



**AU President's Forum
Minutes
23/01/09
Tennis Centre, University of Stirling**

Present:

Gordon Cox	Chair, Aberdeen
Ross Simpson	Heriot-Watt
Peter Burgon	Abertay
Joe Gray	Edinburgh
Euan Millar	Glasgow
Hannah Dunwoody	GCU
Campbell Steel	Strathclyde
Paul Blake	Dundee
Emma Raeburn	RGU
Greg Ure	Stirling
Siobhan Wilson	UWS

In attendance:

Stew Fowlie	SUS
Shona Roche	SUS
Neil Sturrock	Non student rep

Apologies:

Alex Cooper	St Andrews
Mike Wallace	Napier
Iain Wilkie	UHI
Andrew Maclean	QMU

1: Minutes of previous meeting

- 1.1 Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted
- 1.2 No conflict of interests were noted

2: Matters Arising

2.1 *Forum dates* – 6th March at SUS HQ. 8th May at GCU, hoping to bring successors along and organise something banterous for after the Forum.

2.2 AU Presidents agreed to the SUS Code of Conduct

3: Chairs Forum and BUCS update

3.1 GC attended the Regions and Nations Meeting and needs feedback on disability sport.

3.2 GC informed the group that BUCS are employing a disability officer. He suggested that there should be some questions regarding disability sport in next year's audit.

3.3 The presidents are aware that disabled athletes compete equally in Stirling, Abertay, Heriot Watt, RGU and Glasgow at present. SF suggested that presidents look at starting to play Boccia at their University.

3.4 SF highlighted that this population are difficult to target and a hard to reach group.

3.5 NS suggested getting information from Disability Scotland. He also pointed out the new initiative called SPEEAD (Sporting Prosthetics for Everyday and Elite Athletes with a Disability) being set up in Strathclyde. **ACTION** NS will circulate information on this.

3.6 12th March is the date for the Development Day at the BUCS Championships in Sheffield.

3.7 BUCS wish to regionalise training and wish to know what presidents require. There was a round the table discussion on this. Suggestions included the following:

- Fixtures live sessions in a computer room,
- Q&A session on transport (minibuses, hire cars etc.),
- Information on disciplinary procedures
- How BUCS support SUS

- Explanation of League Structures and Knock Outs
- ACTION** GC will feed ideas back to BUCS.

3.8 GC called for ideas for BUCS Conference taking place in Keele from the 1st to the 4th of September. The following were suggested:

- Bidding for and running events
- Sponsorship & finance in the current economic climate
- Transport
- Successful community programs & community links
- An update on sports research in Universities
- Volunteering
- Talent Identification
- Disability Sport
- Available academic programs related to sport
- Corporate Kit and Branding
- Strategic Planning in University Sport
- Creating international links e.g. Right to Play
- Performance Sport programs
- Keynote speakers from UK Sport, Fastrack Sport

3.9 GC informed the group that a review of eligibility is taking place. It will include information on how to deal with split campuses, colleges and FE students etc.

3.10 GC informed the group that a 'Keep Wednesday Afternoons Free' Campaign is underway. If anyone wishes to help out or get involved they should contact Simon in Swansea.

3.11 GC informed the group that the Right to Play Day is taking place on March 25th. GC asked if it could be tied into the Conference Cup Finals day and suggested players pay a pound each to play. A Kit amnesty was also suggested.

4: Fixtures Dates and Times

4.1 GC called on presidents to be aware that time is getting short. RS encouraged people to check the website rather than calling other university presidents. RS requested that the presidents instruct captains to do this.

5: SUS Network Update – Winning Students

5.1 NS updated the forum on the Winning Students Shadow Advisory Board meeting he attended on 4th December 2008. It was agreed to move forward with Swimming (including disability swimming), hockey, and women's football. Another meeting to decide on other sports such as curling, golf, squash, tennis, archery, badminton, shooting and orienteering is to be held. Athletes will be identified by the National Governing Body. Money will follow student wherever they study, this was deemed more effective than trying to channel all recipients to a single institution. There are a limited number of scholarships available in sports which are not included in the initial programme. There was a long discussion on whether institutions would have to match funding from the Funding Council, directors indicated that this would not be fresh money and therefore would take away from current scholarships. Decided there will be a standard rate across the board from the Funding Council and if institutions wish to top this up it's up to them. Funding will be in the amount of £2,000-£2,500 per person. Institutions may combine resources for Winning Students.

5.2 GC thanked NS for his update.

ENGINE ROOMS

6: PDC

6.1 Discussions at last meeting mainly focused on the Christmas Seminar, Conference 2009 and the SUS strategy.

6.2 SUS current seeking sponsors. **ACTION** PB urged presidents that if they are aware of any possible sponsors to contact Jacqui.

6.3 The Conference may be videoed.

7: SUSPAC

7.1 The last SUSPAC meeting took place in Dundee in November, there was a debrief on the Active Age Festival and ways to develop the festival were discussed.

7.2 The Student Dance Festival is being held in Dundee on Sunday the 1st February 2009.

7.3 ER and HD have contributed to the last two SUSPAC newsletters. **ACTION** GC to forward SUSPAC newsletter to BUCS' Jenny Anderson.

8: COMPS

8.1 Events Guide is ongoing; the number of events now stands at 194.

8.2 Problem clubs and NGBs were discussed at the last meeting. CS and EM are providing the committee with a list of NGBs and affiliations.

8.3 Some clubs are having issues with SHU – comps have set up a committee set up to liaise with SHU and they are showing quite a lot of interest and keen to get involved. NS pointed out that 'clear the air' meetings are very beneficial.

9: EXEC

9.1 There hasn't been a meeting since last forum. Exec meeting in Aberdeen on Friday 6th February will be discussing Winning Students, Active Students, the SUS strategy and a meeting held with Neil Park.

9.2 SF explained the concept of Active Students.

11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 NS pointed out that a code of practice for dealing with people with weight issues/eating disorders/excessive exercisers might be helpful as people working out in your facility are your responsibility. EM pointed out that Glasgow have an association with SAMH who run courses on how to cope with people experiencing these kinds of problems. SF suggested to refer it to SUSPAC.

11.2 JG asked the forum what their relevant institutions do with regard to medical forms. Round the table discussion on this. It was proposed that time should be set aside at the next forum to discuss this, all agreed. **ACTION** All to send GC any best practice in this area especially with regard to health and safety.

11.3 EM informed forum that Glasgow University's Men's Rugby Club have been suspended from the league and urged all presidents not to deal with the team and not to organise any fixtures with them. NS applauded Glasgow's decision and hopes we could all be big enough to do the same in a similar situation.

11.4 SF asked whether Tier One Teams wished to partake in the Premiership Playoffs. Presidents were unsure of this. **ACTION** All presidents to find out if their teams wish to take part in Premiership Playoffs.

11.5 SF informed the forum decision had been taken to reformat SUS Cricket. There are now three tiers; four teams in tier one and will play each other home **and** away, the other tiers will have six teams and play each other home **or** away. There will be a Cricket Conference Cup but with no pool stage. GC asked at the possibility of having one day Conference Cup, PB suggested 20:20 plan over a weekend.

11.6 GC reminded the forum that the BUCS Cross Country is taking place in Aberdeen 6th-8th February. There are over 1,000 entries, it is a huge event for Aberdeen. GC will provide free accommodation and dinner to people who help out.

11.7 GC informed forum that BUCS Regional Chairs and Exec are both taking place in SUS HQ, Edinburgh on the 3rd of April.

11.8 SW asked SUS to enter a team in UWS's football 5 a side tournament and also informed the group that UWS American Football team are taking on Team Canada on the 21st of March.

11.9 PB updated the group on the recent SUS Administrator's Forum. Issues were raised about a communication breakdown between presidents and administrators. Administrators wish to be kept aware of what is going on fixtures wise. SF proposed to copy administrators into agenda and minutes email, all agreed.

11.10 GC called on presidents to submit issues for the AU agenda early.

11.11 GC thanked all for coming, thanked GU for hosting and looks forward to seeing everyone at the next forum.

12. Date of Next Meeting

12. 6th March, SUS HQ.