

British Universities Lifesaving Clubs' Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Sunday 8th May 2011
Loughborough University





In attendance:

Miles Johansen (BULSCA Chair)
Rhys Clements (BULSCA Secretary)
Suanne Wong (BULSCA Treasurer)
Teddy Woodhouse (BULSCA Club Development Officer)
Stephanie Wilson (BUSLCA Sport Development Officer)
Oliver Coleman (BULSCA Web Officer)
Bristol
Birmingham
London
Loughborough
Nottingham
Plymouth
Southampton
Warwick
St. Andrews
Stu Richardson (observer)
Rachel Bigwood (observer)
Steve Tedds (observer)

Miles called the meeting to order at 10:15am.

1. Apologies

Cambridge, Swansea, Bath, Oxford

2. Approval of General Meeting Minutes

Corrections

Names need some clarification.
Oli wasn't there – remove name from minutes.

Vote to accept minutes

For: 9
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

Minutes accepted.



3. Matters arising from the minutes

Action 5.1: Re-wording of rule 1.0.3.11

Rhys: Not done.

Action 6.1: Change to rule 3.2.3 and adding rule 3.2.3.3

Rhys: Not done.

Action 9.1: Suanne Wong and Ella Hunt to approach RLSS for funding support.

Suanne: Done, but RLSS has failed to agree to funding our championships. However, they are happy to lend support in non-monetary ways.

4. Officer Reports

As tabled in Agenda.

4.1 Chair's Report

Miles: As tabled.

4.2 Secretary's Report

Rhys: Did not prepare anything. Apologies.

4.3 Treasurer's Report

Suanne:

- Oli questioned financial loss during Champs. Suanne responded that original price for pool was not fully inclusive, in particular cost of timing equipment and extra room hire. Van rental for equipment was also an added expense. It was also hoped and expected that more teams would attend, but did not.
- Rachel Bigwood questioned 'gifts and sundries'. Suanne clarified this included wine for the judges, chocolates for the helpers, and food and snacks for both days for judges and helpers.

4.4 Club Development Officer's Report

Teddy: No report prepared. Apologies.

4.4 Sport Development Officer's Report

Steph: As Tabled. Did not realize she had not finished typing up her report before sending it!

4.4 Web Officer's Report

Oli: As tabled. Oli also gave figures on usage. No questions. Oli also took on the extra workload of scoring at Champs and did ask the floor regarding how they found the real time results feedback.

4.4 Club Development Officer's Report

Dan: Not in attendance.



- Some suggestions for next year's Champs: Better communication, be more specific with clubs about providing timekeepers and helpers, ensure correct instructions are given to helpers.

5. Method of voting on proposed items

Vote 5.1: Proposal to vote on each of the following agenda items individually.

For:	8
Against:	0
Abstentions:	1

Proposal accepted.

6. Paper E: Rope Throw – Proposal to change to speeds rules

Oli introduced his paper, highlighting the benefits that include enabling times to be entered into the RLSS National Ranking Table.

David (St. Andrews) asked whether RLSS would accept this. Oli replied yes to this, as far as he was concerned in his talkings with RLSS representative.

Stu Richardson highlighted that this would be a move away from RLSS Nationals guidelines. He also questioned whether at Champs there would then be a duplication of line throw events.

Alex (Warwick) felt that Champs has specific days meant for Speeds and Lifesaving and the rules should be kept separate as such.

Vote 6.1: Oli first, Steph second

For:	0
Against:	9
Abstentions:	0

Proposal rejected.

7. Paper F: Rope Throw – Application of penalties

Stu Richardson presented his paper to propose that in line throw, any penalty incurred by a competitor will only count as a single penalty against said competitor's successful throw rather than penalising other members of the team.

Vote 7.1: Stu R first, Steph second



For: 9
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

Proposal accepted.

8. Paper G: Abdominal Thrusts in SERCs

Stu R highlighted the danger in allowing abdominal thrusts – some lifesavers, either freshers or those untrained, may be prone to perform abdominal thrusts with full force on a live casualty.

Alex (Warwick) questioned whether disallowing abdominal thrusts would remove the chance to demonstrate this skill.

Vote 8.1: Stu R first, Miles second.

For: 8
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1

Proposal accepted.

9. Paper H: Deaths in Incidents

Stu R suggested removing “dead” rescuers from an incident.

Steve T highlighted that removing casualties is confusing for other competitors.

Steph proposed an amendment: instead of “removal”, write into rule that there is a penalty for communication.

Vote 9.1: Proposal amended to say that “dead” rescuers go unconscious and communication with them is penalized. Steph first, Rhys second.

For: 7
Against: 0
Abstentions: 2

Proposal with amendment accepted.

Vote 9.2: The SERC Head Judge shall be responsible for deciding the penalty and the offending team will be informed at end of the SERC in question. Such penalty will be communicated on SERC results spreadsheet. Stu R first, Steph second.



For: 5
Against: 0
Abstentions: 4

Addition to proposal accepted.

10. Paper I: Change of eligibility

Miles feels that allowing students from sixth form to compete in our league might improve the turn-out for our competitions and could work towards our BUCS eligibility.

Oli highlighted issues with Child Protection and suggested to wait until BUCS changes their rules. Miles responded that he had considered Child Protection and it should not be a problem – we already currently allow under 18s to compete as long as they sign a waiver.

Alex (Warwick) pointed out that Colleges are unlikely to turn up to loads of comps.

Mark (Nottingham) suggested that isolation time would increase with an increase in competitors and that might put people off the sport.

David (St Andrews) stated that competitions are already voluntary.

Stu R pointed out that any expansion will be hard to manage under current organization.

Vote 10.1: Steph first , Rhys Second.

For: 0
Against: 6
Abstentions: 3

Proposal rejected.

11. Paper J: Captain's Hats

Stu expressed that captain's hats may prevent other team members from getting marks for good captaining if they are put in that situation. However, he did point out that removing captain's hats would be a move away from ILS rules.

Alex (Warwick) stated that BULSCA lifesaving is a sport and we should thus follow current sport rules.

David (St. Andrews) noted that captain's hats put a lot of pressure on a single person.

Stu R felt that removing this pressure it would benefit smaller clubs and encourage newer members to captain.

Rachel suggested that making the captain easily recognisable allows for better feedback and scoring from judges.



Vote 11.1: Stu R first, Steph seconded.

For: 0
Against: 6
Abstentions: 3

Proposal rejected.

12. Paper K: Swimwear

Steph presented the paper.

Stu R suggested that “for religious and/or cultural reasons” should be removed from the proposal – too restricting.

Oli noted that RLSS guidelines outline a similar clause, and that in the ASA summary, a specific competition judge can allow different swimwear at lower level comp. However FINA will not accept such increase in body coverage.

Vote 12.1: To amend proposal to remove “for religious and/or cultural reasons”. Steph first, Alex second.

For: 7
Against: 0
Abstentions: 2

Proposal with amendment accepted.

Vote 12.2: To add to proposal that (1) only textile woven fabric(s) shall be permitted and (2) non-woven and/or non-permeable (e.g. wetsuit) materials shall not be permitted. Oli first, Steph second.

For: 6
Against: 0
Abstentions: 3

Addition to proposal accepted.

Vote 12.3: To add to proposal that the swimsuit material used shall have a maximum thickness of 0.8mm. Oli first, Steph second.

For: 7
Against: 0
Abstentions: 2

Addition to proposal accepted.



Vote 12.4: To add to proposal that the Judges' Panel shall be informed of such swimwear one (1) week in advance. Rachel first, Alex second.

For: 6
Against: 1
Abstentions: 2

Addition to proposal accepted.

13. Paper L: Vote by Proxy

Mile presented the paper.

Alex (Warwick) felt that without hearing a proposal and input from others at a BULSCA meeting, you cannot vote effectively.

Steve pointed out that this is potentially a constitutional change.

Stu R suggested that we could limit what a club could vote by proxy on. It could be possible to read out the written views of clubs not in attendance at the beginning of a proposed issue.

Vote 13.1: Miles first, David second.

For: 1
Against: 5
Abstentions: 3

Proposal rejected.

~15 minute recess~

14. Judges' Panel

14.1 Paper M: Judges' Panel Documents

Stu R proposed to publish documents that would clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Judges' Panel, as well as issuing a set of SERC setter's guidelines.

Action 14.1.1: Stu R actioned to finish SERC setter's guidelines.



Vote 14.1.1: Oli first, Miles second.

For:	8
Against:	0
Abstentions:	1

Proposal accepted.

14.2 Paper N: Judges Panel Guidance

Steph presented the paper. The aim is to make the process of selection of appointment to the Judges' Panel more transparent.

Alex (Warwick) feels that Judges Panel shouldn't have the power alone to determine who is on the Judges Panel.

Stu R clarified that Judges' Panel, taking into account the opinions of the judging community, will put forward a list of suitable candidates to the BULSCA Committee. The BULSCA Committee will vote internally and present their decision at the BULSCA AGM, at which point all attending clubs will have a chance to veto members from being accepted to the Judges' Panel.

Vote 14.1: Miles first, Steph second.

For:	6
Against:	0
Abstentions:	3

Proposal accepted.

15. Paper O: Northern and South Leagues

Steph presented the paper.

Oli suggested that this could work only if there were enough teams in the league. Also, how would we compare and combine the scoring for the two leagues? And how does this proposal overcome travelling issues?

David (St. Andrews) provided a map outlining the issue of a North/ South divide, pointing out that St. Andrews is an obvious outlier geographically.

Steve pointed out that the original discussion on this issue started as a Scottish/England & Wales debate.

Michael (Plymouth) pointed out that splitting the league could eliminate competitive edge.

Alex (Warwick) noted that a cut in number of teams entering competitions could mean that hosting such a competition is no longer feasible due to decreased finances.



Miles suggested that further investigation into this proposal is needed, perhaps at a later time when BULSCA membership has increased greatly to necessitate a split in the league.

No vote.

16. Paper P: MOU with SLSGB

Miles presented the paper.

David (St. Andrews) felt there was no guarantee for either side having to do anything.

Miles gave example of our Champs coordinator failing in his duties this past year. If that were to happen again, an SLSGB person could potentially step in to help. Also, SLSGB might be able to provide funding to assist smaller clubs.

David (St. Andrews) suggested that SLSGB might only be looking out for themselves in this situation.

Vote 16.1: Miles first, David second.

For:	0
Against:	4
Abstentions:	5

Proposal rejected.

17. Competition Calendar

17.1 Freshers Comp

Warwick and Southampton both offered to host Freshers Comp. Southampton said they will uphold promise of food and social costs as outlined in their proposal.

Vote 17.1.1: Fresher's Comp

Southampton:	8
Warwick:	1

Southampton is awarded Freshers Comp: 29th Oct 2011.

17.2 Other

London: There is a possibility of adjusting costs slightly, depending on pool hire costs yet to be determined. Social location is also to be determined, but it was noted that the UCL Union has been a well-received option for the last 2 years.



Vote 17.2.1: London

For:	9
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0

London is awarded competition on 10th Dec 2011.

Nottingham: Some worries about a slow social. However, old boys will be able to help out as they will not be in exams.

Vote 17.2.2: Nottingham

For:	8
Against:	0
Abstentions:	1

Nottingham is awarded competition on 28th Jan 2012.

Birmingham: Competition to be hosted as proposed.

Vote 17.2.3: Birmingham

For:	9
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0

Birmingham is awarded competition on 11th Feb 2012.

Loughborough: Possibility of social at union.

Vote 17.2.4: Loughborough

For:	9
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0

Loughborough is awarded competition on 12th May 2012.

Plymouth: Possibility of using new 50m pool to be completed in the spring. However, there is some uncertainty as pool booking is unavailable until after completion. If 50m pool is unavailable, there are other pools they can look into.

Vote 17.2.5: Plymouth

For:	8
Against:	0
Abstentions:	1



Plymouth is awarded competition on 3rd March 2012.

Warwick: Competition to be hosted as proposed.

Vote 17.2.6: Warwick

For:	9
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0

Warwick is awarded competition on 5th November 2011.

Bristol: Never hosted a competition before but keen to try. Requested help from other clubs. Competition documents are available on the BULSCA website.

Vote 17.2.7: Bristol

For:	9
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0

Bristol is awarded competition on 26th Nov 2011.

18. Voting in New Committee

18.1 Chair

Nominations: Miles Johansen, Plymouth

- Outlined aims
- Felt one year was enough to get settled in, but with another year he could achieve more

Vote 18.1.1: Miles for Chair

For:	9
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0

Miles voted in as Chair.

18.2 Secretary

Nominations: Lizzi Underwood, London

Position on hold whilst Lizzi Underwood was contacted.

18.3 Treasurer

Nominations: Suanne Wong, London



- Captain at London next year
- Stated that she has learned to work well with Miles and hopes to continue to build on this good foundation
- Intention to learn from this year's mistakes and increase BULSCA revenue next year with better budgeting and planning

Vote 18.3.1: Suanne for Treasurer

For: 9
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

Suanne voted in as Treasurer.

18.4 Club Development Officer

Nominations: Alex Blanford, Warwick

- Stated he wanted to counteract the current trend of BULSCA becoming smaller
- Outreach into non-BULSCA clubs and younger lifesavers to encourage them to join clubs at University
- Outlined experience in lifeguarding and experience at Warwick club
- Steve asked whether Alex had any ideas to rejuvenate those clubs in decline – Alex responded that he would form links between struggling clubs and other stronger clubs
- Miles questioned whether Alex, coming from a larger club, would miss the issues that small clubs face – Alex responded that he would try his best not to

Vote 18.4.1: Alex for Club Development Officer

For: 9
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

Alex voted in as Club Development Officer

Point of note: Stu R pointed out that RLSS are looking to employ a youth engagement officer and it would be beneficial for Alex to contact this person in the near future.

18.5 Sport Development Officer

Nominations: Chrissie Butcher, Nottingham

- President at Nottingham next year
- Outlined past experience with local RLSS club

Vote 18.5.1: Chrissie for Sport Development Officer

For: 8
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1



Chrissie voted in as Sport Development Officer

Point of Note: Possibility that RLSS might change direction in terms of Constitution, rules, and awards. Chrissie might want to keep an eye on these changes.

18.6 Web Officer

Nominations: Oli Coleman

- He enjoys the role and feels he does a good job.

Vote 18.6.1: Oli for Web Officer

For:	9
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0

Oli voted in as Web Officer.

18.7 Champs Coordinator

Nominations: Rachel Bigwood

- Detailed speech
- Motivation - Rachel has given it some thought and felt despite potential confusion, prior to this past year, champs has run smoothly and she hopes to get champs back on track
- Experience – Committee at Warwick (Captain), RLSS Comps, wide range of roles
- Plan – Inform teams early and maintain constant contact with clubs. Close contact with RLSS and make sure that competition format and rules are mirrored
- Intention to push BULSCA forward

Vote 18.7.1: Rachel for Champs Coordinator

For:	9
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0

Rachel voted in as Champs coordinator.

18.8 Secretary

Unable to contact original nominee, Lizzi Underwood. It was noted that Lizzi had expressed a desire to run for the position only if no one else wanted the position. Steph now expressed an interested in the position.

Nominations: Stephanie Wilson, London

- Steph has had prior experience in BUSLCA committee
- Captain at London this past year



Vote 18.8.1: Steph for Secretary

For:	9
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0

Steph voted in at Secretary.

19. Any Other Business

19.1 Judges Panel

Stu R proposed Jen Matthews as a suitable nominee for selection to the Judges' Panel.

Vote 19.1.1: Jen Matthews for the Judges' Panel

For:	9
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0

Jen Matthews voted onto the Judges' Panel.

New Judges' Panel: Stu Ward, Steve Tedds, Jen Matthews

19.2 Fines for Trophy

Alex proposed a fine of £5 as a deterrent for forgetting to bring a BULSCA trophy to either Champs or the final competition of the year. It was clarified this fine applies to BULSCA trophy and clubs are responsible for their own for their competitions.

Vote 19.2.1

For:	5
Against:	2
Abstentions:	2

Proposal accepted.

Action 19.2.1: Secretary to remind relevant clubs to bring BULSCA trophies back to appropriate competitions.

19.3 RLSS Swim and Tow Changes

Anticipated change in RLSS rules concerning preventing use of wrist tow.
Should BULSCA rules remain unchanged or amend to be in line with RLSS when the time comes?



Oli proposed that Sport Development should approach Paul Moore or appropriate RLSS contact to discuss this issue and BULSCA rules will be changed accordingly.

Vote 19.3.1

For:	5
Against:	1
Abstentions:	3

Proposal accepted.

Action 19.3.1: Sport Development to contact Paul Moore or appropriate RLSS contact regarding rule change in swim and tow.

19.4 Old Boys trophy at Champs

Rhys proposed to have an Old Boys trophy at Champs.

Vote 19.4.1

For:	2
Against:	3
Abstentions:	4

Proposal rejected.

19.5 Old Boys League

Desire to set up an Old Boys League, details to be determined.

Vote 19.5.1

For:	7
Against:	2
Abstentions:	0

Proposal accepted.

Action 19.5.1: Steve Tedds to come up with a proposal for setting up an Old Boys League.

19.6 BULSCA team to compete at RLSS Speeds

Miles proposed possibility of forming a BULSCA team composed of the best university lifesavers to compete at RLSS Speeds.



Oli stated that this discussion has occurred before and felt that to be effective BULSCA should put forward the best team possible. However, this could be difficult to do since it would mean taking some of the clubs' best members, thereby weakening individual teams. Furthermore, if selection is not done correctly, it could make BUSLCA appear to be weak in lifesaving sport.

Miles proposed that further investigation should take place.

No vote.

Miles ended the meeting at 2:05pm.