

# RSMU Report

Union Council  
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## RSMU Overview

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## Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Royal School of Mines Union's activities so far and any plans for the rest of the year. I have detailed my plans and those of my officers below.

Throughout Autumn Term the RSMU events were either well attended or lacking participation, however we see this as an improvement upon the 20/21 turnout and hope to increase the engagement with students during the upcoming months. Spring Term is an exceptionally busy time of year in the RSM with multiple highlight events including Beat the Blues, Hill Cup, Matermine and the infamous Bottle Match. The RSM will not lose sight of academic or welfare concerns held by students and continue to offer support in the run up to exams and deadlines season.

## Goals As President for this term

1. Carry out a successful Bottle Match Varsity by making sure 164 Royal Miners have a safe and enjoyable weekend in Cornwall competing with Camborne School of Mines.
2. Come to conclusive decisions surrounding a June Bottle Match in London and put the infrastructure for the event in place.
3. Promote roles in the RSM open for nomination in the upcoming leadership elections to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

## RSMU Academics

The main focus of the Vice President Education (VPE) this year has been to ensure that the return to in-person teaching in the Royal School of Mines (RSM) is a success. Mainly, to ensure that the standard of teaching matches that of recent years. Both departments have returned to in-person teaching extremely well and students are enjoying their return to their respective departments. Moreover, the VPE, in addition to the two departmental representatives, is responsible for reacting to the responses from the National Student Survey of the recently graduated cohort. This role differs for the two departments quite drastically, since Earth Science and Engineering received the highest score for student satisfaction within the Faculty of Engineering, and Materials received the lowest. To that end, a stronger focus lies within the Materials department to elevate student satisfaction. The VPE has also attended various faculty and union education meetings, and will continue to represent the student voice at these meetings.

Looking ahead to the rest of spring term and into the summer term, both departments see a return to in-person teaching, coming off the back of an initial two-week delay subject to safety concerns after the Christmas break. Hopefully both cohorts will continue to immerse themselves into their on-campus activity and enjoy their educational experience here in the RSM.

## RSMU Welfare

The Vice President Welfare (VPW) and Vice President Activities & Events (VPAE) worked in partnership to host a week of mood-boosting activities for January 'Beat the Blues'. The schedule was packed with a range of events from activity-based socials to artistic, de-stressing sessions – all while maintaining a good mix of online and offline activities to encourage inclusive participation. Please find the timetable below. These events encouraged students to take a break from their studying to improve their mental and physical wellbeing, while continuing to connect the cohorts and departments. While participation varied, the VPW notes that there was generally a struggle to engage students for this series of events as attendance was lower than hoped and expected, especially in comparison to the previous term.

Additionally, the VPW has successfully hosted the Faculty of Engineering (FoE) Wellbeing SSC and worked closely with student representatives within the RSM to ensure continued student support including over the Winter break. The VPW also looks forward to welcoming the newly appointed full-time student wellbeing advisor of Materials, and working with the rest of the wellbeing teams to implement best practice across the departments. This is especially significant with the transition back to conventional in-person teaching, and unpredictable nature of the coming terms.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>Bowling</b> 17:00 - 18:00 Location: Queens Price: £7 pp</p>	<p><b>Rock'n'Talk</b> 12:30 - 13:30 Location: U. Bar Price: Free</p> <p><b>Vinyasa Yoga</b> 18:30 - 19:30 Location: Online Price: Free</p>	<p><b>Dog Bingo</b> 12:45 - 13:20 Location: Hyde Park Price: Free</p> <p><b>Zumba</b> 18:30 - 19:30 Location: Online Price: Free</p>	<p><b>Chess Tournament</b> 17:30 - 19:00 Location: Online Price: Free</p>	<p><b>Vegan Bake-Along</b> 17:00 - 19:00 Location: Online Price: Groceries</p>

## RSMU Events

### Autumn Term Events

October (Freshers' week)	November	December
<p>Oktoberfest Scavenger hunt Bowling South Kensington Pub Crawl 'RSM Olympics' /Sports day BHM film night Bar night Mini golf Freshers Dinner</p>	<p>Bar night Ice skating at NHM Escape room [V]</p>	<p>12 Days of Christmas advent calendar Murder mystery night Christmas buffet Movie Night</p>

Events throughout the autumn term were held with varying levels of success. Participation levels were highest during Freshers' week and steadily decreased as the term progressed and the academic workload intensified. For Freshers' week, the only event that was not well-attended was the Black History Month themed film night which was the collaboration between the RSMU and Filmsoc. Likely reasons for the low attendance are the event being on a Sunday (people are not typically on campus at the weekends and travel options are more limited) or the choice of film being more niche- however it addressed important issues that a more mainstream film may not have. Whilst a reasonable number of tickets were sold for the mini golf event, attendance on the day was low. To mitigate this in future, reminders would be provided the day before to maximise event retention.

In November, the Union bar night was generally well-received with the glow in the dark face paint proving popular. Ice skating at the NHM was better than expected with attendance from a wider range of students (particularly a higher proportion of Materials students) and more tickets sold overall than in previous years. The final event planned for November was the virtual escape room. This was cancelled due to a lack of interest, likely due to people preferring in-person activities whilst in-person lectures are ongoing.



For December, the 12 Days of Christmas advent calendar received quite low participation, this may be a result of exam preparation being priority or the coincidence of the virtual advent calendar with the Department of Materials kindness calendar which was also being posted in the same channel. The Christmas murder mystery did not go ahead. Movie Night (scheduled 17<sup>th</sup> December) was cancelled, and the Christmas buffet (scheduled 12<sup>th</sup> December) was postponed to January 16<sup>th</sup> due to the suspension of in-person activities.

## Upcoming Events

February	March	April	May	June
Secret cupid Sweetheart's hangout Pre-bottle bar night Bottle Match! Post-bottle bar night	Women in STEM events Mastermines Easter egg hunt Spring dinner History of the RSM exhibition Hill cup	Post- exam gaming afternoon [V]	RSM fashion show Photography competition [V]	Water fight- students vs. lecturers/ ESE vs Materials RSM Hackathon Bottle Match

There are ongoing conversations within a Tri-Union (RSMU, CGCU and RCSU) events working group for activities in the Spring and Summer Term. We are excited for the prospect of working together and the types of activities we can provide to bring students from the different constituent unions together. The RSMU was granted £500 by the Faculty of Engineering to contribute to the Tri-Union events, which may include but are not limited to competitive pub quizzes, karaoke nights and an externally hosted club night.

## RSMU Clubs and Societies

### Bottle Match

160+ students representing the RSMU will travel to Cornwall on February 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> for the annual Bottle Match Varsity against Camborne School of Mines. The funding aspect of the varsity is covered in 'RSMU Finances' and the event is expected to cost ~£18k in total. Despite the increased cost of running the event, the Bottle Match working group, made up of 4 members of the RSMU Exec team, have aimed to keep ticket prices consistent with previous years at £65 to keep the event accessible for students, who may not feel able to attend given the price was higher. The weekend will involve tennis, badminton, hockey, netball, squash, football and the all-important rugby match. 2 days of sports matches will be followed by awards and celebrations with students from Falmouth-Exeter University on Penryn Campus. Unlike previous years, there is the opportunity for RSMU attendees to explore the coastal town of Newquay on the final day.

As stated in the previous report, there is a second Bottle Match planned for June 2022, to compensate for the varsity lost due to Covid-19 in 2021. The dates of this weekend of sport, to be held in London, have not yet been confirmed.



## DepSocs

- Materials Society (MatSoc)

This past term has been a successful one for the Materials Society. As well as continuing the popular lunchtime lecture series they have also hosted several external companies encouraging students to explore a variety of careers in and around Material Science. On a non-academic side, they hosted the annual Christmas curry in December, an event well-attended by all year groups. Heading into the new year, they are hosting the annual MatSoc New Years Dinner as well as planning several events as part of the annual Geology vs Materials Hill Cup competition. Enthusiasm is still high across all year groups, and they hope to retain this high level of engagement throughout the rest of the year. Other initiatives still in the pipe line are the creation of a student-alumni mentorship scheme and the publishing of the next MatSoc magazine issue.

- Geology Society

The Geology Society had a very successful Freshers' Fieldtrip to Somerset over a weekend in late November, with high first year student involvement and very positive feedback. Over 40 students travelled to the Mendip Hills, exploring Fairy Cave Quarry whilst not missing out on society traditions such as fancy-dress dinner in the bunkhouse. Looking forward, we have a talk from a GIS specialist from RSK in the coming weeks and plans are well underway for our annual Symposium, this year titled 'Planetary Processes: Earth and Beyond', which this year we are excited to be hosted back in person in early March.

The society is still actively searching for a sponsor, merchandise with the new logo and name is waiting for stock availability and plans for election recruitment are also underway. We are looking forward to a successful spring and summer term ahead, also working in collaboration with the Department of Earth Science and Engineering to host a second-hand field gear sale in the best interest of students and recycling clothes whilst also raising money for good causes.

- Geophysics (GPS)

Geophysics Society concluded last year by securing two new sponsors. They also organised an Industry virtual talk with their main sponsor, focused on the future of Geoscience and AI. This talk attracted students from across all years. The social that was organised was very successful and well-attended. Currently, the society are planning another social as well as an academic talk focused on PhD's and climate change. The society are also starting to think about the tour which will be happening in Summer.

## Sports

This term, all RSM sports teams have competed in LUSL and IA leagues. Turnout from RSM and non-RSM players has been high, particularly with netball and football who have had huge interest from non-RSM students. Financially, the majority of RSM sports teams are doing well. The introduction of IA has benefited teams such as hockey and badminton who have had no external costs so far this year. However, for netball and football the transition into IA has been far from smooth. Both teams have experienced IA prioritising court hire for Imperial teams and so have had to source courts from external venues -



something which IA is not supporting the cost of. If this continues to be a problem next term, both clubs will begin to struggle financially. Another key issue all teams have experienced is the lack of kit. This has been mainly due to IA giving the RSM clubs very high membership targets. An example of this is badminton whose target is 45 students, but only normally have 10 students who would play in LUSL, and therefore pay for bronze membership. Because of this, RSM sports clubs aren't achieving enough bronze memberships for kit, and so have been forced to play without. This is an issue heading towards Bottle Match but is something we are liaising with IA about and hope to sort before the end of February.

## RSMA Collaboration

The relationship between the RSMU and the RSMA remains positive, with the RSMU President and Honorary Secretary attending meetings, as well as the three Dep Soc Presidents. I, in my position as RSMU President, act *ex officio* as a Trustee of the Royal School of Mines Association Trust.

The RSMU is grateful for the continued support of the RSMA through events and subsidy of events, bettering the academic/welfare experience, and careers offerings for its students. Executive Committee presented a Grant Proposal to the RSMA at its most recent meeting and is pleased to report the proposal was warmly accepted. This grant will support costs of the Spring and Summer Term Bottle Matches, welfare events and the RSMU Spring Dinner/Awards Night on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

The RSMA Dinner was held in November at the Rembrandt and was highly successful. Students were thankful for the sponsorship of their tickets through RSMA members and used the opportunity to both network and chat with alum. The RSMU also looks forward to hosting RSMA Careers Night on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March. We hope for good student attendance, facilitated by selecting speaker's representative of both Materials and ESE students across the undergraduate department.

As of the New Year, the Honorary Secretary sits on a small workgroup with senior members of the RSMA. The workgroup aims to strengthen the relationship between students and the RSMA, through educating students on the activities and the support of the RSMA. The workgroup has a 'deadline' of the Summer Barbeque to plan and prepare actions towards the goal of elevated numbers of graduating students becoming members of the RSMA.

## RSMU Finances

The RSMU Finances are in a healthy position. The bounce back in events since the previous year of covid has seen increased generosity of funding for all events.

Our Spring dinner, which is in place to celebrate the RSM, has gained £500 of financial support from the RSMA and £500 from the Faculty of Engineering (FoE).



For February Bottle Match the Earth Science department (ESE) have pledged £1000, the Royal School of Mines Association (RSMA) have pledged £1100, and the Materials department have pledged £25 per materials student, which we hope to amass to £1000. Documentation for these funds is currently being processed. Despite more generous funding, an increase in accommodation and travel expenditure means the RSMU will still be required subsidise £1850 to break even.

The intention is to apply for ADF funding to cover part of this. In previous years the Union grant would have covered this, however this was recalled in the 20/21 academic year. The Union grant this year will cover the postponed home bottle held in June but does not cover this year's regular away Bottle Match. Suggestions by the DPCS is that SGI funding should be used, as our accounts hold large SGI reserves however the agglomeration is likely due to incorrect funding codes. This will be rectified using transaction corrections this term to assure funding is fully representative of financial activity throughout the group.

Budgeting is underway for our 10 CSPs, overseen by the VPCS and Treasurer.

If you have any other comments or would like to discuss RSMU activities to a greater depth, you can contact me at [rsm.chair@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:rsm.chair@imperial.ac.uk)

