

# **The Constitution of the COMUS Club**

## **Revision History**

The main body of this constitution is based on that agreed in January 1983.

The latest amendment was agreed in January 2004 where item 17, pertaining to the 50 Club was added.

## 1. The Name

For as long as anyone can remember, this club has been called “THE COMUS CLUB”

In the year 1936, an enquiry was made of Mr. Kemmis as to the origin of the name. Mr. Kemmis gave the following reasons, his personal preference being in the reverse order:

1. The mask on the tie made me think of the Masque of Comus
2. It was alliterative
3. The late President and others immediately connected with him disapproved of it when first suggested
4. A certain member of the committee, in order to get the name accepted, approved with profanity.
5. I wanted the name Cuspidor
6. It appeared completely irrelevant
7. It is subtly indecent.

Therefore, to avoid all doubts and uncertainties, the name of the club shall be “THE COMUS CLUB”.

## 2. Objects

The club objects to objects as such;  
Such are stodgy as it has such  
Firm faith that procedures normal  
Would be far, far to formal  
In a club, that merely wishes  
Like sun translucently to fishes,  
To generate a general gleam  
Of guidance to the glistening stream,  
Tomorrow’s merry masquerades.

First and foremost, let us grade as  
Paramount, the pleasant linking  
(Comus get those glasses clinking!)  
Of those with playful ways of thinking,  
Year by passing year at College.  
Let’s have laughter with our knowledge,  
And in case we’re worrying thinner  
Let’s proceed our Annual Dinner  
With cock-eyed, cocktail-fleeting,  
Cocker-spaniel General Meeting.  
Lots of bark then lots of bite.  
(If we cannot come, we’ll write).

And let’s lest out laughter dies  
Strongly and weekly knot our ties  
On each and every Tuesday  
If not, may a forfeit pay.

### 3. Management

The management shall be vested in a Committee consisting of:

<b>The Chairman</b>	A senior member of the club who shall be responsible for using sealing wax, string or anything else considered necessary to keep the whole show together.
<b>The Deputy Chairman</b>	Shall deputise for the Chairman in his absence.
<b>The Secretary</b>	A senior member of the club who shall take minutes of General meetings and keep the membership records. The Secretary shall also act as Pincushion, or bearer of the official Club Pin, on ceremonial occasions and he shall keep and cherish the Club Pin when not in use.
<b>The Treasurer</b>	A senior member of the club who shall be responsible for the shekels of the Club and interface to ERNIE and other such monetarian institutions.
<b>The College Secretary</b>	A junior member of the Club who shall take minutes of the Committee meetings.
<b>The President</b>	The President of the Imperial College Dramatic Society (hereinafter referred to as “The Other Society”) shall be ex-officio President of the Club. In the unlikely event at the changeover of Presidents, the new President refuses membership, then the vacancy shall be filled by election by the Committee members.
<b>The Pinner</b>	See item 7
<b>The Badger</b>	See item 5
<b>The Editor</b>	See item 6
<b>Ordinary Committee Members</b>	Three shall be elected annually, two from the student members and one from the non-student members.

(If the Badger, Pinner or Editor are sufficiently far resident from the nucleus of the Club, a deputy may be elected to represent them)

Any vacancies arising on the Committee during the year shall be filled by co-option by the Committee members. At any of the Committee meetings, five shall constitute a quorum.

#### 4. Election

The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected from the membership of the Club at the Annual General Meeting on a four yearly cycle as defined below.

	Chairman
1 <sup>st</sup> after election of the Chair	Secretary
2nd after election of the Chair	Deputy Chairman
3rd after election of the Chair	Treasurer

If one of the current officers resigns and it is not the election year for that post, then the initial term of office for that officer shall be until the next election year.

All other posts shall be elected annually from the members of the Club.

#### 5. The Comus Badger

When a member of the Comus club is elected, he or she becomes entitled to wear the Club apparel. It is the responsibility of the person elected "Badger" to ensure that Club attire is available to the members via whichever retail outlet the Club desires.

That attire shall consist of ties (or portions thereof) and badges and any other clothing or jewellery the Committee may deem necessary.

The term of office shall be from one AGM to the next.

#### 6. The Editor

The "Comic" is the occasional magazine of the Comus club, containing such news, greetings, articles and reports that the members make available.

The Editor shall be responsible for collating those articles that are made available by the members by a certain date given by the Editor, in order that a Comic is produced for the edification of the members at the AGM.

The members of the Club are expected to provide material to the Editor.

#### 7. The Comus Presser

Presupposing the definite article suppressed in the expression  
Some person shall NOT be suitably presented per session, per session,  
Presumed to represent single year of student study  
For proposal, not posthumously, and  
Sentenced to a single session, (see super) as Comus Presser,  
Pre-placed definitive article supplying his prepossessing position's title:  
"The Comus Presser"

"The Comus Presser"

Shall with preponderance of procrastination press, pre-selecting his performances  
As seems suitable to his pressing needs.

This pressing shall be as successful as possible and shall presumably be performed on the Comus Press.

The press was situated superior to the stage, safely installed in a superlatively disorderly box.

It is no longer where it was, but

Wherever the Press is situated, there the Comus Presser shall Press.

Such Comus Presser shall preserve a record of his performances

On said press,

Supplying sheets of same to his Chairman as requested.

Excellence

Of quality and quantity shall be expected,

Since such has always been exquisitely extruded by such predecessors

As have survived.

The Session as Comus Press Administrator (this title is now superseded by "The Comus Presser")

A short synopsis of the secret of pressing follows. Some

Lead letters

Shall be placed on the

Lead plate,

Secured sufficiently, then subsequently some papers, suitably sized shall be

Pinned

But not Comus-pinned,

Superior to same, ensuing operations being the pressing of the papers

Onto the type,

By depressing the cylindrical handle as seems fit.

Some unprecedented amazement shall be sensed a the press surrenders

Script unsurpassed in style and elasticity.

Should a second session as Comus Presser be requested of

The Presser,

Such shall be permissible as is now stated in this Constitution.

It seems unnecessary to state that this

Presser

Shall be a present member of the Comus Club, but

Some statement as to the sex of the same

Is necessary.

The Comus Presser

May be he or she, masculine of feminine, such to be at the discretion

Of himself of herself. His

For the purpose of this Constitution replacing her or vice-versa

See sentence superior.

Election shall be by the Committee, at such time

As the same assemble secretly in June.

As it states elsewhere, there is a treasurer stationed for the express purpose of receiving.

The presentation of such shekels as shall

Be presented to himself, so the

Comus Presser

Shall exercise himself presenting such shekels as he shall have requested and received from those

Whose prescriptions he has pressed, to the same Treasurer, himself preserving

By a preponderous and not preposterous

Process,

A record of such transactions,  
Excessive fabulousness of reception of shekels  
And size of pressed requests,

Is desired but not expressly expected. Reservation  
Of balance of payments essentially slightly positive is requested.  
Previous experience is not essential in a Presser, such experience  
shall be extracted from  
Such previous Presser as presses in the preceding session.  
The Comus Club relies on its  
Presser  
To presurpass the previous Presser's pressing, so sustaining  
The Comus Club in its aim at maintenance of its  
Supremely superior standards

## **8. The Comus Pinner**

When a member of the Comus Club enters into matrimony, his or her fellow members shall, to commemorate the event, bestow upon the unfortunate a rolling pin, this last being deemed a fitting symbol of the state of marital bliss and harmony; and if both parties are members of the Club, they shall each receive one pin.

The pin shall be of wood, painted green and on the working surface there shall be embellished representations of the Club mask.

In order that the Secretary shall not be overworked, there shall be a person termed "The Comus Pinner" who shall be an experienced member of the club. The duties of the Comus Pinner are to include the ascertaining by the use of a suitable form that members reputed to be married are in fact married, the purchasing of suitable pins, the embellishing of the marks on the Pins, and the dispatching of the pins to those qualified to receive them.

## **9. The election Sub-Committee**

The Sub-Committee shall be responsible for electing members to the Club.

The Sub-Committee shall consist of the Chair of the Club (or a nominated deputy) who shall act as chair, all the student members of the Club at Imperial College and at least two non-student members from the main committee.

A meeting shall normally be called by the President at a time when new members shall be considered. However, the Chair of the Club or two (or more) Sub-Committee may call a meeting if unusual circumstances prevail.

The College Secretary shall ensure all members of the Sub-Committee are informed of such meetings. Other members may attend, but they will not be informed of the meeting and may not vote.

The quorum shall be three student members and two non-student members of the Club.

Eligibility and elections are defined in item 10.

## **10. Membership**

Any member of Imperial College Dramatic Society who has served actively for two years, or has taken an active part in two productions shall be deemed eligible for

election by the Comus Club as a full member. The worth of any person shall be assessed by the members of the Sub-Committee; election of such a person shall be by **nem con** vote of the Sub-Committee.

From time to time, various persons may render special service to the Club or to Imperial College Dramatic Society, but lack the qualifications for full membership. Such persons may be elected to the Club as honorary members. Their merit must be assessed by the members of the Sub-Committee, who must agree to the election without opposition.

#### **11. The Pot**

The Club shall possess a pewter tankard engraved with the name of the current Chairman. The tankard shall be kept in the Imperial College Union Bar.

The use of the pot shall be restricted to the Chair and other senior members of the Club. The person using the pot shall be responsible for the pot whilst in their possession, and shall be liable for any loss or damage incurred during that period. That person shall also ensure the return of the pot to its rightful place at the close of each bar session.

#### **12. Voting**

At Annual General Meeting and General Meetings, voting shall be by simple show hands, one per voting member. Votes may only be cast by those wearing Club regalia. Decisions shall be given according to a simple majority vote, except where otherwise laid down in this constitution. When necessary, the Chair shall have the casting vote and therefore shall not vote during the main ballot.

#### **13. Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner shall be on the Friday following the second Tuesday in January. This Friday shall be an honorary Tuesday and Club regalia must be worn.

#### **14. Termination of Membership**

At any time the Committee, by unanimous vote, may terminate or suspend the membership of any member deemed to be in a state of mind not appropriate for a member of the Club.

Any person so suspended may present a communication, in person, to the Chair on the occasion of an Annual General Meeting following the suspension. The Chair may read such parts of the communication as deemed fitting to the Annual General Meeting which shall, after due consideration and majority vote, confirm or suspend the suspension or termination of the membership of the person concerned, or take any other appropriate action.

#### **15. Interpretation**

All differences difficulties and disagreements shall be referred to the decision of a Mediator to be appointed by the Members in difficulty or disagreement. If the Members aforesaid cannot agree upon a particular Mediator two Mediators may be appointed, one to be appointed by each of the Members or in case the said Mediators do not agree to an Umpire appointed in speaking by said Mediators before entering



upon reference hereinbefore described ALWAYS PROVIDING THAT the said Mediators and Umpire shall be appointed and disappointed by and from the Committee whose indiscretions shall not be published and whose decisions shall be questioned at all Annual General Meetings without it in any way effecting or affecting the legality thereof.

## **16. Alteration to the Constitution**

All alterations to the Constitution shall be proposed and duly seconded at an Annual General Meeting and must be approved by at least two thirds of the number of members present, counting to the nearest whole number, the Chairman acting as teller, and the voting proceeding as in item 12.

Any member proposing alterations to the Constitution may be required to justify his or her reason in a clear, concise and comprehensive verbal composition to be delivered before the Annual General Meeting at convenient time.

## **17. The 50 Club**

Membership of the 50 Club shall be open to all Full members of the Comus Club.

Membership will consist of a standing order made with the Member's bank to the order of £10 paid on, or as near as possible, the 1<sup>st</sup> of January each calendar year. Monies will be paid into the Comus Club account.

There will be two prize draws each year, the first taking place at the annual Comus Dinner and the second will take place at the summer Comus Club meeting generally held at the end of the Imperial College academic year.

Prizes available will be as follows: At the first draw of the year, there will be a first prize of £100 and five runners up prizes of £20. At the second draw of the year, a first prize of £75 will be available along with an additional five prizes of £20. The total prize money available in any one year will be £375.

It is the responsibility of the Member to ensure that any changes to their address are communicated to the Comus Club. The Treasurer will take all reasonable steps to find up-to-date addresses for prizewinners. The Club will write off prizes that have not been claimed after three years.