



ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE UNION

**RCSU**

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# Report to the Clubs, Societies, and Projects Board Summer 2015

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on behalf of the Executive Committee

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## Introduction

As we look back at the end of the year, the RCSU has performed strongly. We have continued to develop the events and activities the RCSU puts on, with a number of new and revamped events this year including the Tri-Union Bar Night and Treat Yo' Self.

We have also spent some time enhancing our academic affairs provision, with our AAO Zoë having spent significant time in developing the role. We hope that future AAOs will appreciate the strong foundation that the academic affairs provision has been given.

We are currently running a by-election to fill a number of roles in the RCSU and in our departmental societies, and the awardees of RCSU Colours, RCSU President's Awards and RCSU Club of the Year will be announced on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>.

We are currently arranging hand overs however a number of officers have already done their hand overs in person. As some officers have gone on holiday or have not interacted with the RCSU in ages, we are unsure as to how well these handovers will go but the Exec will deal with these on a case by case basis.

## Finances

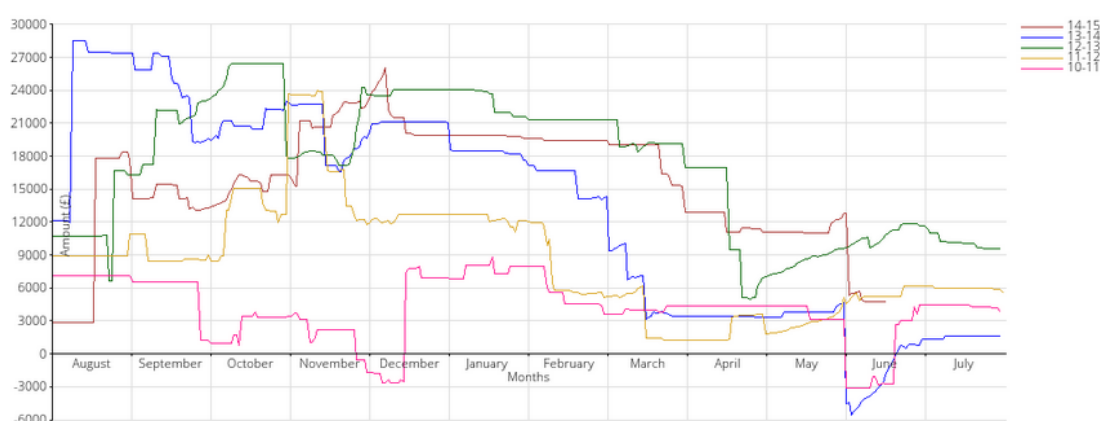
*Prepared by James Badman – RCSU Honorary Junior Treasurer*

	Grant	SGI	IC Trust	College	Total
<b>BioChemSoc</b>	£ 166.50	£ 956.51	£ -	£ 1,142.82	£ 2,265.83
<b>BioSoc</b>	£ 27.56	£ 1,261.89	£ -	£ 1,550.00	£ 2,839.45
<b>ChemSoc</b>	£ 431.63	-£ 5,338.97	£ -	-£ 143.19	-£ 5,050.53
<b>MathSoc</b>	£ 37.00	£ 1,959.42	£ -	£ 189.43	£ 2,185.85
<b>PhySoc</b>	£ 89.70	-£ 8,011.19	£ 3,463.99	£ 1,350.00	-£ 3,107.50
<b>RCSU Exec</b>	£ 96.19	£ 2,174.89	£ -	£ 2,488.32	£ 4,759.40

Financially we have performed reasonably well since the last report to CSPB. Treat Yo' self and Science Challenge both came in under budget and we will hopefully be sitting on £6-8k at the end of the year, depending on how Summer Ball performs; a contrast to what we began the year with! Now that the new finance team have started things have been going much smoother with only one or two hiccups; there is only one more problem outstanding at last (a PO which needs to be cancelled but can't seem to be)! We are still yet to organise the RCSA's donation (which will be about £2000), however this will be sorted by the end of the Union's year. Looking forward, we secured a

sizable Union grant increase for the coming year, and are currently in the process of finalising £1000 sponsorship with Morgan Stanley while talking to several other companies. We also hope to receive our usual FoNS grant at the start of next year.

As of 16<sup>th</sup> June, our total balance stands at £4759.40 for RCSU Exec, the best performance in the last few years relative to starting funds. This year has also been reasonable for the DepSocs; although two are currently in the red (ChemSoc and PhysSoc), one is awaiting a large sum of their Department, which will put both in the black! Most of the DepSocs also saw a modest grant increase for next year (including MathSoc's increase of over 1000%) and so should be in good stead for next year.



Above: Graph showing the RCSU's performance for the last 5 years.

## Operations

The operations board has had a number of successful activities over the last two terms. In summary, these are:

- **Science Challenge Final at Inner Temple:** this evening went extremely smoothly and all guests seemed to have a lovely time. Photos from this event are on Facebook and the overall prize at the House of Lords is currently being arranged with the winners. Last year's winners' trip to CERN has finally been arranged after many months of difficulty.
- **Broadsheet:** Our second issue has been out around campus and has once again had fantastic illustrations and design. Our congratulations to editor Ben Stockton and his team as Broadsheet has been shortlisted for an Association of British Science Writers award (as has I, Science). The winner will be announced on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

- **Treat Yo' Self:** Our revamped Welfare Week took place joint with the RSM. Events included an obstacle course with beer goggles, a bouncy castle, and free candy floss. Feedback from the event has been extremely positive and we look forward to developing the event further next year

## Entertainments

Ents Board has been quite quiet recently as events slow down during second term. We have run a candy floss stall as part of RAG Week, providing candyfloss alongside the pancakes from Blue Cube staff. Donations went to RAG.

We are currently planning the RCSU Summer Ball at Strawberry Moons which will be on the last Tuesday of term, and a bar night on the penultimate Thursday of term to award this year's RCSU Awards and announce the results of the current RCSU Election.

We are currently working with the ordinary members of the Ents Board to develop some more non-alcoholic events for next year to boost inclusivity.

We are also using the results of our survey to make recommendations to next year's committee for improving existing events and creating new ones.

## Clubs and Activities

The activities of our clubs are summarised over the following pages. However, in summary:

- All of our clubs have done extremely well this year
- PhySoc are currently organising a tour to California
- Chemistry and BioChemistry have arranged dinners for finalists
- Club finances are, on the whole, healthy

In terms of negative points:

- MathSoc have not been good at communicating with the RCSU. An event of theirs at Metric had to be cancelled due to poor organisation.
- BioSoc and BioChemSoc did not get chairs elected during the Big Elections, this is delaying handover but we are hoping for chairs to be elected by the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- MathSoc failed to elect a secretary in the Big Elections but one should also be elected by the 18<sup>th</sup>. There are also other committee positions in

all the departmental societies which should be elected on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
which will also delay handover.

The latest reports from our departmental societies follows however MathSoc  
have not submitted a report.

## Departmental Society Reports

What deptsoc is this for?	Physoc
What is your name and position?	Nishant Prasad (Treasurer)
How have you spent your Union grant this year?	<p>A PhySoc's trip to <a href="#">Dungeness Nuclear Power Station</a>. Attendees were offered a tour to see the Turbine Hall, Cold Water Intake, and enter the Reactor Viewing Gallery of a Nuclear Plant in commercial operation.</p>
What events have you run this year?	<p>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October (17:00-18:30) – Mums &amp; Dads Welcome at the level 8 common room. At this event incoming Freshers were matched up with their Departmental 'Parents' before preceeding on a 'Treasure Hunt' around the department.</p> <p>A PhySoc's trip to <a href="#">Dungeness Nuclear Power Station</a>. Attendees were offered a tour to see the Turbine Hall, Cold Water Intake, and enter the Reactor Viewing Gallery of a Nuclear Plant in commercial operation.</p> <p>On Saturday 18th October, Physoc and BioChemSoc are teamed up for a joint Circle Line Pub Crawl.</p> <p>Thursday November 4th: FTI Consulting and Imperial College PhySoc ran a presentation and workshop on Economic and Financial Consulting.</p> <p>Trip to see Christopher Nolan's new sci-fi film: <a href="#">INTERSTELLAR</a>. Tickets were discounted to £7 per person, for the 19:30 screening at the Science Museum's IMAX on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November. Over 100 people attended.</p> <p>Intellectual Property Workshop with <a href="#">Bird &amp; Bird LLP</a> on Wednesday 19th November.</p> <p>The MATLAB and Simulink workshop 26/11/2014</p> <p>Pop Up Pizza 19/12/2014</p> <p>Blackett Lab Tours: (Magpie 20/01/2015)</p> <p>Blackett Lab Tours: (HEP 27/01/2015)</p> <p>The Theory Of Everything at Fulham Road Cineworld (27/01/2015)</p> <p>Blackett Lab Tours: (Ion Trapping Group 03/02/2015)</p> <p>Blackett Lab Tours: (Centre for Cold Matter 10/02/2015)</p>

	<p>Blackett Lab Tours: (Plasma Physics Group 17/02/2015)</p> <p>Blackett Lab Tours: (Centre for Plastic Electronics 24/02/2015)</p> <p>Blackett Lab Tours: (Attosecond Electron Dynamics in Molecular and Condensed Phase Systems 03/02/2015)</p> <p>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of March Seven Deadly Sins with other Dep Socs</p> <p>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March PhySoc took a group of 20 students for a private tour of the Cavendish Laboratories in Cambridge</p>
What events are you planning to run across the rest of the year?	California Summer Tour, Science Museum Lates
Have you had any problems? Give details if so.	No
What is the best thing about your club this year?	The drive to organise the summer tour of CA is a trip
Please give your club a rating from 1 (awful) to 10 (best thing ever).	6
Any other comments?	

What depsoc is this for?	Biosoc
What is your name and position?	Adrian Baily, Treasurer
How have you spent your Union grant this year?	We haven't.
What events have you run this year?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BioSoc Pub Crawl - Well attended by third years mostly, not many freshers which is who usually comes. We go around to different pubs in the Hammersmith/Fulham area and its completely unsubsidised</li> <li>• Mums and Dads Introduction - Used SGI to pay for pizza, well attended, annual event</li> <li>• BioSoc Christmas Dinner - Well attended by 3rd years, only had 2 second years and 1 first year which is a shame but it was a success nonetheless, it's usually an annual thing but this was a comparatively well attended event.</li> <li>• BioSoc Ice Skating - First time we have ever done this, very well attended but mostly by 3rd years, definitely something we should look to do again.</li> <li>• 1st and 2nd year module talks - Very good, annual thing, paid for pizza using SGI</li> <li>• Halloween Party w/ BioChem - Moderate success, SGI to</li> </ul>

	<p>pay for decorations and drink subsidy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint event with BioEng, BioChem etc - very poorly attended by most societies, although BioSoc was one of the highest</li> </ul>
What events are you planning to run across the rest of the year?	Potentially have a leaver's dinner although it's getting late so it's unlikely to happen in my opinion.
Have you had any problems? Give details if so.	Clearly very poor at communicating the latest events to first and second years, I think this is mainly due to bad publicity and the exec being primarily third year students. We still haven't managed to organise a speaker's event either.
What is the best thing about your club this year?	We have had very solid third year turnout to events which doesn't usually happen. Ahranee has done well to add ice skating to our events.
Please give your club a rating from 1 (awful) to 10 (best thing ever).	6
Any other comments?	

What depsoc is this for?	Chemsoc
What is your name and position?	Nas Andriopoulos - president
How have you spent your Union grant this year?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant was spent towards the introductory buddies' lunch to allow first years to meet their "parents". This event is crucial in helping students settle into chemistry, and in fact the grant was insufficient to cover the event.</li> <li>• The travel expenditure grant money was spent indirectly via the department (Diamond lightsource trip) and a Syngenta site visit. In both cases the other party paid which freed up this expected expenditure for other uses – in particular to cover the shortfall on buddies events.</li> </ul> <p>Please note that we have yet to transfer our expenditure from SGI to grant, although the money has been spent as outlined above.</p>
What events have you run this year?	<p>Over Summer:</p> <p>-Diamond Lightsource trip – 16 attendees for tour around national synchrotron. Thoroughly enjoyable and excellent feedback was received. Definitely try and run again.</p> <p>Freshers week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buddies' welcome lunch- fed 280 students on a shoe string budget and as a consequence quality was low and we started to run out at the end. The event was</li> </ul>



a limited success, but will be much improved next year as we have secured an increase in grant.

- Freshers' fair – stall was run with interactive activities and demonstrations. Hoodies were awarded as prizes for our competitions.
- Simon Singh seminar – 220-240 attendees to the first chemsoc seminar of the year, sponsored and attended by RSC. Chemsoc and chemistry provided snacks for attendees. Very well attended event and excellent feedback. Lots of people thought the following RCSU bar crawl was a chemsoc event!

#### Autumn term

- Seminar series continued on the theme of "Sustainability" and included Dr Gabrielle Walker, Prof. T Welton and Dr James Wilton Ely. Average attendance was ~70.
- Chemsoc pub crawl – attendance similar to previous years although distribution was shifted towards older years. Highlighted the problem of Chemsoc connecting to first years. Also same day as popular RAG ball at the ministry of sounds.
- Procter and Gamble – careers talk followed by food, drinks and networking. 60 people attended. Sponsored by Procter and Gamble. We're told the event was very successful for P&G and resulted in around 40 applications, at least one of which was successful
- Chemistry careers fair – 10 companies including Shell, GSK and Hexcel were present and attendance was around 145 an improvement on previous years. Companies gave supportive feedback.
- Christmas quiz – sold out ~90 people, including a staff team. Everyone had a good time and people thought the event was excellent value for money. Freshers did attend well. For next year: better prizes, better soundsystem, advertise to staff earlier, include staff/student round.
- Save the children – sold mince pies and organised a "Christmas jumper day" with STC. The event made around £40 for charity, which was similar to our costs. We may as well have just donated the money. Most of the problems were down to Areeb and STC.
- Christmas Party- biggest Christmas party at Imperial with 245 attendees including UG, PG and staff. Food was a bit dodgy and hotel took advantage of students (grrr), but still a HUGE success. Event passed almost without incident and a huge vote of thanks goes out to the committee for their tireless efforts.

#### Spring Term

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seminar Series continued – Prof Martyn Poliakoff sold out lecture theatre with around 200 attendees. Sigma Aldrich sponsored the event. Again excellent feedback from attendees and the event was plauded by Prof Sir Poliakoff. Sigma wanted more big cheeses to attend. Unfortunately for them 4 senior staff members of FONS pulled out. Other members of internal staff contributed to the lecture series. Attendance was around 40.</li> <li>• Pub golf – hammersmith so slightly cheaper than central Londres. 2/3<sup>rd</sup> year turn out was strong, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year particularly poor. Theme was unsuccessful with only about 15 people actually partaking in pub golf. Perceived as a little heavy for a week night.</li> <li>• Syngenta site trip – trip to largest greenhouse facility in Europe. Attendance was 30, but a little disappointing. Syngenta covered our travel costs as means of sponsorship.</li> <li>• Buddies Chinese meal – 26 attendees. A bit lower than we hoped. Delays in advertising partially to blame. Partially funded by RCSU deprec fund.</li> <li>• Locker amnesty/ redistribution – new system was introduced to try and maximise the utility of lockers. Very time consuming but has made a big impact, especially with regards to fire regulation compliance.</li> <li>• Chemsoc hoodies – hoodies were slightly more expensive than previous years but still sold well over 100.</li> <li>• Education Day – Chemsoc, alongside the department, were invited to speak at education day as an example of how to foster a sense of community at a departmental level. As a result Chemsoc have also been given an open invite to address college council at a future date.</li> <li>• Year group photos- we took photos of every year in front of Queens Tower and they will be hung up in the department.</li> </ul> <p>Unless otherwise stated the events were funded from SGI and existing reserves. Please note the department will be donating around £10,000 to chemsoc this year.</p> <p>Apologies if I have forgotten anything!</p>
<p>What events are you planning to run across the rest of the year?</p>	<p>Aiding the department in their Summer Party. Release of another chemistry newsletter.</p> <p>Finalists' dinner to be held at the Royal Institution in Piccadilly.</p>
<p>Have you had any</p>	<p>Only minor ones. Minor problem of an inactive VP meant</p>

problems? Give details if so.	larger burden on rest of committee (especially president and events officers). First year engagement was not as good as previous years. This will be improved by electing a "1st year rep" in Autumn next year.
What is the best thing about your club this year?	The willingness of the committee to invest their time in new activities and improving old ones, all with the purpose of foster a sense of community in the department. In particular the Seminar Series, Christmas Dinner, Newsletter and year group photos have been very well received. Chemsoc also were the first RCSU society to elect a Post-Grad rep, a policy that was later adopted by the general council demonstrating Chemsoc as one of the most innovative deptsocs. I am content that we have gone above and beyond what was expected from us as a deptsoc this year and ensured that we have delivered excellent value to our members. This is evidenced by the large number of people from different subjects (and even from UCL!) that have attended our seminars and the plaudits received from members of staff in FONS.
Please give your club a rating from 1 (awful) to 10 (best thing ever).	8
Any other comments?	We did sooo much this year!!

What deptsoc is this for?	BioChemSoc
What is your name and position?	Hannah Maude, Biochemsoc Chair
How have you spent your Union grant this year?	Guest Lecture, purchases for buddies events. Intended for a trip to the Diamond Light Source which fell through! Planning in advance for next year so this is avoided.
What events have you run this year?	Freshers Buddies Quiz, Freshers Campus Treasure Hunt, Buddies photo competition, Halloween Party with Biology, Pub Crawl with Physics, Campus Easter Egg hunt, Buddies lunch #1, Buddies lunch #2 with Baking competition, Christmas tree decorating,  Cancer Research UK Guest Lecture, P&G visitation and career talk, Modules talk for 2nd years from final years (with Biology),
What events are you planning to run across the rest of the year?	Final year dinner  Year Photos
Have you had any problems? Give details if so.	It was difficult having a committee member (academic events) who was on a year out. Despite being in London, it was difficult for him to participate in events and planning. Would recommend students on a year out do not take on a committee position.

What is the best thing about your club this year?	The social events were very popular! We successfully hosted events which we hope to make annual, including the Halloween party, Easter egg hunt, Baking competition (the department even took part in judging the competition).
Please give your club a rating from 1 (awful) to 10 (best thing ever).	7
Any other comments?	<p>Thank you to the whole BiochemSoc committee for working hard and to the RCSU for all the advice, we couldn't have done it without you!</p> <p>Note that the club score lost points mainly because we have (for many years) struggled with sponsorship. Despite lots of effort these last few months we still have nothing to go on!</p>

MathSoc did not submit a report.