

Reports from the SRCF AGM

11th March MMXIII

Report from the chair

Delivered by Ben Millwood

Easter 2012

Subsequent to a somewhat downbeat summary from my predecessor and requests for support, we received several generous donations and expressions of interest from several parties. Unfortunately, we didnt manage to respond to all of this interest, but we did manage to appoint Andrew Lee, Andrew Ryrrie, and Tejas Guruswamy as new system administrators, alongside the outgoing chair Daniel Thomas.

We held a successful Garden Party on Friday 15th June; we made good use of the extended sponsorship offered by OpenMarket, with the addition of free pizza to our usual supply of Pimms and various snacks. The outgoing committee advises the incoming committee that Perfect Pizza has shown a willingness to negotiate on prices.

We also distributed some stash: full-zip black fleeces with an embroidered logo.

Michaelmas 2012

At the Freshers Fair we piloted a scheme of printing business cards to hand out to people with our essential details on them. This felt a bit more professional than paper fliers, and looked quite cute. We also featured a live demo of the desktop service, as a consequence of which I accidentally left gnome chess running for several days, whereupon it started consuming a whole CPU to itself. There were over a hundred signups in total, and several responses.

Our welcome social was held on the 15th October, at which we watched my kernel panic a couple of times and appointed a new sysadmin, Daniel Richman.

In November, we appointed two more sysadmins, Ramana Kumar and Hauke Neitzel.

Lent 2013

We appointed Andrew Cooper as a system administrator, whose expertise with our virtual machine software has already been very useful.

We held a well-attended Machine Room Tour on Thursday 7th March, billed as a last chance to see, since the UCS is being moved out of its current location into several disparate temporary locations. Eventually they will regroup when their new room is ready, but until then there will regrettably be no more MRTs.

Membership

The number of active members and societies appears to be declining: last years chair report put it at 2240 users and 880 societies, while we seem to now be at 2094 and 856 respectively. This is somewhat to be expected, since as has been pointed out the needs of users are changing and the SRCF is slowly becoming less relevant, but its clear theres some mileage in it yet. Given that the staffing situation seems better now than it has been in the past, future committee and sysadmin teams are encouraged to look into ways they can innovate to provide a better service.

Progress relative to promise

When writing this report I discovered the manifesto under which I ran for chair, and thought it prudent to compare against my actual achievements. The items on there I failed to fulfill are improving the support system, and providing more managed services for the less technically-literate. Tasks that have met with moderate but not complete success are updating the website and improving automation of sysadmin tasks. I think that my primary promises of recruiting new staff and getting the support backlog under control have been met, although of course more help is always welcome.

Report from the junior treasurer

Delivered by Charles Board

My time as Junior Treasurer seems to have gone by without any significant problems, due in no small part to my predecessor's efforts during his tenure. The accounts were submitted on time at the end of Michaelmas, and did not encounter any problems.

Towards the start of my time I had a small look around to see if there might be any bank accounts paying better

We recorded a slight gain this year, with donations totalling a little over 500 since the last AGM. There seems to be a decent link between the emails we send out about events such as the Garden Party and the AGM, and an increase in donations. It's therefore probably a good idea to remember to use these to remind people that donations are always welcome.

The garden party in May Week was sponsored this year by OpenMarket, for 200.

Our major expenditure this year was the purchase of a new UPS for 300. We also had an expenditure of 170 reimbursing Matthew for stash.

Summary of accounts

A summary of the accounts were circulated at the AGM.

Future

The recent increase in donations, and subsequent increase in our finances is reassuring for our future. It will remain a good idea to ensure that people are aware that we rely on donations, in particular by including a mention in emails that we send to our users, such as event notifications and so forth.

Thanks

Thanks go to CICCUC for their donation as a society, and to OpenMarket for their sponsorship of the Garden Party. Thanks also to Steven Murdoch, Matthew Graham, Alasdair McClymont, Edward Hughes and C.J. Watson, as well as several others, for their personal donations during the year.