

Royal School of Mines Union Start of Term Report

Mums and Dads Rounder's

A new event this year and well attend ice breaker event combining the Mums and Dads scheme with a little tour of Hyde Park and rounders for those who wished to participate. All ESE first years were well placed with older years and all attended. Due to miscommunication and lack of will from the Material Department staff it was unfortunately unavailable for those students and we will work harder earlier in future years to ensure cooperation within departments.

Mini Golf

Another new event this year, Mini golf was well advertised in our in house Pit magazine and online and a turnout of around 50 taking over the entire Battersea Putt in the Park site which was a great way to casually mingle with people on different courses and years throughout the RSMU.

Bar Crawl

An older annual event with attendance of well over 200 managed to wind itself through South Kensington again providing cause for concern or incident. The event was very fun, lots of songs and laughter all round. The use of Jez by the RSM MotorSoc was well appreciated and I could thank Owen Leech and those chaps anymore for their support and time.

Bar Night

Another well attended event held in the Union bar and fancy dress themed. Here, although overall it was a success I had repeated complaints about the security used on the door and the unwillingness of the Union Bar staff to be consistent with their entry policy. Dozens of my first years were turned away and prevented from entering a clearly under filled bar. We are in the processes of resolving our dispute with the bar staff and security but we hope for a positive outcome and clarity moving forward.

Olympics

This is an active event, hosted in Princes gardens which consists of running around in sports gear and doing silly challenges like a potato and spoon race and other light hearted and gentle activities on a Saturday morning. It was unfortunately raining which reduced the usual turn out but at 30 people it was not the worst this has ever been and we are working on ways (weather permitting) we can expand upon our attendance.

Fresher's dinner

This year's dinner was hosted in the Millennium Gloucester Hotel and we reached our highest ever turn out at 164 which we are all very proud of. It was good to see a great turn out from all subjects and year groups and members of staff. The hotel was very happy with the event enjoying it as much as some of us, a successful event to conclude our diverse range of events.

Publicity

Unlike in the previous year we organised quickly and distributed our magazine 'The Pit' through the departmental send outs to all new students which we could see a marked increase in interest from the start. We have since released another copy online and continue to receive articles from students as well as pictures and ideas which add to the personal feel of the magazine.

Sports Teams

Our five sports teams: Hockey, Netball, Badminton, Football and Rugby are all currently active and in the process of recruiting still. Currently they appear to be down on numbers from memberships being paid but this is the usual case as first years are deciding which teams to commit to and I suspect will rise during the time from now until Christmas when games start occurring. These are as valuable to welfare and the cohesion of the RSMU as any other aspect and I am proud of their continued development especially Netball which having now entered a BUCS league is expanding its membership.

DepSoc's

The RSMU works incredibly close to all its DepSoc's and are often interchangeable in their roles. We use their committee's to run and try event's and ideas which we then can support and advertise to a wider community. We are currently supporting numerous events and activities for the DepSoc's: an industrial visit and lunchtime lecture series for MatSoc, weekend geology trips and academic talks with DLB (which are increasing their connections to there

respective clubs in Cambridge and UCL) and an International visit and industry day with GPS. All DepSocs are looking healthy and are filled with keen and collaborating members who should make a huge success for the coming year.

Finance

The RSM (Exec) account currently sits at £154.19. This number is greatly reduced what we expected it to be following the current unsuccessful attempt at accruing sponsorship. However, there is still £1510 in missing SGI profit to be expected from sales of the Christmas dinner tickets and the return of our deposit from the Millennium Gloucester hotel. We look forward to enter the New Year in a stronger financial situation than has been achieved in the last 3 years without compromising on quality of events or other services provide to enhance the student experience.

Our Treasurer's subcommittee continues to provide a great service to all our clubs and societies, ensuring proper financial conduct is heeded and all small questions answered as quickly as possible.

Alumni

We have a good understanding and friendly relationship with Tim Cotton and the Royal School of Mines Association and continue to expand upon how we can work together. They are currently involved in organising a dinner where leaving students are invited to attend and an in house talk in which they are going to discuss how they can add value to the existing student's prospects and a networking event further in November to improve our industrial links.

Student Support

Our welfare and academic liaison officers have been hard at work conducting a follow up online survey system to the one pioneered by Beth Holman last year. The report is in the process of completion and will come out in November. It will highlight any changes which our students think we need to address. This will become the basis of more surveys and be part of our commitment as a constituent union to represent our student's needs and wants.

Looking forward

My main aims for this year are to uphold the long traditions of the RSMU and its community like feel whilst encouraging a friendly and open environment. We have in the past been criticised on our culture but this will no longer blight the name of this institution again. We work with and for our students and

continue to self-regulate with an expanding survey system to ensure we are helping our students and providing the best environment for them to enjoy and work hard while at university. We are a community of hard working volunteers who aim to provide the best events, welfare and representation anywhere at college and we are constantly looking at how we can evolve and improve.