

Council  
10 June 2014

## **Royal School of Mines Union** **End of Year Report: 2013-2014**



This academic year has seen the RSMU maintain its brilliant performance regarding events, club participation and student involvement.

The Autumn term saw the RSMU hold the traditional and highly popular events of Freshers' week, with a Freshers' dinner held in the Queen's Tower Rooms at which student behaviour was an improvement on previous years. The Freshers' week pub crawl was also more successful than ever. The "RSMU Olympics", a daytime sociable team event (introduced in 2012-2013), was continued. The aim of this is to have Freshers' events that can appeal to a wide range of students, especially those for whom drinking is not a focus. This event also promotes early integration and team spirit amongst the Freshers, and this year achieved higher participation than previously, which is a positive sign.

A great deal of effort was put in by the RSMU's clubs and societies at the start of term to gain interest from the new intake of students. The efforts of the presidents and captains paid off; RSMU hockey had the largest intake of first year students in many years and the De La Beche Society had increasing interest in the already incredibly popular field trips. Materials Society and Geophysics Society also had a successful year, with several talks being held for their students.

RSM Football should be mentioned in particular – this club has been troubled with historic debt for many years, but over the past two years, a great deal of effort has been put in by students of RSM Football, and the RSMU, to wipe this debt. Not only did they surpass their membership target this year, which obviously helps the club financially, but they also held another successful raffle at the Spring Dinner, supported by the generous staff and students of the RSMU.

Despite RSMU officially representing the interests of undergraduate students, over recent years there has been a push to generate greater attendance at our formal events by staff and postgraduates. This has proved successful, with this year 37 attending the Christmas Dinner and 35 attending Spring Dinner. The Royal School of Mines is a place in which there are good relationships between students and staff, so it is seen by the RSMU as a benefit to invite staff and postgraduates to our popular events.

The Bottle Match was as popular as ever this year with the RSMU taking over 150 students down to Cornwall, including some postgraduates and alumni. This traditional event is typically a fail-safe for the RSMU, this year the bonus being the fact that not only was the Bottle retained but the Men's & Women's Hockey both won on away ground; believed to be the first time this has happened in the history of the event. Basketball was also reintroduced to the schedule this year, and was enjoyed by players and spectators alike, so is something that can hopefully continue in future years.

The RSMU Exec accounts are healthy: all of the Union grant money has been spent, and the Exec is left with an SGI of £2700, which will be an important buffer for the next committee in case of problems obtaining sponsorship. In addition to funding from the union, the RSMU is also very grateful to the Faculty of Engineering and the RSMA, both of whom continue to financially support the RSMU each year.

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