

Scottish Universities Sport {active ~ competitive ~ innovative}

AU Presidents Forum # 2

Acting as the Scottish Division and Conference

Minutes of the meeting held at the University of Abertay

Present:

Ed Nicholas	Chair,	Edinburgh,	SUS Exec	EN
Chris Berry	Secretary,	St Andrews,	SUS PAC	CB
Anna Anderson		Dundee,	SUS PAC	AA
Andrew Mallon		Heriot Watt,	SUS Comps	AM
Angus Stevenson		Strathclyde,	SUS Comps	AS
Paul Thomson		Paisley,	SUS Exec	PT
James Fairwood		Aberdeen		JF
Ian Lowe		Abertay,	SUS PDC, SUS Exec	IL

In Attendance

Stew Fowlie	SUS Sports Manager	SF
Quentin Sloper	BUSA Executive Representative	QS
Niall Sturrock	Non Student Representative	NS

Apologies

Barry Earl	Napier
Chris Wilson	Glasgow Caledonian, SUS Comps
John Baxter	Queen Margaret's, SUS PAC
Andy Smith	Robert Gordon University
Will Mackenzie	Stirling
University of Highlands and Islands	
Scottish Agricultural College	

1. Matters Arising

a. SUS Code of Conduct - General review

i. Confirmation of Fixtures

The Forum agreed the fixture confirmation pro formas are an effective method to convey relevant information. All Presidents are urged to circulate fixture confirmation as early as possible. While Friday is a deadline, as early as Wednesday would be advisable. Presidents also urged to circulate pro forma to club captains for cross-checking.

ii. Facilities Booking

One of the major issues regarding fixture times has been the booking of the facilities by the relevant Sports Officer/Athletic Union. The fixtures are carefully worked out by SUS during the summer to allow for facility provision and timings for all Universities. This should allow all Universities to book their fixtures during the summer and no changes should occur. The knock on effect of fixtures being rearranged affects all Universities as the Scottish Universities all attempt to cram fixtures into a very small time frame. A comparison of various institutions booking methods was made.

- a. Edinburgh - all bookings are made over summer.
- b. St Andrews- Bookings are provisionally made over the summer, but confirmed Thursday before.
- c. Dundee- Similar to St Andrews.
- d. Heriot Watt- Similar to Edinburgh.

- e. Strathclyde- Similar to Edinburgh.
- f. Paisley- Predominant user of Outside facilities
- g. Aberdeen- Similar to Edinburgh.
- h. Abertay- Similar to Edinburgh.

The forum in discussion with NS made it clear that the booking of fixtures was a priority and it was agreed that SUS should push for the prioritisation of BUSA Fixtures at the next meeting of the SUS Director's Forum. - **Action SF and NS to discuss BUSA Fixtures at next Director's Forum.**

EN detailed Edinburgh's booking system, via a shared excel program with dual access. - **Action EN to circulate excel program to Presidents**

iii. Standard Starting times.

- a. It is not feasible for indoor sports but potentially possible for outdoor sports.
- b. Many sports have informal start times (e.g. outside Wednesday 1430/1400). These are difficult to formalise due to travel times.
- c. Alternative is standardised travel times, to be agreed to amongst Presidents, and these could be used to ensure scheduled matches allow a minimum amount of travel time.
- d. The Forum restated its belief that students should not miss class for sport. EN notes that onus is on athletes, and JF notes that clashes are often unavoidable.
- e. NS suggests circulating letters to appropriate academics excusing some absences.
- f. EN and QS suggest team contracts, binding athletes to compete in every Wednesday fixture. Generally successful, few athletes lost, lots of headaches saved.
- g. Forum agrees necessity to keep vigilant about keeping Wednesday afternoon's free.
- i. A number of start time problems had come from Tennis. The majority of tennis matches are held in outside facilities due to necessity for inside courts. NS discusses possibility of locating "Neutral" third party universities hosting tennis matches, to cut down travel time and to avoid the difficulty of getting suitable court time.
- j. EN asks for other common scheduling difficulties. PT notes difficulty with Volleyball and any other sport necessitating external bookings. NS suggests method of highlighting external bookings in booking system.

iv. Club Officials

- a. EN reminds Presidents of their role in inter-university dialogue. Presidents agree that fixture changes should be done at a President, and not a club, level.
- b. Captains still must speak amongst themselves to confirm details, but any reasons for a fixture change must be run through Presidents.
- c. Presidents are urged not to add unnecessary steps. Occasionally it will be best to delegate rescheduling to Club Captains, but with Presidents in the loop.
- d. Presidents are encouraged to circulate a list of all club captains. Similar list should be sent to Jacqui at SUS. Freedom of Information a potential problem, recommended to be solved with a captain's contract. It would then be possible to be shared on SUS website. - **Action everyone to circulate list of Club Captain Contact details to Jacqui and amongst presidents.**

v. Code of Conduct Problems

- a. EN clarifies that CoC supersedes BUSA regulations for all SUS regular season fixtures. BUSA supersedes CoC for all Championship Fixtures.
- b. Problems highlighted with Netball umpires. Not enough qualified Netball umpires in SUS (2 necessary per match). Presidents agree that matches should be played with suitable agreements between teams for short term, and SUS and clubs should focus on umpire training for long term.
- c. Presidents agree to compile lists of qualified umpires in all SUS sports. Lists could be put online, and umpires could be hired from third party institutions. Centrally allocated umpires determined to be unfeasible. - **Action Everyone to compile and circulate list of qualified umpires.**
- d. It is clarified that men may officiate women's hockey matches.

b. BUSA Premier Leagues

Presidents review cost sheets prepared by EN. Costs seem to be on low side. It is decided EN will rework figures and represent to forum. **-Action EN to rework Premier League Costs.**

c. AU Presidents Forum/ SUS Relationship

The Forum is asked to consider its role within SUS. This may have to involve a rework of the SUS Constitution to put SUS in line with BUSA. SUS constitution states that AUPF replaces SUSF, but SUS Comps takes many roles of SUSF, so duplication. **-Action SF look at SUS Constitution.**

d. SUS Website- AU Forum

SF announced the launch of the website and stated that fixtures will be up soon.

EN announced that there will be an AUPF Page and asked the Forum for input on its content. It is decided that minutes and action points should be made public. List of names and contact details of members of forum.

Action AM to draft new SUS/ AUPF webpage.

NS asks who will and will not be on website, e.g. non-SUS institutions. **-Action SF to look into role of non-SUS institutions on website.**

Forum discussed putting non-BUSA fixtures onto SUS website. Decided it should be looked into, could increase traffic to site. **-Action SF to look into putting non-BUSA fixtures onto SUS website.**

e. BUGS/Home Nations

The Presidents were informed that BUGS will not be happening this year. Combined with this there was concern about BUSA's commitment to BUGS. Forum agrees that SUS should keep pressure on BUSA to continue with BUGS. QS thinks it is a great idea, but needs to be done better, and with a bigger profile, for it to be worth the cost.

(CB departs meeting early, AM takes over minutes)

SF proposed to identify a tournament that takes place at Easter comprising of various sports. NS proposed the idea of a Celtic Nations event. EN thought it would be beneficial to develop a city plan for the event and estimates costings. NS asked QS to ask about the committed funds for BUGS to be used in the 'Home Nations'. SF suggested a city wide event in either Glasgow or Edinburgh and it was concluded that if possible AM and ED would contact their directors to see if HW and ED Universities would host the event.

2. BUSA Executive Board

a. BUSA Exec Report - UCS/BUSA Merger

QS says that the UCS debate continues were there have been more advantages noted than disadvantages. NS insists that the merge has to be clear. QS also says that if this merge was to happen, it would not be fast tracked but would take a few years.

b. BUSA AU Chairs Forum

EN says that the AU Chairs forum ran smoothly but did not think that the problems were relayed to the exec committee well. QS thinks that the next meeting will be better due to the lack of fixtures preceding the last meeting.

c. BUSA in Intra Mural Sport

QS suggested to use Scotland as an Intramural weekend sporting event at several sports. QS also says there may be funding available.

3. SUS Committees

SUS Executive

SUS Competitions

SUS Physical Activity

AA says Active Age festival was good and well supported with about 80 attending.

SUS Professional Development

IL developing a student officer handbook for club committees that should be on the website for next year.

4. Venues and Dates of Meetings
 - a. ED thanked everyone for enthusiasm for hosting meetings
 - b. Next meeting is on the 17th November in Aberdeen.
5. AOCB
 - a. SF reminds everyone that the audits are due in by the 27th October and that he is able to help if he can.
 - b. SF also reminds and encourages to use the SUS photographer.
 - c. NS noted UCS date clash.

Consolidated Action Points

1.
 - a.
 - ii. 2. SF and NS to discuss BUSA Fixtures at next Director's Forum.
 3. EN to circulate excel booking program to Presidents
 - iii. 4. Everyone to circulate Club Captains to Jacqui, and amongst themselves.
 - iv. 3. Everyone to circulate list of qualified umpires across all SUS sports.
 - b.
 - i. EN to rework Premier League Costs and bring discussion point forward to next meeting.
 - e.
 - ii. 3. AM to draft new SUS/ AUPF webpage.
 - iii. SF to look into role of non-SUS institutions on website.
 - iv. SF to look into putting non-BUSA fixtures onto website.
 - v. With no BUGS, SF put forward the idea of a Celtic Nation Event and AM and EN would ask directors to host the event in Edinburgh
2.
 - a. UCS debate continues and it is hoped that the merge if it happens is not fast tracked.
 - b. EN says its running smoothly but there is a breakdown in communication.
 - c. QS suggested Scotland to host intramural event.
3.
 - a. Postponed
 - b. Nothing to report
 - c. Active age festival was well supported.
 - d. Handbook for club committees to be developed.
4.
 - a. EN thanks everyone for their commitment.
 - b. Next meeting is on the 17th November in Aberdeen.
5.
 - a. Audits due in by the 27th October.