

Held at the University of London Union

10:00am 10th December 2005

Present: - Stuart Richardson (Chair), Steven Tedds (Secretary), Representatives of London, Southampton, Birmingham, Nottingham, Bath, Swansea, Manchester, Loughborough, Warwick Universities.

With: - Mel Hargreaves, Stuart Ward and Dan Graham (Judges)

Apologies: - Aberdeen and Oxford Universities, Alex Bazin

Club Conduct

- **Communication between clubs:** It was expressed that Warwick felt let down by some clubs by pulling out only 48 hours before the competition and consequently lost money on food that had been pre-ordered. It was requested that clubs put in reasonable entries to avoid late withdrawals. It was also decided that the deadline at which a team may pull out of a competition is now extended to **one week** before the competition takes place, but the competition organisers will be permitted to increase it further if they can provide a financial reason for doing so. For this reason the competition organisers should also let clubs know when the deadline for ordering food is to try to save losing money.

Competitions and Rules

- **Dry Regulations:** SERC rules are for both wet and dry initiatives. They may include spinal injuries - If breathing and coherent, do not move, if not breathing and not coherent, treat as normal. No AED knowledge is required (i.e. oxygen & defibrillation). These can be in the incident but there must be someone (for example, a bystander) trained use them. There must be a Bronze Medallion solution to the incident, even if this is simply phoning for an Ambulance.
- **Rule Amendments:** SERC score sheets are to include marks for the following: Communication, Priorities, Captaincy. However, a judge may use the weighting of these is to reflect their importance within each SERC.
- **Aligning the Rope Throw to ILS Standards:** While recognising the differences between BULSCA and ILS rules, it was decided that the BULSCA rules should continue to conform to the RLSS Nationals Rules and change with them accordingly.
- **Rule 5.2.15.2:** This allows diving from the shallow end if the depth is greater than 1.5 metres. **Clear** touching with the hand must be made (but this is not necessarily above the water line).
- **Acceptable stroke technique on swim and tow:** Over arm recovery will not be accepted as it is not an RLSS lifesaving technique. Similarly lifesaving backstroke

and correct sidestroke are the only correct strokes for the swim tow, as described in the Bronze Medallion manual.

- **First Aid Kits:** Plasters are currently included in the first aid kits to be aligned with HSE standards. **Foil Blankets** were mistakenly omitted from the original First Aid Kit list and can therefore be used and will be added to rule **5.3.8.1.3**
- **Recommendations for appointment of judges:** Two judges must be from a university other than the host university, one for each SERC (aquatic and non-aquatic). Officials list must be sent out at least one week before the competition date. Branch Officials are required to be briefed of the differences between Branch and University Competitions. A briefing sheet similar to the one distributed at Warwick will be available for branch judges.
- **Protests:** Anyone, not just by competitors or team managers (including officials), can make a protest to the Head Referee Rule 4.0.4
- **Voiding League Competitions:** The current rules state that if the rules are broken then the competition may be void from the league. The possibility of a *suspended sentence* was discussed. If mistakes are made, BULSCA officials or the BULSCA chair must explain the mistakes to the host university and solutions are to be discussed. If then in a second consecutive year mistakes are repeated then League points are to be deducted. However, it was agreed that host universities should be supported before the competition rather than penalised afterwards.
- **Events for the Student Nationals:** It was asked why the speed event is not included in the Student Nationals. There isn't a speed in the Student nationals as there is a separate Student Speed Nationals competition. This year's Student Speed Nationals results will be extracted from the RLSS Speeds due to the cancellation of the competition.

Competitions, Dates and Entries

- **Introduction of Open Water Competition:** A new Open Water Competition was suggested to increase awareness and enthusiasm. The competition would be held before the autumn term so students would have been at university for at least a year. It would be a stand-alone event. It was deemed that the beginning of the summer would not be suitable due the Bournemouth Regatta already being at that time. A central location has already been found (Leicestershire). It was asked whether clubs with open water equipment (e.g. paddle boards, skis, etc) would be willing to loan them for the event, and if they were able to transport them. Transportation may be arranged for them. It was agreed that Dan Graham would go ahead with planning the competition. Which would start with smaller/easier events in order to raise interest in open water competitions. It was also agreed that demonstrations of the more difficult events would be staged.
- **Bournemouth Regatta Entry:** Rather than individual universities struggling to find entrants, people would enter in teams under BULSCA.

Changes to Resuscitation Protocols

- **Brief on new European Resuscitation Council:** New guidelines are to be accepted by BULSCA when the RLSS announce that they will be adopting the changes. The changes are likely to come into place some time in the summer. Therefore, the new changes will be examined come the new season.

British Universities Sports Association Application

- **Discussion on Application Document:** It was agreed that the BUSA league structure would not work and therefore a BUSA championships would have to be held. The Nationals would become a stand-alone event rather than events counting twice (once for the Nationals and once for the league). The championships would take place over a weekend rather than a single day, and would include the current student nationals and student speeds. BULSCA does not require funding from BUSA. It was agreed the Chair would enter the application for BUSA. If the application is unsuccessful it is hoped that the reasons for this would be given and rectified.

University College of Referees

- **Establishment of University Judging Courses for BULSCA Events:** Previous BULSCA Judges course ran by Chris and Elaine Lewis were very successful. Look into the possibility of running another course. You would need at least 2 years Lifesaving experience. It was deemed that Judges that are in 'good stead' would be allowed to Judge BULSCA competitions. Old members may stand in as judges if there is a lack of officials on the day if they are confirmed as in 'good stead' by the BULSCA Chair. It was also suggested that Additional Judges that are in good stead are added to the officials list (which is to be sent out a week in advance) to cover for officials who are unable to make it at late notice.

Sponsorship

- **To allow investigation of sponsorship for BULSCA:** Go ahead and look into sponsorship in order to fund the Nationals event.

RLSS Development

- **Discussion on Rob Inett.s Recommendations:**
 1. *That all ILS SC (short-course) conversion events are run to a new generic set of RLSS SC rules, due to be published early in 2006. Note that these are not too dissimilar to the BULSCA rulebook version 2.0. This will enable events run to these rules to be eligible for National online rankings, a varsity section of which will be set up for BULSCA members BULSCA's league rules are based on RLSS and ILS Rules, and BULSCA is happy to continue to follow the RLSS in Speeds Events*
 2. *Specifically that the 4x12m line throw relay is run to the above set of rules, allowing 'head down kicking' for the casualty. As discussed before*

3. *That BULSCA incorporate either a LC or SC pure speed meet into their league to encourage higher participation in speed lifesaving events. It would be important that such a meet be a league-ranking event, and again run to RLSS SC rules (as 1 above). It is essential for the development of UK lifesaving that all leagues across the country incorporate more speed lifesaving into their meets, whilst still retaining some of the more traditional values such as SERC and line throw. It is likely that some form of RLSS UK support will be available for meeting this aim. BULSCA have already incorporated speed events in the league, and have a standalone speeds championship which it is planned to bring into a weekend of competition with the student nationals to encourage involvement.*
4. *That future scoring of any speed events, either part of a normal league meet or speed-only meet, be scored via a new official RLSS UK internet-ready ranking spreadsheet that will be given free of charge to any event organisers. This will then ensure full compatibility with the online ranking system, and allow instant upload from event organisers after the meet has finished. BULSCA is happy to follow this system once they are provided with it.*
5. *To consider replacing the 4x50m swim and tow event with an alternative event from a menu that will be supplied by RLSS UK. It is understood that this would be a large change for BULSCA, so this topic is recommended as a discussion point only with a view to further consideration in the future. This recommendation will also be made to the RLSS UK National Lifesaving Championships for individuals and pairs, with a view to a rule change for the 2007 qualifiers and championships. Such a replacement event may be a 4x25m manikin carry relay or a 'swim and manikin carry' relay. BULSCA's swim tow event is taken directly from the RLSS competition manual. BULSCA reiterated its belief in the Swim and Tow and its desire to keep it as an integral part of the sport in general. As a separate point it was raised that it was unfeasible for clubs to train new members in a manikin tow with the limited equipment resources in advance of the freshers competition.*

It was proposed that BULSCA is to develop and present plans to the RLSS, showing them the direction University Lifesaving is heading and suggestions on how we believe the RLSS can progress. Volunteers to prepare this information are: Mel Hargreaves, Dan Graham, Dom Robertson, Stuart Richardson, Phil Dickinson.

BULSCA Website

- **Hosting:** The current host for the BULSCA website is going to charge £60 in order to keep the website and domain. Alternatively, new web space could be found. It was agreed that the £60 should be paid if possible to save the hassle of moving to a new host and disrupting the current email system that BULSCA uses.
- **Future Webmaster:** Alex Bazin is looking to pass over his role as the BULSCA Webmaster. Clubs agreed to investigate within their clubs for someone willing to

take on this role. They are to contact Alex directly (email: webmaster@uni-lifesaving.org.uk).

Any other business

- **New Baywatch Remix:** Recieved mixed opinions.
- **Bath Competition:** This will be held on 25th March
- **Student Records:** Stuart Richardson will provide speed results for the purpose of Student Records.

There being no further business the chair declared the meeting closed at 11:30am.

The BULSCA AGM will be held on the weekend of the 6th May at Southampton University. An agenda will be circulated in due course.