



British Universities Life Saving Clubs' Association

BULSCA committee regarding St Andrews and Scottish Universities
University Lifesaving team 15/10/12

In attendance:

- Chair- Ella Hunt
- Secretary- Mark McCorquodale
- Development Officer-Nicola Keenan
- Webmaster- Oli Coleman
- Champs Co-ordinator- David Brown
- Treasurer- Alex Blandford
- St Andrews- Teddy Woodhouse

Note: some brief parts of the meeting are absent from the minutes due to technical issues with Skype, these instances are small and featured during general discussion.

Minutes of meeting:

Meeting Opened 19:38

Presentation by teddy:

- Nicole had sent round a timeline and guide of a plan produced by St Andrews prior to the meeting. St Andrews have recognised a need by their club both long and short term for this plan. The need short-term is to increase their membership and long term to develop the possibility to compete more locally in university competitions and for lifesaving to be more accessible for Scottish students. The plan should increase accessibility for clubs to enter into BULSCA, and attempt to decrease costs for Northern universities to participate into BULSCA. It should hopefully increase participation from other clubs within BULSCA over time.
- Way it would work- St Andrews would submit membership to BULSCA as St Andrews and Scottish Universities. In the A league the team would compete as St Andrews A- this is necessary as funding is provided by St Andrews SU which stipulates that places and the name is reserved for St Andrews Students. B teams would be eligible for all Scottish students. Also along this line is that a motive behind this is increase participation by all students and to not form a Scottish super team, by excluding other universities from the A team.
- The plan is also designed to develop independence for clubs and to help Scottish students to found new university clubs.
- The scheme is quite optimistic for the future plans. The first 2 years of the plan are the most important; the future development will be very dependent on the response in the first 2 years.
- St Andrews have the support from ST Andrews SU.

Q and Ans session with Teddy

- Oli asks "why specifically do you think league counting is very important for lower teams? From my experience lower teams generally aren't as that concerned about league positions. Would St Andrews always have preference over other teams?". Teddy- "The SU stipulates that St Andrews students may never be disadvantaged by other teams so St Andrews student will always have to be put first, even if this means that extra members from other uni's can then not compete. For lower teams



league counting is important as members are more willing to compete if they feel like they are playing a more important part within BULSCA- generally members are not interested if it is not possible to be league counting as they feel their money is not as well spent.”

- Oli suggests teams formed of students from a number of different uni’s will never do that well, so this will eliminate this motivation. Teddy suggests it’s not the final positions that matters to these students but it is just the fact there results actually count.
- Alex asks why separate individuals from different institutions would want to be counted as a league counting team when there is no ‘team’ they are regularly part of. Teddy counters it is important to the individual in a long term view- if students can come to many competitions then they can feel like they have regularly contributed to the league, even if it wasn’t from a team with constant members.
- Oli- those coming along to compete as Scotland b are likely to already be heavily involved in lifesaving. What is their motivation to set up their own club if they can compete with St Andrews?”. Teddy replies that “It comes down to good faith; no-one wants to be 1 lonely person that tags along with another uni. People will want to share the experience with friends they can regularly see. St Andrews would want to work with them to set up there club to help set up a Scottish league.”

Teddy leaves discussion.

BULSCA Committee discussion

- Mark asks why the ‘Scotland B’ team should be eligible to compete in the B league, when this may be in essence a be made up of a number of the best student lifesavers in Scotland. David replies that the idea behind it is that St Andres are the driving force behind the whole scheme and not the other universities which are playing a secondary role. Also, the St Andrews SU insist the St Andrews students’ have to be put first, so other Scottish team could not be put in the A league. Nicola doesn’t believe that the students will be sufficiently good to ‘steal the show’ in the B league. Mark and Oli dispute this slightly.
- Oli’s biggest worry is based on a facebook group discussion he has been part of recently- Aberystwyth have posted the 3 competitions they plan on attending this year and one is a BULSCA one, if we let team Scotland be formed are we then going to end up with a team Wales as well??
- Alex disagrees with one point in Teddy’s presentation and thinks there may be a good number of students who would be happy to compete with St Andrews- in particular experience BULSCA old boys who have gone to study PHDs in Scotland. There is no motivation for Old boys to set up their own clubs as their renewed participation with BULSCA is often just to catch up with old friends.
- Alex suggests there is a very big difference between the merged London team and the planned Scotland merged team. For the London team all members trained together, had paid club membership and were part of the club in every sense except that for some students their university was not part of ULU. This wouldn’t be the case with a Scotland team.
- Nicola points out that Teddy has come up with something that could potentially work and develop BULSCA, and believes the committee should do everything to help this go forward and then mediate as necessary. She believes this would be a very good way of expanding BULSCA. Oli responds it will be a very long term plan, longer than anyone around now within BULSCA and more importantly St. Andrews will be



available to carry it forth. Oli suggests it might be better if a Scottish member of RLSS was available to carry it forward.

- Alex thinks the creation of a Scottish team would set is a dangerous precedent.

Committee is moved to a vote

Vote to accept proposal- 0

Vote to reject proposal- 3

Vote to abstain-2

Not voted- 1

Nicola is not happy that the issue has been discussed enough. The vote is declared void scrapped and an amendment proposed. Nicola proposes an amendment that those not from St Andrews would not count for B league. Committee members point out this is no different to entering a scratch team and calling it Scotland. Amendment is then withdrawn.

Committee is moved to a vote

Vote to accept- 1

Vote to reject-3

Vote to abstain-2

Result is to reject by majority. But the committee feel it is an issue worse pursuing in the future. Ella recommends that we temporarily create an account for Scotland to be included on results as a scratch team.

Action: Ella to formally inform St. Andrews of the decision and discuss path taken forward

Action: Oli to create Club Scotland on the website.

Meeting Closed 20:32