

## RSMU summer report

### A report by the RSMU President Richard Simons

**Handover:** The handover from Ben Moorhouse was completed in June and all went smoothly (done early since I had to leave for a work placement in Switzerland)

**Preparatory work:** Over the summer there were several pieces of administration that had to be completed, mainly relating to the organisation of freshers' events. These included the booking and budgeting of the Freshers' bar night (06.10.11) and the Freshers' Dinner (14.10.11).

For the Freshers' fair several items were introduced this year: a new Autumn term events flyer outlining the planned events of all C&S within the RSMU along with those of the Exec for the coming term; RSMU branded flash drives for distribution at the fair, each pre-loaded with a welcome letter, the events flyer and the years' 1<sup>st</sup> edition of our journal (The PIT); RSMU branded stress balls for distribution at the fair. All 3 of these items were received, in particular the pre-loaded data on the flash drives.

Each year the RSMU sends out a welcome pack to its new students in cooperation with that sent by the departments within the RSM. This consisted of a president's welcome letter, an Hon Sec's welcome letter publicising the Freshers' Dinner, a copy of the PIT and our events flyer. These are a nice touch which helps us welcome in our new students and are items which are often kept as souvenirs of the student's first introduction to the RSM. The pack is printed and distributed by the relative departments.

**Faculty of Engineering Grant allocation:** The RSMU once again received a portion of grant money from the Faculty of Engineering; the break-down of these funds is as follows:

#### Royal School of Mines Union

Category	Grant Request	Breakdown
Freshers' Events	£100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>£100 for Freshers' Bar night.</li></ul>
Social Events	£500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>£500 for Christmas dinner.</li></ul>
Bottle Match	£450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>£300 contribution to travel expenditure, Newquay and back.</li><li>£150 for Bottle Match publicity and printing of the event's programme.</li></ul>
Freshers' Week Marketing & Publicity	£450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>£300 for RSMU branded USB memory sticks</li><li>£150 for printing of RSMU event flyers</li></ul>

TOTAL	£1,500
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There was also a grant of £150 to each departmental society as per usual, along with a back-payment for funds not received in the last academic year.

Parts of this fund have already been spent, so far there has been no deviation from the specified usage.

It was agreed that these funds be transferred to the CGCU Exec which would then disseminate the specified amounts to the RSMU Exec, I understand that this is under way, though the funds have not yet reached our accounts.

**Changes in Union alcohol policy:** The changes in union policy relating to the sales and distribution of alcohol have had a definite effect on the way in which the RSMU operates its bar nights in particular, though in general the changes have not had a huge effect. I would like to state that the RSMU is not in opposition to these changes, as it is understood that the updating of the rules and regulations were necessary to bring the union in line with the law, though there are some points that may need modifying.

In particular, after attempting to budget a sold-out bar night in the Union bar, it was discovered that a considerable degree of subsidy was required in order to run a successful event. It therefore does not seem feasible for clubs to continue to run these events as a means of making money under the current arrangement. It is understood that the current policy is still a work in progress and that changes can be made. We will be able to give a better report on the success of the event during the meeting if required (it's tomorrow)

**Freshers' Week so far:** We've had a very successful 3 days; with a very well attended Freshers' Pub Crawl (between 100 and 150 attendees), Clem and Davy were both present for the event; a good result from the RSMU introductory talks (with CGCU president Jacky Qwan and the CGCU AAO and Welfare officer); and a good regalia sale, taking £572 in its 2 hours of operation. The freebies as outlined above were distributed well and were much appreciated by our students. All clubs have reported high sign-up numbers, giving a good outlook for the coming year.

Our freshers' bar night is expected to sell out at a capacity of 100, we aim to break event, including the use of the £100 allocated by FoE.

We are expecting our Freshers' dinner to sell out at a capacity of 150 attendees (possible extension to 175); with tickets on sale at £25 for freshers and £30 for hosts, this will leave us with healthy expected profit, largely helped by sponsorship from Rio Tinto.

**Buddies Events & the work of the Depsocs:** The two depsocs (as existing at the beginning of this year, i.e. the De le Beche Club and Matsoc, not including the newly promoted Geophysoc) were planning on holding a joint buddies event in order to increase the cohesion between the two sides of the RSM; however, due to the logistical issues of organising over 300 people, as well as finding the space for such a number has meant that the events will be run in the same format as before, with each depsoc holding its own events through the week in order to show the new students the support available from our older students. Both used the online service to sign up buddies for the events, with good numbers responding to each. An introduction talk at the start of the week kicked off proceedings nicely, with a general positive atmosphere being felt in both departments; in each case the depsoc committees moved on to the Union bar and invited the new students along for an informal chat and an opportunity to have any questions answered; This, again, was well received. The DLB continues to run its several talks and events through the week, with a field trip to the Lake District concluding proceedings.