

RSMU Management Group: Club Reports

RSMU Exec Summary

The Royal School of Mines Union oversees 4 sports clubs, 2 departmental societies and 2 educational clubs. For a “campus union” that is discourteously looked down upon by other FU’s and the Union in the past we are surprisingly active for our size and have a reasonable turnover that has been reflected in this years figures.

The 5 clubs and societies that have membership already have **109** members, which accounts for **20% of our undergraduates** and there are 2 departmental societies that do not charge membership but have a large number of students continuously attend their events. As well as **2** formal dinners, **3** bar nights, **1** alumni networking evening and a variety of events organised during Freshers’ week to help integrate new students into the university that the RSMU Exec organised. Our clubs and societies have done so much more which include run **2 ULU league sports teams** that play weekly (RSM Hockey & RSM Football), organise nearly **10** educational lectures, **2** fieldtrips across the country and a wide variety of events ranging from paintballing to visiting large companies sites such as TATA steel. All within the first term! The RSM is brimming with energy and constantly organising new and ever more impressive trips.

The Spring Term is equally busy with many of the clubs & societies (particularly the sports teams) swelling in numbers due to the annual varsity match, Bottle Match. This is the 109th match and will culminate in 6 sports teams competing over a weekend against Cambourne School of Mines, University of Exeter. As well as the sporting events our clubs and societies tend to really develop and arrange trips that had been planned in the first term of the academic year. Currently 2 fieldtrips have already been decided upon by the DLB and MatSoc , tours organised by the Hockey and Rugby team as well as a potential trip to Utrecht University being organised by the RSMU Exec.

Organising all these events requires a large amount of money and for a “campus” union that only consists of two departments, the cost of running the clubs is **£21,100**^{*} . With our aims for a more encompassing role at Imperial College as a university and also in Imperial College Union we will definitely be increasing our revenue.

As always the RSMU is active at obtaining sponsorship and donations for its sports teams and helping to subsidise events that are accessibly to everyone. So far the Royal School of Mines has signed sponsorship agreements in excess of **£3000** and has generously received donations in excess of **£1300** and the rest of the academic year still remains. This displays a clear sign that the RSMU understands its financial responsibilities of trying to subsidise events to an affordable manner so more students can attend without imposing an unfair debt onto future committees. From 2008 to the beginning of 2010 there was a sharp decline in sponsorship and donations due to the economic climate. However with a (slow) financial recovery, the sponsorship deals have started to trickle again, which raises the prospects for an exciting future.

* Royal School of Mines Budget Submission 2009/2010

Functions & Events

This year events have been organised that are a mix of traditional and new. Freshers' week as with any FU is extremely busy and in this week the RSMU ran many events including a pub crawl, bar night and a formal dinner. In conjunction with our own events, we provided the support and encouragement to many of our clubs & societies to run their own events during Freshers' week to integrate as many students as possible into the Royal School of Mines.

During the academic year of 2010-11 so far the RSMU exec has organised 2 formal dinners that have had in excess of 120 people per event attend. These dinners have attracted extensive interest from external companies with the RSMU even managing to obtain a senior executive from Rio Tinto to be one of its guest speakers. The locations of these dinners have ranged from the UDH to Kensington Marriott displaying the execs ability to organise complex events that require a large amount of investment and forethought.

As well as formal dinners, we have organised many stable events that the Royal School of Mines are renowned for such as bar nights at the Union. During the Autumn term 3 bar nights were held by the RSMU that were filled to the brim with 1 bar night organised for and attended by Utrecht University, Netherlands that were travelling in London.

The remainder of the year is to be equally hectic, with the RSMU not slowing down after the first term. During spring term we are heavily preparing for our annual varsity match, which will be 109th Bottle Match. This year is the home game so we are organising transport for up to 200 players and supporters to Harlington as well as a dinner for our fellow competitors and ourselves before celebrating with an afterparty at Metric. Not content with this we have several bar nights planned, networking events with our alumni network (RSMA), formal handover meals, RAG events and potentially a tour to visit our fellow miners at Utrecht University in Holland.

Finances

As stated earlier the RSMU works extremely hard to obtain additional money to add to our grant from the Union and our variable SGI. Subsequently our finance varies from year to year and are quite dependent on the economy. With the credit crunch during the years of 2008-2009 this put a severe strain on finances with it culminating in a deficit of over £3000 at the end of the academic year 2009-2010.

However upon further investigation it turned out that the majority of this debt was due to uncollected sponsorship agreements and donations with over £4000 overdue from various companies and charities. This year we have focussed heavily on changing this by developing good contacts and deep relationships with the companies sponsoring us to prevent a scenario of having multiple unpaid invoices. Combined with this we have gone on a large offensive to get continued investment into the faculty with the RSMU obtaining donations and sponsorship agreements totalling **£5770** already. The aim is to raise even more money throughout the year to keep the prices of events as low as possible.

For a "campus" union consisting of 2 departments we have had a sales turnover of **£12462.42** in this academic year so far (2010-11) and during the year of 2010 the annual sales turnover was

17,873.25[†]. This displays that during autumn term (2010) we have produced **69.74%** of the year's (2010) sales turnover, which displays the hard work of the entire committee in the first term of 2010-11 and sets a precedent for what we hope to achieve for the remaining academic year.

Future Development

In the short term future (2011-12) the RSMU will be undergoing a tough financial year due to the bi annual away Bottle match that is extremely expensive as it involves organising transport, accomdation, food and all the other necessary costs associated with the match for over 100 people. So there will be an increased push to raise money to subsidise this trip and make it as accessible as possible.

Our clubs and societies currently have **109** paying members, which does not include all the people that attend DLB or MatSoc events (as they are departmental societies) and this number is sure to rise as the year continues. Our aim is to push for over **200** members in our 5 membership paying clubs in the next year, which would be an extremely high number for a faculty that only has **500** undergraduate students. The hope is with the future to hold a greater variety of events that will compliment the degrees and try to get more people involved with the Royal School of Mines and understand why it is an important part of Imperial College.

In the long term the RSMU wants to develop its involvement RAG and the GSA. It is important to acknowledge and work with these two groups as they represent areas that have not been given a chance to form a stable working relationship. With time the RSMU would want to hold charity events to help RAG and also help to integrate postgraduates into the faculty union. This is an area that all FU's are lacking currently and is one we would like to address with a greater involvement and organisation of post graduates.

As well as developing our relationship within the university, we would like to bring back some traditions that have been lost with time. The Royal School of Mines used to have flourishing relationship with many Earth Science & Materials' departments around Europe and this is one we would like to revive. This has already started with Utrech University from the Netherlands and we are hoping to restore links with departments in France and Spain. We would like to offer trips to other countries to meet students who are in a similar field will allow personal development as well as giving people an opportunity to visit other countries on subsidised trips that they would not be able to normally. With the world continuing to decrease in size with the amount of global connections this is seen as a vital way to allow students to develop culturally as well as socially.

DepSoc Clubs

De La Beche (Geology Department Society)

The DLB is an extremely active club, especially considering it is only a DepSoc club. They regularly organise lectures from outside speakers, go on fieldtrips once a term (these are not related to any of the assessed fieldtrips run by the courses) and also arrange a variety social events that involve interaction with MatSoc. For such a small club they successfully ran 4 lectures, 2 fieldtrips and 2 social events in Autumn term (2010-2011).

[†] This figure includes positive members funds (money generated during the academic year of 2009-10) and does not include unpaid sponsorship. Nor does it take any clubs or societies income into account.

However this comes at a price. Since the DLB is a DepSoc club they do not charge their members to join and obviously there is no charge for people attending lectures and coming to social events. This becomes an issue when they try to organise fieldtrips, as there are very few opportunities for the club to raise money and subsequently are unable to subsidise the fieldtrips. As a result the club is heavily dependent on sponsorship, which is not an ideal scenario to be in. The last academic year was a particularly bad year for the club for obtaining funding due to the economic climate in 2009.

MatSoc (Materials Department Society)

In a contrast to the DLB, Matsoc tends to focus more on the social side and usually provide the initial funding for social events that are joint with the DLB. The focus on the social side is due the Materials Science & Engineering (MSE) Department organising many lectures from various companies anyway and many guest lecturers. Also MSE department has notoriously had a very low participation rate for many events run by the RSM and it is something that is keenly being worked on, with the initial focus on getting many materials students involved with their own department before trying to get them to play a more active role within the RSMU.

The main triumphs of the club have been the organisation of fieldtrips to various modern facilities around the country (eg. Rolls Royce, TATA steel) that are due to take place during Spring ter. They are also currently organising more formal dinners to try to attract the quieter members of the department to their events.

In an almost similar manner to the DLB, MatSoc does not charge its members anything for attending its events but this makes organising fieldtrips harder. Granted the MSE department is very generous and regularly try to help out where they can financially but MatSoc are working on developing their budget and obtaining outside sponsorship to remove their dependence on the department.

GeoPhys Soc (Geo Physics Society)

GeoPhys is an unusual club in that it provides educational and social development for its members who are interested in geological physics, which is a separate course to Geology in the Earth Science Engineering (ESE) Department. However it was newly formed in 2008-2009 and subsequently it does charge its members to join and attend its events. This is a current running pitfall for the society especially when coming to its development. Obviously it would like to get more people to attend its events but charging people to attend a lecture is a hard sell (getting people to timetabled lectures is difficult enough)

Sports Clubs

RSM Hockey

RSM Hockey is one of the larger clubs within the Royal School of Mines, with them fielding a mens & womens team k to compete in their respective leagues and also the ULU Reserve Cup. With so many games, the cost of running their club is relatively high within the RSM. It is currently budgeted that their running costs will be **£7840** for 2010/11. As well as spending a large amount of money the club has managed to accrue money from other venues such as, **£1876** from the Harlington Grant to put towards 2 new goalie kits. As well as their running sponsorship deal with Schlumberger that continues to bring in money.

Currently the men's and ladies' teams are developing as the academic year continues. The men's side is currently on a cup run in the ULU Reserve Cup with them humiliating some Imperial College sides (ICHC 4ths) in the process. Like many sports clubs within the RSM their season pivots on the varsity match, Bottle Match. When this occurs there is a large influx of paying members and those that come to train.

RSM Football

The football side has been gritty as always with the team playing in ULU division 4 every week. The club had a succession of bad management decisions a few years ago that left the club with debt in excess of **£1800**. The club has continued its long battle to sort the cheque books and has continuing its large period of cuts and careful spending. Currently RSM football has secured a sponsorship deal that will pay for their kit, which is a burden off their mind. As well as this they are continuing to pursue small events to fundraise.

RSM Rugby

RSM rugby has had a history of being one of the most valued sports teams within the RSM due to the Bottle Match. Although the team does not compete in weekly games, it is a side that regularly travels around the country for its games as well as organising games against local teams. Similar to Hockey, the numbers within the team swell around January & February due to the Bottle Match. As well as this the club usually sees some form of sponsorship deal around this time between various companies. In 2010 the club was sponsored by DRS, whilst in 2009 sponsorship was obtained from BP.