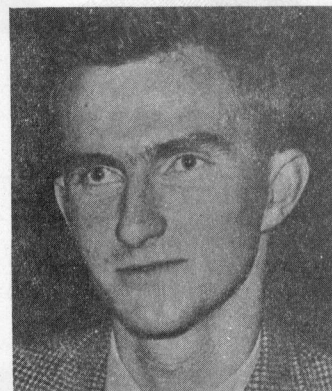
flood-light into the surrounding countryside, thereby disturbing several couples.

After a repeat cabaret performance the dancing continued until 5.30 a.m. Dawn came at about 4 o'clock reminding everyone that they had been up all night and so feeling tired they began to drift home. To those who knew nothing of the drama behind the scenes it was a great success; to those who knew of the organisers' difficulties and watched the R.C.S. Entertainments Committee greying at the temples, it was a miracle. The main trouble, as Mr. K. Sadvani explained many times at great length during the evening, was the sudden cancellation of the arranged cabaret on the day before. Fortunately, thanks to Ken Crobson, Mick Emery was contacted and he was an excellent substitute.

The R.C.S. Ents. Committee are to be congratulated on their achievement, which has crowned a very successful year of entertaining. They worked continuously from 10.0 a.m. Friday until 8.0 a.m. Saturday. Many thanks. Let us hope that their efforts result to them for a fine, enjoyable ball. Let us hope that their efforts result in a higher attendance at next year's ball.

SPANNERAMA

23rd of May saw the last Guilds Union Meeting of this session. Despite the close proximity of the exams, the meeting was well supported. First item on the agenda was "elections," and Bob Schroter was elected (unopposed) President, Rod Jones, Vice-President and Mike Cox, Secretary. As a result of a last minute nomination, Jim Carter defeated Robin Claridge, to receive the most coveted award in Guilds, the Norris Muck Stirring Trophy.



BOB SCHROTER

With the serious business of the day over, the President rose amidst tumultuous cheers, and cries of "strip, strip," to give his annual report. Various clubs in Guilds have had a most active and successful year, judging by the appearance of various items of silverware at Union Meetings. The finances have been put on a rational basis, and judging from the preliminary figures issued, net results have been most beneficial. Summing up, the President said that no more than an averagely successful year could be claimed, this being partly due to the unsuitability of Room 542 in Mech.Eng. for Union Meetings, and the shifting nature of the College brought about by the appearance of new buildings. The full effect of the new buildings is still to be fully felt, and will no doubt prove a great challenge to next year's President and Executive. Chris Liddle concluded by saying what good blokes all Guildsmen are (which we know, anyway) and by wishing the next Exec. all the best.

Next item on the agenda was the Field Cup, which, for the uninitiated, is a sort of glorified treasure hunt, the clues leading to some "thing" which must be recovered, and brought back. Spurred on by the beery prize, various departmental groups sped off in diverse directions.

The proceedings, however, degenerated into complete chaos, due to laying of false clues by Electricals, a most ungentlemanly activity. (Editors' note—After all, what else can you expect from Guildsmen?) The member of one group even ended up swimming under the Serpentine Bridge in order to retrieve a thing(?) that was floating about. On the way back to College and their shining goal, the possessors of the thing were foully waylaid on the steps of Mech.Eng., the bloody melee stopping after some 15 minutes when the participants were informed that the 'thing' in their possession had nothing to do with the Field Cup.

The beer was eventually won by Electricals who kindly shared it with the old lags of the other departments.

In conclusion, we would just like to say that we wish all our fellow Guildsmen all the best for the coming year.



Can Bob do this?

DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The Drama Soc. Old Lags (the Comus Club) are presenting "The Importance of Being Earnest" for the London International Students Club on August 14th, 15th and 16th, at 7.30 each night in the Concert Hall. It is hoped that members of the College who will be in London at that time will come and see it.

Sailing Club



A YEAR OF FORTUNE AND MISFORTUNE FOR THE SAILING CLUB

The year began quite normally for the Sailing Club, with A and B points races, and instruction of novices proceeding well throughout the Autumn Term. The first team, whose members comprise half of the U.L. first team, had several matches, home and away, during this term, and the second team met several other college teams, unfortunately without marked success.

It was also hoped at the beginning of the year to organise an I.C. ladies team, but this did not come about because of a lack of the most essential items for this enterprise.

The term ended with I.C. boats lying 2nd and 4th in "A" points and 1st and 2nd in "B" points, and with about 175 hours of instruction completed.

The Christmas vacation brought sub-Arctic temperatures, as all will undoubtedly remember, and by the beginning of the Spring Term, ice on the Harp was about five inches deep. Ice is apt to make Firefly sailing rather difficult, but no one was unduly worried, as this sort of thing has happened several times before at the beginning of January.

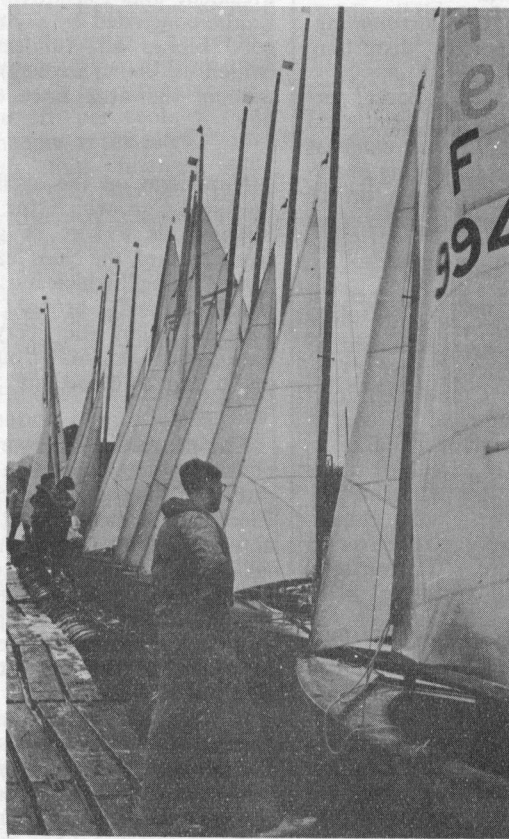
We were not to know, however, that the coldest weather this century was about to descend upon our unsuspecting little island from the unfriendly wastes of Siberia. This is what transpired, nevertheless, and the ice remained on the Harp for two more months, attaining a thickness of nine or ten inches at the height of the cold season. Skaters and ice-yachters had much exercise during that period, but for us the Spring Term was virtually a write-off. This was very unfortunate, because for both racing and instruction, the Spring Term is usually our most active period. However, about ten days before the end of term, when we were all contemplating taking up skiing or snow-waste walking or some other Arctic sport, the snow and ice finally vanished from the Harp. The greatest scenes of chaos since the sacking of Rome immediately ensued, as chair-bound Sailing Club officers received word that the Castaway's Cup series of team races would be held in about a week's time.

The Castaway's Cup is an annual competition organised by Castaways S.C. (which consists of ex-members of U.L.S.C.), and there is keen rivalry between the constituent colleges of U.L.S.C. over the cup. Normally, most of the Spring term is devoted to training and preparation for Castaway's, so it is a tribute to the organisers that the event took

place at all. But all went well, and the competition was sailed over a week-end in strong winds.

I.C., who already held the cup from last year (the first time we have won it), retained it in fine style with a finals battle against Chelsea.

It was decided, towards the end of the Spring Term, to award "A" and "B" points trophies on the strength of the Autumn Term's results alone. I.C. therefore came 1st and 2nd in "B" points, owing to the efforts of Hugh Tothill and Andrew Thomson, and 2nd and 4th in "A" points through the efforts of Dave Pertz and Eric Twiname.



It is interesting to note that this is the first year for many years that I.C. has not won "A" points. It was won this year by Graham Taylor, who used to win it for us when he was at I.C., but now lectures at Battersea. Thus we were in good spirits after Castaway's, until we lost one of our boats. Two days after Castaway's weekend F 2168 was placed on a trailer prior to removal from the Harp for maintenance. The following day an individual with felonious tendencies removed her to another trailer and departed, and neither he nor the boat have been seen since. This was a great blow, as F 2168 was one of our better boats, and with her went two suits of sails and other sundry gear. However, the vessel is insured, so we will have a new boat if she is not found.

During the Easter vacation several cruises were organised. Three boats went for a week on the Norfolk Broads, and two East Coast cruises took place from Maldon. One of these, occupying a fortnight, extended to Holland, the other, for one week only, got no further than Margate, owing to rather boisterous seas and gale force winds, although an enjoyable time was still had by all the crew.

The Summer Term, in which we now find ourselves, is never a very active one for the Sailing Club, as many people are struck by an entirely unreasonable urge (usually produced by not so unreasonable fears) to concentrate on academic work to the detriment of their sailing. In spite of this attitude, however, we managed to hold our Annual Championships on Wednesday, May 15th, where some quite keen competition was encountered. The Novices Trophy was won by Robin Gray, who entered the club as a fresher at the beginning of the year, the Single-Handed Trophy by Dave Pentz, the Commodore (who is an old hand at one-man sailing as he owns his own Finn), and the Double-Handed trophy by Eric Twiname, next year's Commodore.

The year's events have almost finished now, and in all we have had quite a successful time. We now need to ensure that next year will not be a mediocre one. We hope to have six boats in full order next year, and three of them will be almost new (under six months old) so there will be ample opportunity for people to race or to learn to sail. Anyone toying with the idea of ceasing to be a landlubber will be very welcome in the club next year, when the officers will try to uphold, or improve on, the successes of this year, while trying to eliminate the misfortunes.