

Constitution for ICU Tea Society

1. Name

- 1.1 The club shall be a member of the Recreation Committee.
- 1.2 The name of the Club shall be Tea Society, hereafter referred to as 'the club'.

2. Aims & Objectives

- 2.1 To provide a forum for people interested in tea to sample various types of tea and discuss the drink with other enthusiasts.
- 2.2 To introduce new people to the world's favourite drink, and to expand the horizons of inexperienced drinkers by introducing them to a wider variety of types and blends from around the world
- 2.3 To provide a space for all tea drinkers to meet and socialise.
- 2.4 In order to enjoy different and varied tea cultures from around the world, we aim to introduce members to Far Eastern tea ceremonies and loose leaf teas, as well as British tea and biscuit culture, amongst other tea traditions.
- 2.5 To this end, we shall sample Far Eastern teas and learn about gong-fu preparation during cultural activity outings.
- 2.6 Furthermore, weekly meetings shall take place in a relaxed setting, more akin to British culture - with a cuppa, light refreshments, and a chat.

3. Statement of Intent

- 3.1 The constitution, regulations, management and conduct of the club shall abide by all Imperial College Union Policy, and shall be bound by the Imperial College Union Constitution and Regulations.
- 3.2 The club stresses that it abides by the Imperial College Union Equal Opportunities Policy, and that club regulations pertaining to membership of the club and election to management of the club shall not contravene this policy.
- 3.3 The club shall also be governed by the Management Group Standing Orders where the Management Group is determined the New Clubs Committee in the first instance, then as per the Clubs & Societies Policy.

4. Membership

- 4.1 The following shall be eligible to become members of the club:
 - 4.1.1 ICU Full Members
 - 4.1.2 ICU Associate Members
 - 4.1.3 ICU Life Members
- 4.2 Any club member who is a full member of ICU shall be a 'full member' of the club, all other members shall be 'associate members' of the club.
- 4.3 All members shall join the club, a membership fee may be set by the club committee but shall not be less than that specified by the ICU Clubs & Societies Board.

5. Committee

- 5.1 Chair
- 5.2 Tea Officer
- 5.3 Treasurer
- 5.4 Secretary
- 5.5 Trips Officer

6. Management and Job Descriptions

- 6.1 The Chair shall represent the club on the Management Group Board, and shall be responsible for making sure that the club is run according to the club constitution and Imperial College Union's Code of Conduct for Clubs, Societies & Projects as far as can be reasonably expected.
- 6.2 The Chair and Treasurer shall sign an ICU Financial Responsibility form, and shall be aware of the ICU Financial Regulations.
- 6.3 The Treasurer shall carry out the day to day financial duties of the club.

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- 6.4 The Chair shall additionally be responsible for all Health & Safety aspects of the club. They shall compile an inventory of the club's assets annually and then as necessary. The Chair is encouraged to preside over weekly meetings, welcome new members, promote tea, and act as an ambassador for the society.
- 6.5 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the smooth running of the internal workings of the society, and shall deputise for the Chair in the event they are unavailable. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all financial takings and outgoings of the club, and shall administer the Shop on the Union website. The Treasurer must submit an annual budget.
- 6.6 The Secretary shall ensure all members are informed about the club's activities. They shall maintain and administer the mailing list. They shall be responsible for the club's social media presence, including the Society's Instagram page.
- 6.7 The Trips Officer shall be responsible for organising various tea trips, cultural activities and talks as required in this Constitution. The Trips Officer shall undertake other responsibilities as may be required by the needs of the club.
- 6.8 The Tea Officer shall be responsible for procuring refreshments and setting up equipment in weekly sessions. They shall be responsible for designing the annual TeaSoc mug. They shall undertake other responsibilities as may be required by the needs of the club.

7. Committee Meetings

- 7.1 Committee meetings shall be called by the Chair of the club and held at least monthly.
- 7.2 At least five College days' notice of a committee meeting must be given to the committee.
- 7.3 Only committee members may vote at a committee meeting, but full and associate members of the club may be invited and speak.
- 7.4 Quorum shall be two-thirds of the committee of the club.
- 7.5 Decision shall be reached by simple majority of the committee members present.

8. General Meetings

- 8.1 A general meeting may be called by the club Chair, quorum of the committee or by ten full members of the club; this must be submitted to the Chair in writing. The general meeting must be held within ten College days of receipt of the proposal.
- 8.2 General meetings may only be held during undergraduate term time.
- 8.3 At least five College days' notice of a general meeting must be given to the club membership.
- 8.4 Only full members of the club may vote at general meetings.
- 8.5 Quorum of the meeting shall be half of the full club members.
- 8.6 Decision shall be reached by a simple majority of the full members present.

9. Annual General Meeting

- 9.1 The AGM shall be held during the second term of the academic year, unless permission is obtained from the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies). The AGM shall have as its main business:
 - 9.1.1 The presentation of the report of activities, including financial activities, for the past year.
 - 9.1.2 The election of the committee for the next session.
- 9.2 An agenda giving notice of the AGM must be circulated to all club members at least ten College days in advance.
- 9.3 Nominations for club officers must be posted at least ten days in advance of the meeting and closed before the meeting.
 - 9.3.1 Each nomination shall require one proposer and normally 4 seconders who shall be full members of the club.
 - 9.3.2 In the event of there being no nomination for a post within the stipulated time then nominations may be accepted from the floor at the AGM.
- 9.4 The quorum of the AGM shall be half of the full members of the club.
- 9.5 In the event that no person is voted in to a post or of resignation from a position, the Chair will undertake the duties until such time as the post is filled. Elections to fill such a vacant post should take place at a general meeting and shall be subject to the same rules as per AGM.
- 9.6 Further guidance on elections can be found in the Election Regulations for Imperial College Union.

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10. Finance

- 10.1 The club may receive grant from Imperial College Union and shall administer this and any self-generated income in accordance with the Imperial College Union Financial Regulations.
- 10.2 The club Treasurer will provide the Treasurer of the Management Group with a detailed budget for the following academic year during the first half of the second term of the academic year.
- 10.3 Budgets for events shall be submitted to the Management Group Treasurer and/or the Deputy President (Finance & Services) for inspection and approval in accordance with the Financial Regulations no later than two weeks before the date of the event.

11. Health & Safety

- 11.1 The club acknowledges its duty of care to its members and will abide by Imperial College Union's Health & Safety Policy, and Imperial College Union's Code of Conduct for Clubs, Societies & Projects.
- 11.2 The club will submit an annual Risk Assessment to the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) for its activities.

12. Additional Activities

- 12.1 The club will endeavour to run at least one tea trip per term. Examples of events can include trips for afternoon tea, trips to a tea house.
- 12.2 The club will endeavour to run tea drinking events on a weekly basis.
- 12.3 The club will endeavour to run talks from people in the tea industry, so people interested in tea can find out more about the drink and the industry.

13. Constitution

- 13.1 The Constitution shall only be altered by consent of two-thirds majority of the full members present at a general meeting. The Management Group shall approve any such alterations.
- 13.2 This Constitution shall be binding on the club officers and members, and all other constitutions are hereby revoked.
- 13.3 This Constitution has been approved in accordance with 13.1. above, and accepted as the Constitution for Tea Society on 12/03/2023 by Matthew Lawrence and Stephanie Yeung