



THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF MINES ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the RSMA AGM on 26 June 2014 Held at 58 Prince's Gate (6:30pm)

Present: Mark Burridge, John O'Reilly, Danny Hill, Glynne Lloyd Davis, Fiona Cassidy, John Sharpley, Prof. Rees Rawlings, Emily Pennington, Elly Jay, Nick Fern, Bernie Pryor, Hannah Bungey, Jack Judd, Teresa Sergot

- 1) Apologies for absence: Coen Louwarts, Paul Holmes, Giles Baynham, Leah Glass, David Bishop, Lorraine Craig, Luc Vandeperre, Prof. John Monhemius, Tim Cotton, Kurt Budge, Martyn Buttenshaw, Jim Platt, Robert Appleby, Mike Nott, Liv Carroll, Eddie Gadd; Richard Simons
- 2) Minutes of previous EGM and AGM
The minutes of the AGM held on the 27th June 2013 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:

It has been an eventful year with much activity but with questionable progress coupled with a personal degree of frustration. A key objective at the start of my term was to progress the renewed membership drive, as outlined in Mark's report at last year's AGM and also, at the same time, to solicit donations, both from members and industry, to the RSMA Trust. As the college are custodians of the IC alumni database the Association needed their co-operation to send out communications to both existing and potential association members, in order to access our members and alumni. A couple of frustrating months was spent in dialogue with the college as to who was allowed to do what in respect of fund raising for the alumni associations, not just RSMA, with the initial position of the college being that all IC (including the constituent colleges) fund raising should be through the office of Communication and Public Affairs, and that indeed it was their prerogative. This was obviously not our position, and eventually an understanding was reached and letters were e-mailed to those RSM alumni on the college database, requesting sign up to membership of the RSMA, if not already a member, upgrade their membership status (if not paying £15pa) and/or consideration of a donation to the Trust from all members. From nearly 5000 e-mails sent, the response was mixed with 71 new members signing up (including 10 students) and 34 members updating their membership status. On the donations front £540 was received and talking to many members who promised but did not deliver I feel there is definitely an inertia that we need to break through. At the same time as the letters were issued to alumni, I wrote to the major mining companies and selected individuals, some of whom are alumni, requesting donations but the response was totally negative, which was personally extremely disappointing. I do not know if the time of year of the solicitations (November) was a factor but a rethink and possibly another round of letters is probably needed. The appeal to members was also highlighted on our website to give maximum publicity. Whilst increased membership is a goal and key driver and strengthens the Association, 100 new members only brings in £1500pa in subscriptions. Therefore to substantially boost our financial position, donations are essential. Some positives emanated from the fund raising exercise in that we now have a better understanding and working relationship with the college, and are more familiar with the machinations of the college bureaucracy and key players. On the donations front I feel we have done the

Vedi, the Vidi but not the Vici. Coen espoused what the RSMA stands for in his 2012 President's report, which has not changed since the Association's formation, but the challenge now, in line with major changes within the RSM, is for the RSMA to understand the changes, embrace and progress accordingly. The RSM is certainly a different entity to my era and the challenge is to attune to the present and to anticipate the future.

The RSMA is strengthening its activity through the social media outlets such as LinkedIn and Facebook and hopefully will lead to an increase in membership through that generation of alumni who utilise these forums. We, or particularly Elly Jay, have also majestically improved the content of our website and this is now a professional forum for members to be kept abreast of activities and indeed to post their own news and articles. A priority must be to convince the non-members out there who access the forums of the benefits of RSMA membership. On LinkedIn we currently have 1742 active members and the challenge is to have an Association that they and others can relate to, and thus hopefully support.

What are the benefits? As constituted in 1913 some of the key points that our forefathers defined for the RSMA include

- To endeavour to maintain the identity of the RSM*
- To foster an enduring link between members of the Association and with the staff and students of the RSM thereby promoting comradeship and a source of mutual help and advice*
- To provide members with a forum for assisting both financially and in other ways, students in particular and the RSM in general*

A century later we live in a much changed world and the RSM as many of us knew and loved no longer exists, but it is incumbent on all of us to best maintain the history and tradition even in these changing circumstances. We need to fully understand the current college environment and the students. In engaging with the students a presentation was given, in November 2013, by RSMA committee members to the RSM students on the history, aims and membership of the RSMA. Attendance expectations were exceeded with about 80 students attending, due in part to Lorraine Craig's press-ganging efforts! It is paramount that the current generation of students understands what the RSMA exists for, and indeed if we can offer them something of value once they have left college, and the committee will continue to maintain a positive and visible interaction with the students.

Continuing on the student front, the committee has had a very active relationship with Emily Pennington and Jack Judd, respectively President and Hon Sec of the RSMU. Both have contributed to the RSMA activities within the college, and have encouraged student participation in RSMA events. The RSMU had a successful trip to Camborne for the sporting events in February even given the horrendous weather and floods in the South West at the time. Those students who experienced the freezing conditions of 2013 at Harlington had to endure yet more weather-dominated events in 2014. The Bottle which traditionally has been the focus of attention in the competitions against Camborne was retained in a hard-fought 6-6 draw and the squash, mens and ladies hockey were all successful but we went down in the football and netball. Altogether, a very commendable performance and congratulations are due to all who travelled and participated especially given those unfavourable conditions. On the back of student events, I and members of the committee have spent quality time with the students during the year and I think the established rapport has been positive for both sides.

The RSMA was well represented at the IC alumni reunion day in May and the RSMA stand complete with a display including our new banner, Davy Lamp, Bottle and RSM memorabilia was very well received. It also served as a reunion meeting place for members of the Metallurgy Class of 1966 and proved an excellent venue for those old students to "recognise" their colleagues of 50 years ago.

The 2013 Association annual dinner was held at the Rembrandt hotel and a splendid evening was enjoyed by about 80 members, students and guests. Our guest speaker was former double Olympian high jumper and past president of the RSMU, Geoff Parsons who entertained the gathering with tales of his time at the RSM coupled with his illustrious athletic career. The Rembrandt proved an excellent alternative to the Polish Club, which was under refurbishment, and this year the Association will celebrate its 130th anniversary dinner on the 29th November, again at the Rembrandt. We need to encourage up to 150 members and students to attend, and this will be a prime focus for the committee.

During the year we were advised that the New Cavendish Club is to merge with the Army & Navy (In & Out) club. I am unsure, at this time, what this means for our members as membership of the New Cavendish has always been highlighted as a benefit of membership of the Association. Initial indications were that we would not enjoy a similar benefit from the In & Out, even during the merger transition period, and corporate membership would be prohibitively expensive. As CGCA are by far the bigger of the associations who enjoyed the benefit, they will be leading the relevant discussions and assessment of alternatives.

Tonight we entertain the students for the traditional final year Bar-B-Q but we should reflect if this is the best way to celebrate their end of year with exams results due in the morning? We should discuss with the students and possibly have a rethink as to the best social and economic function to “celebrate” their departure from the RSM. Eddie Gadd has, as in previous years, donated two Pins (72 pints) of his finest Ramsgate Brewery Ale for the function for which we are extremely grateful.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the committee for their support and guidance. For those committee members who have full time employment, many in high pressure jobs, their commitment is especially appreciated. And a very special thanks to Teresa who has been a great help, confidant and friend during my tenure to date. Without her the RSMA would struggle to function in the direction we are striving for. She is a true believer and supporter of the RSMA.

Over the next few months we will continue to analyse our objectives and how best to improve our interaction with members and students. We need to ensure that there is a new generation of members who will espouse and drive the principles of the RSMA to continue to make it a benefit to alumni.

Discussion

There was some discussion on the best line of attack for fundraising from corporate entities with Nick Fern and John Sharpley both relating their own experiences. It was agreed we need to target the “right person” within the respective corporate organisations rather than letters directly to the CEO or equivalent. Various indications of donations from Association members had been received but as yet the donations were not forthcoming and these will be pursued. All donations that had been received from members had been acknowledged in writing and the Association was extremely thankful to those members for their consideration and generosity. In all it was felt that the renewed membership drive and fundraising exercise had been worthwhile and the committee will continue to be proactive in this regard.

5) Treasurer’s Report

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

The RSMA Trust and RSMA have finished their respective years in acceptable financial health. The expenditure of the RSMA Trust and RSMA Association is relatively consistent with previous years.

The Association’s activity for 2013/14 was normal, with the Association finishing its financial year on 31st March 2013 with c.£30,014 on deposit with Imperial College, c.£11,146 in its HSBC current account, and c.£768 in its PayPal account.

The Trust continues in good financial health; its assets comprise cash balances, the Peter Harding Scholarship Fund, student loans and medal stock. The balance at 31st December, 2013 was £43,263 most of which is held on COIF deposit.

Association

Due to a lack of funds in the HSBC current accounts the Committee agreed to transfer £8,000 from the IC Fund to the HSBC current account during the period.

The main income for the year was from annual subscriptions. During the period we initiated a membership drive. In order to attract annual subscriptions from around the world, the Committee agreed to set-up a PayPal account which 54 new members used to pay their subscriptions.

Our costs associated with the Imperial Engineer have decreased by over £1000 due to lesser mailing charges. The Association made a profit at both our larger events, the June 2013 AGM & Final Year BBQ made a £202 profit and the November 2013 Annual Dinner made a £75 profit.

The Association continues to provide support to the RSMU for their student activities; the committee has increased its annual grant for 2013/2014 to £1,750, which was paid in May 2013. The £1,200 paid in October 2013 represents the grant for 2012/2013.

We continued to bank at HSBC and I'm currently in the process of arranging the reimbursement of £102 of charges HSBC imposed on the RSMA from 2012/2013.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to Teresa Sergot for her continued support in managing the Association's finances effectively.

Discussion

The Treasurer fielded questions on various aspects of his report and the accounts including the fraudulent activity on the HSBC account. The President thanked Danny for his efforts in compiling the report in a timely manner despite his work pressures.

6) Chairman of the Trust Board Report

The Chairman submitted a formal report to the members which is set out below;

The Trust remains in good financial health: this is reported in more detail in the accompanying Treasurer's Report. The discretionary grants and loan schemes continue to be made use of by students, albeit it has been a relatively quiet year. We continue to work on new funding initiatives to assist our students but have nothing concrete yet to report.

I am pleased to note that this year the essay competition attracted nine entries from the Faculty; all were of a good standard and interesting. The winner for 2014 was Tarik Saif, a PhD student in Petroleum Engineering, for his essay entitled "Bleeding oil: Nigeria's curse in disguise"; we offer him our congratulations on a well-deserved win and hope to present Tarik with his medal at the annual dinner in November.

7) Officers and Committee Members for 2014/15

The following nominations have been received:

President:	John O'Reilly
Senior Vice-President:	Eleanor Jay
Junior Vice-President:	Tim Cotton
Past-President:	Mark Burridge
Hon. Secretary:	Paul Holmes
Hon. Treasurer:	Daniel Hill
VP International	John Sykes
Membership Secretary	Coen Louwarts
Members:	Lorraine Craig
	Prof. John Monhemius
	Rees Rawlings
	David Bishop
	Ben Warnick –New President RSM Union
	Simon Escobar – New Hon Sec RSM Union
	Luc Vandeperre
	Matt Cockayne
	Hannah Bungey
Overseas:	Giles Baynham (Canada)
	Leah Glass (Australia)

The nominations were proposed and seconded by a member of the RSMA and passed unanimously.

9) RSMA Trust Board 2012/2013

The following appointments to the RSMA Trust Board are;

Board Members:

Prof. Rees Rawlings (Chairman)
John O'Reilly
Fiona Cassidy
Coen Louwarts
David Bishop

Trustees:

Prof. John Monhemius
Daniel Hill
Paul Holmes
Ben Warnick - RSMU President
Glynne Lloyd Davies (Hon Secretary)

The nominations were proposed and seconded by a member of the RSMA and passed unanimously.

10) AOB

1. The President elaborated on the position re the New Cavendish Club. In 2013/14 and 2012/13 the cost of membership to the Association had been £276 and £292 respectively. This equated to about 25p per member. The new club owners had indicated greatly increased fees which were not considered economical. The President opined that the Association could probably live with a fee of £1 to 1.50 per member out of the £15 annual subscription, but the indications were that In & Out membership costs would be significantly higher. Other alternatives were being pursued including corporate membership with a hotel chain. The President also said that the take up of rooms at the New Cavendish had been relatively small and he felt that the Association could not penalize all members for a facility enjoyed by a few, notwithstanding that corporate membership had been promoted as a membership benefit. The situation is still under discussion and will be followed up as a priority.
2. The President reiterated his thanks to the committee for their support and particularly to Elly for significantly improving our image with her design of the RSMA banner and her upgrading of the website. It was also great to see Glynne in attendance after his illness.

A special thanks was due to Teresa who does a tremendous amount of unsung graft and her efforts and contribution are very much appreciated by both the President and the Association.

The meeting closed at 19:15

*Paul Holmes
Hon. Secretary*

*John O'Reilly
President*

Dated _____ 2014

Not yet approved