



ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE UNION

RCSU Union Council Report 11/06/2013

A Note by RCSU President elect: Plabon Saha

Science Challenge 2013

The start of the 2nd term saw the launch of RCSU's flag ship essay-writing competition the Science Challenge 2013. Our annual essay writing competition saw an additional twist with the addition of a video category and the competition was open to all Imperial students and a large range of high school students. The turnout for the launch was lower than expected and two of our judges could not make it due to other commitments. However, this year we recorded the launch and it was later uploaded on the Science Challenge webpage, which saw a lot of hits. The competition boasted a prize pot of £4000+ alongside many other prestigious judges such as Lord Robert Winston, Sir Brian Hoskins, Sir Roy Anderson and Dr Jad Marrouche. The final was held at House of Lords where the winners were announced over canapés and drinks. Finalists also got a chance to go on a tour of House of Lords courtesy of Lord Winston and the overall winners will also be embarking on an all-expenses paid trip to CERN over summer.

Spring Ball

The RCSU also organized an end of term social in the form of the Spring Ball, our new red and white party. The event was held at the Warwick, which we hired exclusively. The turn-out of the event was lower than anticipated but we managed to operate within our budget and it was still an enjoyable evening for the attendees.

RAG

RCSU RAG raised money from May to help the victims of the factory collapse in Bangladesh. As this was during exam time, donations were raised online and we have raised almost £300.

Broadsheet

The second issue of Broadsheet was out in the 2nd term and we expect to see another issue released later this term.

RCSU Summer Ball

The summer ball this year is set to take place in Grace Bar, which has been hired out exclusively. The ball will boast a £9,000 bar tab and ticket sales for the event has done well with more than two-thirds of the allocated tickets sold already. We expect this event to sell-out in the near future.

The RCSU Depsoc end of year reports are also attached.

BioSoc End of Year Report:

Interactions with BioSoc and the students started long before term started officially, with BioSoc producing an unofficial student handbook that was sent to all students before they started the term. This covered guides to modules, studying biology, outside reading tips and other information to help the biologists from a students' perspective. It also ensured the first years were interacting with BioSoc as early on as possible.

With half the committee away on a field course in Uganda for the first two weeks of term, including the President and Vice President, the rest of the committee picked up the slack and organised, in tandem with the Biology Department Rep, a buddies social, and a bar night for the biology families. Upon arrival of the rest of the committee after the field course, efforts were put into winning the Great Soc Off held at Metric. To encourage participation, the theme chosen was David Attenborough, and the committee made 60 masks to give out for free to biologists that attended. With an attendance of 17% of people being there from biology, we won the Soc Off and received around £200 into our SGI.

After the Soc Off in October we ran the infamous BioSoc pub crawl- the Noah's Ark Pub Crawl, in mid November. With around 100 students attending, many in elaborate fancy dress costumes, it was a great way to promote mingling throughout the years. The committee made fliers with their contact details on, a map, and also hints and tips that were distributed to the attendees at the first stop to make sure that those new to the areas (Hammersmith and Fulham) were taken care of. The crawl ended in Fulham where free entry had been organised for Belushi's for the students on the crawl.

We then ran the BioSoc Christmas dinner. In the past, this has usually been at Eastside bar, and, with complaints being made after about the low quality food, the expensive drinks and also concern over the bad location, it was moved to Loop Bar in Piccadilly, to have before the RCSU/CGCU Winter ball. Tickets were sold either as for just the meal or for the meal and entry to the ball afterwards, and BioSoc bought earlybird tickets in advance for the biology students to purchase. The tickets were also subsidised by BioSoc to keep the costs down, resulting in around 80 students attending and enjoying the two course meal and champagne reception.

After Christmas in the Spring term, BioSoc supported several pastoral care services- we published documents in conjunction with our brilliant Department Representative Aaron D'Souza guides on both securing summer placements and applying for PhD programs. These were sent to students and also made available for download on our facebook page.

A final year bar night was organised with BioSoc purchasing discounted pints from the Union and providing students with drinks after their last exams ever via a token system. This was very successful and 280 tokens in total were sold, with BioSoc subsidising these.

Afterwards, a social with the staff was organised in conjunction with the department, and this was held in the evening in the Chemistry Common room. All students and staff from both biology and biochemistry were invited to attend and many students and staff came along. Drinks and food were provided by the department, but publicity and organisation was done via BioSoc.

We also had a Survival Of The Fittest bar night with BioChemSoc in the old union bar- BioChemSoc paid for the drinks and we did the publicity.

We also had the Second Soc Off, with BioSoc publicising this as a fancy dress themed event. The theme was tropic levels, with students from different years coming as either producers, carnivores or herbivores. Although not as successful as the first Soc Off, we still came second.

So far in Summer term, we have held the AGM- this was held at EastSide bar and then drinks were organised at the Union- this was very much an informal event to encourage the current and future committee to trade ideas and provide an end of year summary from the President.

We finally have many plans for this term- we are organising a student talk to give lower years advice on what modules are best to take and why, and also will be running a day trip away to Thorpe Park, alongside another BioSoc cocktail night to celebrate the end of final year projects and also second years finishing exams. Plans are in the later stages for the BioSoc debate although this is still touch and go depending on people being available to attend.

Apart from that we have had a very enjoyable year, if not without some complications or hurdles that we have sorted and learnt from as we go along. Hopefully next year will be just as, if not more, successful.

BioSoc President

Philippa Skett

Cissy Chan

May 2013

Overview of Events: RCSU Maths

Academic

Inter-university Maths Challenge

This was organised in conjunction with UCL, LSE & various other London Universities' Maths Societies. We sent 5 first-year students as our team, and we finished second place, losing only by 1 point to the winning team. Sponsored by IMA.

Lunchtime Lectures

The series consisted of 10 lectures over the year, 8 in first term with 4 targeted at first- and second-years and 4 at third- and fourth-years, and 2 in second term. They were given by professors in the Maths department on any topics their hearts desire, and occasionally there were raffle draws with prizes to encourage higher student participation.

Careers

Insight into Investment Banking

Talk by Gwyn Day, employment consultant, on tips and tricks for getting into the IB industry. 30 students RSVP'd, 70 showed up, and majority of attendees were first- and second-years. It was very well-received, and hence we will be holding another Gwyn Day session in the second term for interview and assessment centre preparations.

Assessment Centre Workshop

Talk by Gwyn Day, again, on how to tackle assessment centres, with a little role-play workshop. In order to get the right balance between ensuring the most students get to participate and each getting enough attention and guidance, we limited the maximum number of students to 14. Free food and drinks funded by departmental grant, this again was a success.

Social

Freshers' Party

The party was a chance for new students to mingle amongst themselves, with the aid of cocktails, pizza, and apples. An estimated 100 students attended, and the evening passed without any impediments. Funded by departmental grant.

Freshers' Picnic

Students met with their assigned families and spent an afternoon in Hyde Park with food and drinks. Funded by union grant.

Christmas Dinner

The dinner was held at Med Kitchen with a turnout of approximately 120 students and professors. There was some slight confusion and subsequently panic, with Med Kitchen having gone into administration a week before the event, but thankfully in the end all was carried out according to plan. Funded by sponsorship from BAESystemsDetica, departmental grant, and ticket sales.

Secret Santa

Students signed up and we organised the logistics and the gift-exchanging party, complete with mulled wine and mince pies. Funded by departmental grant.

Maths vs Physics Pub Quiz

In partnership with PhysSoc, the Pub Quiz was another well-received event. Over 100 students participated and eventually doors had to be closed to prevent overcrowding at the Union Bar. Students were given two free drinks, and prizes for winning teams included Amazon vouchers and TeachFirst freebies. Fully subsidised by TeachFirst.

Pi Day Pub Crawl

With celebrating Pi Day as an excuse, we held a pub crawl in Hammersmith, which involved handing out blank t-shirts and sharpies to students to let them write on each others' shirts, encouraging them to get to know each other.

RCSU Inter-departmental Pub Quiz

Organised in conjunction with ChemSoc & co. Fully subsidised by RCSU (thanks).

5-a-side Football Tournament

Possibly the most popular event of the year, the football tournament was held in Ethos with 14 teams (cut off at that number due to possible time constraints) and in knock-out format.

Others

Hoodies

Students had a chance to buy personalised hoodies. A record-breaking total of 113 hoodies were ordered. Heavily subsidised by G-Research.

Physics

My physoc committee got along well and worked hard together. This is a quick summary of Physoc's events this year:

- Physics Freshers/ Mums & Dads Welcome Drinks (11th Oct) (reached full capacity for level 8 common room, photos on fb)
- Freshers Lunch (all Freshers attended)
- Professor Tom Kibble (proposed the Higgs Boson) lecture- What is the Higgs? (8th Nov), Over 300 people attended the lecture, Held in Blakett LT1 and an overflow room in huxley
- JET Tour (28th Nov), Attendance of 30 members (limit set by JET), tickets were sold out quickly, Travel arranged by Physoc
- Physics Assassins Game (autumn term, photos and written description submitted of various murders)
- Introduced New Physics Christmas Party (13th Dec) Held in the Physics Department Foyer and Level 2 common room, reached full capacity for the venue

- Joint Ucl, Queenmary christmas event at Proud, Camden
- Seagate careers and end of term career fair (with over 10 companies) at the IOP
- Maths vs. Physics Pub Quiz night (Feb)
- star gazing with Astrosoc on Level 8 Blackett
- Arranged Assessment Centre skills based seminars with TeachFirst
- Visited Magpie laser lab
- A series of academic lectures by each head of the research groups in Blackett LT1 every other week (10 in total) (Very popular, had over 260 people attending for each), Food and drinks were available afterwards for a chance to speak to the lecturer, professors and postgrads from the research groups
- End of year BBQ at Physics Level 8 common room

Updated Facebook page and created a new twitter page <https://twitter.com/ICPhysoc>
Physoc Hoodies

Budgeting: We managed to leave more money for next year's committee than we first started off with!

Imperial College Chemistry Society

2012-2013 Report

- Dongwhi Kim (President)



2012 October

Fresher's Lunch – Introductory speech for Fresher Chemists & pairing of Chemistry parents and children. Clear contextualisation of ChemSoc's role within the department and a brief intro to the committee members. Lunch of sandwiches was served from the Chemistry Café.

Fresher's Fair – Fresher's fair stall was manned by beautiful committee members. Much free stuff from our corporate sponsors was given out. Chemical reactions were taking place. Clearly the best stall by far.

ChemSoc Pubcrawl – As it says on the label. Attendance: 50-60. A very enjoyable night for everyone, minimal casualties.

Careers for Chemists – Careers fair for Chemists: 10-15 minute talks by 6 different companies, followed by networking session in Chemistry Café. Attendance: 85-90. Companies: Shell, Allen & Overy, Deloitte, Procter & Gamble and Dr. Andrew McKinley (talked about doing PhD). Very well received by both the corporates and the students. It show cased the wide variety of careers that Chemists could go into.

2012 November

Talks by Deloitte and Procter & Gamble – 2 separate events where representatives gave a more in-depth talk compared to the October event, followed by a networking session, accompanied by food. Attendance: 25-30 in each occasion. Advice to the corporates was given beforehand on how to structure the talks and what kind of details to pay more attention to, having learnt lessons from the Careers for Chemists event.

ChemSoc Eats Pizza! – Pizza lunch with subsidised drinks. Attendees: 12.

2012 December

ChemSoc Christmas Quiz – Free food and prizes for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and last place. Very well received, great time by all, including a gargantuan number of 2 staff members. Attendance: 60. NB: we went 100% over the budget. Has been recorded accordingly and the future committee has been warned.

2013 January

January Pub Crawl – fewer attendees this time, but still a very fun night for all. Attendees: 30-40.

2013 February

Cadbury's Trip – trip to Cadbury factory in Birmingham. Attendees: 20. Unfortunately due to misestimations, we overestimated the number of attendees and booked a very large coach. Thus we made a significant loss on the trip. Trip itself was quite well received.

ChemSoc Felix Centrefold – 8 brave and willing Chemists posed tastefully for a 90% nude Felix Centrefold photo. Other deptsocs societies were mirin.

2013 March

Annual Hoodie Design Competition – online competition (via Facebook) was held for user submitted hoodie back designs. Hoodies were opened up for purchase, subsidised by GSK and Sigma-Aldrich.

2013 April

Tumbleweeds

2013 May

ChemSoc Cocktail Party – despite initial setbacks and transfer of venue to Metric, event was successfully carried out with minimal disruptions. Attendees: ~170.

Biochemistry:

- Meet and greet lunch and pint (1st week October - mainly freshers)
- Bioscience pub quiz (inter-collegiate event - in collaboration with UCL and KCL societies plus Oxbridge Biotech Roundtable)
- Buddy metric and Nando's night
- RCSU buddies bar night (obvs you guys)
- GSK keynote speaker - commercial pharmaceuticals
- SocOff (obvs Union-led)

- 'Survival of the fittest' joint Bio-Biochem bar night
- Student-led 'How to get an internship' advice seminar - older students talk about their summer internship experiences and give advice on applications to younger students
- 'Careers speed-dating' - a bit like normal speed-dating but with groups of students going round meeting representatives from different career pathways relevant specifically to Biochem degrees (inter-collegiate event - in collaboration with KCL and UCL societies)
- Biochem Xmas dinner
- Pub crawl
- Laser-quest (mainly organised by first years)
- [worth mentioning we spent a lot of time trying to organise an industrial field trip like we have done past 2 years but unfortunately our usual connections couldn't take us this year and we were unable to find an alternative :-(]
- SocOff 2.0 (obvs Union again but we came third!!! :-D]
- Hustings for elections
- Accenture-led 'Presenting with confidence' skills session.
- Plans for next term (in conjunction with new committee) - Mingle/ social with Biochem theme + decorations, laser quest or bowling, pub quiz)

We're also now organising BiochemSoc hoodies and looking for sponsorship next year

Guess you could also say Biochem's played a role in the inter-departmental pub quiz but tbh i just went, grabbed a bit of chocolate cake and didn't do too much else for that.

In terms of colours, I would only put two people forward....

Kin Lau (or Kenny) my treasurer as he has been the only reliable person on my committee and who helps out when needed. There were a couple of others who were also very good at the start of the year but not so much as the year progressed.

Second is Zahra (dep rep) - again very reliable, very helpful, communicates well with myself and the committee, has probs done her job as well as anyone could have done and gets involved with BiochemSoc as well (which is beyond her call of duty)

Hope this is all you need. I've forwarded the constitution to new committee so awaiting their feedback. When's the deadline though cos I have 5 exams next week....I would be more than happy to make it a priority next weekend if thats not too late?