

Précis and action points from the **Executive Council** meeting held on Friday 3rd November in the Seminar room at the Centre for Sport and Exercise, University of Edinburgh.

Present

Jim Aitken (JCA), In the Chair
Mike Fitchett (MF)
Filippo Antoniazzi (FA)
Ed Nicholas (EN)
Mark Ritchie (MR)
Dougie MacDonald (DM)
Andrew Mallon (AM)
Lawrie Randak (LR)

In attendance

Stewart Fowlie (SF)
Jacqui Stone (JS)

Apologies for Absence

Osla Dougal (OD)
Juliet Balfour (JB)
Raleigh Gowrie (RG)
Paul Thomson (PT)

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND SCENE SETTING

1. Everyone was warmly welcomed, and new-comers AM and MR introduced. Apologies for absence were noted. JCA began by setting the scene for the meeting. He proposed that from now on the SUS engine room committees should be empowered to deliver on agreed objectives, leaving the Exec to concentrate on matters of policy, planning, resource allocation and advocacy. That said, the Exec would still receive reports from Comps, PDC and SUSPAC, but in the form of short summary papers circulated in advance of each meeting. These would highlight any actions/decisions required of Exec. JCA advocated that this approach would make Exec exchanges more streamlined, efficient and effective. This view was unanimously endorsed.

ACTION

HOMOLOGATION

2. *Exec Meeting 25th August 2006* – the précis of the last Exec meeting was reviewed and approved as an accurate record.
3. *Matters Arising:*
 - a. Elite Sport Report – JCA has approached Stewart Harris (CEO sportscotland) to establish why the report has still not been published. This has promoted a review.
 - b. Financials – JS has included the updated monthly accounts in each Exec mail-out. The high quality and detail of the financial reports was welcomed.

JCA

POLICY AND RESOURCES

Auditor's Report (SUS(EX)m7~1)

4. JS updated the Exec on the report by David Beattie who had completed the internal audit of the SUS accounts. The four recommendations made by David were discussed, and adopted in their entirety. JS to action and to write to David to confirm.

JS

Funding Model (SUS(EX)m7~2)

5. This matter has been debated extensively and over many meetings. On the basis of all related facts, opinions and options, it was recommended to proceed with a pro rata funding model founded on population (50% of total), club memberships (30% of total) and gym memberships (20% of total). This would be the method of calculating members' fees for the next three years, though matters would be held under annual review. With this, Exec adopted the proposed funding formula and implementation time-line. JS would now write to partners to advise them of the decision, and to lay the foundations for invoicing. JS/SF would also stand ready to meet with partners on an individual basis as required.

JS

DfES/UCS Developments (SUS(EX)m7~3)

6. SF introduced the paper. After a lengthy discussion, Exec welcomed the proposals to invest resources in the HE sector, and offered comment on each of the four headings:
 - a. *Elite Athletes* – There was unanimous agreement that elite level (student) athletes

should be encouraged and supported. However, Exec did not support the notion of 'centres of excellence' preferring instead a nationwide approach whereupon a range of HE/FE partners can contribute and benefit. This would uphold the positive aspects of the TASS initiative. With this, LR recommended SUS should attend the 'London 2012 partners' symposium on 29th and 30th January.

- b. *Volunteering* – This element was unanimously endorsed, and should build on PDC's existing work on this priority area.
 - c. *Sportsmark Accreditation Scheme* – Exec did not see the value/need of such a scheme.
 - d. *Coaching Centres* – The worth of this proposal was appreciated, though Exec concluded the needs of coaches and coaching needed to be progressed on a multi-agency basis and in a variety of different ways.
7. LR agreed to trigger responses from the 4 departments concerned at sportscotland. He would then respond to SUS before JS and JCA respond to Vince Mayne.

LR
JCA / JS

ENGINE ROOM UPDATES

Competitions Committee (SUS(EX)m7~4)

8. SF introduced the report. Much has been achieved, and Exec noted the upcoming SDC Forum on 7 Nov'06, and the SDC/SGB seminar on 23 Nov'06.

Professional Development Committee (SUS(EX)m7~5)

9. JS presented the report from PDC. Again, there were many successes to report, including the on-going SUS audit. The upcoming SUS Xmas seminar on Thursday 14 Dec'06 (Stirling) was also highlighted.

Physical Activity Committee (SUS(EX)m7~6)

10. JS gave an upbeat account of SUSPAC's activities of late, including the hugely successful active age festival and attendance at the PAHA conference.

SPORT 21 REVIEW – WHAT IT MEANS FOR SUS

Preparation for Guest Speaker (SUS(EX)m7~7)

11. JCA underlined the importance and significance of Francesca Osowska (Head of Sports Division, Scottish Executive) participation in today's Exec meeting. This would give an excellent opportunity to promote the value of the HE sector and find out more about how SUS can be involved in the implementation of new Sport 21 targets.

Francesca Osowska, Head of Sport, The Scottish Executive

12. FO was welcomed warmly, and introduced to the Exec. SF gave an upbeat account of SUS work (including the promo DVD) and proposed how the HE sector might fit in with the new Sport 21 vision. FO proceeded to present how the revised sports strategy would operate. This would build on existing successes but with the Scottish Executive assuming the lead role. Increasing participation and improving performance would be the primary drivers of the new Sport 21 strategy, underpinned by four supporting commitments of: *providing the pathway*, *quality facilities*, *well trained people* and *strong organisations*. Sportscotland would be charged with a key co-ordinating role, though SGBs and Scottish LAs would be key to delivery. A long, lively and wide ranging discussion took place, during which FO welcomed the contribution the HE sector was making to Scottish sport. She conceded that HEIs/SUS could and should be afforded a lead responsibility, and she committed to considering this further. By the same token, SUS agreed to respond to the Sport 21 draft by indicating where the HE sector/SUS might contribute most; to pass her the UCS/DfES paper; and to send info on the Scottish HE audit. Everyone concluded that this had been a most positive and productive exchange, and FO agreed to maintain a direct dialogue with the SUS Exec. FO was thanked for attending.

JCA/SF

OTHER BUSINESS

13. *Next meeting* – the Christmas Seminar is being held on the 14th December in Stirling. Following that the Exec will meet at the end of January, date to be confirmed.

JS

Actions List

Elite Sport Report to be followed up with Stewart Harris at Sportscotland	JCA
Action financial recommendations and write to David Beattie to confirm	JS
Write out to membership regarding financial contributions	JS
Write response to UCS/DfES paper	LR/JS/JCA
Encourage Participation at Christmas Seminar	All
Paper to be sent to Scottish Executive of how SUS can fit in	JCA/SF
Audit figures and UCS/DfES paper to be sent to Scottish Executive	JCA
Date for next Exec to be confirmed	JS