

RSMU Start of Term Report for Council

RSMU President Sam Argyle



Events

Over the summer break preparations were made for Freshers' Fortnight and Autumn Term as a whole.

- We have had our introductory talks to ESE and Materials. At which the Freshers handbook was given out, outlining all events and introducing the committee.
- Tuesday 6th October saw a very successful Pub Crawl as the first event, to which there was a huge turnout, with students from every year as well as postgrads/alumni alike.
- Thursday 8th October was the first bar night of the year, with movie themed fancy dress. This was very successful – sold out.
- Saturday 10th October was the RSM non-drinking event, RSM Olympics, which is a sports day style event that is totally inclusive. This year this was hilarious and everyone had a smile on their face at the end!
- Friday 16th October was the Freshers' Welcome Dinner, held at the Kensington Close Hotel, was very successful. Following the improvements to the event made last year, the same format was followed to reduce the possibility of over-intoxication and injury. The hotel were very happy to have us and our guest speakers, Professor Jan Cilliers and Professor Neil Alford, thoroughly enjoyed the event.
- We are now planning the November 5th bar night to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the 1st incarnation of the Davy Lamp (RSMU Mascot).
- Also planning the Christmas dinner to be held again at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel on the 18th December after the success of last year.
- Also a Tri-Union Bar Night is being planned (19th November)

Clubs and Societies

The term has just begun and so there has not been much chance for the DepSocs to run events. DLB, GeophysSoc and MatSoc all held a welcome reception for their respective freshers after the introductory talks on Monday.

DLB

- First talk of the year on 27th October
- Weekend field trip to Pembrokeshire 13th – 15th November
- DLB Symposium 3rd February
- Second DLB trip tbc (4th – 5th March)

GPS

- "Day in the field" teaching people to use Geophysical Equipment in Hyde Park - 21/10/2015
- First talk - 2/11/2015

Council
21st October 2015

- GPS are planning another trip at the end of the academic year

Matsoc

- Trip to Jaguar Landrover on 18th November
- Talks are being planned

RSM Sports teams

- Still looking for sponsorship
- Successful uptake of first year team members, partly due to a successful freshers' fair signup.
- All sports fixtures are continuing as last year

Bottle Match

The event will be held in Cornwall this year. There has been difficulty finding a campsite to take us all, this is due to the date falling at half term this year due to an early Easter. The solution is to get a closed campsite to open for us, or alternatively stay in Penryn instead of Newquay as we have done in previous away matches.

Real Ale Society (and past members) have had no contact with myself. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Regalia

We have already had a successful sale of current supplies, the Regalia officers have organised extra supplies of Hip Flasks.

Academic Liaison and Welfare

Drop in sessions started last year on Monday lunchtimes have continued, but have moved from the RSMU office to G35 room next to the undergraduate study room. These drop in sessions are there for students and are advertised weekly, however it is rare that someone drops in. We would like to create an in house student survey to gauge whether this is due to; a) not wanting to use a student run service to solve academic/welfare issues, or b) there being no pressing student issues in undergrad RSM students.

Finances

We had a revamped approach to our sponsorship application this year to try and encourage companies in a horrible economic climate to sponsor us. We have also looked outside the traditional Oil/Mining/Trading companies, applying to clothing companies and the finance sector. We have produced a glossy new flyer. We have also been phoning the companies that aren't replying.

- Currently we have had no success
- The contacts we have always used for sponsorship, who have always been happy to sponsor us, are no longer happy to do so.

We have had to put up events prices as a result, which some students are not happy with. E.g. Freshers dinner tickets were only subsidised for 1st years, older students had to pay face value, £35 and £38 respectively. Previous years we have been able to give £30 and £35 respectively. Similarly bar night had to go up from £7 to £10.

I worry that the increased prices will eventually lead to less people wishing to attend the events, if sponsorship is not soon acquired.