

Royal College of Science Union Report

A note by Jacqueline Fok, RCSU Vice-President of Operations

Overview:

RCSU clubs and societies have been very successful this Autumn Term, particularly as a result of the incredibly dedicated members of the different departmental society committees. The DepSocs have been extremely active and very sensible with their budgets, making numerous successful events happen during Freshers Week and up until Christmas. These events have ranged from not only social events incorporating the Buddies Schemes, but also academically inspired and career-orientated events with higher than expected turnouts. Issues that arose this term have allowed us to gain experience for the Spring Term. With the enthusiasm and commitment of the members in the DepSoc committees, I am certain the next term will be even better than the last.

Financial Report:

1. Financial summary / Expenditure

The finance pages have been looking healthy for all the clubs and societies and are summarized below:

	Grant		SGI	
	Credit	Debit	Balance	Balance
Exec (730)	£3,807.98	-£1,075.64	£2,732.34	-£1,540.89
BioSoc (630)	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00	£420.00
BiochemSoc (631)	£260.00	£0.00	£260.00	£641.86
ChemSoc (633)	£370.17	-£29.83	£340.34	£508.86
MathSoc (634)	£301.00	£0.00	£301.00	£185.69
PhySoc (635)	£253.41	£0.00	£253.41	£1,663.30
Total	5292.56	-1105.47	4187.09	

21% of the grant allocation has been spent this term, but mostly by the Exec. The majority of the expenditure and turnover is from the SGI which the clubs have been able to sustain. The societies will be encouraged to spend more from their grant allocations next term.

Most income in the SGI has been from ticket sales to various events whilst spending has been on food and drink for those events. It has also been possible for small profits to be made from these events, however, most of them just breaking even. From the way the budgets have been handled this term, the societies will most likely be financially stable for the rest of the year.

2. Sponsorship

Although it has been difficult to secure sponsorship, MathSoc have managed to maintain their relationship with Detica and surpassed the sponsorship amount from last year for their Christmas Dinner. Both MathSoc and PhySoc also ran a joint bar night sponsored by TeachFirst. BioSoc have newly established a relationship with Ernst & Young who have kindly sponsored a careers event as well as showing interest in the Christmas Dinner and climate change event.

Club Activities:

1. Social events

The DepSocs this term all made a huge effort to organize Freshers events at the beginning of term to encourage freshers to mingle with their peers. This included the Buddies Lunches held by BioSoc and ChemSoc where freshers were introduced to their buddies in the years above, a Cocktail Party organized by PhySoc which had a full turnout, the "Freshmoon Party" hosted by BiochemSoc at a club in Central London, and a Freshers Party by MathSoc with food and drink where new students had the opportunity to get acquainted

with the MathSoc committee and several of their lecturers. Throughout the term, most of the DepSocs have held bar nights at the Union Bar with higher than expected turnout, pub crawls as well as cocktail nights. BioSoc, BioChemSoc and MathSoc also have Christmas Dinners leading up to the holidays.

RCS Rugby, being a relatively new club, has managed to arrange fixtures for the year, including one with CGCU this term, Keble College Oxford and RSM at some point next term.

2. Academic events

There has been a bigger effort for academic events this year. PhySoc has held guest lectures by distinguished professors from both Imperial College and University of Oxford. A trip to the Thames Flood Barrier was also organized which had not been done previously. ChemSoc will be hosting a talk by the Royal Society and BioSoc have managed to coordinate a climate change event with high profile speakers followed by a debate for next term.

3. Careers events

BioSoc have had a successful collaboration with Ernst & Young to host a business games evening aimed at biologists with a full turnout. ChemSoc also organized a talk by recent IC graduates where they shared their experiences down various career paths with current students.

Exec meetings:

Four RCSU Exec meetings have been held this term along with three DepSoc meetings. Turnout for the meetings have been as expected.

Issues:

- All clubs have had difficulty rousing interest from external companies for sponsorship but some societies have managed to secure sponsors for their events, and will seek for more next term.
- BiochemSoc President had stepped down before the start of term, but the committee has overcome this so far and elections for this position will take place before Christmas.
- MathSoc and PhySoc had difficulties estimating alcohol consumption for their joint Bar Night causing a small problem on the night, but this was resolved on the night and both committees have gained experience from this.
- PhySoc have also had difficulties with film licensing for their Film Nights but is currently being resolved.
- JMC Soc, RCS Football and Hockey have been inactive this term, and will be looked into next term.

Notable achievements:

- BioSoc and ChemSoc both devised new strategies to engage more students in the buddies schemes. BioSoc matched buddies according to their common interests and arranged for the Buddies Lunch to be directly following an introductory lecture to ensure maximum turnout. ChemSoc similarly encouraged freshers and buddies to fill out questionnaires for matching students as well as to participate in a novel competition to attend events together.
- This term saw more collaborative events between different DepSocs than before, such as the Bar Night between MathSoc and PhySoc with a higher than expected turnout, and even a cross-faculty BioSoc and ChemEng Cocktail Night which was highly successful.
- ChemSoc have truly been innovative in their activities this term, such as organizing a colouring competition for charity.
- PhySoc managed to organise students to travel off campus for a technical tour of the Thames Flood Barrier.

This report was compiled from individual contributions by each of the departmental societies. Special thanks to Lindsay Wallace (President - BioSoc), Mevani Jagodage (Treasurer - BiochemSoc), Joseph Rumer (President - ChemSoc), Chandni Nakum (President - MathSoc), Arrow Lee (President - PhySoc).