

RSMU end of year report

Executive summary (Presidents Report):

It has been a very successful year for the RSMU. With more events being held and participation higher than ever we continue our mission of being increasingly relevant throughout our students lives. We continue to experiment with different events this year to cater for the diverse interests of our student body and have fostered a great relationship with our DepSocs who can help bulk out the calendar and opportunities for all our students.

This year saw the awarding of the first RSMU DepSoc Grant to Geophysics Society. A merit based award funded by the proceeds of our annual Christmas dinner raffle to support a bold and ambitious activities organised by students of the RSMU for their educational and social benefit. The Geophysics society will be going to Indonesia this summer exploring natural hazards and collaborating with local institutions along the way. We wish them the very best the RSMU was very impressed with their organisational skills and motivation for going and we hope to receive a report of their adventure upon arrival home.

Our clubs and societies seem to grow year on year with a jump in membership to both Netball and Badminton while the rest of the clubs maintain solid members.

Prominent issues remain, especially the continued lack of sponsorship for the RSMU. This must be addressed this year if events and continued support for students is to continue.

Vice President of Activities and Events report:

This year as VP AE I have organised all events in the RSMU calendar apart from the Bottle Match. Freshers' week kicked off with a new event this year which was mini golf at Battersea Putt in the Park. We put this on following the feedback we received from freshers' last year: students wanted another relaxed non-drinking event. Next up was the freshers' pub crawl on Tuesday evening, which saw around 100 new students exploring South Ken guided by older students and alumni. Freshers' bar night was on Thursday: all the new students learnt the RSM songs, and three brave freshers braved a yard. The theme for the bar night was 'Olympics'. Saturday afternoon brought RSM Olympics: a few brave freshers descended on Princes' Gardens for an afternoon of hilarious teambuilding exercises and races.

The final freshers' event was the formal Freshers' Dinner at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel. Freshers' were hosted by older students and taught the Queen's Rules over a three-course meal in the Conservatory. This was the second biggest dinner of the year with 164 students and staff attending.

Later in the winter term, we had another bar night in November. The bar night theme was 'Celebrities', so a few famous faces were spotted in the union bar, including Mary Berry and the Chuckle Brothers. RSM also participated in the Tri-Union event this year in late November.

There were two Christmas events in the RSMU calendar this year: ice skating at the Natural History Museum, and Christmas Dinner. Ice skating was a low-key event for only 15 students and the ticket included an hour on the ice, and a drink afterwards (this was the offer for students). Christmas dinner was held at the Copthorne Tara hotel, and 146 students and staff attended. This was our smallest dinner this year, as a lot of students who usually come to dinners were on the ski trip.

The final event that I organised this year was Spring Dinner, which was held at the Chelsea Harbour Hotel. There were 168 students and staff present which was our biggest dinner of the year. This was a new venue for us, and it did not disappoint.

While all events have been a huge success this year, if RSMU were to gain money from sponsors next year, we would be able to reduce ticket prices, which is the main area in which we can improve. Otherwise we could explore new venues, to give our students a bit more variety, as we had already been to two of the three venues for dinners this year.

Vice President for Clubs and Societies report:

This year we have seen great improvement to the sports teams with Badminton and Netball grown massively. We have had early talks with some members to start a Lacrosse team and look forward to that progressing next year as it received great publicity by winning the Bottle Match.

A goal for next year is to encourage more ADF applications early on. 'Arts and Crafts Soc' being set up for next year, to be part of mental health/freshers' non-drinking. All other clubs going well and have committees.

Bottle Match - massive improvements on behaviour and this needs to continue. Need more support/cooperation/understanding from sport imperial in future years as to who else will be using the pitch, and cross the road was a nightmare took 6 people to be

there all the time to stop people being run over, lots of parked cars and cars going fast. However, great interaction with staff at the union afterwards inc. Catering were fantastic.

Looking forward it seems that the RSMU clubs and societies continue to grow in popularity with our students in part due to their inclusive and strong social sides. We encourage this thoroughly and look forward to expansion next year.

Honorary Secretary report:

With the incoming of the new president of the RSMA, Tim Cotton, we have seen increased interest from alumni and we are very grateful for their generous donation to the RSMU this year. Thanks to collaborations with the RSMA we managed to achieve a great alumni contingent at the annual Bottle Match this year (which we won woo!).

We look forward to their entertainment at the end of year BBQ and RSMA AGM in June and prolonging our close ties with new youthful members joining still with vivid memories in their minds.

Looking forward

It's been a busy but fantastic year at the helm of the RSMU and a dream ever since I witnessed the crazy and charismatic Warnick himself standing on the table of the union bar at a fresher. There are so many more exciting things to do and improve around here that its been impossible to attempt them all. Luckily I'll be around next year and look forward to help fighting the RSMU's chronic lack of sponsorship conundrum which has been making the hard working and dedicated volunteers just that bit more difficult throughout the year.

The winning back of the Bottle was a fabulous feat of the sportsmanship and to dominate in so many sports was also a privilege to watch. I was very excited to hear that there are two new potential clubs forming next year and the great news of the jump in membership of Badminton and Netball. These sports clubs provide the backbone to the RSMU community spirit and are a great place to blow off steam and meet new people in a friendly atmosphere.

Finally, I was so impressed from our feedback from the Bottlematch this year. Under great pressure for a smooth and safely run event from many stakeholders the day went underway almost without a hitch, thanks largely to Mad Hann for her terrific organisational skills and the rest of the full committee for their role model performance and great attitude.

I wish all the best of luck to my successor, Robert Tomkies who will take up the mantle this summer. He has a very experienced and competent committee who I'm sure will lead us to being closer and increasingly more relevant to the student body who we represent and work tirelessly to better.

On behalf of the Executive and Full committees of the Royal School of Mines,

Noah Hawkins

President of the Royal School of Mines

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