

## Societies Officer Report

January-February 2018

So this month has been super busy and exciting for me, with all of the society events starting up again!

This month started off with the last of our round one`s for 8/10 Swans with Assassins vs. Rock and Biomed vs. K-Wave on the 29<sup>th</sup> January! It was great to see our new societies at the event which gave me a chance to get to know them better and speak to them about how their society is settling in. It was incredible to see how much energy K-Wave brought with them and how close their members were already.

I also attended the English society`s society-wide bar crawl on the 30<sup>th</sup> January, which was an unbelievable event. Over 13 societies had gathered to participate in a night out together! After speaking to societies attending and to the president of the English society, I hope that the success of this event encourages more of its kind. There is nothing quite like seeing over 50 students in white t-shirts celebrating together promoting the We Are Lincoln ethos.

Our first Hub was on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, where we had a lot of our new societies joining us! This gave me a chance to encourage more joint-society events and also promote the Societies Showcase! It was also the first ever time that no-one won a prize from the envelopes handed out at the start of the meeting which we all had a good laugh about and then decided to hand out a second round of envelopes of course! As the year goes on I am finding that the societies are getting more comfortable with speaking up and engaging with what`s being said.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February we held our second Murder Mystery, which was an even bigger hit! I was very excited to go to this event after the success of our first Murder Mystery! Even with the all the promoting I did for the event nothing prepared us for the 50+ members that arrived from across many different societies, it was such an accomplishment and I can only hope that in similar future events the attendance will only get higher. There were many societies mingling and speaking with each other. When I was going around and talking to them a lot of them had started planning collaborations between their respective clubs which is amazing and exactly what I was hoping to achieve this year!

The next events took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> February which was a very busy night starting with our Activities Hub, where it was suggested that our Societies /Sports Hub should potentially be moved to a more comfortable venue such as The Swan or Tower Bar to make it more of a friendlier atmosphere encouraging people to speak up and to attend. In the evening, Drama held their second big play of the year; Midsummer`s Night Dream and ACS held their Take Me Out event at the same time. Although choosing to attend Drama`s event this time as I was helping them, I made sure to promote both events through twitter and on We Are Lincoln Lounge. Drama`s event was a major hit, selling 209 tickets as was ACS` event, after seeing clips of the event and their brilliant performances, with a full Platform! I`m glad to see that our societies` events are gathering bigger audiences and I hope to promote future events more to keep the numbers going up!

The 15<sup>th</sup> February brought on the semi-finals of our 8/10 Swans event with 8 teams going head to head. The free buffet and free drinks provided were certainly a hit with the clubs, as was the entire event with 61 people attending!! Luke and I took turns with rounds so we would both have a chance to interact with all the societies competing. One of the great successes of the night, apart from the satisfied students, was the support that the societies showed for one another, the walls built up around each society are starting to break down and they are all beginning to join in with each other which is what makes these events so successful! Drama and LGBT+, amongst our most energetic and enthusiastic teams, will be heading through to the finals on the 12<sup>th</sup> March. This event also gave me a chance to speak to the students about what they would like to see from the Societies Showcase, and I got a lot of valuable feedback.

On the same night, after finishing 8/10 Swans in The Platform, I ran down to catch the end of HEMA's Fight Night event in The Engine Shed! I only saw the final awards but from the looks on the competitors faces and also the 40+ audience members who attend for HEMA's first ever event, it looked like an incredible night and I wish I could have seen more of it. Hopefully this will be the first of many. However, even catching the end of it did provide me with the opportunity to ask for HEMA's participation in the Societies' Showcase I'm planning and I'm happy to say they have agreed to perform.

Earlier on the 15<sup>th</sup> I had also covered for Luke at the Rep-Forum, and I was very glad of the opportunity to speak to all the academic reps and committees of existing clubs to promote the benefits of starting academic societies. It gave me a chance to answer some of their questions and more importantly listen to their feedback about what works well and what could be done to better the experience of such clubs. Since then we have had 2 new academic societies send in start-up applications!

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> February we held the first ever Apprentice event. Unfortunately we only had 2 teams who entered and so had to go straight to the finals. Many clubs expressed interest about participating when I asked and promoted the event however not many ended up signing up. The event however, even with just the two teams, was also a success with really good ideas from Swimming and Mountaineering and well thought out pitches. Mountaineering walked away with the final £300 prize! Each team received £100 just for attending. I realise that these are sports teams and so do not necessarily fall under my title as Societies Officer, but it was a great event with smart and interesting teams participating and so felt it only fair to mention them in my report. Through word-of-mouth I believe the next apprentice event will be bigger.

Throughout this month I have been carrying on with my Wednesday drop-ins and also occasionally covering for Luke's on Thursday's meaning I get to meet more of the society and sports members that come in! I have made sure to follow up any issues raised with e-mails to make sure problems were sorted. Likewise, We Are Lincoln Lounge has also been carrying on! Unfortunately I had to miss a couple of the episodes this month, but more societies are sending in dates of their events for us to promote and "Society of The Week" is starting to become more of a "thing" for clubs to compete for! With regards to We Are Lincoln Lounge, I discussed in the monthly Activities Hub, in response to a query raised by the reps, that in order to bring more attention to our cluster reps, it may benefit them to host the weekly videos occasionally so more people recognise their faces and understand their role. It was also in Activities Hub that after mentioning that many societies such as Conservation and Drama wanted Activity Wars to make a return, that it was approved and now with enough interest it will be able to go ahead! I am personally very excited for this!

Finally, I have been continually planning for the Societies Showcase on the 12<sup>th</sup> March! On the 21<sup>st</sup> February I had a meeting with Gemma who's in charge of the Engine Shed, Leonie who manages the marketing, Jess and Luke to finalise times, layouts of the venue and expectations. We have decided that the event will be no longer than 3 hours starting at 6:30pm and ending around 10pm. We discussed providing students with a drink token for a free drink of their choice and potentially a pizza buffet to keep the event casual and welcoming to everyone although this is not yet confirmed. We also mentioned providing alternatives for people with dietary requirements as was asked of me by quite a few students during the 8/10 Swans semi-final event. After initially getting a very active response from societies about the event, it was surprising to see so few replies to my e-mail and so I sat down with Jess in the Activities office after the meeting to make calls to various engaging societies. I can now confirm at least 9 societies with 10 minute (approx.) acts will be performing! Although this may seem like a small number this will help keep the event under the 3 hours and also respects the societies who would rather watch than be on stage. I also have a few academic societies confirmed for stalls at the event where they can show off any work and achievements throughout the year that attendees may wonder around and look at. There will also be a raffle on the night and of course the final of 8/10 Swans!

The order of events still needs to be arranged and certain performances confirmed. An email will also be sent out to every society especially academic societies asking if they would like a stall or if they would like to contribute to the

event in another way. In terms of advertising the event as well as posters, banners and an events page, I will be making my way around societies to invite them in person to the event and make sure they are aware of it. My biggest worry at the moment is finding a way of getting societies who are not performing to want to go. I hope that meeting with them in person may solve this. In addition to this my aim for this month is to continue interacting with our societies and promote and encourage them in any way possible.

I look forward to the busy month ahead!