



British Universities Life Saving Clubs' Association

BULSCA committee Skype meeting 26/3/13

In attendance:

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

Minutes of meeting:

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

1. Matters arising from minutes

ACTION 1.1 Judges' Panel to finish writing SERC setters' guidelines

Committee are aware work has started, but that progress has temporarily stalled.

Consensus is that work is still ongoing.

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ACTION 1.2 Webmaster to update email list descriptions on the BULSCA website

Not done

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ACTION 1.3 Ella to send Dan Harris the new updated RLSS welfare guidelines

Done

ACTION 1.4 Dan Harris to read guidelines

Done

Action 1.5 David to ensure proposals for disciplinary procedures and penalties for breach of code of conduct to be submitted for the AGM either as a distinct proposal, or as part of a more general proposal regarding competition manual updates.

Ongoing

Action 1.3 David to ensure proposals for disciplinary procedures and penalties for breach of code of conduct to be submitted for the AGM either as a distinct proposal, or as part of a more general proposal regarding competition manual updates.

ACTION 1.6 Mark to raise the development of a BULSCA video as an item for discussion at the BULSCA AGM

Not done- Sam (from Birmingham, was previously tasked with this) has shown renewed interest in this.

ACTION 1.4 Mark to inquire from Sam about progress of BULSCA video

ACTION 1.7 Nicola to contact Bangor

Done, but is yet to receive a response



ACTION 1.8 Ella to hold a Skype for club representative a week before deadline for proposal submission for the AGM regarding meeting procedures

Not done

ACTION 1.5 Ella to hold a Skype for club representative a week before deadline for proposal submission for the AGM regarding meeting procedures

ACTION 1.9 Nicola to follow up with Steph Moore (UWE)

Not done yet

ACTION 1.6 Nicola to follow up with Steph Moore (UWE)

Action 1.10 Nicola to raise Save a Baby as a scheme for BULSCA clubs to get involved with in conjunction with the RLSS at the BULSCA AGM

Nicola has spoken to Lee Heard who is hoping to speak to Loughborough to see if it is possible to organise something for Loughborough comp

ACTION 1.7 Nicola to chase up developments for Save a Baby as a scheme for BULSCA clubs

Action 1.11 Nicola to ask Irena (Czech Lifesaver now based at Nottingham University) about the Czech team's plans

Done

Action 2.1 Mark to discuss suggested course of action for SERC feedback with Oli and Ella.

Done

Action 2.2 Nicola to check with International teams whether they would like to attend the planned pub quiz social at champs, or an alternative

Done

Action 2.3 Nicola to enquire about possible alternative social arrangements that could be made for international teams

Done

Action 2.4 Nicola to check no BULSCA records have been broken since May 2012, and update records as appropriate

Committee are aware they have been broken a number of times.

ACTION 1.8 Nicola to update BULSCA records

Action 2.5 Nicola to propose the restarting of swim and tow records at the BULSCA AGM

Records have already been set since introduction of revised rules. Hence N/A

Action 2.6 Oli to distribute entries for Champs to the committee for proof checking

Done

Action 2.7 Committee to check champ entries as per Oli's instructions

Done

Action 2.8 David (and the rest of the committee) to try to find someone willing to write a pub quiz for the champs social

Done

Action 2.9 David to look into the possibility of staging Karaoke at the champs social



Done

Action 2.10 David to book Bath University as the venue for Champs 2014

Not done- see 2.2 below for discussion

Action 2.11 David to post on facebook about the SLSGB event hosted in Bath in April

Not done- David was unable to find the information for the event after the meeting, the deadline for this event has now passed.

2. Matters for discussion

2.1 Champs debrief and feedback

- David emailed clubs asking for feedback, specifically about the order of events, t-shirts and how clubs felt about the wet SERC and RNLI SERC running simultaneously. Hasn't emailed judges yet, will do to get their perspective. Has received a lot of feedback:
 - Consensus was order of events does need some minor changes, as a consequence of grouping of fins/non fins events this year.
 - Consensus was that a wet RNLI was good and worked well. A few comments were received about losing the ability to host 50m wet SERC. Most people preferred to have the RNLI SERC in the pool with a 25m wet SERC than the alternative of a dry RNLI SERC.
 - Response regarding t-shirts was mixed-
 - 2 people said they really like them
 - 1 said they don't think they're necessary,
 - Some mentioned colour wasn't great etc
 - A number of suggestions were raised as methods to prevent surplus t-shirts being left at the end of the weekend
 - Oli offered to use spare t-shirts from this year as promotional material at RLSS nationals.
 - Some commented warm up closing 15mins after registration was an issue, but was a logistical issue that clubs should have dealt with as registration opened an hour earlier.
 - A more formal method of equipment check was raised as an issue
 - Checking judges/timekeepers are aware of protocol before a speed event starts was raised. It was suggested to host a fake-through of events before they start as a precaution
 - Last comment was a suggestion to move the dry SERC closer to the pool, but this was a logistical problem given that it is only possible to book rooms at Bath at the start of the semester so bookings are difficult to do a long way in advance.
- Oli has prepared a spreadsheet of events to help determine the best order. David suggests event order might be something to discuss with Blondie if he will continue to run re-set. David has also received a number of suggestions from other sources.

ACTIO N 2.1 David and Oli to come up with a suggested order of events for Champs 2014

- Alex suggest publishing order of events in advance so people know when they will be competing and can prepare for this. David feels this is a very good idea, and had intended to do this.



- Nicola suggests that having more helpers would have been useful. David agreed this was an issue. Nicola suggests that there should be an incentive for clubs to bring helpers. David raises that there can be issues with transport and getting numbers to compete in the first place. Discussion ensues on methods to increase helper attendance but no progress is made.
- Committee agree to discuss further how to pursue greater helper attendance at a later date, potentially in the presence of clubs

2.2 Champs venue 2014

- For champs 2014 there are 2 current options- Bath or Bristol (Hengrove Leisure Centre). Alex has produced a proposed budget for Hengrove and uploaded to facebook for committee to view.
- Alex provides a description of the facility:
 - Hengrove is very new, 10 lane pool, with a separate teaching pool that could be used for a RNLI wet SERC, such that a 50m wet SERC and separate RNLI wet SERC could run simultaneously.
 - At the leisure centre there is a café/restaurant where they could provide food which we would also be able to use for the social in the evening.
 - Options for accommodation are yet to be confirmed.
- In terms of cost it is more expensive than Bath- proposed budget would be £35 per person for entry.
- As a drawback there is no obvious way to get from poolside to the viewing gallery. However, pool sides are a lot wider than those at Bath, such that at swimming competitions people sit on poolside.
- Oli raises few points
 - Equipment- we only have sets of 8/6 obstacles available to us so can still only run obstacles events in 6 lanes limiting the use of a 10 lane pool. Same holds true for number of manikins, there may be little benefit by having more space
 - In terms of budget this year we lost money on food and accommodation, we are likely to continue to make losses on this. In a new venue there will always be extra costs you've not thought of, so would like a bigger margin on the proposed budget as a safety net.
- To counter these:
 - Food/accommodation- feels next year costs should be self containing as its unfair on host clubs that there is used entry to subsidise accommodation and food. This year David had tried to accommodate for this, in particular in accommodation. This proved difficult to do with food.
- It is raised that at Bath food provision was charged at £5.95 per person, in Bristol food would be no more than £5 per head. Food tickets were sold to competitors for £4 in bath.
- Oli's main concern is the increase of cost of entry in recent years; previously RLSS clubs used to enter due to cheap entry.
- Mark raises the point that clubs will only be willing to pay a certain amount; increased costs may put them off. He raises that some clubs already spend over a third of their annual budget attending this event, if costs increase clubs may simply decide that they can no longer feasibly afford the competition, reducing attendance.
- Ella proposes to move to vote for venue for Champs 2014:
 - Bath-5



- Bristol-0
- Abstain- 1
- Champs 2014 to be held at the University of Bath
- The committee feel that although this Bristol has not been chosen the process of looking in detail at alternatives have been worthwhile

ACTION 2.2 David to book University of Bath as a venue for BULSCA champs 2014

2.3 Amendments made to SERC's on the day of competition following previous acceptance of SERC's by judges panel

- Mark raises that a number of changes have been made to SERC's this year on the day of competition. Whilst it is obvious that some changes are needed for logistical reasons he feels that some might not be being made for this reason. Mark asks if this is something we should look into.
- Discussion is lead by Alex, Ella and Oli as they have judged at a number of competitions this year. Consensus is that these changes have mainly been due to necessity with a consensus from all judges involved, whilst some others may be due to a breakdown in communication.
- Nicola brings up discussion specifically regarding the champs dry SERC querying if we should have more experienced champs SERC setters. David says that as a competition organiser there are 2 ways of getting SERC setters- ask 1 person you specifically have in mind to write the SERC, or open up the offer straight away at which point you can be limited by who replies as likelihood of getting a response is less than if you directly approached an individual- this year when David invited offers only 2 replies were received. David states that if a Champs coordinator wants more experienced SERC setters it's up to the competition organiser to seek this out.

2.4 Recommended retail price for competition entry for league competitions 2013/2014

- Oli raises concerns that clubs are finding it difficult to run a financially viable competition at £30 entry per team. He queries if we should recommend clubs charge £35 per team entry?
- Mark asks why we're discussing this as it's up to clubs. Oli counters that clubs are only charging £30 because everyone else is. Alex suggests we produce a recommendation of no more £35 for team entry.
- Nicola raises concern about clubs charging more than the need too.
- Mark states that we can reject bids if the planned profit is over £100, so if the committee feel entry is too high we can reject a clubs competition pack, and advise the clubs to lower their price.
- The committee move to vote that the price recommendation given by the committee should be that competition entry fee is to be no more than £35 per team
 - Yes-4
 - No -0
 - Abstain-2

ACTION 2.3 Mark to notify clubs of committee change of recommendation regarding competition entry price

ACTION 2.4 Oli to amend competition packs such that recommendation is that entry fee is no more than £35 per team.



2.4 AGM

- Page for the AGM on the BULSCA website is online
- Currently only 1 item has been received- an individual wishing to nominate themselves for BULSCA committee

2.5 Irish Universities Lifesaving

- Oli has found that the Irish Universities Swimming and Waterpolo Association (<http://www.iuswa.ie>) are also active within Lifesaving. Committee feel it would be good to try and develop a working relationship with them.

ACTION 2.5 Development officer (2013/2014) to build relationship with IUSWA

3. Officer reports

- Chair
 - Nothing to add
- Secretary
 - Is in the process of writing a 4th article for the RLSS magazine, intends to write the article on BULSCA champs 2013. David offers to write it.

ACTION 3.1 David to write article regarding champs 2013

- Development
 - Will contact RLSS (Lea Heard) to inform them how champs went
- Championship co-ordinator
 - Intends to write proper handover for next year
- Treasurer
 - In the process of sorting out cheques for champs. Has not yet been invoiced from bath, is awaiting these.
- Webmaster
 - Will start work on champs 14 with regards to paperwork to improve automated process
 - Has had discussion with Crawley/Scottish region with regards to opening up our entry system to them
 - Has made a few changes to competition sheets
 - Will write a report for AGM

4. AOB

- Next meeting Thursday 2nd May 8pm

Meeting closed at 8:30