

British Universities Life Saving Clubs' Association

Minutes of the 13th BULSCA AGM





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In Attendance

BULSCA Committee

Chair: Chris Harper

Secretary: Adam Martin

Treasurer: Edward McCutcheon

Club Development: Nicola Keenan

Webmaster: Oliver Coleman

Championships Co-Ordinator: Alexander Blandford

Welfare Officer – Sam O'Connor

Clubs

Loughborough University LC – Andy Gladders and Will Smith

Plymouth Surf Lifesaving Club – Chris Biggs and Cara Malorey-Vibert

Southampton University Lifesaving Club – Hannah Robinson and Robert Anderson

University of St Andrews Lifesaving Club – Charlotte Brinkmann

University of London Union – Giacomo Dentoni and Niamh O'Brhian

University of Nottingham – Mark McCorquodale and Catherine Owleseris

Bristol University – Catherine Baldwin and Elle Mortensson

University of Sheffield – Helen Morris and Michael Kirkham

University of Warwick – Scott Chamberlin-Wibbeke & Jamie Roberts

University of Birmingham – Rachel Chambers & Rebecca Park

Additionally

Nile Swimmers - Dom Robertson & Dan Graham

1. Late Proposal K – Speaking Rights for BULSCA Chairs

Oli (Webmaster) submits a late proposal that all previous BULSCA Chairs should get speaking rights at general meetings. He proposes moving to a vote immediately, seconded by Nicola (Club Development). Mark (Nottingham) enquires as to why Chris doesn't just give them voting rights. Chris (Chair) says this will just be simpler.

The matter is moved to a vote:

Accept: 8

Abstain: 1

Reject: 0



Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Update the General Meeting Procedures	BULSCA Secretary	September 14

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chris (Chair) welcomes everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Oxbridge & Swansea.

2. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes

Alex (Championships Co-ordinator) proposes them as accurate, Oli (Webmaster) seconds. The matter is moved to a vote.

Accept: 8

Abstain:0

Reject:0

The Minutes are accepted

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

None are raised.

4. Officer Reports

Chris (Chair)

This year BULSCA has undergone some significant changes to improve our ability to deliver on our aims. A lot of this has been possible because of a committee with a great deal of knowledge and background in BULSCA and lifesaving more generally and my thanks go to them for their dedication and active involvement in trying to improve the organisation to the best of their abilities. This has been helped by their extensive contacts, particularly within but not limited to RLSS UK and the breadth of lifesaving experience.

Some elements have been completely new and deserve being highlighted separately, while others have been fixes to issues we have identified throughout the year, mostly relating to lacunae and ambiguities in our governing documents. Specific development in our relations with other organisations are worthy of note as are a few remaining issues which will fall to the next committee to handle as they see fit.

Big Wins



BULSCA Sports Leadership Conference was the most obvious new feature of the year. Drawing on resources available to us through the goodwill of other drowning prevention organisations, we were able to provide a day that helped to clarify our position in the wider work to save lives and increased knowledge and understanding of how to successfully coach and compete in line throw and SERC events. While attendance was lower than we would have liked, the groundwork has been laid for an event with great potential that I would hope successive committees carry on.

Our gratitude to RNLI, SLSGB and RLSS UK for dedicating speakers and resource to the event has already been expressed but it worth noting in a summary of the year.

We have, following great difficulty, moved our banking to Lloyds to facilitate online banking. More details are in the Treasurer's report but the short version is simply that this should speed up our ability to handle financial transactions, given a geographically spread group of signatories.

Our new website should allow for greater functionality and easier use as well as providing a more modern appearance to dovetail with our increased social media presence and new logo (for which credit must go to Luke Peel for significant work).

Proposals passed at the London General Meeting have had some effect in the second half of this season. A BULSCA composite squad competed for the first time at the Grand Prix Moravie. I can only speak from anecdote having not attended but it seemed that a cross-institution group were able to bond as a single entity, increasing the profile and international goodwill for BULSCA as an organisation. Certainly the results were something to be proud of.

The officiating pathway has some way to go before it is fully implemented, not least a new online system which the Webmaster is currently in the process of finalising, but has helped to clear up shadowing and official allocation at competitions.

Troubleshooting

A full review of the Competition Manual was conducted at the start of the year, primarily led by Steve Tedds to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. Redundant text was removed, potential contradictions corrected and a general tidy up performed to increase clarity and consistency across our events. A new tracking system, noting live and potential issues has also been implemented which should allow the process to be much easier in the future.

The website movement identified a number of issues with our web hosting and web mail systems which have largely been resolved. Some residual concerns remain with the mailing specifically.

Certain rule issues have come to light and been handled through clarification and a proposal at the London General Meeting. The rules around tow strokes in the swim and tow relay showed significant variation in interpretation and have been made clearer. We suffered more than other organisations from the drawn out affair of manikin carry rules changing and being finalised at ILS level. We were caught in a situation where we were among the first competitions to implement drafts of rules which were subsequently changed, leading to a lack of consistency in our calendar which was beyond our control but was disappointing. This should now have been resolved with the drastically altered, but unambiguous guidance in the latest ILS rules, adopted by RLSS UK and therefore, by us.



There remains the concern that short course rules have not been published for a number of years. This has not been reflected in our Competition Manual. In consultation with the BULSCA Judge's Panel it has been possible to find a way to ensure our rules are robust although it does not involve the clear chains of reference that we would desire. A proposal has been entered at this meeting with the aim of solving this issue.

The insurance situation with regard to the Student Championships had some potentially significant flaws which have been resolved in consultation with RLSS UK. As a result we can be confident of coverage for the Champs Coordinator and BULSCA Committee in the event of an incident, following RLSS UK arranging that our event was specifically covered in their insurance agreement. We were not made liable for the increased financial burden necessary to ensure our event is covered.

External Relationships

Our relationship with a number of external organisations has shown improvement recently.

While serving as Youth Advisor to the RLSS UK Management Board it has been my aim to increase the opportunities available to BULSCA and its members as well as ensuring that BULSCA is considered as a key partner in youth development in RLSS UK. By also serving as BULSCA Chair in my final year in that role, I have been able to see the increasing relationship from both sides and would encourage subsequent committees to make the most of the enthusiasm that does exist to engage.

As well as the Champs insurance issue being resolved, We were able to have a meeting with Lee Heard, the National Youth Engagement Officer at the London General Meeting giving him the opportunity to learn how BULSCA could best be helped in achieving its aims. The immediate result was the provision of Lifesaving Manuals for Instructors for the use of the BULSCA Judge's Panel. Lee is investigating further steps that could be taken while reflecting BULSCA and its work in his communication with RLSS UK clubs and branches. The BULSCA Judge's Panel were able to have a meeting with Paul Moore, Chair of the College of Referees, at Warwick to discuss live issues in officiating.

The increasingly strong relationship was most noticeable in BULSCA being invited to attend an RLSS Commonwealth seminar and celebration. Adam, in his role as Secretary, represented us alongside youth representatives from RLSS UK branches, dignitaries from RLSS Commonwealth and RLSS UK as well as HRH Prince Michael of Kent, the RLSS Commonwealth Patron. As well as this Steve Tedds and Chrissie Butcher (Nottingham) ran a SERC session for a Youth Development Day in Scotland after a request to RLSS UK from the organisers.

RLSS UK help has been useful in analysing our rules in the context of theirs and international changes. They have also been able to provide information to us to facilitate courses and have begun to include our events in their regular emails to officials, potentially easing the officials shortage that we have sometimes faced. Elouise Greenwood has been particularly willing to go out of her way to assist when BULSCA has required guidance or assistance.

Unfortunately the RNLI were unable to provide a SERC for Champs this year due to understandable resource concerns. They endeavor to continue running their SERC every second year ensuring that we are able to continue to benefit from a popular and slightly different event. A



presentation on the work of RNLI in local communities at the Sport Leadership Conference allowed us to maintain an active engagement with the organisation this year.

We have engaged once again with SLSGB, who were also able to attend Conference. Following the information provided there, a joint venture is underway to provide a coaching qualification to BULSCA members, details of which will be available later in this meeting. They have also offered to run a SERC in the years between RNLI SERCs at conference.

There is a proposal at this meeting from Nile Swimmers presenting another potential external collaboration opportunity.

Live Issues

While the majority of items to have arisen during the year have been completed, some remain ongoing to be picked up by the next committee. The new scoring system was agreed at the London General Meeting and will become live at the start of next season. While it has run in tandem this year to ensure no faults are inherent to the system itself, it will undoubtedly provide an interest point next year.

The webmail issues that became apparent during our transition to the new website have been improved but not entirely solved and will require some further work.

Officiating numbers remain a problem. There is a clear new generation of officials taking on higher responsibility roles in competitions and a core of recently qualified officials regularly attending. However, there have been occasions this year where competitions have struggled to attract enough initial interest from officials to be certain of going ahead. I am confident we are on the right trajectory between our new officials becoming more active and increased assistance from external officials but we cannot lose sight of the issue and must be aware that this can be a problem and try to avoid a reduction in numbers as our current officials become less active in the future.

Conclusion

I look back with pride on what we have achieved this year and will miss being a member of this committee. I have been in the fortunate position of having a lot of free time this year, allowing me some freedom in communicating with the committee and other parties and the ability to tackle issues where people with greater university or work commitments may have struggled. While I have no doubt this has contributed to the amount of work we have managed to get through this year it would have been simply impossible without a strong, opinionated and dedicated committee around me. I must extend my thanks to them for their tireless devotion to making BULSCA as strong as possible and to improving the experience of those who come through our clubs. It has been a pleasure to work with them and I genuinely believe we finish in a stronger position 12 months on from our appointments.

Adam (Secretary)

There have been a number of changes this year and for me my ultimate aim has been to try and make BULSCA more accessible. I hope that those of you who've read minutes produced in previous years will appreciate the amount of reformatting that has occurred and hopefully you will have found things clearer. Especially in this agenda which I am especially proud of!



You may also have noticed the substantial changes to the RLSS magazine, which has meant that we have only had two issues of Lifesavers to which I have had to provide articles. Both articles were a great reflection on how this organisation is about more than just competing and I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to them.

Finally you'll have hopefully noticed the large amount of rebranding in BULSCA this year. While I cannot take credit for the choice of fonts or the new logo, there has been a great deal of work in bringing a number of documents up to date. While the job isn't quite done we are getting there and has all tied in very nicely with the launch of the new website.

Edward (Treasurer)

We now have online banking, hooray!

This year has been one for upgrades and problem solving. We now use Lloyds for banking, while the transition experience was nothing short of appalling, there's no other alternative for our organisation type for free dual signatory online banking. However, since we've been moved over and doing 'typical' banking transactions, the benefit has been substantial.

The Student Championships were a financial problem for a number of months – those of you who saw me judging will remember my concerns about the financial cost of additional pool time (which we couldn't get in the end anyway). I encourage you to read the Championships Proposal for the AGM to fully appreciate the scale of the difficulties we faced, and that Chris, Alex and I resolved for this year.

I was pleased to organise the first recent BULSCA Conference this year, as one way of trying to use some of the affiliations money paid to BULSCA to benefit constituent members. I understand a number of individuals left inspired or with actions to further develop lifesaving based on information they heard.

There have been useful discussions this year with RLSS UK on financial support for BULSCA. While these aren't concluded, we can be grateful that our RLSS membership insures the championships.

As we move into next year I begin work with Oli to reform BULSCA and RLSS UK entry and scoring systems, in part powered by the membership's approval to move hosting providers at the Bristol EGM.

BULSCA is financially better off than last year (despite breakeven planning), and we have the quantity of contingency money needed to pay a substantial 50m pool hire deposit for a future Championships if necessary.

Nicola (Club Development)

Gives her thanks to the outgoing committee as they have done a lot of work, mainly behind the scenes. She doesn't believe that the development successes from this year relay back to her at all. She'd like to say a special thank you to Ed for his work on the BULSCA conference. She'd also like to say a massive thanks to Sheffield and to congratulate them on their achievements in setting their club up. She has updated some speed results but there are still a couple more to do.



She feels that she has added as sense of style to the committee as well has having joined meeting from some interesting places. She's also been essential in adding gender diversity to the committee.

Oliver

I find it both exciting and strange that I will have been BULSCA's only ever web officer of BULSCA having informally started in December (2007) of my second year for Kate Wade (BULSCA Chair), then took it on officially with Dom Robertson guiding the way. The web has changed dramatically since our early days with Social Media becoming an ever more effective tool for communications, apparently.

I personally have enjoyed the challenge of online entry, and all parts of the streaming lining of the BULSCA Championships into the lean system we now have; being challenged by different people at different times to produce something to make life easier for them, most notably Dom Robertson, Steve Tedds, Helen Killingley as well as more recently David brown and Adam Martin. I feel the role has clearly developed into two distinctly separate strands, both which require the amount of attention that cannot be provided by one individual, which is why I am glad the proposal to split the role was successful at the General Meeting in London. However, we are now moving into the future of this role, and reviewing this past year, setting targets for the years ahead.

It has been a fantastic year of development for BULSCA. We have taken our web based entry and applied it at an event for RLSS Scotland to great effect and have two more multi-age group events signed up in the next 6 months. A new method of comparative scoring has been developed and will be adopted in the new season. BULSCA has achieved the majority of the aims set from last year's AGM along with additional items, as detailed below.

The 6 items set out at last year's AGM:

- 1) Integrate the use of the RLSS Number checker that has now been made available via sports league- **Completed**
- 2) Continue with the active promotions of getting clubs to enter times into sports league- **Completed**
- 3) Create an individual sheet for viewing the championships results- **Completed**
- 4) Automate the production for the full programme for champs- **Completed**
- 5) Add macro to standard competition sheet that will automatically print 1 sheet per club – **Completed**
- 6) Add leading zero's through BULSCA system both online, Excel and PDF- **Completed although is believed some places may have been missed and need to be caught up by the new data manager**

Overview of some of the additional points:

Automated Statistical analyse of SERC results for member clubs.

Creation of a new website



Creation of a dual branded mass importing tool for Sports league (Used by RLSSUK for their speeds)

Use of communication throughout the BULSCA champs via Twitter and live result reporting- a major success in many people's eyes.

New hosts and mailing provider

Items that have occurred during the year that have been partially achieved so far:

Judge Tracking – database Structure developed but coding must be look at by next year data manager

Online Voting - currently will be administered by email

To look at some of these in detail and the impacts they have will be important and may have consequences for the future which should be consider and presented to you as the membership.

Given all the positive points in regards to developments so far, it is disappointing that we have also had occasions of information being typed onto the wrong tabs of spreadsheets or more than 10 errors being found after the competition's provisional results have been announced. Steps have already been taken to minimise the chances of incorrect weighting or using the wrong tabs by sending the spreadsheet with much more hidden. Investigation into the inputting errors at two competitions in Term 2 is still ongoing; the Chair and I are looking to change guidance if required but will await some replies from clubs before doing this.

Now to look at the impact of this year's changes and how the Data Manager and Communications Officer may need to react and outline some objectives for the two positions to achieve over the next 12 month period until the next AGM.

We are now fully integrated with the RLSS Sports League and the checking has allowed us to create much more accurate data. However uptake is very slow outside of BULSCA Champs despite the process being very simple. In future if the ability to check qualifications occurs, we will move to take full advantage of this. The RLSS is working on a new wider system to be used at all their sports events which is very exciting and maybe trialled at some BULSCA events. It is expected for the next 12 months would only ever be running in parallel to our current infrastructure, when it is complete.

The committee have received extremely positive feedback from paperwork and process of how our competitions run. With others outside of BULSCA being impressed how quickly everything could be produced, with a potential invite back to the Scottish championships next year. Some minor tweaks will be needed as multiple age groups was not handled in the best way it could be but this minor change will be easy to administer for them, with two other competitions in Leeds and London also looking likely on the back of this. Showing that online entry is the way forward, with some acknowledging the steps we have taken thus far and hope we continue to adapt to people requests. It has always been an underlying principle of mine in the role of Web Officer to change and write software to people requests not what you think they might like. This is something the Data Manager should continue as their thought process over the next 12months and into the future.



At the BULSCA Champs we used a far more high profile digital push during the whole weekend. The majority seemed very pleased at the delivery of results online as they were completed, in addition many clubs got behind our Twitter campaign. It has been suggested that this is repeated next year as some externals have commented it was nice to be able to see what was happening without being present. This campaign was planned over an evening this year and this should happen again, although ad hoc additions were present having a core theme and plan certainly helped with a consistent delivery. Clearly the Twitter campaign is something next year's Communication Officer can take on.

It was felt by some that the old Website was looking it's age, the model that myself and the committee have worked on which required a lot of effort to translate the content of which the other committee members should be praised for, means that it updated it's look. The new platform also means a non-technical person can update and manage the content of the website, a key feature that will make the Communications Officer position hopefully very attractive to a larger proportion of the membership. The increased freedoms does mean possible some extra control on the consistence of how information is presented and passed onto the membership. It is a policy and management ideal that the Communication Officer will need to develop to keep consistence of titles, locations and a coherent logical structure rather than differing people opinions of structure creating a dysfunctional website. The structure and layout will never be agreed on by all but a consistent approach will make it easy for all.

We had some problems with our hosts which were documented at the Bristol GM. We have successful moved to new hosts and now have far greater control of our webspace thanks to not working through 3rd parties. However the mailing list has presented a problem for many months. These are getting far closer to resolution. It is still not clear when they will work without fail but at the moment we can be sure that all recipients receive the mail eventually but sometimes delayed, hopefully only by a couple of hours but is longer on some occasions. We are continuing to work with our providers to resolve this issue.

The final development was for the University of Warwick looking at applying analysis for understanding of SERC's. The unfortunate side effect has been that the spreadsheet now runs slightly slowly on some laptops unless calculations are turned off during the inputting. Whilst this presents a problem the University of Warwick have comment it has been useful in improving their SERC performance. The payoff of this seems to be useful to clubs.

Data in the next 12 months will move away from competitions, which has very much developed to look at tracking who is judging, where and to help facilitate the new judges pathway voted in at the London meeting, the work to facilitate this has already started. Though a lot of work will be needed and again will be a useful tool to the Competitions Organisers to help appoint new people to the roles of referee and overall judge on SERCs as they become available. Equally working with the RLSS on developing their own system, as if we can stay involved with this the system will accommodate BULSCA competitions as opposed to use having to alter to fit their system.

Overall it has been a good year for BULSCA, with many exciting new avenues to follow for the Data Manager and Communication Officer.

Targets for the next 12 months for the two rules I will be handing over to.



Data manager:

Develop judge tracking system

Look at club results and see if advice on result production needs updating

Make amendments to Champs entry so it remembers last event entered

Champs entry locks off some events for lower age groups

Communication Officer:

Management policy for website that allows collaboration

Get clubs to share experience via blogs

Ensure that the PDFs of the lifesavers magazine are used and uploaded

Create a programme of for social media to promote Champs along with the Championships Coordinator and Data Manager

Look at widening advice pages but ensuring that specific people are updating those on award, NPLQ are updated regularly with new information.

Aim to photograph and document more competitions and events to share, widening the appeal to outside groups.

I will be running to be elected for a term as Data Manager. I feel I am responsible, will continue to serve you well and hope this may continue through to next year; mainly looking at developing the tracking of judging but hopefully being useful in continuing to support competitions in their administration and support in administering their competitions.

Mark (Nottingham) questions why the results of the championships were placed online before it was formally announced in the presentations. Alex (Championships Co-Ordinator) says he wasn't aware they had been. Oli (Webmaster) says they were put online 18 minutes in advance of the results being announced. He assumed everyone would be listening to results rather than being on their phones. Mark (Nottingham) explains they weren't but members of their club back home noticed and messaged them. Oli and Alex agree it was a mistake and will advise the next committee so it doesn't happen again.

Alex

The 2014 BULSCA Championships had both some strong positives and strong negatives this year and I believe it is important to reflect on them both.

Overview:

This year we had a total of 139 competitors, down from 146 last year:

- 111 BULSCA Competitors
- 12 International Competitors
- 16 RLSS Community Club Competitors

This number follows the trend of being slightly down year on year which, amongst other factors, put a strain on the championships finances. Although measures were taken to ensure a loss



would not occur, this is an area of major concern to the BULSCA committee (Please see the [Championships Finances Proposal](#) detailed separately).

The Student Speeds (Saturday):

The feedback from competitors and judges regarding the Student Speeds was on the whole very positive. The day started slightly late, however, this time was quickly recovered and I believe the day ran very smoothly from that point onwards, with numerous warm up sessions and a lunch break taken throughout the day. Although some feedback was received stating the day was not enjoyable due to the slow reset times, I believe that given the limited equipment and helpers available an improvement is not possible. Moreover, I feel a quicker reset could have a detrimental effect on competitors competing in back to back events, with the current gap between events only just sufficient for a sensible recovery.

The Student Nationals (Sunday):

Aside from the obvious major issue of the cancellation of the 4x100m Swim & Tow Relay (see below) I felt the day was enjoyed by most competitors. The RNLI have decided to move to a model whereby they attend the BULSCA Championships only every other year which whilst I know some people missed their SERC this year, did give the opportunity for competitors to experience a full 3 minute 50m wet SERC which currently no other competition offers. In future BULSCA can either continue with this approach or look to other organisations such as SLSGB (who have already expressed an interest) to run an event at the competition.

The SERCs seemed to be well received by competitors with positive feedback both on the day and after the event. There was some feedback again that the day ran very slowly. I believe that the cause of this may have been the delayed start, however, once the competition was underway I believe it ran very smoothly and indeed very quickly. The time between each Wet SERC averaged at only around 1:40 and for this I would like to thank the judges and bodies involved.

Obviously, however, the day was overshadowed by the cancellation of the final event. My investigation into this has now been completed and a full report can be found in the AGM documents. In summary there were a number of issues on the day that whilst individually would not have caused such a major problem, when combined had a huge effect and unlike last year when a similar situation occurred, we were unfortunately unable to extend our pool booking. Whilst a number of changes 'behind the scenes' can and should be made next year by the Championships Coordinator based on the report discussed above, one cause that the BULSCA membership can help address is the severe lack of helpers brought to the competition. Unlike a league competition where it is the host club's responsibility to provide helpers, at the championships it is the competing clubs' responsibility. Whilst I realise there are often issues around logistics, availability and cost, without helpers the day cannot function and delays are inevitable.

Summary:

Organising the Championships was an awful lot of work, particularly in the weeks just before the event. I tried to organise as much in advance as possible, but unfortunately there are many items that are unable to be completed until the few days preceding the competition. Ultimately though it



was a rewarding experience. I wish next year's coordinator the best of luck, and will happily offer advice and help where needed.

Chris (Chair) asks if there are any questions for the committee. Scott (Warwick) asks if Warwick A's Long Course Swim and Tow student record from Champs will stand despite the event not being completed. Oli (Webmaster) confirms that it will.

5. Proposals

Proposal A – Provision of Helpers at Competitions

Rebecca (Birmingham) says that she has been involved in organising competitions for a while and always has trouble getting enough helpers. She is aware that this year a number of teams have had to act as both competitors and helpers which is not entirely fair on them. It's also stressful for the competition management and unfair for clubs who provide bodies for other clubs that doesn't. The aim of the proposal was just to even it out a little bit and try and make it a little easier on clubs. It requires that everyone bring one extra person to one competition a year. She understands that it might be difficult for smaller clubs but the only way she could think to enforce it would be a fine. She's put it at the Chairs discretion if there was a problem. Overall the aim is to make competition organisers lives easier and level the playing field.

Chris (Chair) explains that our recommendation is reject with debate. The committee agreed with the principle of the proposal, but we weren't convinced that this is a practical solution to it. That said we think it's an important discussion that we need to have and if we come up with a way that does work or if you think this will work then that's great.

Oli (Webmaster) has a point of information that this fine would have raised no money this year.

Scott (Warwick) raises that he agrees with the principle of the proposal but he thinks it's a difficult thing to officiate; it requires competitions to report stuff. Adam (Secretary) raises that he doesn't like it as it gives the secretary more work, Chris (Chair) reminds him he won't be the secretary anymore. Adam (Secretary) goes on to say that we've already put through the officiating pathway which requires the secretary to record the judges at every competitions. Now we want to report helpers which isn't something that clubs necessarily record or want to record on the morning of a competition. He has already asked Oli (Webmaster) to write a system to deal with Judges so it doesn't have to be recorded and doesn't want to ask for one for helpers. Rebecca (Birmingham) raises all you need to record is the university, not the names of individual helpers. Mark (Nottingham) raises that a lot of clubs bring helpers anyway, this proposal will only likely add 4 or 5 helpers at the most so will have very little impact. Andy (Loughborough) says that surely you just sign helpers in before the competition.



Chris (Chair) says we've probably exhausted the practicality discussion, does anyone have any new points. Scott (Warwick) raises what if a club can only make one competition a year? Alex (Champs Co-Ordinator) raises two things; one if you are going by train then potentially it could cost more for helper transport than the fine. Secondly that the discussion of helpers isn't a recent thing, by submitting a competition bid you are taking on the responsibility to host a competition and provide the resources, if ultimately you have to scrap a team then that's what you have to do. Rebecca (Birmingham) says that if everyone did that no-one would run competitions. Oli (Webmaster) raises that fines and rules are great but they don't actually make a lot of difference and this is a relatively small fine. Actually what is needed is a shift in philosophy and he completely understands why people want to compete but it's about changing the mentality of how helpers are appreciated. Helpers can find they don't have enough information or help and that maybe we should make more effort.

Adam (Secretary) wants to add two things, firstly this is a proposal that will inevitably disadvantage the smaller clubs more than the larger clubs who have more resources and potentially the clubs who can afford minibuses because they will be able to stick extra helpers in for no additional cost. He doesn't think that BULSCA should support a policy that disproportionately affects small clubs. His other point is that for him when he organised Warwick comp it was far easier convince a housemate or someone around Warwick to come and help for the day in exchange for free food and then go home than it was to convince someone to get in a minibus and give up an entire weekend for the sake of a bar of chocolate. It just doesn't work. Clubs need to get on it early with housemates and friends in the area.

Chris asks Rebecca if she has anything more to add? She doesn't so we move to a vote:

For: 2

Abstain: 2

Reject: 6

The proposal is rejected.

Proposal B – Disqualification Procedures at Competitions.

Sam O'Connor (proposer) withdraws the proposal.

Proposal C – Removing the Requirement for Males on a BULSCA League Team

The Holly (the proposer) is not available so we move straight to a debate. Chris (Chair) says that the committee recommended we reject the proposal as we think having mixed teams is important to the social aspect of BULSCA. We think it makes us more inclusive and open than single gender sports. Niamh (London) thinks that given BULSCA wants to be more inclusive at the moment the policy affects smaller teams who have 4 or 5 girls. It's not that teams are particularly aiming to recruit girls but if you have that situation you either have to sacrifice a member of your A team so that your B team can count or you sacrifice the B league.

Oli (Webmaster) raises that there have been clubs in the past where the club has been male dominated and have had exactly the opposite problem. While he acknowledges that guys are quicker, the premise of the proposal is that you want to select based on ability and lifesaving



merit. However there may be elements where girls have an advantage over guys. Cara (Plymouth) raises that her club has the problem of too many guys. She thinks if you are going to remove the requirement you need to remove both, not just guys.

Hannah (Southampton) says that Southampton had the idea that clubs can only provide one team of all girls. Alex (Champs Co-Ordinator) says that if this proposal was to get rejected that might have implications for our current champs rules where girls can compete as guys. Alex acknowledges that there is precedent for that in champs however he suggests that if this is rejected should we be asking the question?

Oli (Webmaster) raises that he has consulted a number of rule books and he can't find precedent for doing this in the team sports. Chris (Chair) responds to Alex's point by explaining the champs rules are as they are due to the difficulties getting a squad of 12 together as well as the generally accepted fact that guys are faster than girls. While that is not necessarily relevant to a competition where 4/7 of the competition consists of SERCs. Rebecca (Birmingham) suggests that perhaps we should change it so that the rule change will not apply to A teams.

Chris (Chair) asks Rachel (Birmingham) whether or not she thinks Holly (Proposer) submitted the proposal because of long standing trends in BULSCA or if it was raised as a result of an imbalance in the current Birmingham squad. Rachel acknowledges that the proposal was influenced by the current Birmingham situation. Scott raises that it's been okay up until now and not been a problem. Hannah (Southampton) disagrees and says certainly in her time it has been an issue at Southampton.

Adam (Secretary) raises that he isn't concerned about removing the rule but is concerned about the rule that is left in. We need to consider the effect of having one rule that prevents an all guys team and consider if that could be interpreted as discriminatory? While it's all common sense to us, another organisation might not agree. On the other hand for him either we are or we aren't a mixed sport. He doesn't think the halfway house works. Cathy (Bristol) continues the point by saying she imagines that there might be a problem with the rules of our unions with regards to equality.

Amendment is received

"A teams must be mixed but B teams and below can be single sex of either gender"

Alex (Champs Co-Ordinator) raises that if you want to go down this line he thinks this is the only way to do it. Secondly he says that one of the reasons why the committee were against this was that BULSCA is stronger for having mixed teams. It's not to say that single sex teams can't compete, they can and they have the opportunity to win a medal but having it this way encourages teams to try their hardest to get gender equality. Mark's (Nottingham) problem with this is that it could arise that you could have a case where a team of all guys in a B team could start to consistently beat your A team. Andy (Loughborough) disagrees with the amendment, he thinks either it should be for both or neither. Adam (Secretary) raises that currently there is nothing in our rules that says the A league is better than the B league and this change could result in a reversal of the current situation. Andy (Loughborough) suggests changing it to a mixed league and a single sex league. Chris (Chair) says that would be an amendment to the amendment.

The amendment is moved to vote



Accept: 3
Abstain: 1
Reject: 6

The amendment is rejected.

Chris then moves the vote to the original proposal, nobody objects to this.

Accept: 2
Abstain: 1
Reject: 7

The motion is rejected.

Proposal E – Official Charity of BULSCA – Nile Swimmers

Nile swimmers open by showing a video about drowning :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cP8H9YaxmWo>

Dom & Dan (Nile Swimmers) explain that what they want is to be the de facto charity of BULSCA, but not the exclusive charity of BULSCA. What they want is for us to promote their organisation to help them fulfil their projects. They explain that they've come to BULSCA because they love the organisation and that Dom and Dan met as a result of the organisation. Furthermore Nile Swimmers really started from inspiration drawn from being involved in BULSCA. Essentially they want to use BULSCA's energy and there's no limit in how people can help. For example if you want to do a dissertation in media then they always need promotion and would happily encourage that and help.

Chris (Chair) wishes to make it very clear that the proposal does not tie us to one charity. We are more looking at having partner charities. On that basis the committee's recommendation has changed to accept the proposal. Mike (Sheffield) raises that they are a new very small club and his point is that they can't really offer very much but he thinks that they are happy with what has been said. Dom and Dan (Nile Swimmers) respond that their primary reason for approaching BULSCA is not for financial aid, though they won't say no to donations, but actually more they are after the skills in BULSCA.

Chris (Chair) says that the other benefit is that BULSCA would push out promotional stuff from them to our clubs.

The proposal is moved to a vote:

Accept: 10
Abstain: 0
Reject: 0

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline



Encourage Members to Support Nile Swimmers	Everyone	Ongoing
Use of Social Media to Support Nile Swimmers Messages	Communcation Officer	Ongoing

Proposal F – Addition of Governance for Refereeing SERCs

Chris (Chair) states that this is basically formalising something that we already do. Our recommendation is accept without debate. Oli (Webmaster) says that this proposal is something we already do, there is two reasons for writing it down. 1. Occasionally there is a discrepancy of the overall Judge and the SERC setter, this just formalises the decision making process. 2. At the moment you might end up appealing a decision to a head referee who has not even seen your SERC and has no idea what happened. It just makes someone accountable for each SERC.

Mark (Nottingham) raises the issue around the problem if you don't have very many experience Judges what if you don't have someone appropriate for the role. Chris (Chair) raises that this is addressed in the officiating pathway. Adam (Secretary) also raises that the rule doesn't require you appoint a deputy referee so if you don't have someone experienced enough you don't have to appoint one.

Accept: 10

Abstain: 0

Reject: 0

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Use a defined deputy referee for Loughborough Competition 2014	n/a	May 3 rd 2014
Add to competition manual 2014-2015	BULSCA Secretary	Sept 2014

Proposal G – Entering and Exiting SERCs out of bounds

Mark (Nottingham) raises that at the moment if somebody enters a wet SERC from out of bounds you can potentially rescue some casualties which you score zero points. This then detracts from your teammates ability to rescue those casualties and score marks from them. He feels this is a greater penalty than is warranted. Its worse than just dying and is therefore is disproportionate. He acknowledges that there isn't a straightforward solution, which is why the proposal isn't fully



fleshed out. However as a starting point he has proposed the idea that if you enter a wet SERC from out of bounds then you are killed.

Chris (Chair) states the committee recommended to reject this because we just couldn't see a way to make it work the committee acknowledged it is an issue. Cathy (Bristol) suggests a whistle system that could indicate that somebody is dead in a wet SERC. Jamie (Warwick) raises that you already get a brief and a lot of information before entering the SERC. She doesn't see why we need anything else.

Mike (Sheffield) asks how people are killed in wet SERCs? Oli (Webmaster) raises a point of information that in 2007 the practice was banned so you cannot be killed in a wet SERC under the current rules. Alex (Champs Co-Ordinator) thinks it would be reasonable to implement this with something like an airhorn where you have to look. He also counters to Jamie's line that there isn't a rule that says what happens it's just the current interpretation that means that what you do doesn't count for anything. This is worse than dying because it prevents your team rescuing team members.

Adam (Secretary) agrees with the principle of the proposal but doesn't think it's feasible. Given he has trouble hearing his captain shouting his name in a SERC despite the fact he gets shouted at multiple times. Also what happens the day a Judge tries to kill someone, fails and an appeal goes in blaming the judge for not getting the message to the competitor. How can we expect judges to be able to do something that his own captain can't do? Chris (Chair) raises that's why you would need a very loud signal. Adam (Secretary) counters that by doing that you open up to the appeal that the noise interfered with the teams ability to communicate effectively.

Mark (Nottingham) raises he has done it twice and both times it was raised that he could have turned around and re-entered the SERC properly. Then he would have been able to score marks. He thinks that it's odd as the reason you don't score points is that you are killed so it's inconsistent that you can come back to life. Oli (Webmaster) raises that as a Judge there have been 3 incidents of this in the current year which is a small percentage of the total number of SERCs that have taken place. He is concerned that by us writing the rule in stone we tie the hands of Judges and prevent them from using a degree of common sense in the way it's judged. Mark (Nottingham) thinks that it's important people are aware of what the punishment is so thinks it's important for it to be made clearer.

Hannah (Southampton) discusses the possibility of amending the proposal regarding making a distinction between where going out of bounds would really kill you and when it wouldn't. Mike (Sheffield) suggests that we could action somebody to go away and consider this and come back.

Niamh (London) suggests that maybe it raises an issue around how we mark out of bounds. Chris (Chair) raises that in the case of London competition where entering from out of bounds occurred they did the best they could. He also said that it's possible to appeal when the out of bounds isn't clearly enough marked. Mark (Nottingham) raises his issue is that it is currently just a convention and it's not written down. Chris (Chair) suggests that him and Mark could sit down and put something together.

Chris (Chair) suggests that we do not vote on the proposal and asks Mark to withdraw the proposal in exchange for us actioning him and Mark to sit down and find a solution to this. Mark agrees.



Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Come up with a Rule Regarding Entering SERCs out of bounds	Mark McCorqudale & Chris Harper	London GM

The proposal is withdrawn.

Proposal H – Speed Event Rules

The proposal was accepted via online vote.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Add the Rules to the 2014/15 Competition Manual	BULSCA Secretary	Sept 2014

Proposal I - Rope Throw Rules

Andy (Loughborough) raises that his proposal is to bring our rules in line with the RLSS speeds rules instead of the nationals rules. That way there won't be any confusion between the league and champs and ensures that we are only training on one set of rules. Chris (Chair) has a point of information that this has been proposed in 2011 by himself and Oli and it was rejected 9 to 0 because of the following:

“Stu Richardson would be a move away from the RLSS nationals rules. He also questioned whether or not at champs there would be a duplication of line throw event. Alex (Warwick) felt that at champs there were days set aside for speeds and lifesaving and they should remain separate”

Alex (Champs Co-ordinator) raises that at RLSS speeds and BULSCA speeds we had a rigid cross line. At the majority of league competitions we don't have rigid cross lines so there is more of an advantage to be gained by pulling on the cross line. BULSCA competitions are run as according to the RLSS nationals rules just multiplied by 4 and automatically we update to follow those rules. This change would be a fundamental change to the way BULSCA competitions are run.

Cathy (Bristol) raises where do you propose getting rigid backlines from. Andy (Loughborough) acknowledges that would be an issue. Scott (Warwick) raises that the RLSS did not have a rigid backline at speeds. Chris (Chair) says they did at one end but not the other. Mark (Nottingham) questions that with the standard of rope throw we have got is it really sensible to increase the distance.



Chris (Chair) raises a point of information that this proposal saves about 30 seconds a heat providing everyone finished the event. This happened once this year.

The room votes to move to vote.

Accept: 0
Abstain: 0
Reject: 10

The proposal is rejected.

Late Proposal J – Social Media Policy

Bobby (Southampton) explains that the RLSS have one and that this year there were some incidents that caused upset and nothing says what we do about it. There should be a “what clubs can do about it if they don’t like it.” Chris (Chair) clarifies that this is a policy we’d write. Scott (Warwick) suggests that we action this to the new social media person whomever that may be. Ed (Treasurer) asks is this not covered by the disciplinary policy? Chris (Chair) says that it is in the sense that you could make a complaint and it would probably come into the category of humiliating or embarrassing somebody.

Adam (Secretary) counters that the disciplinary policy requires a lot of work and is a very strong response to minor incidents. Chris (Chair) also adds that the disciplinary policy would also require us to publish the investigation fully where a social media policy may not require that. Adam (Secretary) suggests that most people usually just want the post removed.

An Amendment is received

“Adopt the RLSS UK policy with BULSCA acting as a branch”

Chris (Chair) explains that where the RLSS policy reads branch we would read it to mean BULSCA. Ed (Treasurer) says that we are already bound by this policy as affiliates of the RLSS and would likely be considered a club. We move to a vote on the amendment

Accept: 0
Abstain: 2
Reject: 8

Andy (Loughborough) raises that this could be an issue when there was a bit of banter. Chris (Chair) suggests this would have to be addressed in the policy. Adam (Secretary) says that the only way we can deal with this officially is the disciplinary policy or unofficially a word from the chair. Alex (Champs Co-ordinator) asks if this is the proposal for BULSCA and its officers or clubs that are members of BULSCA. It’s acknowledged that it’s aimed at BULSCA and things that BULSCA is responsible for.

Scott (Warwick) raises that there’s not really any harm in it and proposes a vote. Nicola seconds. We vote to move to a vote

Accept: 9
Abstain: 1
Reject: 0



Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Create a social Media Policy	BULSCA Committee	ASAP

Proposal D – Financial Viability of the BULSCA Championships

Chris (Chair) clarifies that the proposal deals with 4 options of what we can do but our proposal is option D. Ed (Treasurer) explains that at the point entries closed for champs this year BULSCA was projected a £600 loss. A lot of things were done to make sure that we didn't make such a significant loss and then combined with entries from internationals and individuals we ended up with a small surplus of about £100. That would have been wiped out had one less squad entered. Therefore the idea of the proposal is to give the committee a direction on what should be done. Some of the options are punting in the dark others accept we are going to make a loss. The reason we settled on the option we did as it is the best way to guarantee BULSCA breaks even across a number of championships so surplus from previous years is carried over and used the next year.

Niamh (London) clarifies that we are discussing option D, then asks when clubs would be informed of the cost? Ed says the price range would be given when entries are opened and we'd get the final price to them as soon as possible after that. Rachel (Birmingham) raises could we postpone the change for 12 months as applications for finance have already gone in at the current price. Ed explains we can't delay this because of that, he understands it's an issue. However he doesn't expect it to cost more next year than this year. Chris (Chair) says he thinks the point is interesting but it's a separate issue as we have to set a price and it has to change, this is a discussion on how we change.

It's asked what happens if you're finance are tight and you are in a situation where you can afford to send either 8 at a high price or 12 at the lower price. Ed (Treasurer) responds in that case he would expect them to enter 8 but also send an email saying if the price is below a certain point you would bring 12 and if we can make it work we will. Mark (Nottingham) asks if we are going to seek a maximum cost from clubs when generating the range? Ed says that the price range will be announced when entry opens and will be based on the cost of our suppliers etc. Ed said that ultimately we are just going to tell clubs what it would cost us to the run event the way it is and if teams don't enter we can't run the competition.

Hannah (Southampton) clarifies that the maximum range would be the most that can be charged. Ed (Treasurer) says that's correct and if we needed to charge more than the maximum we'd go back to the clubs, explain and give them the option to pull out. Niamh (London) clarifies that if there is a surplus one year would it be carried forward. Ed (Treasurer) says it would but also clarifies that the same is true if we make a loss, we would look to recover that in future years.

Alex (Champs Co-Ordinator) suggests that clubs put the maximum range as the expected cost in their budgets. He also raises that if clubs have submitted their budgets no body has contacted the committee to ask what the expected cost of champs will be next year. It isn't right to assume that the costs will be the same year on year as costs go up.

No one has anything further to add so we move to a vote.



Accept: 10

Abstain: 0

Reject: 0

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Implement for 2015 Championships	BULSCA Champs Co-Ordinator	October 2014
Treasurer to implement when invoicing	BULSCA Treasurer	December 2014

6. Competition Applications

A – Fresher's Competition

Warwick – Scott (Warwick) explains that Warwick are proposing to put up the team entry from £25 to £30 this is because Warwick competition nearly made a loss but was saved by the fact the DJ withdrew and they saved the cost of that. If more entries than expected were obtained they would seek to reduce food / social ticket prices. Everything will be the same and the shuttle bus service will run again next year. Scott questions whether or not Warwick might do Manikin Carry instead of obstacles.

Ed (Treasurer) asks about whether or not they will do circling. Scott (Warwick) explains they'd love to do it but can appreciate that members barely know their own clubs. Chris (Chair) says that he personally would be against it. Oli (Webmaster) raises that losing Warwick circling in the second competition of the year was missed and wonders maybe whoever becomes the second competition could do it?

Chris (Chair) then asks for thoughts on manikin carry. Cathy (Bristol) raises that Bristol starts quite late and teaching them how to tow is more difficult as they've less time. Scott says that their point is that it's more lifesaving related than obstacles, which is just swimming front crawl. Hannah (Southampton) is worried their term only starts the first week of October and doesn't think its enough time. Sam (Birmingham) thinks that even with the new rule you'd see a lot of DQs. Scott (Warwick) raises that at freshers competition it's a lot more lenient. Oli (Webmaster) says that if it was the old rules he have been very against it but with the new rule he feels that if you can do a 100m swim tow then you can carry a BOB 25m. Even if you did it as a double under shoulder tow. Chris (Chair) thinks the wider question isn't if they are physically up to it but if they will enjoy it.

Mark (Nottingham) raises that people in his club who have been training for half a year still have trouble doing manikin carry. It doesn't seem sensible to try and get them to do it in 3 sessions. Adam (Secretary) raises that he really hates obs and doesn't see what its got to do with



lifesaving. He knows people say that it's like diving under waves but diving under waves in fun and diving under a gate is dull. The other point is that if you come to freshers having not taught your teams how to pick up and tow a BOB to the side then you are going to have issues with the SERCs. Jamie (Warwick) says that while 3 sessions is a short amount of time you can teach swim tow in that time and unless you are going to do front crawl manikin carry she doesn't think there's a lot of difference between the two events.

A show of hands is conducted regarding whether people thought manikin carry is feasible which Warwick will take into account.

We move to a vote on awarding fresher's competition

Warwick: 10

RON: 0

B - League Competition Applications

Southampton: Southampton says they are going to host at the same pool as last year. They understand accommodation was an issue this year but they are hoping to offset that using houses this year. They haven't yet secured a social venue but they hope to do that and have set the price as according to the previous years. Food depends on the social venue.

Birmingham: Explains they intend to have the competition in much the same way as usual. Their date is relatively set as that's when the swimming club are away and they can get pool time. They are aiming to keep the costs down as they did last year. They are going to keep the social venue from this year as they felt it was better. They'd be looking to do all 5 speed events and accommodation will be judges houses.

Loughborough: Loughborough explain they will try and get hot food next year. It's going to be houses for accommodations. Otherwise it will run as previous years. Mark asks if by houses he means houses or does he mean halls. Andy says they will try and get houses. Ed questions the high food and social costs. Andy explains they will try and keep costs to a minimum.

Nottingham: Their competition will be the same, the sports centre won't be used but the pool will still be standing. At the moment the costs are uncertain so they've had to predict what the social venue will cost. Therefore at this stage they won't guarantee free food for Judges.

Adam (Secretary) asks that given they had problems with Judge recruitment this year do they not think it would be more prudent to up the cost of the competition. He acknowledges that would break the recommended charge but surely it would be better to be slightly more expensive than to charge judges. Mark (Nottingham) disagrees and says that their problem pre dates this change and also he had emails from judges saying they didn't mind the change. Alex (Champs Co-Ordinator) asks would they still intend giving judges a bottle of wine as a gift. Nottingham says yes, Alex then says could you swap it and have free social rather than wine? Nottingham raises what about judges who do not stay for the social.

Dan (Nile Swimmers) raises that people like different things, he would rather have the social but other Judges might prefer to have a more expensive bottle of wine.



Nottingham clarifies that if possible they will give free social for judges but they don't want to say they will and have to go back on it. They'd rather add it if possible.

Bristol: Bristol competition will be similar to this year. In terms of the social the porters are still apologising for the fire alarm incident. Next year they are currently look at different food options to try and get something interesting, the fall back will be pizza however they would like to do something else. In terms of the social they've got in there a budget for other entertainment, which will be a fun activity they'd like to organise. Essentially if it doesn't take place then the social cost will be reduced.

London: The competition will be run in the same way as previous years and they are happy to host the general meeting. Accommodation is still members houses and they will do their best to give you information on where you will be staying. Ed (Treasurer) questions that they will make a loss if their attendance is the same as this year and Oli (Webmaster) questions that the food costs 5.50 per head and they are only charging £4 per head. London explain they are aware and that with food they are recovering the loss in social. Scott (Warwick) asks if the food will be the same as last year? Niamh (London) says that that's the current intention. Andy raises what happens if somebody doesn't buy both tickets? Ed (Treasurer) asks what is the problem with charging £6 for food and having a cheap social for people who might not want the pizza? Sam (Birmingham) asks if London are going to lose out by people not buying food and coming to the social. Alex (Champs Co-Ordinator) raises a point of information that teams are required to submit their expected food requirements. Rachel (Birmingham) says that even when that happens people don't always fill it out. Mark (Nottingham) raises they had the problem and they told clubs if they didn't provide food numbers they wouldn't get food. Adam (Secretary) says he'd fully get behind any club following that path as it's difficult enough for clubs to provide food.

Oli (Webmaster) raises a point of information that in the 2009 general meeting a proposal went through that if you ask for food then you can be invoiced for anything you ordered regardless of whether or not you use it.

7. Committee Elections

A – Chair

Cathy Baldwin – Next year she'd like to do something with SERC setters. There are a lot of people at her own club who want to write SERCs but aren't sure how to go about it. Also there are a lot of people who enjoy BULSCA and want to get involved but not necessarily competing and she feels that's an area of BULSCA we don't tap into. Also she wants to encourage more social things outside of BULSCA such as the Pool Party this summer. This will help sure up friendships in BULSCA. Next year she is away from Bristol and not serving on committee and therefore BULSCA will be her main priority.

Mark (Nottingham) asks if she has any solutions regarding the lack of Judges we have currently got. Cathy agrees that its been a problem for her club this year. She will look at whether or not



the Judges course is at a good time. She wonders whether there should be a course at the end of the year when people know there plans for the following year.

Adam Martin: Running for Chair because he's been involved in the BULSCA for the last 4 years and it's the sport he loves. The committee this year has been really good and pushed lots of stuff through, his intention would be to carry that momentum forward into next year. The new website has huge potential in terms of collaborative effort between clubs. He'd also like to see the return of things like the beach weekend and stuff like that to bring BULSCA together. He is concerned that clubs keep to themselves at competitions and that's something he'd like to change. The other think its working on is a coaches course with SLSGB to try and give clubs the tools to do more with their coaching and looking at all our partners and what we can do with them.

Mark (Nottingham) asks if he has any solutions regarding the Judging problem? Adam replies he thinks that we are undergoing a transition at the moment with a lot of faces disappearing and we are slowly getting some new regular people coming in. Obviously we will continue to drive and run Judges courses but we are limited to an extent. Hopefully the officiating pathway will improve standards and he knows Oli is working on a system he suggested to move judging online. Chris (Chair) asks what he is doing next year. Adam answers that he is retaking some exams and working so he can afford to go to competitions.

Moved to a vote. Adam is elected Chair of the 2014/15 Committee.

B – Secretary

Andy Bentley: Nothing to add from his submission

Moved to a vote. Andy is elected Secretary of the 2014/15 Committee

C – Treasurer

Edward McCutcheon: He has been the currently treasurer this year and things he has done a good job. Has overseen our transition over to Lloyds bank with some help from Chris. He also thinks it important that he's been able to feed in on other decisions like officiating and the technical stuff the committee has been doing. He also has sorted out the financing for champs as well as organising the first BULSCA conference. He thinks it was successful and it was a way of us using the membership money to something that's been useful. Also thinks he has been there to support the clubs as required.

Chris (Chair) asks what Ed is doing next year? Ed responds the same as this year and there is currently no change.



Nicola Keenan: Wants to be treasurer and thinks she would be good at it as she's training as an accountant. She's enjoyed being club development but it's become apparent to her there are other who are more suited to the role. She has no other hobbies and she is good at numbers. She's confident she can produce a full set of accounts and do all the other stuff to make sure we have the full package. Another thing she'd like to look at spending some more money on the clubs. One idea she's had is to do a Judges event that could help Judges gel together.

Mark (Nottingham) asks that over the years we have raised money so we'd have enough to put a deposit down for champs, would her intention be to reduce that? Nicola responds that's not her intention, but now we have that deposit we don't need to continue making more money. Chris (Chair) asks Nicola if in the treasurer role she is going for does she feel that puts her in a unique position to spend the money than club development did this year? Nicola says she didn't really look at the numbers last year. Now she has the interest and skill through her accountancy to actually be able to see the allocation and spread of expenditure. She has a better understanding.

Moved to a vote. Edward is elected Treasurer of the 2014/15 Committee

D – Club Development

Rebecca Ewers: Thinks she would be good for the role, she organised the trip to the Czech Republic which, she thought was great in terms of clubs getting together and socialising. She also has lots of ideas about how to help with clubs and wants to help smaller clubs get to competitions etc. Wants to go through all the resources on the website and build on it by talking to clubs about what they actually need.

Cathy (Bristol) asks Rebecca to expand on her ideas for supporting smaller clubs? Rebecca suggests in her club the best way they have found of raising money is to have an NPLQ TA. She wants to set up a course for TAs. Oli (Webmaster) asks given the new Chair's speech with some of the stuff on running courses what does she think she can contribute to? She would support and help set up things like Survive and Save instructor courses. Hannah (Southampton) asks that her club have TAs but have trouble getting pool time for their trainers, how could she help? Rebecca said she should look at how other clubs have achieved it and try and build on their experience. Alex (Champs Co-ordinator) asks what Rebecca is up to next year? She says she will be doing a PHD at Warwick. Helen (Sheffield) asks how she could help a club like Sheffield as they are new and need lots of help. Rebecca said that she's excited about helping the club however she can.

Cara Maloney-Vibert: Wants to get BULSCA involved more with SLSGB as well as the RLSS. As a Beach Trainer for SLS she feels she could help people get more involved in beach. She also wants to get more community stuff not just competitions.

Oli (Webmaster) asks does she think she can provide equipment to complete novices given the cost of such equipment. Cara says yes as they have the equipment and have lots of teachers and instructors at her home club. Alex (Champs Co-Ordinator) asks what she is doing next year? Response is that she is doing her product design course. He then asks what she could bring to the committee that's different? She says that she was the youth co-ordinator for SLSGB and she's been involved for a long time with them. Mark (Nottingham) asks when does she see these beach activities taking place? Cara responds that she sees it happening at the weekends and



hopefully doing either a beach lifeguard course or the assistant course. Would obviously avoid competitions. Helen (Sheffield) asks how she would help a new club like Sheffield? Cara says she would do the best she could co-ordinating with the rest of the committee and other clubs.

Mike (Sheffield) asks how she is planning to fund the weekend? Cara responds that as she has the qualifications she can do it quite cheap, all you have to pay for is the accommodation and the award forms etc. Chris (Chair) asks does she think it's possible to maintain our relationship with the RLSS while increasing our relationship with SLSGB. Cara thinks this is possible to do this without any issues.

Moved to a vote. Rebecca is elected Club Development Officer of the 2014/15 Committee

E – Data Manager

Oliver Coleman & Scott Chamberlin – Wibbeke: Oli explains that him and Scott have had a discussion and he has done the role for a long time now and as the role is so large he believes that a short one week hand over would not be appropriate for his role. As a result their plan would be that he does the role for the first term with Scott shadowing and then the next term they would swap with Scott taking over and Oli supporting. Almost it turns into a year long handover.

Alex (Champs Co-Ordinator) asks in terms of the BULSCA committee having a discussion, how do they deal with the fact that would mean an extra voice and could make things more complicated? They respond they've not really considered it. Dan (Nile Swimmers) suggests that there needs to be one consistent voice so he suggests that we elect one person to be the voice on the committee. Alex (Champs Co-Ordinator) suggests that Oli has the vote for the first term and then that switches for the second term. Chris (Chair) suggests we leave how this will run to the next committee and then we can elect the two of them together and leave how the committee runs to the next committee. Nicola (Club Development) suggests that we elect someone now and then elect someone at the London GM? Chris (Chair) says that would be possible if someone resigns.

Oli and Scott both do not mind what is decided so leave the room for the rest to discuss the matter. Ed (Treasurer) suggests we elect the two of them together, with one of them taking priority and it will shift later. Chris decided to suggest we vote to have them both in the role, with Oli having the vote until a time it switches. We vote on that

Oli and Scott are elected to the role, with Oli having the vote on the 2014/15 Committee until it changes.

F – Championships Co-Ordinator

Moved straight to a vote. Alex Blandford is elected Championships Co-ordinator for the 2014/15 committee.



G – Communications Officer

Emily Castle: (Emily is absent, so Adam reads her statement) Emily would like to get more videos and photos on the website. Building on what we've got and also enhancing things like the Youtube account. Looking at starting to make more use of the blog via committee members writing things and getting more involved with that. Spends an awful lot on Facebook and Twitter.

Alex (Champs Co-ordinator) asks why she isn't here today? Oli (Webmaster) informs it's due to health and transport availability.

Nicola Keenan: She was the communications representative for Loughborough as well as being chair of her club. Thinks her skill set suits the role because of her personality and thinks she comes across well. Loves a good twitter feed and thinks it builds up momentum. Would also like to see us have a LinkedIn page. In terms of other things she wants to build on the new website and wants to see more events on the website and photos etc. Videos are a great thing that can be added.

Sam (Warwick) asks if Nicola intends to be a more competitions this year? Nicola says 100 per cent yes. Her priority is now BULSCA, she won't be travelling this year so will be more available.

Moved to a vote. Nicola Keenan is the Communications Officer for 2014/15

H – Welfare Officer

Chris (Chair) asks if anyone wants to do it? Rachel puts herself forward and Chris puts himself forward. Alex (Champs Co-ordinator) suggests that we have two people? It's generally agreed this is a good idea. The committee agrees to appoint Rachel and Chris as the BULSCA Welfare Officers for 2014/15

6. Competition Applications

B – League Calendar

Warwick 25/10
Bristol 8/11
Southampton 22/11
London 6/12
Nottingham 7/02
Birmingham 21/02
Champs 14 & 15/03
Loughborough 21/03



Loughborough are asked if they would voluntarily move their competition a week later? They agree to move to the 28/03

Vote to accept the Calendar

Accept: 10

Abstain: 0

Reject: 0

8. Discussion of Potential Adjustments to the Structure of the Championships to Reduce their Cost

Chris (Chair) explains that the budget for champs this year was very tight. We slashed everything that could physically be slashed. We made small profits on everything we could justify making profits on. There is nothing more we can do, if fewer people enter champs we will lose money or it will be more expensive. This is fine and we can continue but we thought it was important to open a discussion regarding drastic changes we could make to the championships that would save money. Such as not using a 50m pool and that's what we want to talk about. Ed (Treasurer) gives a list of other things such as removing electronic timing, dropping down to a 25m pool. We could reduce the number of medals / certificates. Other suggestions are welcome. There was also a talk of no longer doing the Sunday.

Sam (Birmingham) thinks that the 50m pool on the Saturday is essential to the atmosphere but is open to the idea of having Sunday in a 25m pool. Mark (Nottingham) is against having a speeds only club as there would be no point in clubs that don't enjoy individual speeds from going. Oli asks would anyone have an objection doing the Saturday at the 50m pool and the Sunday at another pool near bath? Andy (Birmingham) thinks one of his highlights of the year is the 50m SERC and it's not something we do at any other time of the year. Scott adds that if we had a 25m pool we wouldn't be able to do a RNLI wet SERC. Mike (Sheffield) would rather pay slightly more and keep the same format as the feel of the event is important. Ed asks if the limited factor for clubs money or people? Generally consensus is that problem was people. Nicola wants to get a feeling on awarding less medals? Hannah (Southampton) thinks we should keep the medals. If anything we should be giving more out for individual events.

Chris (Chair) moves the discussion to electronic timing, what are peoples opinions? Sam (Birmingham) really wants us to keep it. It's pointed out that its essential if you want a qualifying time for worlds to have electronic timing.

Ed (Treasurer) asks if there are any strong feelings on us reinstating things for helpers? Mark (Nottingham) thinks that things that they have to have we need to provide, such as food but not t-shirts. Rachel (Birmingham) says as a helper she feels treated fairly this year. Hannah (Southampton) suggests that clubs could subsidise their own helpers if they feel that strongly about it. Oli (Webmaster) thinks that Judges are treated well, for helpers he thinks the t-shirts are quite helpful from a promotional point of view. Scott (Warwick) as a competitor would happily pay an extra £1 for helpers to have t-shirt. A vote is called and an even split between those who would and wouldn't.



Alex (Champs Co-Ordinator) raises that RNLI didn't come this year but are coming this year. Would we prefer a dry or a Wet RNLI? Scott thinks we should alternate it in a 4 year cycle. Adam thinks that the wet RNLI SERC from last was by far the best he's ever done from them and thinks we should alternate between a wet RNLI SERC and a 50m SERC. Alex asks for a direction for next year, do we want a wet RNLI SERC and then we can revisit it next year? General agreement.

9. Next Meeting

GM to be held the morning of London Competition and the AGM is to be held the weekend of Loughborough. All accept.

The meeting is brought to a close.