

British Universities Life Saving Clubs' Association

AGM Minutes 2016





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British Universities Life Saving Clubs' Association Mid-Season General Meeting Minutes 2016

In Attendance

BULSCA Committee:

Chair: Sam O'Connor

Secretary: Tania Pearson

Treasurer: Helen Morris

Championships Co-Ordinator: Jamie Roberts

Development Officers: Rebecca Ewers and Adam Martin

Social media: Emily Castle

Clubs:

University of Bristol:

University of Birmingham:

Loughborough University:

University of London Union:

University of Nottingham:

University of Southampton:

Universities of Sheffield:

University of Warwick:

Swansea University:



1. Welcome and Apologies

Sam (Chair) welcomes everyone to the meeting. He then explains the meeting procedures to all in the meeting.

2. Approval of last meeting minutes

Minutes were approved by Julia Whitworth and Jacob Phillipson

3. Officer's Reports

3.1 Sam O'Connor (Chair)

- Sam said the participation throughout the year has been exceptional, although there are a number of things that can be improved. The community of the clubs seen back in fresher's competition was high. He thanked every club member. BULSCA has a long way to go to develop in the future in the sport.

3.2 Tania Pearson (Secretary)

- Tania said this year has been challenging but also an enjoyable year, allowing her to learn personal skills and about BULSCA. She continued to say the meeting minutes have been available online. Grand Prix Moravie was cancelled this year, but hopefully it will be up and running next year in the hope BULSCA can take a team. She also thanked the committee and wished the new secretary luck.

Mark asked if the minutes from the last four months have been written? Tania said yes they have but unfortunately does not have access to the website to upload so has asked other committee members to upload.

3.3 Helen (Treasure)

- Helen explained how this year has been enjoyable and challenging. She explained the bank is in a good place, although bank signatories still not sorted. She thanked Edward Mc for helping. She added championships were successful this year, running at a cheaper rate. She had a sponsorship package; although unsuccessful she hopes next years committee will continue this.
- Josh Hale asked where the grant money went? Helen said on Oliver Coleman and Felix Ng to complete their National Judges course.

3.4 Adam Martin (Club Development)

- He would thank to thank Rebecca a lot as he had realised Rebecca has been doing most of the organising.
- Chris Harper asked if BULSCA are in a good place for judges. Adam said we are still struggling as judges are not signing up. Oliver Coleman added there are physically enough taking the course but the transition to competitions is weak.

3.5 Rebecca Ewers (Club Development)

- Rebecca explained this year we ran a boot camp for the first time ever as seven different Universities were in attendance. She added unfortunately Gran Prix Moravie was cancelled by the organisers this year. I hope that the competition will run next year and that a BULSCA team will be in attendance. She also saw two Judges Courses ran again, putting a total of 23 people through the course. In addition to this an Instructor Course was ran and made available for all BULSCA members, four people attended the course.



3.6 Emily Castle (Communications)

- Emily apologised for the lack of social media however Championships and most other league competitions have been covered with updates throughout and photos taken.

3.7 Jamie (Championships Co-ordinator)

- Did not arrive until after this part.

4. Competition allocations

4a: Allocation of Freshers' Competition

- **Southampton**, 29th October 2016: Bobby highlighted key information to run Freshers' Competition. He said there will be electronic timing, 25m swimming, diving blocks. The competition will run between 12 – 8pm and will run obstacles. They are waiting on the financial planning if they are charged for the facilities or not. If they are reduced then the price will be reduced to £21 a team.

Sam asked if there were any questions. Michael asked if there are no charges will the price of the teams reduce. Bobby said yes. Clubs voted.

Accepted: 9

Rejected: 0

Abstain: 0

4b: Allocation of league competitions

- **London**: Tony explained the competition will run exactly the same as previous year, food will be pizza, 6 lane 25m pool and the social in the same place. 3rd December 2016 was their first preference and wanting to run medley relay.
- **Bristol**: although Bristol did not run one this competition calendar, the competition and social will run the same as usual which are all in walking distance. Food will be pizza and the pool has been provisional booked from 12 – 8.30pm but is flexible on time.

Josh asked what their preferred date was. Cathy said 12th November. Adam asked if they expected good attendance above 30. Cathy said yes as they usually have local clubs.

- **Nottingham**: Hannah said the competition will run the same as before with an eight lane pool, food will be pizza, sleeping in houses. Hoping to run on 4th November.

Sam asked about making loss-profit. Hannah said they were unsure of the costs of the social venue, but once they know they will amend.

- **Loughborough**: Jacob said it will run exactly the same as usual in a six lane 25m pool, seven hours of pool time, food fish and chips and accommodation is in the church.
- **Birmingham**: Julia said the competition will be the same as last year. They are hoping to run in the competition in the new pool, starting at 11.30 to 7pm and hoping to run all three speed events. Social will be staff house and food lasagne. Accommodation will be in houses and the church for overflow.

Michael asked their preferred date. Julia said 4th February 2016. Oliver added that is a week before BUCS so swimming will not let you have the pool time.



- **Sheffield:** It was said the competition will be the same as last year, pool from 12 til 7pm, food will be burger and chips. The preferred sates are 18th or 25th February 2016.

Bobby asked how they will manage pool time. Shannon said hopefully the sercs will not overrun this year.

- **Warwick:** it was said the competition will run the same as last year, pizza for food but could get burgers. Due to social venue issues the preferred date is 12th or 18th November 2016.

4c. Competition calendar

There were two calendars uploaded to twitter.

- Vote on the first calendar:
Accepted – 0
Rejected – 9
Abstain – 0
- Vote on the second calendar with the changes of Nottingham moving to 4th February 2016:
Accepted – 9
Rejected – 0
Abstain - 0

5. Committee Elections:

5a: Chair:

- **Michael Kirkham** – Michael said he will be in his final year of his Phd. He has been involved with BULSCA since 2009. He wanted to represent BULSCA to other bodies such as the RLSS but he is not going to promise anything as it is not the job of the chair but the committee as a whole. He will fulfil the typical role of chair, i.e. committee fulfilling responsibility, organising committee meetings.

Chris Harper said the chair consistently deals with issues between clubs and committee and asked what experience he had. Michael said he has been on two lifesaving committees; Warwick and Sheffield. Bristol (girl) asked how much time have you got much time with Phd. Michael said he has got six months to write a thesis. Samantha asked if Michael was planning in competing. Michael said yes he will do my best.

- **Jamie Shone** – Jamie said he wants to run for chair and make a difference. He has been involved with lifesaving for five years and recently become a judge. He wants to work on communication so all clubs know what is going on, increase participation among local clubs, arrange a weekend for coaches.

Samantha said Michael is well known in BULSCA and asked how he plans on making himself known. Jamie said he wants to get more involved in clubs and improve communication. Bristol asked what he will do next year. Jamie said next year he will graduation and starting work with a company. Chris said Jamie had a lot of good idea but how much are they the chairs role and how are committees. He also asked how he would deal with issues between clubs and committee. Jamie said it is expected to have disagreements and we have to try and come to an agreement to run smoothly and work as a team. Josh said at some points this year, clubs have had negative issues with the committee and asked how he plans to solve this. Jamie said he would be more open with communication and makes sure everyone knows what is going on. He also added information should be in one place.

Jamie Shone voted in as chair.



5b. Treasurer

- **Robert Forster** – He is in his second year Geography and next year working at PWC. He said he has been treasurer for Loughborough this year. He is flexible and adaptable, looking at sponsorship deals and the need to increase communication between clubs and committee.

Edward asked as former BULSCA treasurer you gain legal responsibility for the money and the entire organisation which is done by the SU, are you prepared to do this? Robert said he has had to deal with a court order and sort it out due to mistakes on other people's behalf.

- **Katie Waite** – Katie said she has been a member of Birmingham for three years, she has good organisational skills being treasurer for Birmingham in 2013 – 2014. She wants to move banking online so it is easier than carrying money around. She has organised a trip for her Brownies in which she had to develop a sponsorship pack. She also wants to make it clear for clubs to what they have to pay, what it will be used for and want clubs to decide what money should be used.

Edward asked as former BULSCA treasurer you gain legal responsibility for the money and the entire organisation which is done by the SU, are you prepared to do this? As Katie is studying law she understands the paperwork. Oliver said bac payments is already used. Katie said she wants to move BULSCA to more up to date and secure.

Robert Forster voted as Treasurer.

5c. Data manager

- **Harry Withers** – Harry has been competing at Birmingham for three years and wanted to start giving back to BULSCA. He is a third year physics and computer science so he is confident with computers and systems. He is a fast learner and enjoys learning about programmes. He has had two years committee experience. He wants to keep the website up to date, create a manual for clubs to use website and up-date competition scores ASAP.

Chris asked what he would bring to this role and what experience he has. Harry said he would be present and he has mucked around with Java. Oliver said this role requires a lot of time with 30 minutes with each club weekly and you tend to get asked questions such as judges allocations. Harry said he will use other peoples experience and committee if he does not know the answer.

Harry withers voted as Data manager.

5d. Championships Coordinator

- **Luke Peel** – Luke was unable to attend the meeting, however Luke messaged "I've ran Crawley open for three years". Due to Luke's non-attendance questions could not be asked.

Luke Peel voted at Championships Coordinator

5e. Club Development

- **Bobby Anderson** – Bobby said he has been president for vice president in previous years with increasing numbers in the club. He wants to get photos to the fresher's as it was what his club did and good for promotions. Photos of people doing the wrong thing to use in judges courses and training.



Rebecca asked as former club development, she spent time organising GMP, would you be willing to organise it? Bobby said yes as it will be good clubs to experience this. Mark asked if is going to be president next year? Bobby said no this year.

- **Emily Goodwin** – Next year Emily is on placement for four days a week and she has been vice chair for Loughborough. She has seen the club grow from 20 to 65 members. She wants to expand lifesaving and increase members. She also wants to carry on with boot camps as that was a great day to bring clubs together.

Rebecca asked as former club development, she spent time organising GMP, would you be willing to organise it? Emily said definitely as she wants clubs to be more involved in competitions outside of BULSCA. Adam asked how she is going to represent other clubs. Emily said to use social media and communication. Bristol asked if she had any ideas to help small clubs increase. Emily said to use marketing to give clubs ideas and for other clubs to share ideas to develop the best they can.

- **Jordan Huggitt** – Jordan is a second year Chemical Engineering. Back home he is involved with coaching and been chair of swimming. He wants to increase clubs for next year, e.g. training courses judges courses to help with coaching.

Rebecca asked as former club development, she spent time organising GMP, would you be willing to organise it? Jordan said definitely. Chris said often the case with clubs is recruitment, how can you help. Jamie said swimming often have rejects like me and lifesaving can be a second option so we can look down that route. Adam asked the majority of the committee elected are Loughborough and Birmingham, how do you plan on representing other clubs. Jordan said to work as a committee and not to dominate ideas. Mark said Loughborough is a minority and other clubs do not do the cutting culture. Jordan doesn't see how lifesaving cannot cater for swimming. David said not all clubs could cater due to lack of pool time. Jordan suggested for clubs to find local pools and not just the university pool.

Emily Goodwin voted in a Club Development

5f. Communications

- **Josh Hale** – Josh said Swansea is a small club and it is important to have smaller clubs on the committee. He wants clearer streams of communication and all the information in one place, using facebook more and set up a captain's page. Photo's will be up to date. He has worked for charity for six years, been on lifesaving committee and competing since 2009.

Chris asked what his strengths as a leader was. Josh said when I am at work he is tactiful but with other organisations such as the RLSS he is nicer. Mark said some issues you talk about is other roles, is there anything for your role. Josh wants to help clubs publish through social media and university papers.

- **India Pollard** – India said she will be president of Warwick next year and she did beach lifesaving in Australia. She wants to put BULSCA more on social media, go to clubs to video them to put on social media. She added when Joshua "died" last year, I still managed to share on social media.

Helen asked if BULSCA can get snapchat. India said yes.

India Pollard voted as Communications.

5g. Secretary



- **Hannah Smallwood** – Hannah said she is third year biochemistry and going in to her fourth year masters. She was president this year for Nottingham, organising and making sure everyone knows what they are doing. She added she can manage her time well.

David asked what degree she is doing. Hannah said she is going to be a fourth year biochemistry.

Hannah Smallwood voted as Secretary.

6. Proposals

Proposal A: Implementing DQ and penalty codes at league competitions

Proposal accepted on online voting.

Proposal B: Financial regulations

Adam Martin stated at the GM it was voted that when clubs make a profit, the club has to refund the money. However, you cannot have a rule that some clubs cannot comply with. Refunds cannot be given in cash as that is against procedures. He added it should be what the clubs aim to do rather than stopping clubs. Clubs should look at finance, check and it is down to the committee to check. This did not happen with Birmingham.

Josh asked we can amend. Sam said yes in written form.

Bobby asked for clarification on committee roles. Adam proposed committee roles to ensure this will be done and make it clear, clubs should look in a way to put in back to other clubs.

Adam rejects Josh's amendment.

Mark said there are two issues: the current rules do not work and a proposal to fix these issues.

Votes on proposal with amendment:

Accepted – 3

Rejected – 4

Abstain - 2

Proposal rejected.

Votes on the original proposal:

Accepted – 8

Rejected – 0

Abstain – 1



Proposal accepted

Proposal C: Financial regulations

Proposal C was accepted on online voting

Proposal D: Procedure for dealing with proposals

Adam stated the reviewing of the meetings and the GM procedures to put it all in to one documents and to bring the proposal deadline forward 15 days, giving Judges Panel more time to look over proposals. It has been voted in the past that Judges Panel have control of the rulebook but this has not been enforced.

Moved to a vote

Accepted – 9

Rejected – 0

Abstain – 0

Proposal accepted

Proposal E: Enable clubs to bring an additional torp to BULSCA champs

Sarah explained there were a number of DQ's as they were different sizes and some torps had one ring while others had two. Clubs know their own torps and they would feel more comfortable using their own. Sarah agreed with the committee that other clubs do not have enough equipment which would be unfair.

Proposal withdrawn.

Proposal F: Ensure SERC timers have additional stop watches

Sarah explained there have been problems with timings in SERC within the competitions this league year; Warwick and Birmingham. In other competitions such as swimming, judges have two stop watches.

Judges Panel explained these problems have not been down to the time piece but the actual person with the stop watch. Chris added having two stop watches reduce human error. Sam also explained having two stop watches would not have resolved the issues from this year.

Moved to a vote

Accepted – 3

Rejected – 5

Abstain – 1



Proposal rejected

Proposal G: Leicestershire Universities

Jacob explained Loughborough wants a performance and participation club.

Josh asked about representing at GM and AGM. Jacob said there would be separate votes. Jacob added it would boost competition within BULSCA and more interest within lifesaving.

Helen asked if the club would operate through separate bank accounts and committees. Jacob said it is not possible as both clubs are funded by Loughborough SU. Sam added Loughborough have to be part of it to fund it. Hannah asked for clarification Leicester cannot be separate. Sam said Loughborough have to be part it and part of the constitution. Michael asked what the drive from the AU was. Jacob said to get more team and participants.

Oliver believed Richards intention is he has a club of 60 and can only offer certain places. This would give more people the chance to compete. Josh said where does this stop as in the future Birmingham might want to do something similar. Adam added it would be too complicated as some points you will be one club and at other points you will be two clubs. Katie asked if they already have interest from members of other Universities. Jacob said a couple of people from other universities.

Moved to a vote

Accepted – 1

Rejected – 6

Abstain – 2

Proposal rejected.

Proposal H: Changes to swim tow and league competition structure

Oliver stated it has been awhile since the swim tow has been revised. Judges Panel were split in their decision. This proposal was split in to the sections:

Part A – changes to the swim and tow to two with a tea towel and making it non contact. Oliver proposed to remove swim tow and replace with speed events. Hannah argued the swim tow is an easy event as other events some clubs rely on others to bring equipment to use. Michael added BULSCA should follow the RLSS. Adam agreed as BULSCA should follow and base rules and events on RLSS. Chris said the potential issue with the removal of swim tow is the impact it will have on non speed event clubs as swim tow is a short but stamina event. Mark argued that according to the constitution BULSCA is independent and clubs have the power to change swim tow and clubs do not have to listen to Judges Panel.

Moved to vote on removing swim tow as an event:

Accepted – 0

Rejected – 9



Abstain – 0

Part A rejected.

Part B – Alan explained the changes to the line throw, reducing to 10m to make it more accessible. Chris said given we have just argued we should follow the RLSS, then if there is a weakness in rope throw we should help to be better as if we reduce to 10m what does that do to our credibility.

Moved to a vote on part B only;

Accepted – 0

Rejected – 9

Abstain – 0

Part B rejected.

Part C – change rope throws to RLSS speed rope throw. Chris proposed to bring in Michael proposal with this.

Part D – to make swim tow and rope throw optional events with speed events. Chris said there would be two types of competitions as non speed event clubs will go for these events rather than speed events.

Moved to a vote for part D

Accepted – 0

Rejected – 8

Abstain – 1

Part D rejected.

Part E – Remove any reference penalty and make DQ's straight-out. Oliver had a point of clarification in which Judges Panel will rewrite the manual to clarify DQ's and penalty codes in which a manual will be released for clubs opinions. Chris argued swim tow is one of the events we have penalties on and if teams are DQ then it would be very demotivating. Oliver said this is the structure of the RLSS. Sam argued that is a single version of rules and we have amended for a four person team. Josh asked if the DQ's will be defined. Oliver said yes they will be.

Moved to a vote for part E

Accepted – 0

Rejected – 9

Abstain - 0



Proposal I: Competition status in case of event cancellation

David stated everyone was all aware with the amount of pool time at Warwick and also at Championships. However, a speed event is more likely to be cancelled than a SERC. Judges Panel were split in their decision on their proposal.

Oliver proposed an amendment – all events are treated the same. David rejected this.

New amendment made by Judges Panel – to change the reweighting of 5.1.6.2 to wet x 2, dry x 1 and speed remain x 1. David accepted this. If a speed event is cancelled the competition is not league counting unless clubs reinstate it to league. If a SERC is cancelled, SERC is reweighed to 3.

Moved to a vote:

Accepted – 8

Rejected – 0

Abstain – 1

Proposal J: Bring BULSCA rope throw in line with RLSS nationals

Michael stated reading the national rules, ours are slightly different and not all clubs have a rigid cross line. Judges Panel said this year 2016 national rules have been changed, we should accept and wait until RLSS regional heats to happen to see how we define these rules. Sam stated Michaels proposal will happen automatically when these have changed.

Michael withdrew.

New proposal – allow to use foot and casualty to head down and kick. Voted on these changes:

Accepted – 3

Rejected – 6

Abstain - 0

7. A.O.B

New proposal 1:

To leave swim tow rules as they are and review at the AGM next year. Moved to a vote:

Accepted – 8

Rejected – 0

Abstain – 1



New proposal 2:

Edward wanted to allow committee to appoint 2 advisors to help committee with anything. Sam argued if he wanted help he would just ask. Oliver also added the committee can choose to have people in their meetings to help

Edward withdrew proposal.

AOB

Alan wanted to ensure SERCs are submitted within 21 days prior to competition and to make it clear who is running the SERCs. He added Matt has resigned from Judges Panel so they are down to three. Steve may step down next year and applications will open over summer.

Chris Harper to be appointed to Judges Panel. Moved to a vote:

Accepted – 9

Rejected – 0

Abstain – 0

Meeting Closes