

RSMU Start of Term Report for Council

RSMU President Rob Tomkies

Freshers' Fortnight Events



Freshers' Fortnight events were all prepared for over summer and are detailed below.

- We organised to speak to both ESE and Materials students for an introductory talk. Here the committee introduced themselves gives a quick introduction as to their role. The Freshers' handbook was also passed around which is a student written magazine introducing all the events throughout the two weeks and then who the committee are and how to contact them.
- Tuesday 3rd saw the first event of Freshers' Fortnight, mini golf which was specifically non-drinking. Around 60 students were taken to Putt in the Park Battersea. This was a great event for social mingling between years and really built on the success from last year. Unfortunately due to a lack of communication from the Materials department a portion of their first years were unable to attend which we will endeavour next year to ensure doesn't happen again.
- Tuesday 3rd also saw the RSM pub crawl. This, as always, was hugely successful with students from all years attending. Notably this year we also had a very strong post grad and alumni attendance. We estimate upwards of 150 students attended. Due to the ongoing repair works on Clem Jezabell was used for the event and so a huge thank you to RSM MotorSoc for their time and effort.
- Thursday 5th was the first bar night of the year. This had a tube stations themed fancy dress to allow overseas students to learn a little about London. This again was very successful with around 120 people attending. The issues entailing bar staff entry policy that arose last year were clarified with staff before the event and so did not arise this time.
- Saturday 7th was the second specifically non drinking event of the fortnight. The RSM Olympics is a sports day styled event with 3 legged race, cracker eating and so on. Previous years saw a fairly low turnout and so this year we decided to link the competitions with RSM sports teams, many of who trialled in the morning. This had a positive affect and we had 20-30 students attending from years 1-4.
- Tuesday 10th saw Quad Union Carnival. This event was new this year, organised joint between the CU presidents and the union. Some factors were very successful; the rides set up successfully, the CU volunteers, the security and drinks tokens all worked brilliantly. We ran into operational issues due to a lack of HelloICU volunteers however this was covered well by the volunteers that were present. The main area we have targeted as necessary for improvement was advertisement where we have isolated factors and devised a plan to move forward constructively to solve this for future QuadUnion events.
- Friday 13th saw the Fresher's dinner held at the Rembrandt Hotel. This event sold out and equalled our largest Freshers' dinner with 164 attending. We decided to support our alumni relations here and so Danny Hill was chosen as a guest speaker. He really enjoyed the occasion and we are really grateful for him speaking. We had concerns with a selection of people arriving already intoxicated at the start of the dinner. To counter this we have implemented changes to door security for the upcoming Christmas dinner and also will send out an email concerning social responsibility relating to alcohol before the event.

General Union/Departmental Events

The RSMU has run several general events already and has plans to undertake further ones. These are detailed below.

- RSMU ran a trip to the Science Museum lates, this had a fairly small attendance however it was a last minute decision to support the event. We have noted this and for future lates have detailed that we need to advertise much earlier.
- The second bar night of the year is fully organised and on the 2nd of November, this we hope to be a huge success. At this event we have introduced non drinking competitions such as apple bobbing races to get friendly rivalry involved in the event.
- The Christmas dinner has also been completely organised with ticket sales later this month, this dinner will be held in the Millennium Gloucester Hotel to celebrate all reaching the end of the first term and moving into the next academic year.
- The RSMU is also running an organised group to attend the Women in Engineering and Technology event at the Science Museum on 8th November. We think this is a really great opportunity for prospective women in stem to really find out more about the opportunities available.
- We are introducing a new arts and craft event on November 1st, this is strongly linked to our welfare team and aims to provide a welcome distraction for a couple of hours from the pressure of deadlines.
- QuadUnion bar night, formerly TriUnion, is currently also in the process of being planned.
- Bottle match planning is well underway. Initially we had issues with the organiser in Cornwall dropping out from their position however through our continued efforts organisation of this event is back on schedule. Travel and accommodation is all organised, ticket sales will be much nearer to the time.

Clubs and Societies

Term has only just started and so there has been very little time for clubs and societies to run events.

DepSocs

DepSocs and the union have worked very closely to ensure as wide a range of experiences as possible is available to students. DLB, GeophysSoc and MatSoc all held a welcome reception for their respective freshers after the introductory talks on Monday.

De La Beche Society (DLB)

- DLB held a joint talk on 5th October with Geophysics Society. This was a huge success with 45-50 people attending.
- DLB have organised their first trip to Devon on 10th – 12th November. This has sold out at 45 people and we hope will be a huge success. They have also organised their second trip in March planned for 30 students.
- Planning for the DLB symposium is well underway. The event will be on the 31st Jan and normally attracts around 80-100 attendees. The annual symposium dinner is currently being organised for afterwards.
- DLB is looking to introduce a new “Junior Symposium” where instead of world leading experts, 4th year and PhD students are invited to talk on their current research to 1st and 2nd year students, this is planned to be in the final term of the year.
- The idea of running an international trip has been delayed due to the logistics and time constraints, they are still very much keen to maintain this as a possibility in the future.

Geophysics Society (GPS)

- GPS held a really successful field day where younger years were provided the opportunity to gain practical experience using field equipment not normally available until their third year.
- GPS have announced their tour this year will be a one week trip to visit the Azores. Numbers have increased from normally 20 people to 26 and will last one week. They held their initial information talk which as expected showed a really strong interest in the trip.
- Their second talk of the year will be with the UCL director of Geohazards – the date is yet to be finalised.
- Bowling is planned for the start of the next term.

Materials Society (MatSoc)

- MatSoc had their first event of the year as bowling on Tuesday 10th. This had 30 people attend and ran brilliantly. These people then for the most part came along to QuadUnion Carnival.
- They ran their first lecture of the year on nanomaterials. This was a huge success with over 100 attending which for a small department was a great result.
- Materials are running a careers day with a range of companies coming in on the 1st November.
- Trips to Airbus and the diamond synchrotron are planned and we hope tickets will go on sale in the coming weeks.
- The next MatSoc lecture will be from Rolls-Royce.

RSM Sports Teams

Training is well under way for all sports bar rugby who will start training late November time. This year saw the unofficial start of two new sports, lacrosse and women's football. These are both being run on internal trial years and if all goes well we hope these to apply for proper societal status next year. Initially lacrosse has regularly seen attendance of 30 people. Women's football seems to be struggling for numbers which we are hoping changes. There has been a successful uptake of first year students predominantly due to sign up at the freshers fair.

Student Support

Our academic liaison officer and welfare officer have been hard at work conducting the freshers fortnight survey to obtain feedback from freshers on how they have found the first two weeks at the RSM. The survey has recently closed and we hope to have the results and identify target areas for the coming year based on this in the coming weeks. Our welfare officer is currently working closely with the wellbeing network and we are in the process of fully integrating the new roles and determining the best way to utilise them within the RSMU.

The RSMU is currently pushing for a "Social Awareness" course to be run in the RSM, similar to the active bystander training many staff currently undertake. We believe this will help to support a culture of social responsibility within the RSM and help prepare people for a range of situations both in university and outside.

Council
7th November

Regalia

We have already successfully held three regalia sales with record amounts being sold before the Christmas dinner. The regalia officers have successfully conducted a stock count and are in the process of ordering new stock. We are currently looking at introducing alumni specific regalia and after discussing with the RSMA they also seem keen for this idea. We hope to advertise this at the annual RSMA dinner (November 24th) and sales to start shortly after.

Alumni Relations

This year we have made a concerted effort to try and utilize the alumni connections that we have. This has been mentioned previously with the re-introduction of an alumni speaker at the freshers dinner and also the introduction of RSMA regalia. We have two other initiatives to improve our relationships.

- The RSMU is currently planning to introduce an “Alumni Magazine”. This will be a student run magazine featuring articles from alumni on their careers, current work and experiences. This we hope will have a range of authors from recent to graduates to more senior figures. The RSMA have been contacted whom seem very keen on the idea. We are hoping to have the first copy drafted by the end of term and publishable by our return in January.
- The RSMU is looking to utilize its alumni to run a career/networking event. This we hope to run in conjunction largely with the magazine so that authors come into the department and students have the opportunity to discuss and ask questions. No dates for this event have been officially discussed.

Finances

The RSMU started the financial year in a stronger position than in the past three. This is brilliant as it has meant that we were able to subsidise events such as freshers dinner more than previously expected. We are currently firmly in the red however this is to be fully expected with the upcoming away bottle match. We have currently paid travel and accommodation, over £6000, which is expected to be immediately made up come ticket sales.

Sponsorship at a union level has thus far been unsuccessful due to the necessity to improve the portfolio dramatically from last year. This has been identified as a target area and we have taken stages to build from materials success and construct a professional portfolio for the coming year. The DepSocs and some sports teams have been successful in obtaining sponsorship.