

Connaught Hall Residents' Club

Annual General Meeting Committee Report 2016/2017



President – Esmond Loh

Ever since we were elected as the new Residents' Club Committee in October last year, we have striven to make Connaught even more vibrant, social and inclusive than it already was. We have organized numerous events and activities – from pumpkin carving to karaoke sessions to late night parties. In addition, efforts have been made to implement changes that would improve the welfare of resident life in Connaught. This includes introducing new food and beverages at the bar, installing a new darts set and a new Playstation 4, and setting up various societies catering to residents' diverse interests.

We have also worked closely with the Multicultural Students' Forum to organize various cultural events which have not only brought to residents a taste of home, but have also led to exciting cultural exchanges within the Connaught community.

My main role within the Committee has been to articulate the needs and concerns of residents in Connaught, chair the weekly Committee meetings, and delegate tasks to my fellow Committee members. I have supported the activities that we have organized in various creative ways, such as spearheading publicity campaigns and taking photos of events. I ensure that the committee always stays transparent, approachable, and open to residents' feedback and concerns.

I would like to thank all residents who have supported our initiatives and contributed valuable ideas and suggestions. It has been truly humbling serving you and we hope to do even more for you in the months ahead. My personal goal, as I had mentioned in my election campaign, is to make Connaught Hall a place where there is 'A Stake for Everyone'. My fellow Committee members and I will continue working hard to achieve that vision.

Secretary – Anja Johnson

I am incredibly grateful to have been able to call Connaught Hall my home this year. I value the community feeling and sociable environment Connaught Hall fosters. In my opinion, being on the committee has allowed me to contribute towards the social life of our hall, as well as, advocate for all residents' concerns and implement actions to improve the hall community.

As Secretary, I am primarily responsible for organizing committee meetings and maintaining communication between our residents and the hall administration. As a member of the committee, I represent the interests and concerns of all residents. During our weekly committee meetings, I take the minutes and ensure that these are posted on Facebook and sent to all committee members.

Having taken over the Connaught Flush from my predecessor, Kiyomi. I collaborated with one of our Residents to preserve its existence. Liam Barrett, who kindly took over the publication of the Connaught Flush, now continues to create biweekly content to ensure entertainment in Connaught Hall's bathrooms.

As a committee, we have striven to establish a welcoming environment for all residents and have tried to organize a variety of events catering to all interests. Nevertheless, we continue to welcome your feedback and are open to all your suggestions and/or concerns.

Treasurer – Liam Pullin

In September 2016, the committee initially had £5,530.93 banked, kindly left by last year's treasurer Janós, and held a variety of assets. The committee account had a net gain of £3185.83 over five months, to January, in which we spent £19,046.32, a 42% increase over the same period from the year before. We received a sum of £22,232.15, a 9% increase over the same period from the year before.

The bar sustained an average profit of £412.89 per month netting a total of £2064.43 after all new stock had been purchased. While the bar is still performing well, we will consider closing the bar perhaps one day a week to reduce loss. Comparatively the bar had to be closed 3 days a week in semester 2 last year.

At the end of January, we had £8,716.76 in the committee account. In addition to this, we have £761.50 held by PayPal and £2000 cash holding at the bar that needs to be transferred to the committee account giving us a total of £11,478.26. Please note £1408.30 of cheques are still to be cashed out of the account from this year from bar wages (£7/hr) and reimbursements.

Upcoming expenditures include the boat party in which we are expecting to make a loss of approximately £500. The bar manager will continue to buy stock until April when the new manager takes over. Other expenditures such as the monthly parties we hold are approaching but we expect to make a profit on these parties anyway. In 2016 we made some exciting purchases such as the PS4 and Mascot whilst supported the start of 5 internal societies.

If there is something you would like funding for or have a suggestion on how we could spend this year's budget, please come to a committee meeting or drop me a message!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the other committee members, Rory, Dániel and Adrian for being truly fun to work with and amazing.

Entertainment Officer – Solène Kendem

My duty as the entertainer officer is to plan social events. I have been working closely with the bar manager and former entertainer officer, Rory, whose help I really value. Up until now, we have hosted around fifteen events, including five Hall parties, three pub quizzes, three karaoke nights and other events related to cultural celebrations. I hope you all liked these events and please do not hesitate to tell us your suggestions.

At the moment, we are planning more social events and Hall parties with original themes at the bar. The next party is potentially going to be the Silent Disco party. It is going to cost around £380 to rent the equipment. Then, we will embark on the biggest event of the year, the boat party which is going to cost around £2000. We expect to sell enough tickets to make a £1500 revenue, so the total loss of this party would be £500. Some of you may think this is a hefty sum, but we are confident that it will be worth it. In addition, when the weather gets warmer, we would like to organise a proper beach party.

My highlight so far has been the Halloween party. It was the night when we had to turn our clocks back. At 1:30 (the end of the party according to our licence), everyone wanted to wait in the Bamforth room for 30 minutes so that at 2 am it would become 1 am again and thinking we could legally party again at 2am. The huge success of the Committee's first Hall party really made me look forward to organizing the subsequent ones.

Sports Officer – Matei Bjola

As the Sports Officer of Connaught Hall, I help to coordinate and to provide support for sport events. Additionally, I overlook the acquisition and maintenance of sports equipment for residents. The committee this year has been happy to facilitate sports events and provide equipment to residents. Provided below is a brief summary of some of the planned sport events for the next term and of the sport equipment available for residents. Moreover, I assisted the setting up of Societies at Connaught including the Yoga, Football, Museum, Running and Poker Society.

Upcoming Sport Events:

Connaught Winter Olympics

Various events organised by the societies

Football game against other halls

Possible Adventure Week™ at the end of term 3

Trip to Oxygen Free Jumping

Acquisition of Sports equipment includes:

Table tennis bats and balls

Footballs and Bibs

Darts

The committee is always very happy to help both financially and logistically if you want to set up new societies. I am also always open if you have any questions or suggestions.

Bar Manager – Rory Forsyth

My job is to ensure that the Bar is a friendly, busy, and inclusive social hub for the entire Hall. The Bar should not make a loss, but neither should it make a large profit. It is funded by money from your accommodation fees, and that money is there to be spent. The aim is to be busy, cheap, and not bankrupt. With this in mind, I have focused on:

- Cutting drinks prices significantly from last year
- Providing a wider range of drinks (cocktail menu; more beers, ciders and spirits)
- Holding more events at the Bar (open mic night, pub quizzes, karaoke, cheese and wine, etc.)
- Catering to non-drinkers (free crisps, pretzels and popcorn; chocolate bars; ramen; free hot chocolate; candy floss machine; blender for smoothies and milkshakes)

We have made a small profit (£46.26 from August to the end of January, not including incoming tabs). More importantly, our total income is 41.6% higher than it was this time last year.¹ This is encouraging – particularly seeing as prices are lower and leases started a week earlier in 2015 than 2016.

Hopefully we can keep this momentum up for the rest of the year. We'll be holding various themed nights in the next few weeks, in addition to the upcoming Winter Olympics organised by Matei and the Silent Disco on February 25th. We will also have a charity night for RISE on February 24th.

Please let me know if you ever have any suggestions for improving the Bar! My contract ends in mid-April, and I hope my successor has as much fun as I've had over the past year. Thank you to all of the Bar staff for making my life so easy, and to all of you for making the Bar a lovely place to spend time in!

¹ September 2015 – January 2016: £11,962.51
September 2016 – January 2017: £16,945.43

Appendix A: Past and Future Events

Eighteen events have been held under this Committee as of Wednesday 8 February. The events were either organized by the Committee or done in collaboration with the Bar Manager and the Multicultural Students' Forum. They are as follows (events requiring a Temporary Event Notice are emboldened):

Term 1:

- Connaught Karaoke & Happy Hour 1 (Thursday 13 October 2016)
- Connaught Cocktail Creations (Friday 14 October 2016)
- Connaught Smoothie Night (Tuesday 18 October 2016)
- Pumpkin Carving Party (Thursday 27 October 2016)
- **Halloween Party (Saturday 29 October 2016)**
- Diwali Celebrations (Tuesday 1 November 2016)
- Connaught Karaoke & Happy Hour 2 (Thursday 3 November 2016)
- **Icebreaker Party (Saturday 19 November 2016)**
- Thanksgiving Dinner (Thursday 24 November 2016)
- Connaught's Got Talent (Thursday 1 December 2016)
- Christmas Tree Decoration (Thursday 1 December 2016)
- **Christmas Ball (Friday 9 December 2016)**
- We Love Connaught Staff (Friday 16 December 2016)

Term 2/3:

- **Refreshers Party (Saturday 21 January 2017)**
- Mojito Night (Thursday 26 January 2017)
- Chinese Karaoke Night (Friday 27 January 2017)
- Chinese New Year Celebration (Saturday 28 January 2017)
- Kev's Pub Quiz (Wednesday 1 February 2017)
- Winter Olympics (Saturday-Sunday 18-19 February 2017)
- RISE Charity Night (Friday 24 February 2017)
- **Silent Disco (Saturday 25 February 2017)**
- University Mental Health Day (Thursday 2 March 2017)
- Boat Party (Friday 24 March 2017)
- Intercollegiate Football Match (Sometime in Term 3)
- BBQ (Sometime in Term 3)
- Cultural events organized with the Multicultural Students Forum

Appendix B: Societies

Five societies have been set up by this Committee as of Wednesday 8 February. They are as follows:

- Art and Theatre Society
- Football Society
- Running Society
- Yoga Society
- Poker Society

Appendix C: Accounts



