

# RSMU Report

**Union Council**  
10/1/2023

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## RSMU Overview

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## Introduction

The report below gives an overview of the Royal School of Mines Union's activities since the November report, as well as our goals and plans going forward.

Generally all areas of the RSMU had a really strong start to term. Events towards the end of the autumn term saw far lower levels of participation than expected, so we will be looking to boost student engagement, especially ahead of the upcoming Spring Term elections.

Spring Term is the RSM Union's busiest time with Hill Cup pt. 3, Re:Freshers fortnight [FKA Beat the week], Spring dinner, Women in STEM Brunch, plus The Bottle Match, as well as several major exams and deadlines during both January and March that we will continue to support our students through.

## Goals as President for this term

1. Host a successful and safe 121<sup>st</sup> year of Bottle Match, ensuring continued good relations with our competitors, the Cambourne school of Mines (University of Exeter).
2. Achieve a full and equipped committee for next academic year by utilising multimedia promotion of roles prior to the Spring leadership elections nominations period and streamlining the role handover process.
3. Continue to encourage greater unity and collaboration across the RSM departments, deptsocs, clubs, and alumni (RSMA).



## RSMU Academics

The role of Vice President Education (VPE) is to ensure a positive learning environment and quality teaching for all RSMU undergrads and postgrads. The Vice president of Education has been involved in departmental and faculty level meetings and will give an update on progress made since November at 10/01/23 Union Council.

## RSMU Welfare

This year, the Vice President of Welfare (VPW) and the Vice President of Activities and Events (VPAE) have been working collaboratively to present the rebranded event “ReFreshers” FKA Beat the Blues ” in hopes of providing chances for relaxation and community-building in the gloomy and cold weeks of January. These are times where students are encouraged to take part and unwind. A variety of activities were selected keeping inclusivity and convenience in mind to provide de-stressing and fun events. A provisional timetable is shown below with week one on the top row and week two on the bottom. At the request of the students, it was decided to space out the events across two weeks rather than having them all packed within one week, so students can attend more and not get overwhelmed.

In order to provide interesting events for the students, it was decided to focus on collaborations with societies and with friendly competition between the departments. Requests are being made to collaborate with TabletopSoc, DogSoc, UltimateFrisbeeSoc, FilmSoc, BakingSoc, and various RSM sports societies.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sun
<b>Games Night</b> 18:00-20:00 Collaboration with <i>TabletopSoc</i>		<b>Dog Petting</b> 12:00-15:00 Collaboration with <i>DogSoc</i>		<b>Ultimate Frisbee</b> 13:00-16:00 Collaboration with <i>UltimateFrisbeeSoc</i>		
	<b>Film Night</b> 18:00-20:00 Collaboration with <i>FilmSoc</i>		<b>Bake-Off</b> 14:00-19:00 Collaboration with <i>BakingSoc</i>		<b>Sports Day: Hill Cup Pt3</b> 12:00-18:00 Collaboration with <i>RSM Sports</i>	



## RSMU Events

### Autumn Term Events

October	November	December
Oktoberfest (For Returning Students) (2nd of October) -- Freshers Week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scavenger Hunt (Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:15pm-6:15pm, ~25ppl)</li> <li>• Bowling (Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>, 5pm-6pm, ~25ppl)*</li> <li>• Pub Crawl (Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>, 7pm- late, various locations, ~100ppl)</li> <li>• Paintballing (Monday 10<sup>th</sup> --&gt; Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October or Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>) - Hill Cup Part 1</li> <li>• Bar Night (Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• Karaoke (VPW) (Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• Freshers Dinner (Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Copthorne Tara)</li> </ul>	<b>November Bar night (3<sup>rd</sup> November)</b> -- <b>MasterMines - Hill Cup part 2 (18<sup>th</sup> November)</b> -- <b>Ice Skating at Winter Wonderland (23<sup>th</sup> November)</b>	<b>Christmas Duffet (9<sup>th</sup> December, The GOAT Chelsea)</b>

There were 4 events organized by the Vice President of Activities and Events after the Freshers Week events, these are emboldened and highlighted in yellow in the table above. The events were held with varying levels of success. All October events were briefed in the previous Union report.

The first of the 4 events held since the last report, the November Bar night, was a great success. The Bar Night was done with a Casino theme and people were encouraged to be dressed as if they were going to a Casino as well. We provided people with playing cards and poker chips (no real money was involved) and had several tables where games of poker, blackjack or any other card games that people wished to play was happening. The turnout was around 50 people, slightly less than 70 that we anticipated, but it was a success overall with people having fun and interacting with students from different departments and years. The second event, MasterMines, was arguably the biggest success. MasterMines is a tradition in RSM in which lecturers and students from the departmental societies compete against each other in a quiz. We combined this event with our Hill Cup, a traditional RSMU tournament (not seen since 2018/19) where students from Materials Society, GPS and Geology Society compete against each other, to see which departmental society will end up on top.



MasterMines had around more than 50 participants (around 10 teams of 5) and with the help of the Balls Officers and the Honorary Secretary as co-hosts of the event, a quiz in the form of “Jeopardy!” was played. Some teams had lecturers, some didn’t, and some were just lecturers, and in the end, a team consisting of ESE students and Riki Clarke won the game, concluding Part 2/3 of Hill Cup (Materials 1 – ESE 1). The main takeaway from this event was to ensure better communication with the lecturers as the Materials Student Office did not forward the email invitation and in the end, the Senior Tutor had to help us last minute to get lecturer participation. The final two events were not very successful. Due to our account being frozen on the Union Shop, we couldn’t start ticket sales fast enough for the Ice Skating and although we were expecting around 20 people, only 6 turned up. This is both due to promoting the event late and the event coinciding with some submissions. The Christmas Dinner on the other hand had much worse attendance. This might be attributed to a number of different reasons: the event planning started late, the committee did not communicate efficiently, almost all years had exams and/or submissions, the price for the menu was £6 more expensive than last year (£30). Although the dinner was enjoyed by everyone that attended, the event could have been done in a much better way. Last year, the event was done in January, and I believe that we should have done that this year as well. The ideal dates are either the 16<sup>th</sup> of December (which is usually when MatSoc Christmas Curry takes place) or the first week back from the break. With better communication within the executive committee for the dinner plans, the organisations of such events will be much smoother. Although the restaurant was kind enough to not charge for the lower turnout (which was lower than what we reported to them), our deposit of £500 will be lost.

## Upcoming Events

January	February	March	May	June
Hill Cup part 3 (23 <sup>rd</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> January)	Pre-Bottle Bar Night: Monday (Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February)	Quad-Union Beit Takeover (3 <sup>rd</sup> of March)	RSM Gaming Tournament	Mini Golf --
--	--	---		History of the RSM exhibition (date TBC)
Beat the Blues - rebranded as ReFreshers week (end of Jan)	Bottle Match (17th-18th of February)	Spring Dinner (~17 <sup>th</sup> March)		--
	--	Women in STEM bottomless brunch		RSM (charity) sports event-students vs lecturers
	Post-Bottle Bar Night (23rd of February)			

The events for the next terms have been decided for the most part, but there might be some slight changes to some. Assuming all will happen, January will host the final part of the Hill Cup with a sports theme. The Beat the Blues week that the VPW organised last year will be rebranded as ReFreshers fortnight as it is hoped that the participation will increase with this change. Most likely, the two events will be combined and the last part of the Hill Cup will be included in the ReFreshers fortnight. The planning for this week has started and the events within this week will soon be confirmed. February will consist of the Bottle Match events as it is the headliner event that most RSM students are looking forward to. Then after that, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, a Quad-Union (RSMU, CGCU, RCSU and ICSMU) event will hopefully happen using the Beit quadrangle and bars. Similar to last year’s Tri-Union, the unions



will work together to host an occasion that includes fun events such as fairground games, challenges, competition for mascots and possibly a fundraising competition between the unions. The dress code will be CU themed. Later in March, we will have the Spring Dinner where the following will be announced: RSMU awards, Hill Cup winners and winners of RSMA essay competition/bursaries. We are also hoping to have a Women in STEM bottomless brunch. We will not be hosting any events on April as it was found to be unsuccessful last year since most students are too busy with exams, including the committee members. However, a gaming tournament can happen with the collaboration of the E-Sports Society to have a relaxed end to exams. Lastly, in June, we are hoping to have a mini golf event, a History of the RSM exhibition (maybe delayed until RSM's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary) and a RSM sports clubs students vs lecturers charity event .

## RSMU Clubs and Societies

### Bottle Match

Bottle Match (17-18<sup>th</sup> February) plans have been severely delayed, due to issues with the legitimacy of Autumn elections, leaving the role of Vice President (Clubs & Societies) effectively unoccupied. In spite of these setbacks, the Bottle Match T-shirt design competition has been launched and sponsorship possibilities are being explored. We will be working closely with Ceri Harvey (Sports Coordinator, Falmouth & Exeter Students' Union), Roberto Sorrentino/ Union events team, and James Perry/ Imperial Athletes in the next few weeks to pull off a wonderful varsity weekend for all our sports teams.

### DepSocs

- Materials Society (MatSoc)

Materials Society (MatSoc) rounded off the Autumn Term with its annual Christmas favourite: MatSoc Christmas Curry and will be finalising plans for its annual Matsoc formal dinner at the end of January. Planning for MatSoc summer tour will also be getting underway this term to ensure an exciting, and enriching, end to the academic year.

- Geology Society

Following the postponement of the Freshers' Fieldtrip, planned for the 11-13th November 2022, GeoSoc will be looking into the feasibility of rescheduling the trip to take place before the end of the academic year. GeoSoc is working hard to prepare for its annual symposium which is scheduled for February 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Geophysics (GPS)

The Geophysics Society (GPS), had a successful first social to Flight Club Victoria in November and are continuing to connect with their members, through their active Instagram presence. Looking to the term ahead, GPS will be organising lunchtime talks and setting the groundwork for Geophysics international tour 2023.



## RSMA Collaboration

The RSMU and the RSMA continue to have a positive and growing relationship. The RSMU President and Honorary Secretary, as well as the Presidents of all three department societies attend regular meetings with the RSMA committee. The RSMU President also sits on the RSMA Board of Trustees ex-officio.

The 137th Annual RSMA Dinner was held on the 25th of November 2022 at the Rembrandt Hotel and was extremely successful, with 50 student attendees spread across both departments. Students of Years 2, 3 and 4 were grateful for the sponsorship they received on their dinner tickets and used the dinner as an opportunity to thank their sponsors and have an informal chat with them. The dinner was also a great way to make the students aware about the RSMA and the support it provides to the RSMU.

The first working group meeting for the RSMA Mentoring Scheme was held in the autumn term, and the student sign-up form was circulated to students of Years 3 and 4 as an action from that meeting. Continued efforts are being put in to initiate an alumni sign-up form, iron out safeguarding concerns and hence be able to match mentors with prospective mentees. We aim to launch this scheme by mid Spring Term.

We also look forward to hosting our annual RSMA Careers Evening on 6th February 2023, Monday. We expect good student attendance, as the Honorary Secretary is liaising with the RSMA to find speakers from diverse career backgrounds of both ESE and Materials departments alumni, to provide students with all-round knowledge about all career paths available to them.

The RSMU is very grateful for the continued and growing support from the RSMA and the grants/subsidies it provides to students to better their university experiences. The RSMU also appreciates the positive relationship it shares with the alumni in terms of career events and mentoring.

## RSMU Finances

Opening balance of £726.14. The financial situation currently is not ideal, however, we are still in the process of chasing missing sponsorship and outstanding payments that are worth £3889.70 in total. We will be closely following this up to make sure that the monies are received. Also, we are currently in the process of finalising our grant proposals for the Faculty of Engineering and the Royal School of Mines Association (RSMA), which would hopefully improve the current financial situation. With the upcoming events and the Bottle Match Varsity, we have also been liaising with the Departments of Materials and Earth Science and Engineering to decide on the terms for donations, which has since been changed as mentioned in the previous Union Report.



The RSMU Departmental Societies and sports clubs are currently in a healthy financial position. The issue of missing grant money with Football, Hockey and Netball, as stated from the previous Union Report, has since been resolved and the money received as grant from the Activities Development Fund (ADF) last November. On the other hand, we would like to express concern about the Clubs, Societies and Projects Board's (CSPB's) decision to prematurely rip-up the ring-fenced budgets for the RSMU and RSM Motor Club, which also applies to our counterparts in the CGCU and RCSU. The original Constituent Unions and their vintage vehicle mascots represent, and is part of the rich history of Imperial. The motor clubs rely heavily on grant to maintain the vehicles, which can be enjoyed by all members of our ICU. The abolishment of the ring-fenced budgets for the CUs/ motor clubs would not only leave the vehicles into disrepair, but also take away students' ability to enjoy pieces of College history. It also detracts from the financial viability of continuing historical traditions, such as the annual Bottle Match varsity which is 120 years strong. The RSMU, along with the other CUs would bring this up formally in the next CSPB meeting to encourage reversal of this decision.

Thank you for your time.

If you have any questions, comments, or would like to further discuss RSMU activities, you can get in touch with me at [rmpres@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rmpres@ic.ac.uk)

