



AU President's Forum
18/01/08, 1230
The Union, University of Strathclyde

Present:	Andy Smith	Chair, RGU, Exec	AS
	Kerry Anderson	Secretary, Glasgow, Comps	KA
	Anna Anderson	Vice Chair, Dundee, Exec	AA
	Dave Waddell	Napier	DW
	Simon Messenger	Edinburgh, PDC	SM
	Ed Barker	St Andrews	EBa
	Steve Rea	Glasgow Caley, Comps	SR
	Lucy Botham	Strathclyde, Comps	LB
In attendance:	Stew Fowlie	SUS	SF
	Ed Nicholas	BUSA Rep	EN
	Niall Sturrock	Non student rep	NS
Apologies:	Ian Lowe	Abertay	IL
	Jen Savage	Stirling	JS
	Michael Bates	UHI	MB
	Gordon Cox	Aberdeen, PDC	GC
	Eddie Bryant	Heriot Watt, Comps	Ebr
	Siobhan Wilson	Paisley, SUSPAC	SW

EN was thanked for giving a presentation on Performance Lifestyles and Athletic Unions.

1. Minutes

- 1.1 Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.
- 1.2 Updates – Glasgow Caledonian Ball is on 5/4/08, Napier Ball is on 9/4/08
- 1.3 Matters arising
 - 1.2.3 Tour policy: **ACTION** AS to circulate tour policy by 25/01/08.
Two students from English Universities died on the Christmas Ski trip which highlights the need for a duty of care to our students. NS asks if all Presidents could find out what clubs are going on tour this year and where. **ACTION** All to speak to clubs and circulate details.
 - 2.3 Deadline for fixture rearrangements is drawing near. Please get all fixture rearrangements sorted.
 - 8.2.1 SDC Liaison – **ACTION** LB to update at the next meeting.

2. BUGS

- 2.1 General
 - 2.1.1 SF advises that arrangements are progressing well. The schedule of events is currently in its 6th draft but should be finalised soon. Tournament appointments have been made.
 - 2.1.2 Scotland team preparations are going well. The draw has been seeded this year based on the results last time round.
 - 2.1.3 NS suggests that the review process after the event is solid. He also suggests that a summary sheet of athletes for each institution is produced

to circulate prior to the event to help with promotion once teams have been selected.

2.1.4 ACTION All to give an update to LB on how much financial support will be offered to athletes selected if not already done so.

2.1.5 ACTION AS and EN to discuss at Chairs forum to build enthusiasm in other conferences.

2.2 Volunteer Roles

2.2.1 Volunteers are needed to help run all aspects of the event. This is very much a SUS event and support will be needed from all corners.

2.2.2 Transport – Estimated that 12 buses will be required plus drivers. All drivers will be offered full board at Pollock halls for the duration of the event. Budget for fuel has still to be set. **ACTION** All to respond with details of how many buses could potentially be supplied along with details of insurance requirements by 25/01/08 to EBr and SF.

2.2.3 Venues – 2/3 volunteers are required at each venue to help out with registration, information point and results.

2.2.4 Media – Volunteers will be required specifically to produce match reports. **ACTION** SF to supply Presidents with information to circulate to help us recruit volunteers. ALL presidents should be thinking of suitable candidates to put forward.

3. BUSA Adventures

3.1 AS advises that we are in a very strong position to try and make some changes to the BUSA regulations this year. The previous approach at Chairs Forum was not well received but the more rigorous paper take to the last meeting was and the other conferences are coming on board.

3.2 QS brought a paper to the Chairs Forum which is looking to relax certain rules relating to walkovers – automatic relegation and loss of 3 points.

3.3 One of the key points that should be incorporated is that all walkovers should be initially deemed involuntary as this is a less negative approach. NS asks if there are possible ramifications of deeming all walkovers involuntary and AS asks if it is possible to include cases of when walkovers have been deemed voluntary and involuntary.

3.4 A formal proposal now needs to be made to the Chairs Forum. **ACTION** AS and SF to draft and circulate by 25/01/08 for approval and discussion by email so that it can be taken to the next Chairs Forum on 1/2/08.

3.5 EN advises that there will be discussion on it at Exec Board on 6/2/08 and a the BUSA Comps group on 15/2 and 16/2

3.6 SUS Spirit of Sport – This is in its first draft and is intended as a smaller handout for captains at the beginning of the season. We are trying to create a positive experience and the document lists some of the key values that summarise what we are looking to achieve and how we aim to do this.

3.7 Round the table for our key values. All seem to be covered in the Spirit of Sport.

3.8 BUSA are happy for SF to continue to deal with disciplinaries in Scotland.

4. Premier League Playoffs

4.1 SF advises that 2 pieces of information are required from all Presidents.

4.2 The first is if teams currently in a position to win tier 1 leagues would be interested in progressing to Premier League playoffs. He advises that if a team is successful in going to Premier League from Scotland then it would have a knock on effect on the places available to championship from tier 1. We won't, however, lose overall places in the championship. He also advises that if a team is unsuccessful then Scotland could possibly lose a championship place. **ACTION** All to indicate whether or not teams eligible would like to progress to playoffs ASAP.

- 4.3 NS asks if SM could produce a financial summary of how much commitment is required to send teams to Premier League. **ACTION** SM to do this.
- 4.4 The second piece of information SF requires regards men's lacrosse. BUSA are currently looking into possible league structures and whether or not there are enough teams to form a North/Scottish league. **ACTION** SF to email round to gauge interest.

5. BUSA Knockouts

- 3.1 Some advice was circulated on procedures for BUSA knockouts.
- 3.2 All asked when the draw template would be issued as BUSA did agree to issue it 3 weeks in advance of the first round. **ACTION** AS to contact Mark Brian and BUSA and find out when it will be issued.
- 3.3 Seven golden rules:
 - Keep a paper trail
 - Know the rules
 - Get facilities booked
 - Know the rules regarding officials
 - Brief your teams on procedures
 - Be polite but firm with opposition institutions
 - Help each other out (especially with officials)
 - Leave plenty of time for travelling
- 3.4 Check the leagues on the day of the deadline to ensure that all the teams you expect to progress to knockouts actually do.
- 3.5 Continue the weekly proforma so that we all know how other teams are getting on and if teams are travelling to the same institution down south transport could be shared.
- 3.6 If you have any problems at all speak to SF. He has the experience so use it!
- 3.7 All to be aware that Cambridge do not have an AU president or equivalent. The PA to the Director of Sport deals with fixtures administration. Details in BUSA handbook.

6. Fixtures

- 6.1 EBa says that he has had problems with some contact details for clubs. Data Protection issues at certain institutions means that this info cannot be given out. Contacts should be submitted to SUS during the summer for the website anyway so that is a resource which can be used.
- 6.2 Ensure that results are entered onto the BUSA website by the 10am 4th Feb deadline.
- 6.3 Be careful with badminton results as these are always entered wrongly. Out of 4 for the men and women and 12 for the mixed.
- 6.4 It is agreed that Stirling and St Andrews term dates have been causing big problems for rearrangements. NS says that if there are cases of their teams playing in local leagues then they should be available for BUSA fixtures.
- 6.5 It is suggested that dates for rearrangements should be set within one week of the original fixture date.

7. BUSA/UKUS Update

- 7.1 EN updates the forum on developments within the New Company. Both parties met to produce a vision and values document and a joint Exec meeting was held and chaired by Ed Smith. A working group is meeting on 21/1/08 to push things forward. The vision and values document is being taken to the next Chairs forum meeting which EN is chairing. **ACTION** All to read over and feed back to AS/EN by 25/01/08

- 7.2 NS raises concerns about the short length of the consultation period. BUSA and UCS are both member organisations but the members are not getting very much information.
- 7.3 Latest release does have timelines on it so these will hopefully be adhered to.
- 7.4 General update on other things happening at BUSA:
 - New member for the marketing team is being sought instead of a disability post as originally thought.
 - Sub.tv continues to evolve.
 - Opinion on cricket format will be sought.
 - Consistency of regulations on 3G pitches being cleared up – hockey cannot be played on 3G pitches!
 - EN is involved in development leagues, specifically women's rugby.
 - BUCs accommodation – check BUCs page on BUSA website.

ACTION EN to produce a paper for the forum in future

8. Engine Rooms

Update was at Christmas Seminar.

9. AOB

- 9.1 DW advised that he is having minibus problems with Arnold Clark. They are looking for compensation for a driver after the back wheels fell off a bus on a dual carriageway. Strongly suggested that he goes to the University Legal Department for advice.
- 9.2 DW also advises that Arnold Clark are installing tacograph readers in all buses which could cause problems for our drivers as this requires a D1 licence. **ACTION** KA to contact Glasgow Transport Services as they may have more information

Date of next meeting – Friday 7th March, RGU

Close – 3.20pm