



## Annual Report 2011/12

*President:*

Andrew SMILLIE

*Treasurer:*

Peter KINNAIRD

March 19, 2012

# **1 President's Report**

Well, this has certainly has been quite an eventful year for GeekSoc. We have substantially upgraded our computing infrastructure, successfully got more people involved with the management of our systems and became an official part of the CIS department!

## **1.1 Organisational Improvements**

Improving on our very ad-hoc admin group meetings last year, we have been holding regular meetings every couple of weeks on IRC to help keep on top of the societies activities. We even began using Meetbot to keep minutes for us so none of us had to ;).

A bug tracker was introduced (<http://bugs.geeksoc.org>) to help keep track of items that needed done. It helps manage who is assigned to what task and allows everyone to easily see what we've been getting up to.

In addition, we began a scheme of 'mini-admins' or system administration apprentices allowing our members to become more involved in the day to day running of GeekSoc and gradually become more familiar with the systems. The scheme seems to have been a success with three mini-admins appointed this year.

## **1.2 Events**

Our membership has continued to grow this year, and we have been continuing to run our traditional twice a month gaming and movie nights. Attendance has remained strong throughout the year, though, as always, it would be nice to see increased interest from the first and second years.

We have, however, managed to greatly boost our profile this year by successfully becoming affiliated with the Department of Computer and Information Sciences. After talks with the Head of Department, Ian Ruthven, it was agreed that we would become the official society of the department. We have always had strong ties with the department, but this solidifies our involvement.

The biggest things to come out of the affiliation so far are the lunchtime academic talks we have been organising. We have been hosting bi-weekly talks from members of teaching and research staff giving students a chance to find out what exciting new research is taking place within the department and enhancing staff-student relationships.

We look forward to continuing the lunchtime talks and further expanding our relationship with the department in the coming months.

### **1.3 Infrastructure Improvements**

Building on our hardware rebuild last summer, we have been busy adding new services. We have recently started virtualising parts of our core infrastructure, such as our IRC server, on our new Xen server. Along with our VMWare vSphere host we are now able to offer development VMs for all kinds of projects that would have been quite difficult to get running alongside our existing infrastructure before.

We have also vastly improved the monitoring of our network to allow us to respond to problems quicker and help track them down and keep everything ticking over. Our new Nagios server checks all our core services every five minutes and instantly notifies the administration group of any faults. Each host now logs to a central loghost which then emails out a quick summary every night. Even with all this monitoring it can all go wrong so we have a much improved backup setup in place — a snapshot is taken every night of the home directories to a server in a different rack, running a different OS. Each user can recover their own data from this snapshot simply by visiting `/yestarday/<username>`. The configuration files for each core server are versioned in git and pushed to another server for backup too.

The big new feature that end users might have noticed is the introduction of a VPN service. This allows users offsite to connect directly to our network and access all of our services that would normally be blocked by the firewall from off-campus access (yes, that includes the Minecraft server ;).

## **1.4 The Future**

Looking forward we should be concentrating on the projects that we could undertake. Now we have a reasonably stable and solid infrastructure in place we should think about how best to utilise it. We could easily provide services, such as hosting, online signup forms, forums, wikis etc to other clubs and help the Union save money.

We should continue to improve our infrastructure of course, concentrating on the development services we can offer, and getting more members involved with the management of the systems.

We should also get much more involved with the CIS department, continuing the academic talks and perhaps looking into the feasibility of running other events such as hackathons and gamejams.

— *Andrew “Smilers\_” Smillie*

## 2 Treasurer's Report

At the beginning of the year we chose to increase the membership fee from £1 to £3 with the aim of increasing the amount of money we have available to spend on events throughout the year. We have also been pursuing sources of sponsorship much more actively, though we did not receive any sponsorship this year.

The increase in membership fee did not have any negative effect on the number of members and was successful in raising £57. Combined with the balance of £65.63 carried over from last year, this gave us a total income of £122.63.

In terms of expenses, £10.51 was spent renewing the 'geeksoc.org' domain and £32.19 was spent on drinks and refreshments for our first meeting of Semester 2. The refreshments for our welcome meeting back in Semester 1 cost £24.19, and was paid but the Union through our sponsorship account.

Overall, our finances this past year have been healthy, with the society running at a small profit which will be carried over to next year.

– *Peter “con3x” Kinnaird*

## **A AGM Agenda**

1. President's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Elections
4. AOCB

## **B AGM Minutes**

The AGM was held at 1900 in the L5 Lounge of the Union on 15/03/12 in line with the timeframe specified in the constitution.

### **B.1 Apologies**

Josh Burtwistle

### **B.2 Members Present**

Jack Riley, Nye Harvey-Waugh, Peter Kinnaird, Fulvio Valente, Alistair McKinlay, Fraser McVean, Kenneth Coyle, Andrew Smillie, William Nelson, Tracey Kelly.

### **B.3 President's Report**

- Andrew Smillie gave a quick overview of the past year.
- The full report may be found on the website.

### **B.4 Treasurer's Report**

- Peter Kinnaird gave a quick overview of the financial situation of the society.
- The full report may be found on the website.

### **B.5 Elections**

Both the current President and Treasurer will be graduating this year and are hence not standing for re-election.

Both officers elected tonight will take office at the start of the new academic year in September.

### **B.5.1 President**

- One nomination was received for Alistair McKinlay.
- Alistair McKinlay was duly elected.

### **B.5.2 Treasurer**

- Nominations were received for Fulvio Valente and Josh Burtwistle (who was not present).
- Fulvio Valente received a majority vote and was duly elected.

## **B.6 AOCB**

No other issues were raised.