

British Universities Lifesaving Clubs' Association

Minutes from the Mid-Season Meeting
University of London Union
10th December 2011



In attendance:

BULSCA Chair: Miles Johansen
BULSCA Secretary: Stephanie Wilson
BULSCA Treasurer: Suanne Wong
BULSCA Club Development Officer: Alexander Blandford
BULSCA Sport Development Officer: Chrissie Butcher
BULSCA Webmaster: Oli Coleman
BULSCA Championships Coordinator: Rachel Bigwood

Loughborough University: Nicola Keenan
University of Birmingham: Luke Peel, Rebecca Sindall
University of Bristol: Lizzie Boyes, Alice Charteris
University of Cambridge: Thomas Watling
University of London Union: Hannah Heslop, Yasuaki Shinohara
University of Nottingham: Mark McCorquodale
University of Plymouth: Thomas Wood
University of Southampton: Chris Finneran
University of St Andrews: David Brown, Christina Samson
University of Warwick: Elizabeth Buckingham-Jeffery, Michael Kirkham

RLSS representatives:

National Youth Engagement Officer: Lee Heard
Youth Advisor to the Management Board: Chris Harper

Miles called the meeting to order at 10.13**1. Apologies**

None received

2. Approval of previous minutes

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Minutes accepted

3. Matters arising from minutes

Action 14.1.1 Stu Richardson to finish SERC setters' guidelines

not done

Action 3.1. Secretary to email Stu Richardson

Action 19.2.1 Secretary to remind relevant clubs to bring BULSCA trophies back to appropriate competitions
not done yet

Action 19.3.1 Sport Development Officer to contact Paul Moore or appropriate RLSS contact regarding rule change in swim and tow
done

Action 19.5.1 Steve Tedds to come up with a proposal for setting up an Old Boys League
done

4. Officers reports

4.1 Chair

- gave verbal report
- has enjoyed himself
- had some communication with RLSS
- had no contact with anyone as had no phone signal or internet

4.2 Secretary

- submitted articles for lifesavers magazine

4.3 Treasurer

- see attached paper A
- Bath have not paid yet

4.4 Club Development Officer

- rewrote competition guidelines
- created one page document listing fine-able items for competitions
- organised Judges' course at Warwick, which was a success

At this point Nottingham asks how we will ensure judges are qualified to enrol for the judges course.

Bristol state this is implied by enrolling for judges' course

Club Development Officer suggests writing guidance for how to organise a judges' course

The RLSS National Youth Engagement Officer says that new guidelines are being developed by the RLSS.

Action 4.4. 1 Club Development Officer to stay in touch with RLSS to find out about these guidelines.

4.5 Sport Development Officer

- updated competition manual with all new changes

4.6 Webmaster

- done his job
- doesn't understand why clubs take so long to check spread sheets
- it is pointed out to him that two weeks is within the rules and he accepts this

4.7 Championships coordinator

- entry pack created
- 3 clubs have entered so far
- looking into accommodation etc.
- will be more lenient with non-BULSCA clubs for deadline
- online entry for times is now open
- generally appears to be on the ball

5. Method of voting on proposed items

Vote 5.1. Discuss all items proposed. Chair first, St Andrews (Brown) second

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Proposal accepted

6. Swim and Tow Update

see attached paper B

Club development officer points out we want to stay in line with RLSS – which this change would not be.

St Andrews (Brown) says this is different than what was discussed previously as with rope throw.

Loughborough suggests cutting down the length of swim and tow to four times 25 metres. Met with some excited faces but sadly not a serious consideration.

Web officer suggests to cut the swim and tow at 10 minutes.

Birmingham (Sindall) point out that the slowest time for swim and tow in Birmingham was 9.15 – which would have been the only one affected. At Southampton where it would be expected, 6 teams would not have made the time.

However, it was pointed out that cutting the overall time allowed wouldn't actually speed it up as people would still need to get to the side.

Vote 6.1 Chair first, Plymouth second

For: 1

Against: 6

Abstentions: 3

Proposal rejected

7. Competition Dates

Club development officer outlined his proposal – see attached paper C.

He suggests clubs should give a potential date per term.

Web officer interjects with point of information – guidelines suggest include three dates. Club development officer confirms that this is correct but really not the point.

Loughborough clarify one before the Christmas holidays, and one after.

Web officer says the current situation is one of an open market where clubs compete against each other applying for competitions so by being more flexible with the competition dates they provide, they are giving themselves a better chance of having their competition accepted.

Nottingham can't provide that many dates as they book their pool beforehand. London are the same.

Chair says you need to show you've looked.

Warwick realises this is slightly personal.

Loughborough says can we decide comps in this season

Secretary says no how can we vote on them beforehand if we haven't seen this year's competition. However, instead asks whether we could just announce our preferred dates early.

Warwick chime in saying they have booked the weekend later than before

Club development officer amends his proposal to state that BULSCA shall create a master spread sheet to allow clubs to organise this beforehand.

Vote 7.1. to accept amendment

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Proposal accepted

Vote 7.2 to accept online database

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Proposal accepted

Action 7.1 Clubs to email Oli with proposed dates

Action 7.2 Oli to create an online database.

8. Freshers' Competition SERC

See attached paper D.

Club development officer says specifics were just provided for discussion but essentially he would like the SERCs at freshers' comp to be easier than during the rest of the season.

Everything referring to bronze med should be survive and save as that is what we are now using.

Web officer points out that the Southampton SERC went to the judges' panel 3 days before the competition.

We need to instead submit early and rely on judges panel and use the system that is in place and look at why it s failing.

In addition he states that it is difficult to differentiate A teams on this.

Nottingham asks is there a rule in place to make teams submit earlier than that.

(Note: there is.)

Warwick asks what happens if the host club does not abide by this rule.

BULSCA says fine.

St Andrews (Brown) says doesn't that mean we're given piece by piece what more to learn for each comp

Club development offices says this is only for freshers' comp as it is special.

Chair proposes experienced SERC setter for freshers' comp

Club development officer says he would like to emphasise not splitting captain from team as he thinks that puts them off lifesaving .

Nottingham ask chair to clarify amendment what is experienced

Chair states at least one wet and one dry as experienced

Vote 8.1 on paper D – chair first, Nottingham second

For: 0

Against: 10

Abstentions: 0

Proposal rejected

Club development says having written wet and dry is not a great marker for experience. Amendment to say the freshers' comp SERC setter needs to have to written two of the specific SERC they are writing (dry or wet) in the last 3 years at the discretion of judges panel.

Vote 8.2. on experienced (as outlined above) SERC setters writing freshers' comp SERCs. Chair first, Loughborough second

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Proposal accepted

9. Overall Individual Female and Male Speeds at BULSCA championships

Webmaster outlines proposal. See attached paper E.

Chair reads out email from Stu Richardson, in summary:

Champs should not be free for all entry – designed to be a student competition

BULSCA may struggle to organise champs with in old boys were just to compete instead.

Loughborough says but this does not allow squad.

Nottingham says this disadvantages students.

Nottingham asks whether this refers to just the 5 best events – web officer says yes it's meant to be 5.

Sports development officer asks whether that can be changed to 4.

Birmingham (Sindall) says if you're aiming for this, it's detrimental to the squad as if a club has two fast people that takes out the people for Sunday.

Secretary suggests taking members of a full squad out.

Web officer says no as it's meant to be overall.

Loughborough says can you nominate people afterwards to get the award.

Turned down as decided that that is just a popularity contest.

Sports development officer says how about top 4 events – mark seconded

Oli accepts amendment

Vote 9.1 for the addition of an overall individual speeds competition into the ULSCA championships. Chair proposes vote, secretary seconds

For: 3

Against: 4

Abstentions: 3

Proposal rejected

10. Graduates in the BULSCA championships

See attached paper F.

Web officer describes this proposal and concludes that accepting it would be a slippery slope of who could enter and that we need 16-18 year olds at champs.

Club development officer says certificates should be aimed at students and proposes amendment: any students should count – so that doesn't affect 16-18 year olds.

Chair refers to the last AGM, where a proposal to have school children count in the league was rejected as they were not university students, however this would move away from that decision.

The RLSS Youth Advisor to the Management Board says that if we want to encourage students to join we can't do this as it sends out the message to young lifesavers that they are not welcome.

Nottingham ask whether we can we have certificates for both.

Web officer says they are very expensive.

Sports development officer was at RLSS nationals and says Blythe are interested in competing at BULSCA champs, but only if they medal.

Club development officer still emphasises that students nationals are for students.

Club development officer proposes amendment that only students and under 18 year olds in full time education are eligible.

Nottingham says 'under 18' excludes some.

Club development officer changes amendment to only those at university or in sixth form are eligible.

Web officer has problems with the web entry but could be achieved.

Vote 10.1 to amend proposal with change in eligibility as stated above. Chair first, secretary second.

For: 8
Against: 0
Abstentions: 2

Proposal accepted

Vote 10.2 on paper F with amendment. Chair first, secretary second

For: 5
Against: 3
Abstentions: 2

Proposal accepted

Vote 10.3 Club development officer proposes toilet break, secretary seconds

For: 6
Against: 4
Abstentions: 0

Proposal accepted.

11. AOB

11. 1 Submitting SERCs

Club development officer says it is a fineable offense not to submit a SERC to the judges' panel on time so is there any way to find out it is not happening.

Warwick says does it need clarifying as currently says need to inform BULSCA that they have been in contact.

Club development officer reads out rules

Action 11.1 Club development officer to amend to include committee

11. 2 Plymouth comp

Secretary states that officially competitions need to be announced 12 weeks before they are happening.

However, Plymouth announce that their competition will be on the 25th February.

This is accepted as clubs were aware of the fact that Plymouth were trying to organise this after a date clash at the AGM.

Slight disgruntlement at the fact this now means 4 competitions in 5 weekends for those competing at Nottingham, Birmingham and St Andrews. However, as St Andrews is non-league counting it is acceptable.

Action 11.2 Webmaster to put Plymouth comp on the website

11. 3 Clarification for requirements for judges' course

Nottingham suggest an eligibility requirement.

All BULSCA members wishing to enrol in the judges' course must hold a current Survive and Save qualification and have experience of BULSCA competitions. Graduate members who no longer hold current qualifications must have suitable experience in BULSCA competitions.

Vote 11. 3. 1 for eligibility requirement for the judges' course.

For: 8

Against 1

Abstaining 1

Proposal accepted

11.4 Competition eligibility for ULU lifesaving.

Stephanie Wilson (secretary) passes the minute taking responsibility to the chair while she speaks on behalf of University of London Union Lifesaving.

She explains that ULU is made up of 21 universities combined. Members of these 21 universities are all eligible to compete for ULU. However, members of the other universities such as Imperial and the University of Westminster in London are allowed to train with ULU and do so with the ULU lifesaving team. However, whenever ULU bring these teams with members from these universities to BULSCA competitions, they declare the teams as non-counting, although all team members are full-time students.

Proposes that all full-time student competitors from London universities training with the ULU team should be considered as counting members – allowing the team to remain counting for the league.

Webmaster argues that this would need a name change – which would need to be done at the AGM.

London state that they are asking at the EGM for permission to change their team name mid-season to ‘London Universities’ as their member turnover is very high, with many members only staying in the squad for one year at a time, as exchange students or doing Masters’ degrees.

Vote 11.4.1 Chair proposes move to vote on the proposal that ULU change their name to ‘London Universities’ going into effect from Nottingham competition, allowing all full-time students at London universities to compete in counting London teams at BULSCA competitions. Club Development Officer seconds.

For: 7

Against: 2

Abstaining: 0

Proposal accepted.

Secretary takes over taking minutes again.

Webmaster argues that this proposal cannot be accepted as a name change is constitutional and needs to be accepted unanimously rather than by majority.

Secretary questions whether this could really be considered as a constitutional change.

Club Development Officer argues point for whether this motion carries.

Argument ensues.

Vote 11.4.2. David Brown proposes to make committee decide this. Miles seconded

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Proposal accepted

Action BULSCA committee to decide this by the end of the day and communicate to BULSCA clubs their decision. It is decided that the three members currently in the London club (Treasurer, Secretary and Club Development Officer) will be excluded from the discussion.¹

11.5. Facebook group

Bristol ask whether a facebook group could be created to organise scratch teams for competitions.

This seems like a sensible idea

Action 11.5.1 Secretary to create facebook group.²

11.6. BULSCA naked calendar

Loughborough would like to create a BULSCA naked calendar and are wondering whether different clubs would be happy to provide a page, with potentially one page dedicated to the BULSCA committee.

The BULSCA treasurer appears particularly keen at this idea.

Action 11.6.1 Nicola Keenan (Loughborough) to create naked calendar.

¹ It is decided that London can change their name to London Universities.

Action 11.4.1 Webmaster to change the name of London Universities on the BULSCA website.

² Facebook group can be found as BULSCA (British Universities Lifesaving Clubs' Association)

11.7 BULSCA emails

Webmaster makes the request that people stop spamming via the BULSCA website.

Bristol state they are confused about what should be sent out in each e-mail list.

David Brown (St. Andrews) offers to update the descriptions.

Action 11.7.1. David Brown to send updated descriptions to the webmaster.

Action 11.7.2. Webmaster to then update these on the BULSCA website.

11.8. Fancy dress for judges

Rachel Bigwood asks that information on fancy dress is sent to judges please.

The time is noted, and in line with three presentations to continue, the meeting is brought to a swift end.

Chair ends the meeting at 12.12.