

# ChemSoc Activities and Finance

October 20, 2017

## **Mums and Dads and Freshers Appeal: 02/10/17**

We had many students sign up as parents this year (100+) : a boost in participation on previous years. This resulted in smaller families; usually 2 or 3 kids to each pair of parents. We have also included Erasmus students as kids in the Mums & Dads scheme. We have been putting a greater emphasis on appealing to Freshers, with the Induction Day ChemSoc talk: 5 Freshers nominated themselves in the autumn elections for the ChemSoc First Year Rep. We spent £32 inc. VAT on chocolate prizes for the Induction Treasure Hunt, with excess sweets distributed at other events.

## **Freshers' Fair: 03/10/17**

Performed the strawberry DNA extraction - identical to previous demonstrations at Outreach events and Science Museum Lates. We overestimated the number of strawberries required, spending £87.60 inc. VAT on Freshers' Fair - this has led to new control in place to prevent future overspending. All potential expenditure is to be approved by the Treasurer, after filling out a form detailing the specifics of the cost - and, most importantly, if the cost can be reduced in any way. We received an anonymous Near Miss Health and Safety report as one of our demonstrators was wearing shorts under his lab coat. After meeting with the H&S officers of the chemistry department, the issue was cleared up quickly (we had filled in all the appropriate forms, and we were not using any harmful substances). It was essentially an issue of appearance: we should be encouraging good safety practice in public demonstrations. In future, we are to use a set of lab coats which are reserved specifically for demonstrations outside labs, which are not contaminated with anything harmful, and the use of these lab coats should be mentioned in the risk assessments as a control measure. For the record, the lab coats that we used at Freshers' Fair were all either brand new, or freshly cleaned.

## **Freshers' Seminar: 03/10/17**

Dr Andrew Szydlo delivered an exciting talk, *Fireworks and Waterworks*, which was especially geared towards Freshers: plenty of fire, smoke, and loud explosions. We put up (free) tickets on Eventbrite the day before the event, and

had totally sold out all 180 tickets in under 24 hours. We had a great turnout and the talk was very well received. College catering was provided for by the department, so our only expense were gifts for the speaker, totalling £30. This was deemed an appropriate gesture, as Dr Szydlo did not ask for a speaker's fee. There was a slight miscommunication of the apparatus needs, and we had to scrap around for beakers 10 minutes before the event: there was a slight delay, but this can easily be improved in the future.

### **Procter & Gamble Talk: 09/10/17**

Our main sponsors P&G paid us £600 for a lunchtime talk to UG students and a smaller meeting with PG students. We spent around £97.75 incl. VAT on food, covered by the sponsorship monies, and we had a decent turnout (~60 people for the UG talk). They were pleased with the event, which has been running for some years now, and will most likely ask for the same next year.

### **Autumn Quiz Night: 19/10/17**

Due in part to our Marketing Officer leaving her role, promotion of this event was left until just a couple of days before the quiz night. After initial budgeting and ticket release, it was determined within an hour that ticket prices were too high, which led to an emergency meeting discussing price restructuring. The outcome resulted in a greater subsidy from the society funds. This was appropriate and attracted a larger number of attendees. Total expenditure for the event was £340 incl. VAT. We appreciate that a new event budget must be completed. Income for the event was £88.35, resulting in a ChemSoc subsidy of £251.65. The ticket pricing issues were resolved relatively quickly (with no one needing to be refunded), and despite these problems we still managed to attract a crowd of around 60 people. There was no alcohol at this event, and it ran smoother than in previous years' quizzes which dragged on for a long while.

### **Vacant Committee Positions**

We have filled all the roles put forward in the Autumn Elections. However, our Marketing Officer has quit the committee, and it was too late to put forward the role for this set of elections. For now, our Newsletter Editor has taken up the Marketing Officer role - we are seeking guidance on how to transfer her position.

### **Other Finance Matters**

#### **Christmas Dinner: 12/12/17**

A total deposit of £6,600 has been cleared through to the venue, Gloucester Millenium Hotel.

**Locker Keys**

We have distributed our supply of locker keys. For students who did not receive their deposit last year, we either refunded them in cash or with a free locker key. We accepted £10 locker key deposits in cash and have filled out a spreadsheet with all key details.

**RCSU Booksale**

We have not yet received confirmation of the monies generated from the RCSU Booksale.