

The 2nd RSC Younger Members' Symposium

June 13

2012

A report on the organisation and planning of the event, the event itself and the delegate feedback, resulting in recommendations for the 3rd RSC Younger Member Symposium.

The
University of
Nottingham

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Organisation	3
3. Symposium Objectives	4
4. Preparations and Planning	5
4.1 Organisation.....	5
4.2 Sponsorship.....	5
4.3 Registration Fee	6
4.4 Promotion	7
4.5 Catering.....	8
4.6 Printing.....	8
5. The Event	8
5.1 Selecting Abstracts.....	8
5.2 Attendance.....	9
5.3 Oral Sessions	9
5.4 Poster Sessions.....	10
5.5 Sponsors.....	10
5.6 Photography.....	10
5.7 Judging and Prizes	10
5.8 Travel Bursaries.....	11
6. Treasurer’s Report	11
7. Feedback	12
8. Summary	13
9. Outcomes from the General Assembly	13
10. Recommendations	14
11. Acknowledgements	15
Appendix	16

Executive Summary

- YMS2012 was hosted at the University of Nottingham, Wednesday 13th June 2012.
- The event was attended by 130 delegates, 20 invited speakers and 6 sponsors.
- An organising committee of 12 local, volunteer young chemists was set up after being contacted by the local RSC Younger Members' representative.
- A diverse range of speakers and posters were presented at the event, covering core areas of chemical research, industry and education and outreach.
- Several of the UK's largest chemical companies and professional bodies provided sponsorship and promoted the event.
- Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with most delegates enjoying the opportunity to present work, network with peers and seek career advice in a relaxed and informative atmosphere.
- The continuation of the YMS event, making it a key event in the UK's chemistry calendar is strongly encouraged.

1. Introduction

The 2nd RSC Younger Member Symposium (YMS 2012) was organised by the East Midlands Local Section Younger Member Network off the back of the success of the Inaugural YMS in 2010.

This report describes the preparation and the outcomes of the YMS 2012.

2. Organisation

The YMS 2012 committee was structured as in Table 1.

Name	Affiliation	Committee Position
Alasdair Taylor	The University of Nottingham	Member
Bozena Lukasiak		Treasurer until 02/06/12
David Foley	The University of Nottingham	Member
Elizabeth Gibson	The University of Nottingham	Member
Heidi Dobbs	RSC (Regional Coordinator)/ The University of Nottingham	Member
Helen Neal	Reckitt Benckiser	Webmaster
Jane Pancheva	RWEN Power	Chair
Jasprit Chahal	Imperial College London	Member
Laura Yates	Quadralene Ltd	Secretary Treasurer from 02/06/12
Sam Tang	The University of Nottingham	Member
Sarah Hill	National Space Centre	Member
Sara Ronca	Loughborough University	Member

Table 1

The committee was formed in June 2011 and monthly meetings were held at the School of Chemistry, The University of Nottingham. As such, the location was easy to access for most committee members, particularly as four were based at the University, and room hire and parking were free.

The organisation of the event was streamlined due to four of the committee members being affiliated with The University of Nottingham. Thus, it was chosen as the event venue very early in the planning process.

The publication/ communication of the event was helped tremendously by the addition of the RSC Regional Coordinator, Heidi Dobbs, on the committee. She played a pivotal role in communicating the event and distributing the poster to relevant contacts in institutions. Having a strong representation on the organising committee from people who had experience at Local Section helped when interacting with RSC HQ, *e.g.* when creating the registration page and with RSC advertising. The insight of David, who had organised the previous YMS, was also invaluable.

A 'Wiki' resource (PBworks.com, free non-commercial wiki hosting) was set up early on in the planning process to enable easy data sharing between members. This was a valuable resource as it allowed sharing of large documents and limited the "spamming" of the member's email inboxes with conference information.

3. Symposium Objectives

The objective of the YMS 2012 was to further the endeavours of the Inaugural YMS by providing a platform for younger members to showcase their work amongst their peers.

The YMS objectives were:

1. Organise a symposium by young scientists, for young scientists.
2. Invite selected speakers that, in addition to showcasing the latest advances in their research, would demonstrate the skills required for a successful career in chemistry.
3. Allow young chemists to present the latest research to an audience of their peers in an atmosphere that would be less intimidating and more personal than other conferences.
4. Provide the opportunity for academic, industrial and chemical education/outreach speakers to present their work on an equal footing.
5. Bring chemical scientists from different geographical and expertise areas together. In particular, not to focus only on "pure" chemistry but include related disciplines, *e.g.* materials, chemical physics and chemical biology.
6. Demonstrate that there is a demand for this type of event from young chemical scientists.
7. Establish YMS2012 as a significant and recurring event in the calendar of events for young chemical scientists.

4. Preparations and Planning

4.1 Organisation

Preparations began in June 2011 with the committee being formed and roles appointed. Positions in the committee changed during the course of the year as some members moved away from the area and could no longer commit to helping out.

The date of Wednesday, 13th June 2012 and the venue of the School of Chemistry, The University of Nottingham were decided upon immediately. The date was set to fall outside of the teaching term for most universities, including Nottingham (making venue booking easier), but before the typical academic “conference season”, *i.e.* late June-July. As several committee members were employees of the School of Chemistry, venue hire was free. This significantly reduced costs and provided access to the wide range of lecture rooms and display space necessary for the event.

The YMS 2012 opted to continue the format set by the inaugural YMS by running three parallel sessions. The three sessions were:

1. Academia
2. Outreach and Public Engagement
3. Industry

The three sessions were wholly supported by the committee, which itself contained a good spread of people employed in and involved with each theme. Three of the committee worked in industry, four members worked in education and outreach, and four members worked in academia.

It was planned that each session would have two invited speakers and four speakers would then be chosen *via* an abstract submission process. A poster session was planned. It was felt that the number of posters should be limited to 40, which was the maximum that the available space would allow. Spaces would be provided for posters from each of the above themes.

A list of the key dates for YMS2012 was created in late 2011 and is shown below:

- Abstract/registration opened: 16th January
- Abstract submission deadline: 20th April
- Abstract review process and delegates informed of success: late April/early May
- Registration closed: Wednesday 6th June.
- Event: Wednesday 13th June.

The website, RSC registration process and promotional material were organised in time to meet these deadlines.

4.2 Sponsorship

The accounts from the inaugural YMS were used to provide an estimate of how much funding would be required.

East Midlands younger members were all contacted either *via* post or email to make them aware of YMS2012 and let them know how they and their company could become involved. This resulted in

some interest and some sponsorship from PERA and Eon. Personal contacts in local companies were also used to attract interest in sponsoring the event.

Some companies and organisations have funds set up to specifically support scientific education events such as the YMS and as such, online forms were completed and submitted. This led to success in obtaining Astra Zeneca and Lilly. Other companies which are well known for supporting this type of event such as Bruker, Sigma, RSC were approached for sponsorship. Table 2 shows the source of our sponsorship.

Company	Support	Requirements
PERA Foundation	Sponsor the Education and Outreach Prizes.	Judging to be done by PERA
Astra Zeneca	General sponsorship.	None
RSC	Sponsorship of poster board hire, Invited speaker expenses and conference dinner.	Stand required
Bruker	General sponsorship.	Stand required
E.On	Created an additional Energy prize.	Judging to be done by E.On plus stand required
Lilly	General sponsorship.	None
GA Grant	Grant	Report to be submitted
SCI	Marketing through SCI material	Stand required

Table 2

The requirements of each sponsor were assessed on an individual basis, some required advertising space at the symposium, others who had sponsored prizes were keen to judge and present the prizes themselves.

The YMS 2012 also received £1500 from the RSC's IYC Challenge fund via the Younger Members Network (requested by Susan Parkhouse) and via the East Midlands Local Section (requested by Sarah Hill.) The IYC Challenge grants were to help build on the momentum generated during the International Year of Chemistry in 2011 and continue the variety of excellent events and activities to promote the chemical sciences. The grant the YMS received allowed us to offer travel bursaries to delegates who otherwise would not be able to attend.

4.3 Registration Fee

It was decided that a registration fee would be charged. This decision was largely based around what was learnt at the previous YMS. In particular, it was felt that charging a small fee, rather than making the event free, would avoid delegate “no-shows” on the day. As this was an RSC event, it was decided to charge two levels of registration, £20 for non members and £15 for members.

As a result of the issues the inaugural YMS had with processing payments through PayPal, the committee decided to set up YMS2012 as an RSC event with registration through the RSC website. This was done by contacting RSC Events. Whilst this incurred a charge of approximately £100 and there were some initial problems when registration opened, it eventually provided a relatively hassle free method of registration. Also, by linking YMS2012 to the RSC events page gave it a higher and

more professional profile. Thus, registration through the RSC website is highly recommended for the next YMS.

4.4 Promotion & Communication

Website

The URL www.rsc-yms.co.uk was passed to the YMS2012 committee from the organisers of the inaugural YMS. Fortunately, one committee member, Helen, had experience in web design and was able to redesign and launch the site early in the conference preparations. Helen was given remuneration to cover time spent and URL registration costs. The website was linked to the RSC registration page, provided extensive information on the event and hosted the abstract submission and query contact forms that were both linked to the event email (yms2012.notts@gmail.com). The website was strongly highlighted on all promotional material.

E-Mail

A dedicated email address was also set up early on (yms2012.notts@gmail.com). All correspondence to delegates and most to sponsors were managed through the YMS email address. No single person managed the account and all committee members had access such that queries were typically handled by whichever committee member first read them. It was particularly important to regularly (daily) view the account in the final two months leading up to the event to deal with a high number of queries about registration, abstract submission and event attendance. A contact form on the website linked directly to the email, as did abstract submissions and all registrations *via* the RSC website.

Promotional Material

Save the date business cards were printed for free using Vistaprint and distributed via the committee members to contacts.

An A4 flyer was produced by the committee; which was used to promote the event both in hard copy and electronically. This contained the key information about the event and was continually updated as the attendance of invited speakers was confirmed. Eventually a second page was added to the electronic copy, the “hook”, which gave further details, in particular who the event was targeted at. 250 flyers were distributed at the BACS trade show (H3i) in February 2012 and 1000 at the Fisher Scientific yearly tradeshow in April 2012. Flyers were also distributed to friends and colleagues by the committee members.

Electronic copies were e-mailed to Heads of School at UK and Ireland university chemistry departments. The support from Heidi, the RSC Regional Coordinator, was instrumental in obtaining important academic contact details to promote the event. Invited speakers were also encouraged to promote the event in their departments or companies. Local RSC secretaries were e-mailed and asked to forward the flyer and associated information to their sections.

Media/Professional Bodies

RSC News was used on several occasions as a platform to reach members. This began in October 2011 when one of the committee members was interviewed for the ‘Profile’ section of the

publication, introducing the magazine to the YMS2012 event. In the February 2012 edition of RSC News, YMS2012 was included in an 'Introducing' box in the diary section explaining that registration and abstract submission were open. Then in the March 2012 edition, YMS2012 was included in a 'Highlight' box informing of the upcoming abstract submission deadline and finally, in May 2012, YMS2012 was listed in the events section.

SCI was contacted in March 2012 and asked to list the event on their website and in upcoming Events e-mails sent to members. In return, an SCI stand was hosted at the event giving the opportunity for delegates to join the organisation. Unfortunately, contact was made too late resulting in the events listing occurring after the abstract submission deadline. However, the SCI are very keen to attract younger members and it is likely they would be very supportive of future YMS events if asked to help.

4.5 Catering

The University of Nottingham catering service was used, with enough food of high quality provided for lunch. There was also a wine reception for all delegates held between the last presentation and the prize giving, which was well received. As a thank you, the committee took out invited speakers and some sponsors for a post-conference dinner.

4.6 Printing

Printing of the leaflets and the symposium booklets was arranged through the University of Nottingham, which helped to keep costs low. However, complications did arise when printing the booklet as the University required it to keep within designated templates and brand requirements. To ensure correct usage of company and organisational branding as requested by sponsors PR departments needed vigilance throughout.

5. The Event

5.1 Selecting Abstracts

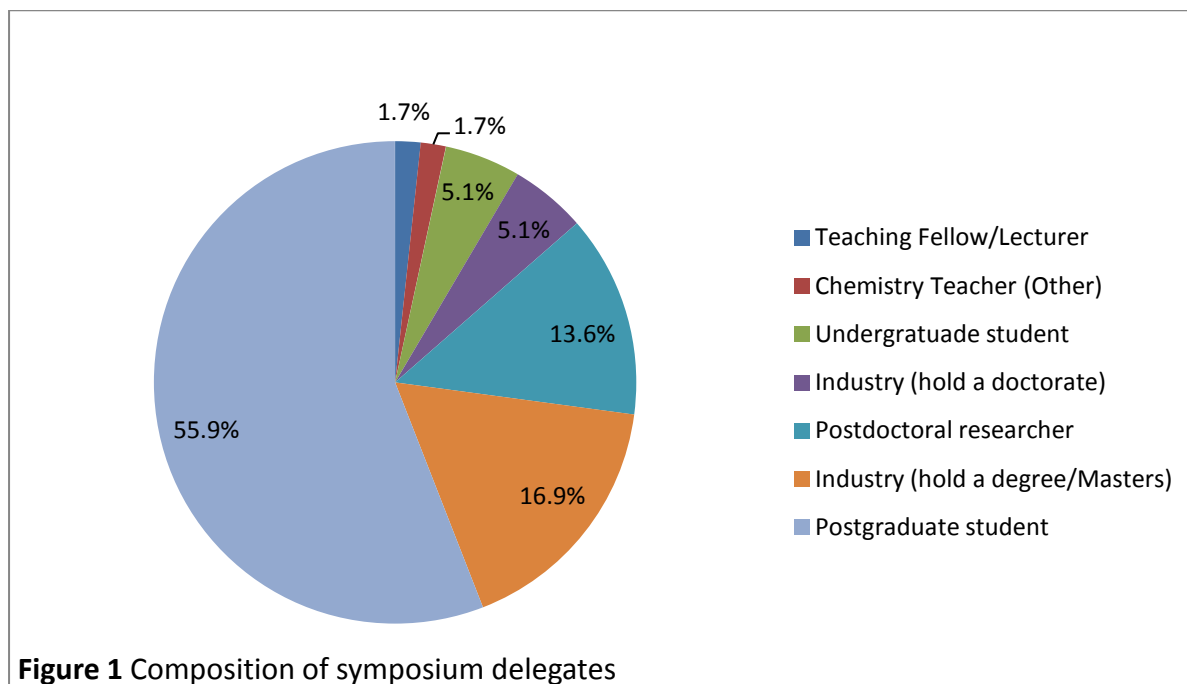
The Abstract submission deadline was set six weeks prior to the conference. This allowed the committee to meet a week later to decide which abstracts were successful or not and inform the delegates. It also gave enough time to find alternatives if delegates had to drop out or withdraw their work. It was felt the division of posters reflected the level of attendance and abstracts submitted for each session.

To assess the submitted abstracts a full committee meeting was held, with abstracts judged by committee members most involved in each theme (*i.e.* academics judging academic abstracts *etc.*). E-mails were then sent to all delegates who had submitted abstracts informing them of the result and any requirements needed for successful presentations, *e.g.* talk length, poster size. Any delegates who had submitted abstracts but not yet registered were also encouraged in the e-mail to do so. A very high number of abstracts were submitted, particularly in the academic theme, which exceeded our capacity of 12 talks and 40 posters. Thus it was not possible to reward all submitted posters a place. It is also customary in most academic conferences to offer poster slots to those unsuccessful at getting an oral presentation. However, due to limited space only a small number of

delegates who submitted abstracts for oral presentation were awarded a poster place. A consideration had to be made between awarding as many poster places as possible and limitations on both venue space and time on the day.

5.2 Attendance & Arrivals

The event was attended by around 130 delegates and the attendance breakdown is shown in Figure 1.



Not surprisingly, the main group attending were postgraduate students. However, it was pleasing to see a good representation from industry which was an improvement from the attendance at the inaugural YMS. As the ethos of the YMS events has been to encourage chemists from all backgrounds, future organising committees may wish to consider further means of attracting non-academic delegates.

The event was organised to start at 11am as it was felt this would give delegates sufficient time to arrive. However, many people arrived before then and an earlier start time may have been more appropriate. Furthermore, the registration/coffee period could have been shortened, although this was a good opportunity for delegates to mingle and speak to the sponsors at their stands.

5.3 Oral Sessions

The schedule of the event is shown in Figure 2. The Key Note address by David Phillips, then President of the RSC, was made to all delegates in the main lecture theatre. Afterwards, the conference was split into the three parallel sessions with the academic session continuing in the main lecture theatre and the industrial and education/outreach sessions in smaller rooms. Two chairs were allocated to each of the themes, one chairing the morning session and the second chairing the afternoon session. The chairs also ensured all presentations were preloaded onto the computers in the relevant lecture halls to ensure smooth running of the day.

The keynote address was scheduled as one hour (see timetable placed in the appendix) with questions. The invited talks were slightly longer than the delegate talks to allow sufficient time to cover a greater breadth of work. All talks kept to time and only the first academic session ran over time as the start was delayed. Setting the delegate talks to 20 minutes allowed them to give a focussed presentation of their work and is a typical time length for conference presentations. Delegates were able to move between sessions during the short breaks between lectures, allowing them to see a variety of presentations. It was anticipated that the academic session would be best attended, hence scheduling it into the largest lecture theatre. However, the chemistry/education session was very well attended with smaller numbers of delegates going to the industrial lectures. A few unregistered university students and staff attended some lectures but did not interfere with the overall running of the day.

5.4 Poster Sessions

All the poster boards were provided by The University of Nottingham, free of charge. The space available was limited, so the number of posters accepted for presentation was kept to 40. The poster session ran during the lunch period (approximately 90 minutes). Most of the posters were displayed in a large teaching room, but a number had to be placed in the foyer near to the industrial stands. This did not seem to cause too much of an issue as these posters were near the food so did not get “left out”. Feedback suggested that more time would have been ideal for the session in order for people to see all of the posters. There were also issues with delegates not being instructed to stand by their posters, making discussion of the work more difficult. The optional RSC lecture also overlapped with the poster session, which may have added to these two problems.

5.5 Sponsors

E.On, Bruker, RSC, SCI and Sigma required stands at the symposium. The RSC also presented an optional talk on Science Policy held just before the second session began. All the industrial stands received good footfall and positive feedback. In particular, delegates enjoyed being able to discuss industrial career options with representatives from the different companies.

5.6 Photography

The RSC provided photography for the afternoon sessions, including the poster session. The photographs were then given to the committee. The photographer was organised by the RSC HQ to gain Younger Member library pictures. This was presented at the start of the day, any delegate not wishing to be photographed was asked to be made themselves known to the RSC representative who would give them a sticker to clearly indicate their wishes to the photographer.

5.7 Judging and Prizes

For each of the three sessions, a prize was awarded for the best speaker. Three prizes were awarded for best posters in the Industrial and Academic section and two poster prizes were given for Education and Outreach due to the limited number of applicants in this field. The E.On prize was given to the best poster on an energy related topic, regardless of the session it was submitted in. The academic and industrial oral prizes were judged by the session chairs using standard score sheets created around those used during the inaugural YMS. The poster prizes were also judged by

those committee members who were experts in the field using a similar score sheet. All of the chemical education/outreach prizes were judged by representatives from the sponsor, Pera.

Due to the limited time and absence of some delegates from their posters, judging the academic poster session was most difficult due to the number of posters presented. This also required a degree of deliberation to decide winners between the judges at the end of the day.

5.8 Travel Bursaries

The committee was delighted to be in a position to offer travel bursaries to the delegates. The offer was made at the end of the symposium and an application form was set up on the website to enable delegates to apply for the bursary. A total of 18 delegates applied for the bursaries, so the committee was pleased to be able to pay all applied bursaries.

6. Treasurer's Report

The balance sheet for the symposium is shown in Figure 3. Thanks to the generosity of the sponsors and the provision of facilities by The University of Nottingham at very reasonable costs, there was a credit balance left. This will be handed over to the organising committee of the 3rd YMS when it is established to help with the organisation of the next YMS.

<u>Treasurers report from RSC YMS 2012 (13th June 2012)</u>			
Outgoings			Income
Prizes			Sponsors
Prizes Academia		£500	
Poster Prizes (£150, £100, £50)	£300.00		PERA INTERNATIONAL £500.00
Oral Presentation Prize	£200.00		ASTRA ZENECA UK LT £1,000.00
Prizes Industry		£500	RSC £2,570.00
Poster Prizes (£150, £100, £50)	£300.00		Lilly £500.00
Oral Presentation Prize	£200.00		RSC General Assembly £1,500.00
Education and Outreach		£500	Bruker £500.00
Poster Prizes (£150,£150)	£300.00		EON £150.00
Oral Presentation Prize	£200.00		
Eon energy poster prize		£150.00	Delegate fees
			RSC payment (minus hosting fee) £1,610.25
			Registration on the day £55.00
Speakers expenses		£933.89	
Invited speakers expenses	£189.30		
After conference meal	£744.59		
Administration costs		£1,290.33	
Conference booklet	£564.01		
Leaflets	£181.00		
Stationary for the day (inc. Signage, certificates, name badges, drawing pins etc)	£52.38		
Website costs	£110.59		
Secretariat Expenses	£226.35		
Survey draw reward	£150.00		
Bank charge	£6.00		
Catering		£2,053.65	
Tea/coffee/ biscuits	£202.50		
Buffet Lunch	£1,125.00		
Orange juice for lunch	£45.00		
Bottled water for lunch	£33.75		
Wine Reception	£647.40		
Travel Bursaries		£1,055.92	
Total travel bursaries paid	£1,055.92		
Total money out		£6,983.79	Total money in
			£8,385.25
Total account balance		£1,401.46	in credit

Figure 3

7. Feedback

Feedback from the symposium was obtained by directing the delegates, speakers and sponsors to an online survey generated on Survey Monkey. The possibility of a £50 prize, selected by random draw, was also offered in an attempt to encourage delegates to complete the survey.

Feedback from the multiple choice questions was overall very positive and the survey provided a comments section, allowing more constructive feedback. The results of the survey are provided in the Appendix, but are summarised as follows:

- The majority of delegates were from academia, either Ph.D students (55.9 %), postdoctoral researchers (13.6 %) or lecturers (1.7 %). 22 % came from industry. Undergraduates and teachers also attended the event.

- The delegates covered all the major fields of chemistry, with almost equal numbers from physical, organic and inorganic plus good levels of attendance from analytical, computational and materials. The number attending from education/outreach was smaller although a number of Ph.D students presented education/outreach work.
- Delegates became aware of YMS2012 through a number of channels. Word of mouth from colleagues/supervisors and RSC promotional material (website, e-mails, MyRSC) were the dominant means of attracting interest. However, awareness was clearly promoted through other channels, including Twitter, posters and local sections.
- The opportunity to network with peers was the primary reason for attending YMS2012, with two-thirds of the responses ticking this box. Presenting work, exploring career options and hearing current research were also highlighted as important.
- The response to “Did the event fulfil your expectations?” was overwhelmingly positive, with over 70 % of respondents saying it fully met expectations and only 3.4 % saying it did not.
- Attendance of the three sessions was very even, with the education/outreach session attracting most interest. This was a slight surprise but the comments suggested that delegates wished to explore this area as something outside the core focus of their research.
- A majority of delegates recorded as being satisfied or very satisfied with all areas of the conference, with generally <10 % of delegates being dissatisfied. Response to the poster session was the only category where neither satisfied or very satisfied recorded the highest response (neutral, 34.5 %).

8. Summary

The value of the YMS2012 was reinforced by the excellent attendance, positive feedback and quantity of sponsorship received. The quality of the presentations was extremely high and it was a great opportunity for all (including the committee) to see the presentations and sponsors. All the sessions were well attended and the speakers and posters warmly received. The event offered young chemists in academia, industry and chemical education/outreach to network with each other, understand work in different disciplines and get careers advice. As such, YMS2012 was an overwhelming success and the outgoing committee strongly recommend that it is allowed to become a regular and important event in the UK’s chemistry calendar.

The symposium also provided an invaluable opportunity for young chemists to become involved in organising the event. It is worthy of note that the committee was made up of volunteers (young chemists) from the local section, many of whom who had no experience of arranging events of this type. The involvement with the organisation has provided the committee members with great opportunities to make new contacts; learn new skills and achieve something which would never have come to pass had it not been the opportunity to participate in YMS2012.

9. Outcomes from the RSC General Assembly

The YMS (incorporating both the inaugural and the YMS2012) was presented at the 2012 General Assembly in Birmingham 9th- 10th November by Laura Yates. The presentation was made as part of

the 'Sharing experiences workshop'. The presentation gained positive feedback with a number of delegates showing interest in assisting with the YMS2014. The key outcomes and suggestions were:

- The RSC staff showed great interest and offered their assistance in sourcing speakers and assisting with network advertising avenues. (Clare Viney, Sarah Hobbs, Fiona McMillan, Aurora Antemir).
- Janette Waterhouse (who sits on the RSC Council) is involved with industrial apprenticeships and would like to incorporate this into YMS2014.
- Simon Gibson of the FST Group has offered help as a source for speakers, advertising, sponsorship etc both through FST and Akzo Nobel.
- Stuart Cameron, who is the RSC Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Sector Secretary, suggested that we get in touch regarding advertising as his group hold a similar younger member conference and therefore he may be able to put some advertising ideas forward.
- The consensus was that we should perhaps segregate a poster and oral session for Undergraduates.

10. Recommendations

Following YMS2012, the outgoing committee offers the following recommendations to guide and assist those involved with organising future YMS events. These are based on the committees experience, the problems encountered and solutions found.

- Making early contact with the RSC so that the event could be listed on their events pages and promoted through e-mail alerts was an invaluable method of promoting the event. Centralising the registration process through their system was also very helpful and reduced workload for the committee members. The use of the local RSC coordinator, Heidi Dobbs, allowed us to promote the event in most of the UK's Schools of Chemistry.
- Industrial organisations, *e.g.* SCI and CIA, were targeted too late to make a large difference towards event promotion. However, both are very keen to assist and promote events for young chemists so should be contacted early in the organisation stage. Contacts for the SCI can be provided upon request.
- Despite a reasonable attendance, some difficulties were still encountered in encouraging industrial representatives to attend, particularly as delegates may have to take time off as holiday (thus not get travel covered as an expense). Future committees may wish to target large chemistry employers and SME networks well in advance to increase awareness.
- The use of University facilities and procurement systems provided an ideal environment, greatly reduced costs and saved time.
- In future YMS events, allowing a larger number of posters would be desirable. To do so, a longer, dedicated poster session with more space should be chosen. Also, it should be made clear that abstracts unsuccessful for oral presentations would not be guaranteed a poster.
- Allowing short (5 min) breaks between lectures would allow more time for delegates to move between sessions.

- Given the large number of abstracts submitted, future committees may wish to consider giving more opportunities for delegates to give oral presentations, rather than just the maximum of 12 set at YMS2012.
- The Outreach sessions were overwhelmingly successful; therefore, it is recommended that the YMS keep a focus on Outreach.
- In future YMS events, it is recommended that undergraduates are targeted for a specific poster or oral session.

11. Acknowledgements

The organising committee would like to thank all those involved with making YMS2012 a success.

Thanks go to all the invited speakers:

Professor David Phillips, Professor Rachel O'Reilly, Professor Mark Miodownik, Dr. Jason Camp, Dr. Sandy Reid, Dr. Mark Frigerio and Dr. Tim Harrison.

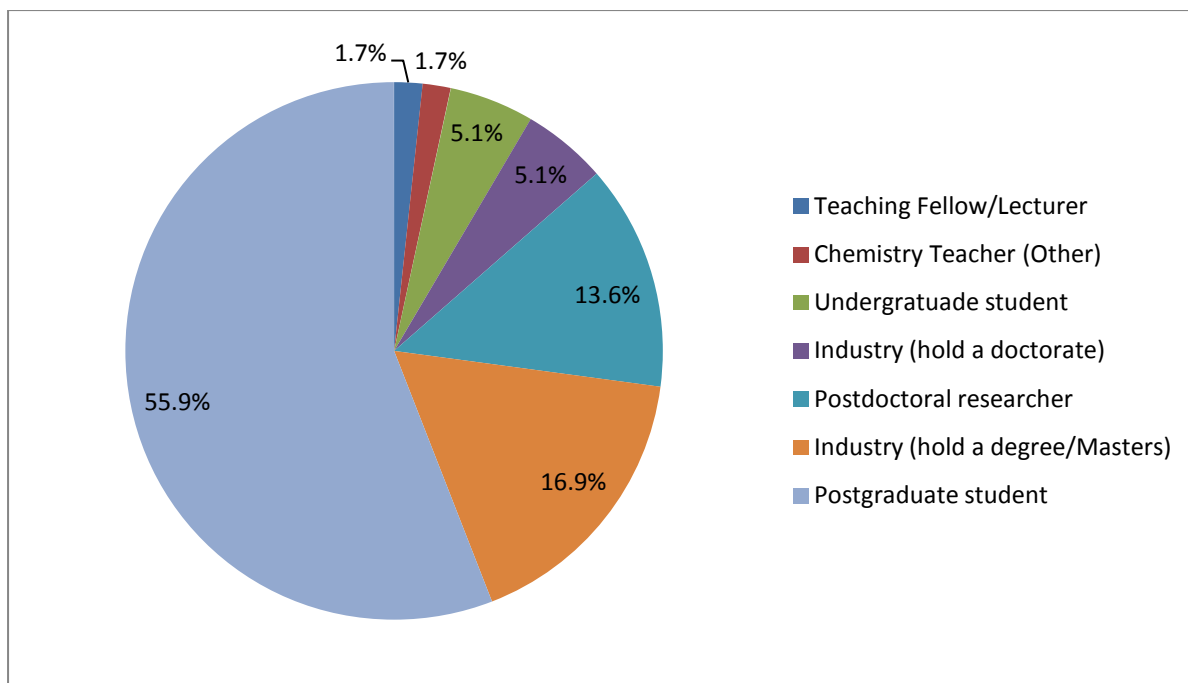
And the sponsors:

PERA, Astra Zeneca, RSC, Bruker, E.On, Lilly, GA Grant.

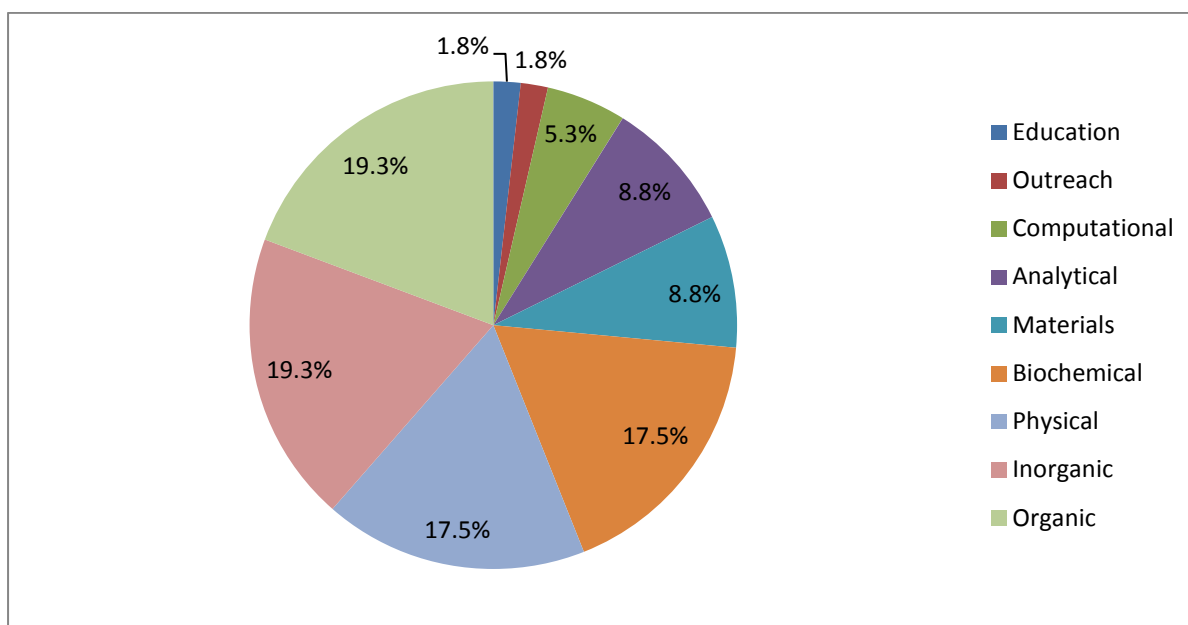
Appendix

Time	Academia (Lecture Theatre X1)	Education and Outreach (Lecture Theatre X2)	Industry (Lecture Theatre C15)
11.00-11.40	Registration and Coffee (Location: Foyer)		
11.50-13.00	Introduction by Jane Pancheva, Chair of the YMS Committee Key Note address by David Philips CBE FRSC A Little Light Relief (Lecture Theatre X1)		
	<i>Session 1 Chaired by Alasdair Taylor</i>	<i>Session 1 Chaired by Samantha Tang</i>	<i>Session 1 Chaired by Helen Neal</i>
13.10-13.40	Rachel O'Reilly Polymeric Nanoreactors for Catalysis and Polymer Synthesis	Tim Harrison Chemistry Outreach: A Win, Win, Win Situation	Mark Frigerio From Academia to Industry, Developing a Medicinal Chemistry Career
13.40-14.00	S. L. Cobb <i>Developing New Peptide-Inspired Therapeutics for the Neglected Tropical Diseases</i>	E. M. MacCreedy <i>Design Your Own Fireworks Show: Using Context and Problem Based Learning to Develop Transferable Skills for Chemistry Undergraduates</i>	C. Slater <i>Collaborative Research at Bruker UK Limited</i>
14.00-15.30	Lunch and Poster Session (Location: Foyer and Room A2)		
15.00-15.20	R.J. Walker <i>Where Science Meets Policy, and How You Can Get Involved</i> (Optional talk: Lecture Theatre X1)		
	<i>Session 2 Chaired by David Foley</i>	<i>Session 2 Chaired by Sarah Hill</i>	<i>Session 2 Chaired by Laura Yates</i>
15.30-16.00	Jason Camp Driving Sustainability through Sugar-Powered Catalysis	Mark Miodownik The Importance of Stuff	Sandy Reid Using Chemistry in a Commercial Setting
16.00-16.20	A. Davies <i>Delivery of Luminescent Gold Nanoparticles into Human Platelets Using a pHI Controlled Strategy</i>	S. George <i>Making Science Matter to Different Audiences at Keele Earth Observatory</i>	R. Bull <i>Synthetic Approaches Towards a Novel Series of Tricyclic Imidazo-Pyrrolopyridine Inhibitors of JAK1</i>
16.20-16.40	R. D. Milton <i>Optimisation of an Enzymatic Bio-anode: A Step Towards a Glucose Biofuel Cell</i>	R. Williamson <i>The Space Academy: Using Space as a Context for Teaching Chemistry</i>	A. Millemaggi <i>Hepatitis C Virus: Another Step Towards the Cure</i>
16.40-17.00	R. Bradshaw <i>Predicting Energetic and Structural Effects of Mutations at Protein-Protein Interfaces with MULES</i>	S. Tang <i>The Periodic Table of Videos</i>	A. McCudden <i>The Application of NMR to the Development of Fit-For-Purpose Stability Indicating Methods for use in Phase I Submissions within Pharmaceutical Development</i>
17.00-17.40	Wine Reception (Location foyer)		
17.40-18.00	Prizes and Conclusion (Lecture Theatre X1)		

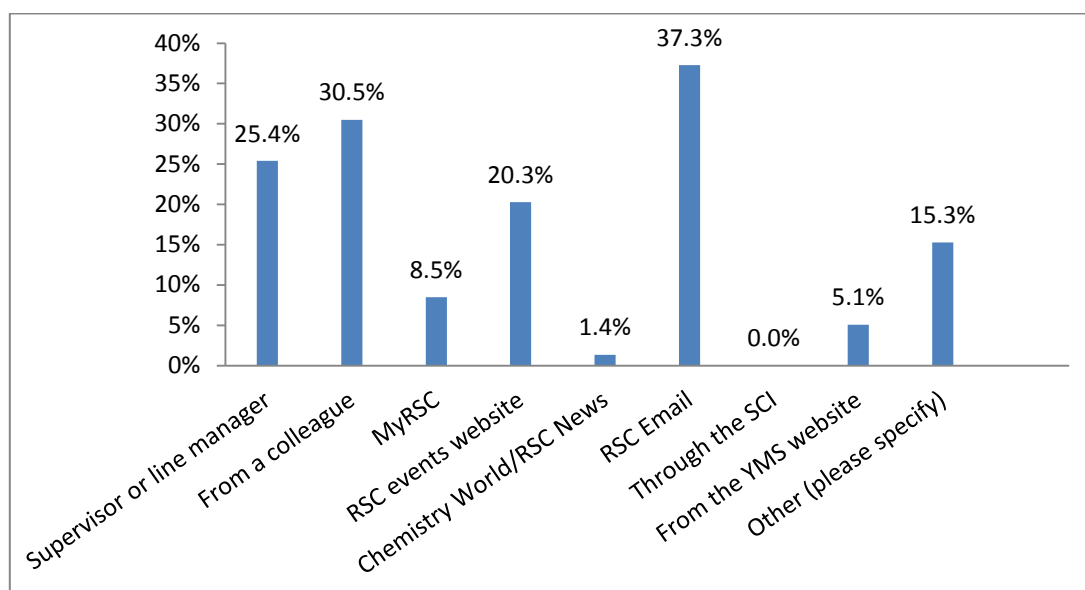
1. What is your occupation?



2. What area of chemistry do you work in?



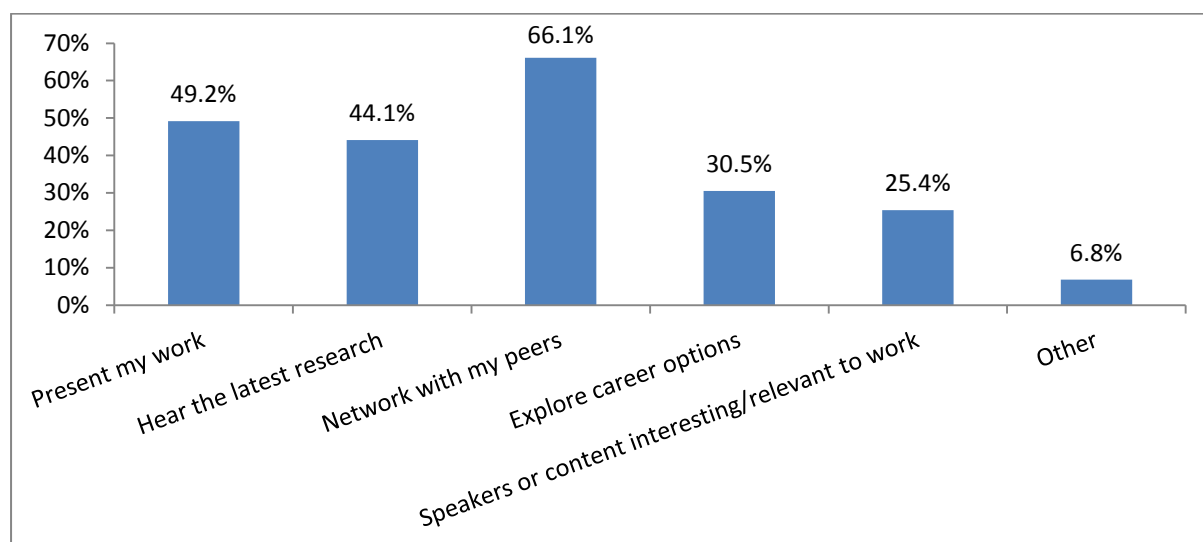
3. How did you hear about the symposium (select all that apply)?



Other:

- Queen Mary, University of London Chemistry Department
- Promotion via RSC Local Section committee.
- Advertised by organisers at Nottingham
- Through Local Section Committee
- Poster in department
- Twitter
- From a friend
- Organisers at a postdoc forum.
- Word of mouth via Heidi Dobbs.

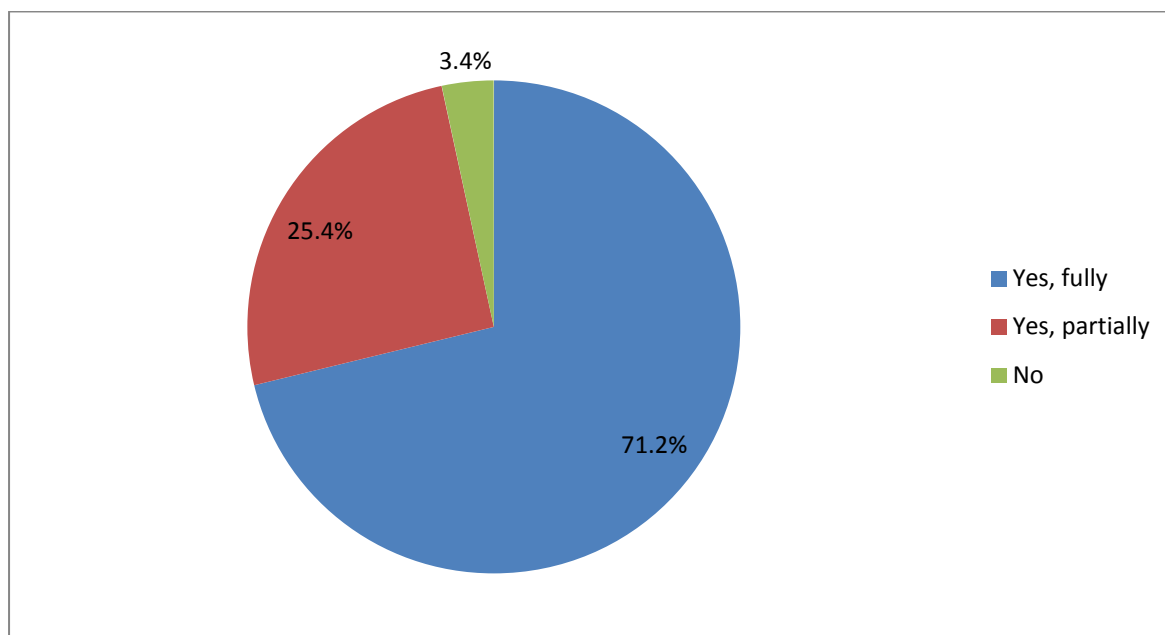
4. Why did you choose to attend this symposium (select all that apply)?



Other:

- Because it was in Nottingham and I thought the outreach might be interesting
- I was representing a sponsor
- Sponsoring event
- I wanted to generate some ideas for further outreach activities

5. Did the conference fulfil your reason(s) for attending?

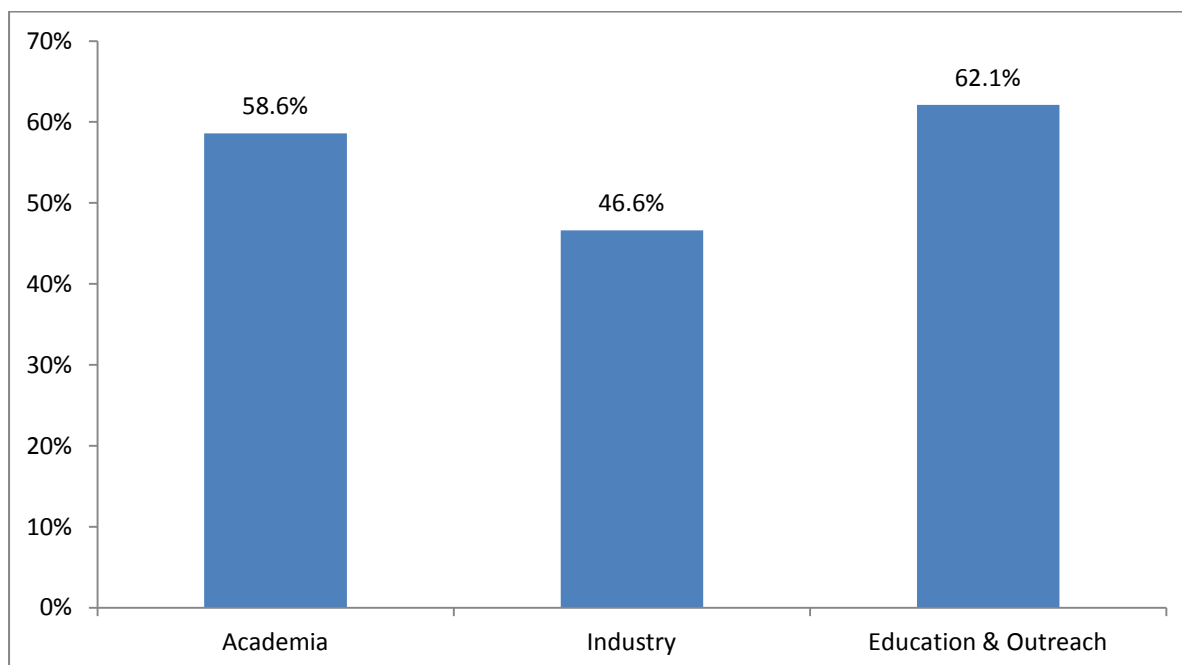


Please add further comment:

1. I thought the outreach would give me more ideas. I do want some bloke from Bristol telling me he had made thousands of children excited in chemistry. I want to know the experiments he used, the right experiments to run for the right age groups etc, I do not the key stages
2. Some of the invited speakers left straight after giving their presentation, which I thought it was rude, unprofessional and inconsiderate not only for the other invited speakers, but also for undergraduate that might have wanted to talk to them afterwards.
3. For sure, the conference fulfilled all my reasons for attending and I am very glad for attending and look forward to the next one.
4. A very well organised day, it was only a shame that there weren't more contributed talks or that the day lasted a little longer so that movement between sessions would have been a little easier.
5. Having unsuccessfully applied for an oral presentation it was not possible to then be considered for a poster. Had I known this before application I would have only applied for a poster. After attending the YMS I can see that I wasn't in a position to provide an oral presentation to the high standard expected but having a poster would have provided increased networking opportunities. The talks on education and outreach proved very interesting, despite not being my original reason for travelling to the YMS.
6. Fantastic day networking with my peers, and interesting research discussions during the poster session.
7. It was very interesting to find out what Universities are doing as outreach and this has given me lots of ideas to get my students involved. Plenty of time for networking was also really useful.
8. The education/outreach session was a much welcomed and pleasant surprise about how good it was. The quality and variety of speakers sounds like it smashed the other rooms out of the water.
9. Limited time to network and review posters with only a single session in the afternoon.
10. Managed to discuss content such as NMR stability testing which is relevant to my work and also updated myself with other areas of chemical research. Managed to speak to Sigma and Bruker representatives who were very helpful in discussing laboratory equipment requirements for the company I work for.
11. It seemed like a good way to see how chemists are making a living in other sectors. I wanted to see what other options are available to me after my PhD.
12. I presented my poster to a couple of colleagues although as the sections were not separated in the poster room it was slightly confusing to see my outreach poster next to research posters. I did not get the opportunity to present my work to the judges (perhaps having the poster session as a separate time point to lunch would be better and would allow people to attend the additional afternoon talk which unfortunately those presenting posters had to miss). However I did not gain many ideas/tips for outreach activities as the vast majority of talks were not examples of researchers' outreach activities but of larger outreach institutions whose main goal seemed to be selling their institution rather than sharing examples of good practice.
13. Very good organisation and gave a good chance to interact with people working on similar projects.
14. The conference exceeded my expectations. I was able to network and catch up with old colleagues and see how their research was going. I found the career talk given by Jason to be excellent.

15. It was good to be able to present my work. However the invited speaker immediately before me over-ran by 8 minutes so I was asked to try and fit my presentation into 10-15 mins rather than 15-20 mins. This was really frustrating as I had to rush through the presentation and was not able to present it in the way I would have liked. I was disappointed because I put a lot of time and work into putting together the presentation and yet I came away feeling like I hadn't had the opportunity to really do it justice. There was also no time for questions so I've no idea if anyone was interested in what I presented.
16. Some interesting stuff - not as much on my area of research as I thought there might be.
17. I didn't stay right until the end as I had a very long way to travel, but I really enjoyed the speakers that I did see. Particularly the introductory lecture by Davvid Phillips; it rekindled my love for chemistry and reminded me why I became interested in it in the first place! The speakers on the stalls outside were brilliant - particularly Chris Slaterry from E.on; he was very insightful about the industry and knew the ins and outs of the company. The worst thing is going to speak to someone at a stall at a science convention, but they can't tell you anything about the science aspect of the jobs because they're from a differences department! Although it's nice to speak to anyone from a company, it's more beneficial to speak to someone who can answer questions related to the area that you're most likely to be involved with. However, having said that, all people at the stalls were very friendly and willing to offer as much help as required. I have recently travelled to Bristol to attend a Vitae Postgraduate Careers Fair, where there were a few employability lectures and many stalls... however as it was purposely to create chatter, I think the conversation that were struck were a little contrived and forced. Not only that, but the people who represented the companies seemed to be reluctant to talk much - perhaps because there were so many people there asking similar questions! So I think it's nice to have stalls, but the main focus was on the lectures, and the poster presentations. So any conversation struck up was genuine, focused and interesting. Sorry, I hope you can understand what I'm saying! Contact me at the email below if you want any more clarity!
18. Good selection and variety of talks and posters presented in a suitable venue
19. A bit too much organic chemistry
20. I really enjoyed all the presentations on outreach events and it has given me ideas of how to get more involved in this area.
21. It was great to meet so many people people from different areas. Usually conferences/meetings are so focussed on a specific discipline so this was a unique opportunity to meet different people.

6. Which session(s) did you attend (select all that apply)?



7. Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the conference.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Conference Overall	1.7%	8.5%	10.2%	30.5%	49.2%
Conference Topics	1.7%	3.4%	16.9%	44.1%	33.9%
Invited Speakers	5.1%	1.7%	11.9%	33.9%	47.5%
Other Speakers	1.7%	5.1%	18.6%	45.8%	28.8%
Poster Presentations	3.4%	5.2%	34.5%	31.0%	25.9%
Networking Opportunities	5.1%	6.8%	23.7%	30.5%	33.9%
Venue Facilities	3.4%	1.7%	15.3%	30.5%	49.2%
Ease of travel to the venue	3.4%	8.6%	10.3%	29.3%	48.3%
Catering	5.1%	5.1%	1.7%	40.7%	47.5%
Registration Process	3.4%	5.1%	6.8%	32.2%	52.5%

8. What would you like to see added/changed to improve future YMS conferences? If you have any other comments or suggestions please add them here.

1. Longer time for the poster presentation so we have enough time to see all the posters and ask question. I felt the time was very short and most people including myself did not have time to both eat lunch and look at all the posters!
2. The speakers selection was great, but I found too many things I wanted to go to, that clashed. Less might be more?
3. Talks kept more to time/more time to switch between talks. The marking of the posters by people with clipboards was a little intimidating.
4. Some of the invited speakers spent majority of their talk describing their career from undergraduate studies up to where they are now. I think it would have been more useful to give a brief overview of their chemistry career and spend more time going through the research they have carried out.
5. Appreciating that timings changed due to the queens visit, so it couldn't be helped. But an earlier start would be appreciated as it helps with childcare. (say registration from 9am)
6. I was satisfied with all the events
7. More chances for postgrads to speak, even just 10minute presentations would give valuable experience.
8. Could it be possible to have the times for the speakers in the different areas starting a little different, not overlapping each other?
9. Just a small thing regarding the posters - presenters should be reminded that they should stand by their poster for a part of the extend lunch session, otherwise everyone misses an opportunity to discuss their work!
10. I realise it may have been a last minute decision, but if you could have informed us about potential funding for travel expenses in advance that would have been useful - I had already obtained funding from elsewhere by the time I knew!
11. I would prefer to have a wide range of oral talks covering more aspects of chemistry. I think this could be a way of increasing the attendance of people and networking opportunities at the symposium.
12. Rachel O'Reilly feedback: she didn't give much constructive but said that it was a great day, she really enjoyed it and thinks its a great opportunity for PhD students
13. Make it clearer that oral presentation abstracts will not be considered for posters if unsuccessful
14. A few presentations from undergraduates would be nice, to give them a chance to experience public speaking.
15. It would be nice to see speakers' affiliations on the programme - this is extremely useful to sponsors (!) who may wish to make contacts at a particular institute/company. Also - and I know this is extremely difficult to arrange - but there were some really interesting talks on simultaneously - in the parallel sessions. Always difficult to choose which one to go for. A conference with parallel sessions will always struggle with this, but you could make life easier on the organising committee (fewer talks to try and schedule) by only having 2 streams (and perhaps even more posters, for those unable to present a lecture?). I don't think the overarching topics (Academia, Industry and Education & Outreach) would suffer and in principle, mixing the attendees from each area up a bit could be good to maximise the

networking opportunities. Please don't be disheartened by these (hopefully helpful) suggestions, as overall this was an excellent event and the committee should congratulate itself on the smooth running and creating the right atmosphere for a really good, informal and positive networking event. Keep up the good work!

16. The space for poster presentations was very tight.
17. More opportunities to show poster/work.
18. I was rather disinterested in both the academic and industrial talks since they were all more of a biochemical nature. I would have been more interested if there had been more chance for inorganic or computational talks, or just a wider range of interests for talks.
19. Please pass on to the committee my thanks. I think that the conference was very well run on the day and that there was a good mix of speakers in the academic section. I would recommend that the registration process, specifically group registration, be easier next time and if possible that the fee for attendance be removed. I think that this would encourage more young chemists to attend. Also, if you are aiming at attracting a large undergraduate cohort, you might consider having the conference on a Wednesday during term-time. Overall though I felt that the conference was excellent and that everyone involved should be congratulated on their efforts. Best regards, Jason -- Dr. Jason E. Camp Lecturer in Organic Chemistry School of Chemistry University of Nottingham
20. Perhaps a bigger room for the posters it was very noisy during the poster session and this meant it was difficult to access all the posters and hear the people presenting them. This is a really really minor point though
21. Overall, an excellent, enjoyable and worthwhile day. My only criticism would be the photography in the lectures, which was distracting. A suggestion would be to consider making the symposium more inclusive of other areas of employment, such as quality, manufacturing / process, technical support etc, which I believe are generally under-represented.
22. Poster session could have been enhanced using flash presentations.
23. Hi Heidi, thanks so much for the opportunity today - really enjoyed the whole day - got loads of tips, ideas and new connections with several other universities and the Hub that hopefully will really help!!! I have returned home totally inspired. Also, I caught up with Sam who, I'm sure, I will be getting up to some fab chemistry with!!!! Everyone seemed to really enjoy the day - a big success! thanks!! Sharon -- Dr. Sharon George Course Director & Environmental Hub Manager MSc Environmental Sustainability & Green Technology WSF13a William Smith Building School of Physical and Geographical Sciences Keele University
24. A larger poster room, could not fit 2x2 posters in such a small space to allow 1 presenter and 1 questioner for all 4 posters. Please, please, please YMS2014 committee consider holding the Younger Member Forum at the event. It must be the ideal situation for it, possibly hold it the evening before or after, thus allowing the attendees to help on the day etc.
25. A small 5 minute break between presentations to allow for overrunning presentations and travel between lecture halls. Potentially starting the day 30 min earlier to allow for longer poster presentation time.
26. maybe longer to look at the posters
27. More time to see the poster presentations say, 2 hours rather than 1.5 hours??
28. I would have made the lunch break shorter and possibly started the event an hour earlier as 6pm felt like a late finish. Putting the poster abstracts into the booklet would have been nice, too.
29. Outreach talks from researchers rather than larger organisations of institutes. Posters split into sections and a separate time for presenting, not over lunch so all presenters can speak to the judges. Talks should also not overlap with the poster session. Feedback made available to presenters on their presentations.
30. I found that not all areas of Chemistry were covered. Some talks were far too broad and others were too specific. I think the talk by Jason was interesting and it might be worth introducing a few more of these styles of talk next year.
31. YMS 2012 was a true triumph, and the hard work and preparation of the organising committee was clearly evident on the day. The day seemed to run extremely smoothly and was run very professionally. Organising a world class event of this quality and scale relying on the hard work of volunteers in place excessive budgets was truly a triumph. As this approach resulted in low registration it really encouraged inclusion of a wide range of delegates who would not normally attend this type of event. The 'neutral' satisfaction for invited speakers relates specifically to the outreach sessions. While both Tim and Mark's presentations were excellent, and were great examples of public speaking, I did feel that (given the collaborative nature of outreach work, and the audience of the session) they both missed opportunity: I feel (given the audience) greater emphasis should have been placed on HOW to outreach rather than WHY to do Outreach. i.e. useful contacts, funding streams, types of outreach etc. While out of the YMS committee control for 2012, I think if the outreach session is run again in 2014, the invited speakers should be given a bit more of a steer by the organising committee.
32. A larger poster session, and maybe a bit of focus on careers (maybe a careers talk from the RSC or other organisation)
33. It would be good to include a list of delegates in with the registration pack. It would be good to introduce the speakers e.g. which institution they're from, where they did their degree/PhD etc.
34. More posters (with people next to them), larger poster room. More emphasis on keeping speakers on time.
35. Nothing - it was great - sessions were just about the right length, speakers were engaging and attendees were enthusiastic

36. Increased advertisement to undergraduates to present their work, mainly as a poster. Try and promote this through university academics.
37. I really liked the venue facilities - on a great campus with a beautiful environment, but also Also, I put "ease of travel" as neutral, because it took me over 10 hours to travel there and back - doing that in 1 day is a killer! And it's a little far away from the train station - but having said that, the connections with the trains are good (i.e. don't have to travel to different stations), and the taxis combined are less than £20. Thank you :)
38. 2 academia sessions, one more organic, one more inorganic
39. I really enjoyed the conference and found it a really relaxed atmosphere for networking and learning.
40. If organisers and those marking the poster presentations had different coloured badges to delegates, that might be useful for quick identification. A scheduled minute between talks in sessions would be useful for delegates who want to attend talks in different sessions, so they can leave politely. Finally if some space can be saved for seating, this might be useful for early delegates who don't know the building. These are only very small things. May I take the opportunity to congratulate the rsc-yms 2012 on a job well done and thank them for a very inspiring day.
41. It was really impressive to have three concurrent sessions, this gave lots of choice, which was unexpected and so a real bonus.