

Held at the University of Warwick

Committee room 4/5

12:00pm 17th April 2004

Present: John Morley (Chair), Alex Bazin (Secretary), representatives of London, Warwick, Oxford, Nottingham, Southampton, Birmingham and Loughbrough Universities

With: Nick Burch, Phil Dickinson, Martyn Belwood

Apologies: Manchester, Bristol, Plymouth, Cambridge, Aberdeen, St. Andrews

Minutes of the previous meeting - 14/04/03

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate representation, after noting that Birmingham University had been in attendance.

Matters Arising

Other than those on the agenda, there were no matters arising from these minutes.

Correspondence

No correspondence has been recieved.

Chair's Report

The Chair expressed his pleasure at what has been a good year for BULSCA; 14 clubs have competed in the 6 competitions this year. Clubs have become more involved in the RLSS and some are entering rescue 2004, in the Chair's view this has greatly improved our reputation within the RLSS.

The Chair has been involved at a national level on the Sport and Youth Development committee and has built good links at this level especially with Janet Castro. The Chair has also built links with Lifesavers magazine who are willing to include articles written

by university clubs, though they have not gone so far as agreeing to a regular feature on university lifesaving.

Chair's action from the previous meeting:

- BUSA - University lifesaving is failing in only one criteria, which is the requirement to have 15% of BUSA institutions participating (23 universities). Much discussion ensued about the competition models for BUSA, whether the student lifesaving nationals or student speed nationals should be the BUSA championship and the need to increase the numbers of clubs. The chair was asked if he knew of any new clubs starting, he replied that Nottingham-Trent University were attempting to start a club.

Agreed - To continue to support new clubs and encourage other universities to participate; to continue with the BUSA application towards championship status for the student lifesaving nationals.

- Rules Update - This is in progress.
- Insurance - Only the RLSS nationals are covered by RLSS insurance. This means that clubs should arrange insurance through their Athletic Unions.

Webmaster's Report

The Secretary gave a brief report about the website this year. He was pleased to report that a spam filter had been implemented to protect address from uni-lifesaving.org.uk, he asked that clubs keep an eye on their emails and report any problems to him. The Secretary also asked that clubs write content for uni-lifesaving.org.uk since he is struggling to produce enough material to keep the site 'fresh'; especially useful would be copies of incidents and judges comments from competitions.

BULSCA Constitution

The Secretary introduced the constitution, stating that he had recieved queries about how this meeting should be conducted and that a constitution was necessary for proper governance of the association. Additionally he stated that the constitution would clarify certain rules and practices that should make lifesaving able to enter BUSA with no changes to whom may compete.

Typographical amendments were made at the meeting, as was an amendment to allow the student lifesaving nationals to be hosted at another venue should the previous winners decline to host the competition.

With these amendments the chair took the mater to a vote and the consitution was **approved** nem con.

Disabilities Policy

Oxford expressed concern that many incidents are not well suited to hearing impaired students; they wished to see judges take this into account when setting incidents. There was broad agreement that where teams included students with particular needs judges should be informed and they should attempt to take this into account; however this should not provide an advantage over other teams (i.e. prescription goggles) or involve anything hazardous (i.e. wearing glasses in the water).

A broader discussion ensued about whether BULSCA should have a disabilities policy. It was felt that this was desirable, but that BULSCA lacked the expertise to develop one. It was therefore **agreed** to investigate the matter further within BULSCA clubs and with the RLSS.

Action - Incoming chair to liaise with the RLSS to produce a disabilities policy for lifesaving sport and to investigate the numbers of students with disabilities involved in lifesaving. Oxford to draft guidelines for judges to take into account students with disabilities.

Rules Clarifications

The following rules were clarified:

- A maximum of 15m may be swum underwater following a dive or turn.
- The heat that rethrows are allocated to shall be at the discretion of the competition organisers.
- Rethrows shall be granted for obstructions on poolside (e.g. pool equipment) at the discretion of the head judge.
- The use of clothes in incidents shall be up to the competition organisers.
- The wrist tow shall continue to be permitted until the RLSS inform us that it is no longer approved
- False starts shall follow the "one false start rule" as is practiced by the RLSS, ILS and ASA
- Teams finishing equally in the rope throw shall take the median position of all equal teams.
- A time of 2 minutes and 30 seconds shall be allowed for all 4 man rope throws.
- Speed events will be run to ILS rules.

In a prepared statement Manchester asked if there should be established rules for incident scoring. The committee felt that this might be too prescriptive and lead to less variation in the types of incident. Another solution was proposed that incident guidelines be drawn up to highlight key areas to judges. This was felt to be more appropriate.

Action - Dan Graham and the incoming Chair to update rules and produce incident guidelines.

Competitions

Warwick asked for feedback re their 6 man competition. It was generally felt that whilst the competition was very successful there were problems with the format. Main concerns were: the problem of smaller clubs fielding 6 members, a lack of suitable incidents, and a lack of involvement for some members of a team. With these points in mind it was **agreed** that 4-man competitions and incidents would be standard for all university lifesaving competitions *including* the student lifesaving nationals but *excluding* beach and speed competitions.

There was discussion over who should host the freshers' competition; it was **agreed** that Warwick would host this competition. Birmingham requested that another competition should be added in the Spring term, possibly Oxford.

Loughbrough requested views on the student speed nationals, the event was generally praised though more team events were requested. It was discussed whether speed competitions were a way of attracting swimming clubs to lifesaving, this was welcomed provided that the 'character' of lifesaving competitions were retained and clubs did not 'pick and choose' competitions that they may win. Committee also expressed a desire for all competitions to have one speed event that counted towards the scoring, clubs **agreed** to implement this for the new season.

The Secretary asked that clubs forward competition dates to him as soon as they become available.

Entry Fees

Concerns were raised about the general increase in entry fees this year and the removal of food and socials in the entry fees. After a brief discussion it was **agreed** that entry fees would be capped at £25 for the 2004/5 season *with the exception of the student speed nationals*. It was further **agreed** that any additional costs (e.g. socials) should be made clear in advance. The committee reaffirmed its decision that new clubs would be charged 50% for the first time they enter a club's competition and that clubs should give consideration for the financial situation of smaller clubs when setting entry fees in future years.

BULSCA Funding

In a prepared statement Manchester suggested that BULSCA attempt to raise revenue to fund TA and judges courses. A number of problems were raised with this idea including the difficulty in opening and maintaining an account, ties to the account and who would be accountable. It was **agreed** to keep all funding at club level.

League Scoring

A number of different league models were discussed, but members felt they were insufficiently informed to agree to any change at present.

Action - Secretary to produce the effects of the proposed models on the 2002/3, 2003/4 and 2004/5 seasons, to be discussed via email in the summer 2005.

Worlds Training Camp

Loughbrough proposed a warm weather training camp in the Summer of 2005. They agreed to circulate details to clubs. It was noted that there is a possibility of the 1st European lifesaving championships in Germany during this period.

Action - Chair to enquire further about the European championship. Clubs to gauge interest for both events and feed information back to Loughbrough.

Elections and nominations

Chair 2004/5 - After a short speech Martyn Belwood was duly elected.

Phil Dickenson spoke about a vacant position on the RLSS Sporting Development committee for which he intends to stand. Although he will not be representing BULSCA he has been involved in university lifesaving for 6 years and is keen for BULSCA's input. It was **agreed** that BULSCA members should support Phil for this position.

Action - All clubs to contact their RLSS branch and lend their support to Phil Dickenson for election at Branch Conference.

Any Other Business

- There is a need for another judges training course, however problems have arisen since the RLSS require a TA qualification to participate.

Action - Chair to contact the RLSS to agree a compromise with the RLSS and arrange a course.

- It was noted with concern that unacceptable behaviour has been occurred both on club websites and uni-lifesaving email lists. Clubs were reminded that website material is public and that a number of external people are on the various uni-lifesaving lists. For these reasons and as a matter of common courtesy members were asked to carefully consider material on websites, and correspondence on email lists and between members.
- Loughbrough expressed disappointment at the dominance of the large clubs at the beach weekend. Discussions ensued about holding a second weekend at a different venue and various possibilities for ensuring better access to the weekend. The chair **agreed** to raise these matters with Simon Harrison.
- Birmingham confirmed that the scrubs relay would again count for their competition next year, there were no objections to this.

There being no further business the chair declared the meeting closed at 3:40pm.

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