Mines and Money London opening on Monday

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Mines and Money was the original large London mining conference, and has been running for sixteen years. Sadly, with increased competition form other shows and conferences that now come to London, it’s importance is in decline.

The focus seems to be on keynote speakers, of which there are many top quality ones, rather than on the number of companies exhibiting, the number of which has declined markedly recently.

Originally the conference did not admit private investors, and was an industry conference only, but over the years as professional attendance numbers have perhaps declined, the admission criteria has been relaxed, and retail investors can now attend.

The first time I applied to attend in 2006 I was declined, so decided to made contact and point out that myself and several other private investors were patronising the Mining Journal's regular monthly meetings, and it seemed unfair we were unable to attend the annual one. After some deliberation, the Mining Journal decided to admit those of us who were regular attendees, and I supplied a list with five names on and we became the first private investors be be admitted.

The number of listed mining companies seems to be around half of the exhibitors, so statements about the number of attending companies can be misleading, if like me you're attending to meet companies and hear new stories., rather than meet lawyers and Geologists.

Looking at those companies down to attended, some participated in the 121 forum the previous week, so it looks as though they are marketing to attendees of that event. I'm not convinced that that they are making the best use of shareholder funds to participate in two London conferences within a few days of

each other personally, others may disagree of course.

This year the format has been changed slightly, in an attempt to replicate that of the very successful 1 2 1 Mining Forums., with the introduction of face to face meetings, and the commitment to make at least five in exchange for being allowed into the event!

Another less beneficial change is that free attendees will no longer be given food this year, which seems a little mean in my opinion. I'm sure the llttle portion of curry and rice doesn't cost that much, although I appreciate it will mount up over four days. Islington is a poor place to have to go and buy food, one or two of the pubs are OK but service can be slow when the show is on and they are busy.

I'm looking forward to seeing how the new format for meetings works, as there are several areas to meet up, and i fear that will result in confusion and missed meetings, we shall see.

