



Royal College of Science Union
Report for
ICU Clubs & Societies Board
A note by Paul Beaumont RCSU Vice-President (Operations)

RCSU Exec

As a Union we have been extremely active – organising events for across the Faculty of Natural Sciences. As well as resolving issues with last years' Science Challenge and closing that off, our 2012 competition is now fully organised – including the involvement of 1,000 Outreach Schools, the House of Lords, the BBC, the Times and CERN. The RCSU has been responsibly using its position to run events that would otherwise be too costly, or risk failing due to low turnout by its departmental societies.

Summary of Events (Attendance)

Freshers' Fair (500)

Our stall attracted many more people than normal with the freshers' t-shirts we had to entice people to our pub crawl...

Book Sale (100)

We ran a book exchange for the benefit of freshers (to buy books cheaply) and older students to earn some cash from their old books. It was much busier than we'd anticipated.

Made in Chelsea Pub Crawl (150)

Logistically a nightmare due to the high turnout, but a great night of fun was had by all and a sense of an involved RCSU, including involvement with Jez.

Autumn Ball (450)

Tickets for this event sold out 2 days before the ball at Opal, Embankment, due to the good value for money we offered our students – and it was still a profitable event. Jez also gave rides round Westminster.

Oktoberfest (150)

Clubs and Societies Board
5th December 2011

We were able to run this event as a responsible drinking event that offered a greater choice of beers to the ones the Union normally offers.

Networking & careers events (100;60;60 respectively)

All of our sponsored careers events had been very well attended. We have a new 'one-click' registration email system that allows uniquely identifying emails to our mailing list such that our members require minimal effort to register for these sorts of events, which, will inevitably be helping them in their futures.

Alumni Dinner (50)

Fifteen Alumni, ten Science Challenge competitors and twenty five current students enjoyed a dinner at the Gore Hotel, Queen's Gate. Prof Maggie Dallman approved the formation of a new Alumni group that was more RCSU driven.

Welfare Week (200 – over the course of the week)

A wide range of activities were organised, including free healthy food in the JCR (all of which ran out within fifteen minutes), subsidised ice skating at the NHM (attracting 40 people who don't normally come to our events).

Future Events

Winter Ball (450*)

Follow the success at our Autumn Ball, we have decided to run a similar price-structured Winter Ball at Jewel, Covent Garden. Ticket sales are going well, and we look set to sell out two days before the event again.

Science Challenge (600*)

The Science Challenge will be launched on Tuesday 17th January in SAF, and will run through until March

Valentines Boat Party, Networking events, RAG Ball

Statistics

Fresher involvement: 400/(?)

Overall involvement: 1,000/5,000

Grant spent: 75% of grant has been spent already, mainly on Welfare and Freshers' Weeks.

Budget for the year: £27,000

Turnover: £45,000

ChemSoc

ChemSoc committee members have worked enthusiastically on the planning, organisation and running of each of our events. We are in the process of negotiating sponsorship with several chemical companies for the annual Chemistry hoodies. ChemSoc has aimed to hold an event fortnightly and so far we have so far exceeded this, hosting an event every week.

Summary of Events

Buddy Lunch

All Freshers were sorted into groups of ~4 and allocated to buddy Parents from older years. Everyone was introduced to their Families at this Buddy Lunch where they ate lunch together and shared experiences.

Freshers Fair stall

Our stall featured a ChemSoc Banner, a Periodic Table Raffle, RSC freebies (including pens, magazines, leaflets), and sweets. We also used some things from the lab including dry ice and solvents (a risk assessment was filled out beforehand).

Introductory Event for Chemistry Students

A Chemistry mingle with guest speakers

Chemistry Quiz

The annual chemistry quiz attended by students and staff, organized jointly by the PG committee and ChemSoc, sponsored annually by Proctor & Gamble.

Buddies Pub Crawl

Buddy families (and non-buddy scheme students) were invited to join a pub crawl

B@1s Chemistry Night

Booked number of tables at the popular cocktail bar

Future Events

Scientific Societies Dinner at the Royal Institution; talks given by guest speaker from leading Chemistry-related companies; Bar Nights; Christmas Dinner; Alumni Careers Talk; Chemistry cocktail party; sports day.

Statistics

Fresher involvement: 90/130

Overall involvement: 230/600

Grant spent: 35%

MathSoc

It has somewhat been a hectic term for Mathsoc. We obtained a £1500 sponsorship from Ernst & Young this year, as well as a £1000 Sponsorship from RBS. This was a more considerable sum than in previous years. We are currently negotiating for further sponsorship with IMA for spring term T-shirt sale and resources for more academic talks.

Summary of Events

Freshers' Fair

The primary focus was to advertise to Maths Freshers the events that were being run this year as well as the newly revamped buddy scheme. It was surprising to see many non-maths students showed their interest in signing up the mailing list for mathsoc events such as careers and academic talks. It would be better to be prepared for this and setup up a separate mailing list for them.

Freshers' Picnic

This was an event mainly for Maths freshers and was the first chance for them to meet their Maths parents. The original plan was to hold a pub crawl but later found out it clashed with RCSU pub crawl. We quickly changed the plan came up with this picnic at Hyde Park. It was a good way of allowing the freshers to settle in, in addition, some families still remain in contact. This event is mostly funded by grant, with alcoholic drinks bought using SGI.

Freshers' Party

This event was well received among freshers, with a turnout about 150 people. The party didn't start well since delivery from ASDA didn't show up, so that we had to buy extra from Sainsburys. The drinks went quickly as more freshers showed up. Fortunately the event is funded by department and only resulted in minor loss in SGI.

Think locally, act globally – Lunchtime Academic Talk

This is our first academic talk this term, advertised departmental wide. Prof. Kevin Buzzard delivered an intuitive and intriguing lecture on a rather complex mathematical problem. There were about 80-100 students present.

Future Events

Mathsoc Christmas Dinner – 6th December 7.30pm @Med Kitchen. Mathsoc Hoodie Sale - Early December. Career Talks from EY in January 2012. Poker Tournament next term. Quiz Night next term. Cocktail Night in December. More academic talks for next term, possibly another one in December. We plan to organise the talks every fortnight.

Statistics

Fresher involvement: 200/250

Overall involvement: 350/800

Grant spent: 27%

BioSoc

BioSoc's have secured Ernst & Young as sponsors of the Annual Christmas Cocktails.

Summary of Events

Buddy Welcome Talk & Meet and Greet

Planned to precision, this event was received well most people who were involved seemed to enjoy the event. Most of the budget came from the biology department – it would be useful to have an increased budget to cover the cost of more refreshments next year.

Noah's Ark Pub Crawl

This was a successful pub crawl involving around 40 students, at no cost to the society.

Many of our events have had to be postponed due to the resignation of our Events Officer.

Future Events

Biosoc, Chemsoc, Biochemsoc Bar night; Biosoc Christmas Dinner (fully sold out); Biosoc Annual Debate is currently being planned for February

Hoodies

A Hoody design competition is being run, and this will culminate in the availability of hoodies next term.

Most of grant money and SGI is still in tact, as the main expenditure for the year is the Biosoc Debate.

Statistics

Fresher involvement: 150/200

Overall involvement: 225/750

PhySoc

Summary of Events

Welcome drinks at Mango Lounge

This event was mainly for freshers to get to know their parents as a part of the buddy scheme as well as provide some alternative people for freshers to mix with in their first week.

Two Guest Lectures

Two catered academic lectures have taken place – each attracting around 100 students.

JET trip

Physoc took a minibus of interested members to visit the JET laboratories.

Royal Institute Dinner

Our members were invited to a dinner in Cambridge as part of a university wide collaboration.

Hoodies

Discounted hoodies have been negotiated, with sales going well.

Statistics

Fresher involvement: 50%

Overall involvement: 20%

Grant spent: 76%

It would be hugely helpful if internal transfers were processed sooner.

I believe that overall Physoc will make a financial loss this year, however this is more due to the fact that we have a lot of money in our SGI (which would be better spent on our members than just sitting in our account) than irresponsible financing.

BiochemSoc

Biochemsoc have secured sponsorship from Accenture & TeachFirst for this academic year.

Summary of Events

Freshers' BBQ

Freshers and tutors mingled in Princes over a BBQ in a non-academic, welcoming environment.

'Sexy Scientists' Bar Crawl

First fancy dress crawl of the year, the route took a mixture of freshers and older students through Hammersmith, getting younger students used to the area.

Biochem goes bowling

To cater for students who aren't interested in alcohol we took a small group bowling.

Sponsor events

TeachFirst provided a 'Milkround' presentation to Biochemistry students, informing students on careers in education.

Future Events

Xmas Dinner – booked in Eastside in a few weeks time; Sanger trip (genomics sequencing centre at Cambridge), Guest lectures (with Lord Robert Winston), Bar nights joint with Chemsoc and Biosoc, Alumni and Internship presentations, Ice-skating, cinema trips.

Statistics

Freshers involvement: 100%

Overall involvement: 40%