

THE COMUS CLUB

CONSTITUTION

Imperial College,
LONDON, S.W.7.

1962

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMUS CLUB

Item 1 - The Name

For as long as anyone can remember this Club has been called 'THE COMUS CLUB'.

In the year nineteen hundred and thirty-six, 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:-

- i) The mask on the tie made me think of the Masque of Comus.
- ii) It was alliterative.
- iii) The late President and others intimately connected with him disapproved of it when first suggested.
- iv) A certain member of the Committee, in order to get the name accepted, approved with profanity.
- v) I wanted the name Cuspidor.
- vi) It appeared completely irrelevant.
- vii) It is subtly indecent.

Therefore, to avoid all doubts and uncertainties, the name of the Club shall be 'THE COMUS CLUB'.

Item 2 - Objects

This Club objects to objects as such;
Such are stodgy, as it has such
Firm faith that procedures normal
Would be far, far, far too formal
In a Club, that merely wishes
Like Sun translucently to fishes,
To generate a general gleam
Of guidance to that glistening stream,
Tomorrow's merry masqueraders.
First and foremost, let us grade as
Paramount, the pleasant linking
(Comus get the glasses linking!)
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 precede our Annual Dinner
With a 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 our laughter dies,
Strongly and weekly knot our ties.

Item 3 - Management

The Management shall be vested in a Committee consisting of the President,

Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary of Imperial College Dramatic Society and four other members of the Club elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club, two of whom and not more than two should preferably no longer be members of the College; and also, ex-officio, the Comus Presser.

The President of Imperial College Dramatic Society shall be President of the Comus Club. The Honorary Secretary shall be elected by and from the Committee as and when considered necessary, always providing that there shall not be more than one at any time. The Treasurer of the Club shall be Mr. Vivien Weeks.

Any vacancies arising on the Committee during the year shall be filled by election by the Committee members. At any meeting of the Committee, five shall constitute a quorum.

Item 4 - The Comus Presser

Presupposing the definite article suppressed in the expression
Some person shall 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 definite 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 present pressing needs. This pressing
Shall be as successful as possible and shall presumably be performed
On the Comus Press

This 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 President 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
On to the type,

By depressing the cylindrical handle as seems fit.

Some unprecedented amazement shall be sensed as 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 surely 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 or feminine, such to be at the discretion
of himself or 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 same assemble secretly in June.

As it state elsewhere, there is a Treasurer stationed for the express
purpose of receiving.

The presentation of such shekels as shall

Be supplied 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 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 surpass the previous Presser's pressing, so sustaining

The Comus Club in its aim at maintenance of its

Supremely superior standards.

Item 5 - 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, each shall receive one Pin.

The Pin shall be of wood painted green and on the working surface there
shall be impressed 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 a man of experience and not a woman.

This Person shall be Mr. Bernard Latter. The duties of the Comus Pinner are to

include ascertaining by use of a suitable form that those members reputed to be

married are in fact married, the purchasing of suitable pins, the impressing of the

marks on the pins, and the despatching of the pins to those qualified to receive

them.

The Comus Pinner shall also act as Pin-cushion or bearer of the official

Club Pin on ceremonial occasions and he shall keep and cherish the Club Pin when it

is not in use. His term of office shall be from one Annual General Meeting to the

next.

Item 6 - Membership

Any member of Imperial College Dramatic Society who has served actively

for two years, or who has taken an active part in two productions, shall be deemed

eligible for election to the Comus Club as a full member. The worth of any such

person shall be assessed by the members of the Committee; election of such a

person shall be by unanimous vote of the 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 Committee, who must unanimously agree to their election.

Item 7 - Voting

At Annual General Meetings and General Meetings, voting shall be by show of the right hand, except in the case of those members entered upon the Register of left-handed members maintained by the Secretary. These may vote with the left hand. Honorary members may vote, but their votes shall not be counted. Decisions shall be given according to a simple majority vote, except when otherwise laid down in this constitution. When necessary, the President shall have a casting vote.

Item 8 - Annual General Meeting

There shall be an Annual General Meeting once per year, and General Meetings may be held as and when considered necessary. A year is defined as the period commencing on the eleventh stroke of Big Ben at the end of the 24th hour of the 31st day of the 12th month of any year and terminating at the end of the three hundred and sixtyfifth day following, except that should there be twenty-nine days in the second month of that period, for three hundred and sixty-five read three hundred and sixty-six.

If it should happen that an Annual General Meeting having commenced in one period should terminate in the next following, there shall be nevertheless a further Annual General Meeting in the subsequent period. Fourteen days' notice shall be given to members residing in the United Kingdom of intention to hold an Annual General Meeting or a General Meeting. This is the responsibility of the Secretary, and a certificate to say that this has in fact been done, must be supplied by the Secretary to the President before every Annual General Meeting, or General Meeting.

Item 9 - 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 Comus Club.

Any person so suspended may present a communication, in person, to the President on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting following his suspension. The President may read such parts of the communication as he deems 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.

Item 10 - Interpretation

Notwithstanding any letter number word expression punctuation sign or item herewithin contained or any item sign punctuation expression word number or letter herewithin to be inserted or substituted at any time place locality or future meeting of the Club ALWAYS EXCEPTING each and every meeting having been held or to be held in the Comus Room of Ludlow Castle in the Parish of Ludlow in the County of Salop in the year one thousand four hundred and fifteen or thereafter or there- after convened collected or congregated there together NOW THEREFORE be it known by these pasts presents and futures that subject as aforesaid all differences difficulties and disagreements now arising or at any future or past time heretofore or

hereafter arising descending or remaining shall be referred to the decision of a Mediator to be appointed in speaking by the Members in difficulty disagreement or difference or if the Members aforesaid cannot agree upon a single or married Mediator to the decision of two Mediators one to be appointed in speaking 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 the 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 in any way effecting or affecting the legality thereof.

Item 11 - Alterations 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 President acting as teller, and the voting proceeding as detailed in Paragraph 7.

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 any convenient time.