

Held at the University of Warwick

Committee room 4/5

1:30pm 14th April 2003

Present: - Rob Sharman (chair), Representatives of Nottingham, Southampton, Loughbrough, Bristol, Warwick, Cambridge, Aberdeen, Oxford, London and Manchester Universities.

Apologies: - Rob Innett (Loughbrough), Representatives from St. Andrews University

Minutes of the previous meeting - 27/03/02

The chair briefly summarised the work that had been undertaken since the previous meeting. He highlighted the website as a particular success and congratulated Nick Burch from Oxford University for his hard work. Some items had not yet been resolved (such as BUSA) but these were scheduled for discussion in this meeting.

There being no corrections the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate representation.

Insurance

London questioned whether clubs were insured when competing since they have had trouble gaining insurance for an inter-college competition. They understood that clubs and individuals who were members of the RLSS were insured when taking part in RLSS competitions, but were not covered by the RLSS for university competitions. Other universities responded that their members were covered by AU insurance whenever they competed on at or on behalf of the university. Southampton added that it was usually possible to extend the unions public liability insurance to cover competitions. Bristol raised concerns that small clubs were often not yet members of their AU and so not covered. Oxford suggested that clubs contact their union's safety officer to clarify their insurance position. **The incoming chair was actioned to contact the RLSS to ensure that university competitions are covered by RLSS insurance.**

BUSA

The chair summarised the previous meetings discussion on BUSA and highlighted that whilst joining BUSA had drawbacks for some clubs, it was advantageous for the majority.

It was noted that there had been some confusion over whether 25 regularly competing clubs were required. Whilst it may be necessary, it was felt that there was no harm in applying in the near future in order to clarify BUSA's position. The committee felt it was desirable to increase the number of universities competing, especially trying to attract non Russell Group universities. Clubs holding competitions **agreed** to write letters to local universities inviting them to competitions.

The incoming chair was actioned to start the BUSA application process in the immediate future and report progress to the group via email.

National Governing Body

It was agreed that the RLSS should be approached to be the national governing body of British University Lifesaving. The incoming chair was actioned to approach RLSS.

Aberdeen questioned whether they should be co-chairs to split the workload. After a brief discussion it was decided that there were significant difficulties co-ordinating work between people based around the country instead the chairs local club should be used to assist in their work. Loughbrough asked that only the chair contact BUSA/RLSS on our behalf in order that we present a united and professional image. They further asked that we rotate the position of BULSCA chair between universities. Both points were agreed by committee.

National Competition

London asked if the Student Nationals could be rotated each year rather than staying with the winning team. During the discussion committee focused on two points: whether it was safe to give small clubs the responsibility of hosting the nationals; and if finding a neutral venue was possible. The idea of a neutral venue was rejected because of the difficulty of organising a competition at an unknown location without considerable assistance from the RLSS. Committee agreed that the current method of choosing the hosts for the nationals should remain in place.

Support For Smaller Clubs

Bristol informed committee that the agreement made last year of reduced entry fees to competitions and support from larger clubs had not been fulfilled. Committee reiterated

their support for this idea, and reagreed that 50% entry fees should be paid by clubs who had not previously competed at any given competition. Southampton apologised for failing to support Bristol, Nottingham agreed to take Manchester under their wing.

The chair asked clubs to do all they can to keep entry fees and social costs to a minimum, since rising costs are discouraging smaller clubs. Southampton added that clubs should do all they can to access funding from their university, clubs should contact their AU for more information.

Manchester asked that a pack of information for new clubs be produced. Southampton commented that much of this information is specific to individual universities, rather than to lifesaving as a whole. During the discussion many helpful points were raised, Manchester agreed to contact all clubs asking for advice and a breakdown of running costs. This information will be added to the website.

Speed Lifesaving

Loughbrough confirmed the date of the student speed lifesaving competition as the 16th November 2003. Rules for the events are available from the RLSS website. More details will be posted when they are confirmed. Committee agreed this event would give clubs a useful taste of another branch of lifesaving.

High Performance Training

Since Rob Innett from Loughbrough was not present this item was not discussed. Committee asked that Rob Innett circulate information via email.

World Championships 2004

The lifesaving world championships are being held in Italy during September 2004. Southampton are organising a package to allow teams to watch the national competition and then compete in the inter-club competition. Southampton agreed to circulate more information as soon as it is available, and also to investigate how to enter the competition.

Oxford informed committee that they had been approached to compete in the Canadian Student Nationals in February 2004. There was some interest from committee. Oxford agreed to make more information available soon.

Team Sizes

Discussion occurred over whether increasing team sizes from 4 to 6 was a sensible method for allowing more people to compete and to bring the sport into line with the international standard. A number of universities felt that this would be detrimental to smaller clubs who struggle to fill one or two teams at present. It was agreed that this should be trialed at one event next year to assess the impact, Warwick volunteered to host this competition.

Elections

Elections for the new chair of BULSCA took place. John Morley was nominated and after a short speech was duly elected. Committee was informed that Alex Bazin from Southampton would be taking over maintenance of the website.

Open Water Competition

Chair informed committee that the open water season is coming up. This is both a fun addition to normal training and useful for recruitment. Each RLSS branch has an open water site for training, clubs were advised to contact their branch for more details.

A number of open water competitions are coming up including the student open water competition at Boscombe. Other competitions include Bournemouth Regatta and Eastbourne, see the website for dates and contact details.

Non University Competitions

Committee agreed that in order to improve the image of university lifesaving clubs should enter as many competitions as possible. Numerous competitions exist at branch and national level. Clubs should contact their branches for more information.

Quality of Bodies in Incidents

The lack of realism during incidents was discussed. The chair informed committee that this was the responsibility of the judges to ensure bodies were correctly briefed and capable of fulfilling their roles.

Jersey Competition

Simon de Feu from Jersey is keen to host an open water competition. Committee were interested in competing and suggested July as the most appropriate time to hold the competition.

Fixture List

Committee requested that clubs post the date of their competition on the website as soon as practicable. When new events are being planned particular care should be taken to avoid clashes with non-university competitions. Committee noted that with the increasing number of competitions this may not always be possible.

Any Other Business

- T-Shirts for Bournemouth Beach Weekend - Same as 2001. Nottingham to organise and choose colour.
- London agreed to host judges training in the Autumn term, between the Oxford and Warwick competitions.
- The chair has been asked to give a presentation on the future of competition lifesaving from the university point of view. Committee asked for the following to be included:
 - Concern over the lack of notice, and lack of consideration of the academic term.
 - Request representation for university lifesaving within the RLSS, due to our unique position within the organisation.
 - Lack of website and email communication from most RLSS branches.
- Committee agreed to meet briefly at competitions to go over progress. This could either be during isolation, or straight after the event.
- Nottingham agreed to try and fund the league trophy, which will be presented at the University Open Water Competition.
- Sponsorship of BULSCA was raised. Committee felt that obtaining sponsorship for individual clubs was a greater priority.
- Committee expressed its thanks to Warwick for hosting the meeting, and Rob Sharman for his work as chair over the previous year.

There being no further business the chair declared the meeting closed at 4:30pm.

The location and date of the next meeting will be advertised in due course.