



## THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF MINES ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of the RSMA AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 Held at 58 Prince's Gate (6:30pm)

**Present:** John O'Reilly, Danny Hill, Glynne Lloyd Davis, Fiona Cassidy, David Bishop  
John Sharpley, Teresa Sergot, Tim Cotton, Celia Hayes, John Monhemius + 10 members of the  
RSMA

- 1) Apologies for absence: Prof. Rees Rawlings, Hannah Bungey, John Sykes, Mark Burridge, Paul Holmes, Lorraine Craig, Jim Platt, John Bramley, John Cosgrove, Robert Appleby, Bill Hooley, Franco DiGiovanni, Bernie Pryor, Mike Nott.
- 2) Minutes of previous AGM  
The minutes of the AGM held on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were approved.
- 3) Matters arising out of the minutes  
  
There were no matters arising out of the previous meeting
- 4) President's Report

The President submitted a formal report to the members which is summarised below:

*Another busy year for the RSMA committee. As reported last year, there had been much discussion with Imperial on the roles and rights of the Associations (RSMA and CGCA) and the ownership of member and alumni details. It was agreed that member data primarily belongs to the Associations and that "data controllers" from the Associations would be nominated and these will have unfettered access to the alumni database. Initially, for the RSMA, the nominated controllers will be the President, treasurer and membership secretary. Because of the requirements of data protection a formal Data Protection Agreement (DPA) document was signed in May by the RSMA and the college, specifying amongst other things the responsibilities of the "controllers". The college have offered to employ a temporary member of staff to process the reconciliation of members with dues paid and to ensure that as new members join the Association, the database is updated. This is in progress and will eventually give the RSMA the ability to contact all members by e-mail when necessary (eg for the annual dinner, AGM etc) and also to undertake an e-mail membership and fund raising drive say once every year. It is imperative that we have this ability as the RSMA relies on the financial support of alumni through membership dues and donations. Communications to alumni who are not members of the Association will be sent under the joint Imperial/RSMA banner. I reiterate the comments made last year that we must understand the changes (at Imperial), embrace and progress accordingly. Conversely the college must recognise the importance of the RSMA and our contribution to the RSM and I believe that we have achieved our objectives and the committee looks forward to an ongoing collaborative and transparent relationship with the college.*

*On the fund raising front an appeal for donations was issued to alumni in May for funds to improve the Association's ability to support the RSM and a new initiative was launched (the 100 club) which if successful will allow the RSMA to award scholarships to deserving or disadvantaged students. Details are on the website. The appeal is also to be placed on the Royal School of Mines (RSM) Alumni site on LinkedIn. There are 2096 members on that site but the Association only has 506 "paying" members so*

there is hopefully a huge opportunity to boost our membership. I apologise to members for any bombardment with appeals but we do rely on member's generosity. I also intend to have another attempt at soliciting corporate donations but in the current downturn in the mining and petroleum sectors, this may be ambitious.

The highlight of the calendar year was the 131st Annual Dinner held at the Rembrandt hotel, with 127 attendees covering seven decades of RSM students. It was very obvious that the spirit of the RSM remains strong and powerful. Guest speaker was alumnus Paul Atherley, Managing Director of Berkeley Energia who are developing the Salamanca uranium project in Spain. Paul gave an excellent presentation on his career and the details of the challenges facing a uranium project development. The Rembrandt will be the venue again for this year's dinner and hopefully we will have a similar turnout from members and students. The generosity of members in supporting student attendees is extremely gratifying. At the dinner, the Peter Harding Memorial Medal was awarded to Teresa Sergot for her unstinting efforts on behalf of the RSMA over many years. A standing ovation from all attendees was testimony to the respect and affection that she has earned. A new annual award, presented for the first time, was the Professor Rees Rawlings Award which recognises significant contributions to the life of the College community by younger alumni (aged less than 40 years). The initial recipient was John Sykes, now based in Perth (Australia), a former President of RSMU and still actively involved with the RSM. The prize is a working replica miner's lamp, suitably engraved, and the Association sincerely thanks Rees for generously sponsoring this award.

Following the success of the last two years events, in December the committee again gave a presentation to the students on the history, aims and membership of the RSMA. The challenge going forward is to better embrace the Materials Department students – the involvement with ESE is far stronger. The committee has had a very active relationship with Sam Argyll and Ellie Bryant, respectively President and Hon Sec of the RSMU. Both have strongly contributed to the RSMA activities within the college, and have encouraged student participation in RSMA events. I extend the thanks of the committee to both for their support and friendship. The rapport between the RSMA and the students continues to bode well for the future. On the sporting front, in the contests against Camborne, the Bottle was regrettably lost (5-14). However we retained the Sharpley Cup with a 3-3 draw in the mens hockey. We were again represented at the college alumni day in May but, apart from a reunion of the Metallurgy class of 1966, there were very few RSM alumni in attendance and we will have to rethink our participation in future years.

The RSM profile on LinkedIn and Facebook continues to strengthen with 2096 members on LinkedIn, and 485 likes on the Facebook page. It is recognised that social media provides an excellent communication media for alumni, especially for the younger generations, and that many may thus not see the need to also join the RSMA – however we will continue in our efforts to encourage membership. Tonight we entertain the students for the traditional final year Bar-B-Q and even with exam results due in the morning it was felt that this was the most appropriate date and venue to celebrate them leaving the RSM. Once again, a great thanks is due to alumnus Eddie Gadd who donated two pins of his finest Ramsgate Brewery Ale for the function. Unfortunately only one was collected! Go to [www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk](http://www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk) and I guarantee you will not be disappointed with the products.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the committee for their support and guidance. We have an excellent span of Royal School of Mines involvement and experience on the committee and we embrace many generations of alumni. For those committee members who have full time employment, many in high pressure jobs, their commitment is especially appreciated. And once again I repeat my words of last year with a very special thanks to Teresa who has been a great help, confidant and friend during my tenure. She retires from the college in September and will be sorely missed. Tonight I pass the presidential baton into the very capable hands of Tim Cotton, and I wish him every success and most of all enjoyment. It has been a privilege to have served the RSMA for the last three years. At times it has been frustrating but nevertheless rewarding and the RSM spirit, as ever, will always prevail.



## Discussion

John Sharpley raised a number of points:

- He questioned the RSMA community knowledge of the Alumni Open Day, indicating that many people did not know this was happening and that a representative of the RSMA would be there. J. O'Reilly informed him that there is advertising in the Imperial Engineer and that his point is taken on board.
- Mr Sharpley raised a point on the Annual Dinner, asking why the speaker usually spoke on mining and wondered whether, if this changed, we would see a greater turnout from petroleum students or those in materials. It was suggested by the incoming president that mining is usually the industry into which the majority of students wish to graduate into, but that if there are any suggestions for future speakers please get in touch with himself (Tim Cotton).

## 5) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer submitted a formal report to the members which is set out below:

*The as-yet un-reviewed and unaudited Trust and the Association accounts both show their respective accounting years closing in good financial health. In financial terms the Association's activities were in line with previous years. Income from subs showed a 7% increase over 2014-15, although a substantial number of members still pay considerably less than the £10 annual requirement. About 10% of this income is paid through the PayPal account, similar to recent past years.*

*The Association's two social functions in 2015, the Final Year Barbecue and the Annual Dinner, were both profitable, increasing funds by £218 and £615 respectively.*

| 2015 Social Functions          | Income | Expense | Profit/Loss |         |
|--------------------------------|--------|---------|-------------|---------|
|                                |        |         | 2015/16     | 2014/15 |
| Final Year BBQ – Profit/(Loss) | £1,590 | £1,372  | £218        | £45     |
| Annual Dinner – Profit/(Loss)  | £6,365 | £5,750  | £615        | £612    |

*An award of £1800 was made to the RSMU.*

*The financial year ended with a cash surplus of £3846 over expenditure, an increase over 2014/15, although this excludes an accrual against the Imperial Engineer costs which brings this own to closer to £3000.*

*Association funds at the year-end (31/03/2016) were:*

| Account                           | Type                  | Balance |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| a/c 61487485                      | HSBC current          | £15,485 |
| Royal School of Mines Association | PayPal                | £2,147  |
| 0.0.859114                        | Imperial College Loan | £30,168 |

*The RSMA Trust's activities through 2015 were also much in line with previous years. Generous donations were received totalling £1240. During the year student hardship grants totalling £925 were made, and a previous loan of £1000 was repaid in full.*

*Funds at the year-end (31/12/2015) were:*

| Account          | Type         | Balance |
|------------------|--------------|---------|
| a/c 61852175     | HSBC current | £2,591  |
| a/c 32059223     | HSBC current | £1,825  |
| RSMA Trust 55918 | CCLA COIF    | £39,051 |

## Discussion

John Sharpley highlighted the need to re-introduce the raffle at the annual dinner as a means of raising extra funds. This is duly noted by the committee, who explained that it is usually held every year but in the last dinner was omitted for various reasons.

### 6) Chairman of the Trust Board Report

The Chairman submitted a formal report to the members which is set out below; John Monhemius read on behalf of Prof. Rees Rawlings.

*The Trust remains in good financial health: the detail is presented in the accompanying annual accounts and Treasurer's Report. The students continue to make good use of our discretionary grants and loan schemes; grants totalling £1075 had been awarded to 5 students in 2015. Earlier this year (2016) we introduced an Expedition grants scheme to support students' exploration activities and I am pleased to report that the first awards have been made. A cheque will be presented once a report on the expedition has been received.*

*We introduced The Peter Harding Memorial Prize some years ago to honour Peter's memory; this prize was to recognise a long term commitment to the Royal School of Mines, Faculty of Engineering and Imperial College communities. Last year we introduced The Professor Rees Rawlings Award to recognise similar commitments from our younger alumni (aged under 40 years) and the first award was made to John Sykes. We also continue to promote our essay competition which this year attracted five entries from the Faculty; all were of a good standard and interesting.*

The winner for the essay competition 2016 is Giacomo Russo (Materials).  
The Peter Harding Memorial Prize is this year awarded to Paul Holmes.

### 7) Officers and Committee Members for 2015/16

The following nominations have been received:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| President:             | Tim Cotton   |
| Senior Vice-President: | Eleanor Jay  |
| Junior Vice-President: | Position unfilled  |
| Past-President:        | John O'Reilly  |
| Hon. Secretary:        | Hannah Bungey  |
| Hon. Treasurer:        | David Bishop   |
| VP International:      | John Sykes   |
| Membership Secretary:  | Coen Louwarts  |
| Members:               | Lorraine Craig<br>John Monhemius<br>Rees Rawlings<br>Noah Hawkins, (President RSM Union)<br>Evelyn Mason, (Hon Sec RSM Union)<br>Paul Holmes<br>Daniel Hill<br>Celia Hayes |
| Overseas:              | Giles Baynham (Canada)<br>Leah Glass (Australia)   |

The nominations were proposed and seconded by a member of the RSMA and passed unanimously. Luc Vandepierre has stood down from his role as Junior Vice President, it is hoped that he may be replaced by a nominee from Materials.

8) RSMA Trust Board 2015/2016

The following appointments to the RSMA Trust Board are;

| <u>Board Members:</u>          | <u>Trustees:</u>                    |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Prof. Rees Rawlings (Chairman) | Prof. John Monhemius                |
| John O'Reilly                  | David Bishop                        |
| Fiona Cassidy                  | Hannah Bungey                       |
| Coen Louwarts                  | Noah Hawkins (President RSM Union)  |
| Tim Cotton                     | Glynne Lloyd Davies (Hon Secretary) |

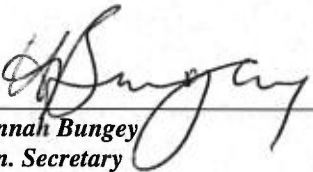
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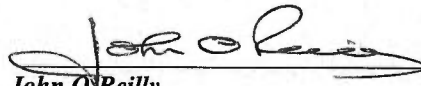
9) AOB

- The President refers to a previous proposal to make a trip to Eddie Gadd's Ramsgate Brewery, proposal was deemed favourable by several present and duly noted.
- Richard Simons proposes the need for an additional Alumni/Student joint event in the calendar.
- Sam Argyle (outgoing RSMU President) gives introduction of incoming RSMU President Noah Hawkins.
- The President reiterates thanks to outgoing RSMU Hon. Sec. and President (Ellie Bryant and Sam Argyle) for their great relationship with the RSMA and finally gives thanks to the RSMA committee members with special thanks to Teresa Sergot and her significant commitment to the RSMA.

Outgoing President (John O'Reilly) hands over medal to incoming President Tim Cotton.

The meeting closed at 19.15

  
Hannah Bungey  
Hon. Secretary

  
John O'Reilly  
President

Dated 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016

