

<b>BUCS Update</b>
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### BUCS~ SUS Partnership

Since the update tabled at the last meeting of the SUS Executive in February, the following paper has been circulated recently for discussion amongst BUCS member institutions in Scotland.

This paper has been created following recent discussions within the SUS committee structure and was intended for further consideration within each SUS member institution.

Feedback was sought and has been collated and it is proposed to sum this up verbally at the meeting

### BUCS Nations and Regions Summary

Please note that the BUCS Nations and Regions Forum follows the Exec meeting and there will be a chance over lunch to network with colleagues from across the BUCS membership.

### SUS Executive is asked to:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Note the BUCS discussion paper</li></ul> |
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## **Discussion Paper BUCS - future involvement of Scottish Institutions**

### **Introduction**

Following the formation of Scottish Universities Sport (SUS) in June 2005, Scottish institutions have continued to participate fully in the sports programmes under the umbrella of British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS), while operating under the governance of BUCS in relation to the delivery of these programmes.

However, the services and benefits which affiliation to BUCS brings are increasingly being considered against the expanding delivery of SUS-managed events and programmes, raising questions over the benefits and perceived value of BUCS affiliation and entry fees.

In February the SUS Executive received a member benefits paper submitted by BUCS<sup>1</sup>. The document was welcomed and while the list of benefits detailed in the paper was extensive it was felt that there were many items which could be or are already being covered effectively within Scotland through the SUS network.

It is felt by the Executive that SUS is now mature enough as an organisation to manage the bulk of inter-University sport (i.e. those aspects which takes place solely within Scotland) and that it may be able to do so in a more flexible, cost effective and responsive way than is currently possible within the BUCS funding model.

In short, there remains a view that the current net 'investment' into BUCS of over £100k per annum does not represent appropriate use of funds or genuine value for money.

Further, there is still a view that the scope and value (both financial and otherwise) of work undertaken by SUS is unrecognised or at least underplayed by BUCS.

### **Future involvement in BUCS programmes: Implications and Considerations**

Whilst the list of BUCS membership services and benefits at first glance appear extensive, the direct and real benefits to SUS institutions, when set against the real and potential contribution that SUS makes to competitive and participation opportunities for student sport, may be considered less so.

Questions exist over BUCS' ability to deliver effective and relevant sport programmes that are responsive to the range of needs of competitors within Scottish Universities. Institutions now recognise that SUS is uniquely placed to serve and provide for its membership in this field.

SUS (through the SUS Competitions Committee and constituent Sports Unions) is currently able to deliver tailored competition programmes, taking into account relevant

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<sup>1</sup> Please see appendix 1 - 'BUCS Benefits'

and detailed information such as institutional capacity for sports and specific institutional date constraints.

The network of SUS Sport Development Co-ordinators (SDCs) provides a bank of sport-specific administration and knowledge which has traditionally driven the sports programmes within Scotland. This is not available within the BUCS structure.

The quality of communication and governance within SUS and the clarity of identity and desire for effective and high quality programmes, places the spotlight on the efficacy and relevance of centralised BUCS delivery of GB-wide programmes to the needs of Scottish institutions. Indeed, with the delivery of competitive opportunities for teams below BUCS Tier 1 (the majority of Scottish teams) being effectively managed and delivered through SUS channels supported and regulated by SUS Comps Committee, it might be considered that SUS is already delivering the majority of competitive sports opportunities for Scottish-based students.

### **SUS/BUCS Membership Options**

It is considered that three options for future delivery are possible:

#### ***Option 1: Status Quo***

Scottish institutions continue to fully affiliate to BUCS and participate in the full range of programmes

- SUS institutions continue to pay BUCS affiliation and entry fees
- The top five teams in each sport continue to participate in BUCS Tier 1 competition, with the opportunity to progress to the knock-out stages against opposition from the rest of the UK.
- Scottish teams below BUCS Tier 1 (two thirds of all teams<sup>2</sup>) participate in conference-specific competition within Scotland.
- The extensive programme of SUS-organised events continues to be delivered within Scotland (e.g. cups; tournaments, individual championships etc)
- Individual sports access BUCS competition as required/desired, paying the appropriate affiliation/entry fees.
- Institutions continue to pay for access to BUCS CPD services e.g. Annual BUCS Conference
- SUS continues to undertake advocacy work on behalf of the sector in Scotland

#### ***Option 2: SUS Institutions Withdraw from BUCS***

- Scottish Institutions withdraw from BUCS and BUCS competition
- Institutions participate in Scottish-only competition, administered by SUS
- Funding saved through not affiliating to BUCS is used to support and develop SUS activity

#### ***Option 3: Scottish Institutions access only selected parts of the BUCS Programme***

- Scottish teams continue to enter and compete in BUCS Premier League and Tier 1 competition.
- All teams below BUCS Tier 1 compete in SUS-administered competition, removing the payment of BUCS affiliation fees
- SUS ranking points to be established, providing institutions with feedback on Scottish competition results and a relevant barometer to success in Scottish competition.
- Individual sports access BUCS competition as required/desired, paying the appropriate affiliation/entry fees.
- Institutions to pay for access to CPD services only on a user-pays basis

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<sup>2</sup> Please see appendix 2 – ‘BUCS Scottish Conference Teams 08-09’

### **Preferred Option: Option 3**

Option 3 offers the greatest benefit to SUS member institutions for the following reasons:

- The removal of certain parts of the entry and affiliation fee paid to BUCS would provide SUS institutions with significant financial savings<sup>3</sup>. A proportion of this saving could then be re-invested in developing SUS support services and delivery mechanisms
- Institutions could still enter their athletes to BUCS individual sport competitions (e.g. athletics, swimming) where desired, paying the appropriate entry levy.
- The top Scottish teams (PL & Tier 1) would retain the opportunity to compete against the top UK institutions in the BUCS Championship & Trophy events. Consequently Tier 1 of competition would remain a significant attraction/target for all Scottish institutions' teams.
- The administration of the remaining tiers of competition would be carried out by SUS, providing a more detailed and responsive level of service than is currently available with BUCS.
- SUS would be in a position to introduce the most appropriate rules, regulations and administrative arrangements for all competition, without requiring buy-in from BUCS
- Access to regular weekly team-based competition could immediately be extended to colleges of Further Education which are currently excluded by BUCS eligibility criteria
- NGB links could be further explored and strengthened, particularly with regard to alternative competitive outlets for student teams
- Strengthening of the SUS "brand" on competition taking place within Scotland, with participants understanding much more clearly their place in the competitive structure - enabling SUS to more effectively manage the quality of the student sporting experience.
- SUS-specific ranking points to be developed, providing institutions with feedback on Scottish competition results
- Compared with the current BUCS-centred delivery, student Clubs and Presidents would have a much greater involvement and contribution to make to the structure/organisation of inter-university sport in Scotland.

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<sup>3</sup> Please see appendix 3 - 'Projected Future Savings'

## Next steps

The following timeline is proposed:

- **March 17<sup>th</sup>** Discussion paper circulated to SUS stakeholders (Directors & Presidents)

*Official written responses are encouraged from member institutions. The SUS Sports Manager is also available for informal discussion with any interested party during this time.*

- **March 27<sup>th</sup>** Feedback deadline
- **April 3<sup>rd</sup>** Paper to be discussed at SUS EXEC meeting
- **April-May** Conclusions of consultation to form part of discussions with BUCS
- **May** Institutions to make appropriate team entries to BUCS & SUS for season 09-10
- **June-October** SUS & BUCS to commence relevant planning of 09-10 programmes

*Appendices enclosed*

*1 – BUCS Benefits*

*2 – BUCS Scottish Conference Teams 0809*

*3 – Projected Future Savings (under Option 3)*



## SUS Member Benefits Paper

### Background

Scottish Universities Sport (SUS) was formed in June 2005 in response to the recommendations made in *A Working Group on Sport in Higher Education Summary Report* (sportscotland 2003) for a new, innovative and responsive representative structure for all interest groups within the sector. The consensus was that the proposed improved governance would allow for a better service to universities and the communities around them, but would also contribute towards delivering aspects of the Scottish National Sports Strategy, Sport 21, and its vision of a fitter, healthier, sportier and more competitively successful Scotland.

Initially there were a number of internal set-up issues including membership contributions and finances, office location and staffing and branding and internal administration. Financial support was forthcoming from other key partners in the sector, including British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) and sportscotland and membership contributions were agreed.

SUS has now been fully operational for three academic /membership years and has clearly established itself as the body responsible for sport and physical activity provision and professional development within Scottish HE.

### Funding

The funding structure used to calculate affiliation fees from universities in Scotland is the same as for any other university or grouping such as Universities in Wales Athletic Union (UWAU) and Northern Ireland Universities Sports Committee (NIUSC). However, for the first three years of its operation BUCS refunded to SUS £10,000 of membership fees in recognition of its role in delivering the Scottish Conference League and Cup programme

In the summer of 2008 a request was received from SUS for additional funding. After further discussion a refund of £20,000 was accepted by SUS and agreement on the services and activities that SUS would take responsibility for and deliver were detailed.

In 2008/9 the Affiliation & Entry Fees from Scottish Universities are shown on the following page

	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Entered</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>UCS</b>	
	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Equestrian</b>	<b>Fee</b>	
	<b>Fees</b>	<b>Entry Fees</b>	<b>Entry Fees</b>	<b>Regional's</b>		<b>Totals</b>
	<b>2008 / 2009</b>	<b>2008 / 2009</b>	<b>2008 / 2009</b>	<b>2008 / 2009</b>	<b>2008 / 2009</b>	
Aberdeen	£6,419.44	2,593.00	2,255.14	-	£630.00	£11,897.58
Abertay	£1,402.58	612.00	157.50	-	£150.00	£2,322.08
Dundee	£5,146.46	1,679.00	1,084.65	-	£630.00	£8,540.11
Edinburgh	£13,676.66	3,201.00	5,842.99	400.00	£630.00	£23,750.65
Glasgow	£7,808.45	1,977.00	3,284.66	100.00	£630.00	£13,800.11
Glasgow Caledonian	£3,117.71	816.00	405.99	-	£150.00	£4,489.70
Heriot Watt	£4,354.82	1,471.00	1,166.55	-	£630.00	£7,622.37
Napier	£3,467.54	918.00	489.30	-	£315.00	£5,189.84
West of Scotland	£1,497.32	459.00	64.58	-	£630.00	£2,650.90
Queen Margaret's	£1,041.02	561.00	13.13	-	£150.00	£1,765.15
Robert Gordon	£3,103.22	1,267.00	269.33	200.00	£630.00	£5,469.55
Scottish Agricultural College	£228.12	-	-	-	£0.00	£228.12
St Andrews	£7,198.93	2,385.00	905.36	300.00	£630.00	£11,419.29
Stirling	£6,069.80	1,683.00	3,186.23	-	£630.00	£11,569.03
Strathclyde	£5,816.08	1,424.00	2,376.94	100.00	£630.00	£10,347.02
UHI Millennium Institute	£378.77	51.00	-	-	£0.00	£429.77
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£70,726.92</b>	<b>£21,097.00</b>	<b>£21,502.35</b>	<b>£1,100.00</b>	<b>£7,065.00</b>	<b>£121,491.27</b>

## Performance

Scottish Universities are both active participants and successful competitors in the BUCS competition programme featuring in the Top 10 in 28/44 Sports and 8/14 universities (53%) were in the BUCS Top 50 (see below) in 2007/8

<b>BUCS Overall Position</b>	<b>Institution</b>
5	Edinburgh
24	Stirling
28	Aberdeen
29	Glasgow
30	St Andrews
43	Dundee
44	Strathclyde
46	Herriot Watt
65	Napier
77	Robert Gordon
81	Glasgow Caledonian
85	Abertay
117	Queen Margaret
127	UHI
143	Scottish Agricultural College

## Membership Services

All BUCS member institutions receive services and benefits which are listed in relation to the core areas of the business of the organisation.

## Governance and Business

- Representation and lobbying from Chair and CEO with key partners and alliances at senior level.
- International Influencing strategy
- Representation on Chairs' Forum and Executive Group.
- SMG operations, services and outcomes
- Rules & Regulations and access to the Appeals process
- Voting rights at AGM

## Sports Programmes

- Opportunity to participate the BUCS competition programme at conference level.
- Opportunity to compete in BUCS Knock-out competition.
- Opportunity for teams to enter the BUCS Championship Competition
- Opportunity for Individuals to enter BUCS Championship events.
- Through merit / performance entry into the Premier Leagues.
- Access to services and support provided by the Sports Programme Managers.

## International

- International representation opportunities for players with Team GBR
- Opportunities for coaches & managers with Team GBR
- Representation at EUSA and FISU
- Opportunities to stand for Committee Member and Technical Representative for EUSA and FISU
- Opportunity to bid for EUSA and FISU events
- Access to services and support provided by the Head of International Programmes
- Access to services and support provided for athletes at international events (Medical, Physio etc)

## Regions, Nations & Professional Development

- Professional Development Days
- Annual Conference and BUCS Ball
- Sharing best practice and networking, including virtual networking via Facebook page or BUCS website

## Communication, Commercial & Marketing

- BUCS website
  - Opportunity to display Scottish-specific news stories on sports specific, news and home pages of the site.
  - The site also now has the functions available for regional forums and discussion groups.
  - Events pages – rolling events for sport and non-sporting competitions or events where SUS and BUCS members can upload events relevant to the sector
  - Free job advertising service
  - Opportunity to display SUS or SUS activities/events within the website on advertising buttons around the sporting programme
- Fixtures Live for results – members can access a free basic package for uploading fixtures and results within league programme
- Online entry system for individual
- BUCS Essentials – can be used as opportunity to promote SUS events and/or consultations within the sector as well as Scottish universities being kept up to date with national opportunities and news
- BUCS Handbook – now also available for members as a searchable facility on the BUCS website
- BUCS Life and other publications always include stories or features from the nations and regions. Requests regularly made to SUS for news to include in the termly magazine
- Press coverage – BUCS works with individual members on promoting the range of facilities, events and competitions across the UK. Most recently this has included working with the University of Aberdeen on the Cross Country Championships to secure more national and local press coverage.
- Sponsorship and Commercial Income – SUS has access to the products and deals secured by BUCS nationally. Opportunity to secure a % kick-back from the Nike Team Wear relationship where SUS has promoted the deal to its members and secured sales.
- Offers and discounts – Scottish Universities have access to all the deals and discounts arranged by BUCS, these are equally available across all regions and nations.

*Appendix 2 – BUCS Scottish Conference Teams 0809*

The following table shows the number of teams entered by Scottish Institutions into BUCS Scottish Conference Leagues (2008-09).

The middle column indicates those teams that take part in UK-wide competition via Premier Leagues and/ or qualification to national knockout competitions (by virtue of playing at tier 1 or above)

The third column indicates those entered teams which compete only within Scotland through lower level leagues and the Conference Cup programmes.

<b>Institution</b>	<b>PL or Tier 1 teams</b>	<b>Lower tier teams</b>
Aberdeen	18	31
Abertay	1	11
Dundee	14	17
Edinburgh	31	21
Glasgow	18	17
Glasgow Caledonian	1	16
Heriot-Watt	7	21
Napier	2	16
Queen Margaret	2	7
Robert Gordon	4	14
Scottish Agricultural College	0	2
St Andrews	16	26
Stirling	12	19
Strathclyde	10	17
UHI	0	1
UWS	0	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>245</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>64%</b>

*Appendix 3 – Projected Future Savings (under Option 3)*

*Indicative figures*

	<b>BUCS Team Entry Fees 2008 / 2009</b>	<b>BUCS Team Entry Fees 2009/10<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>BUCS Affiliation Fees 2008 / 2009<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>BUCS Affiliation Fees 2009 / 2010<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>BUCS Affiliation Fees 2010 / 2011<sup>7</sup></b>
Aberdeen	£ 2,695.00	£ 990.00	£6,419.44	£6,419.44	£3,629.44
Abertay	£660.00	£55.00	£1,402.58	£1,402.58	£412.58
Dundee	£1,705.00	£770.00	£5,146.46	£5,146.46	£3,616.46
Edinburgh	£2,860.00	£1,705.00	£13,676.66	£13,676.66	£11,786.66
Glasgow	£1,925.00	£825.00	£7,808.45	£7,808.45	£6,278.45
GCU	£935.00	£55.00	£3,117.71	£3,117.71	£1,577.41
Heriot-Watt	£1,540.00	£385.00	£4,354.82	£4,354.82	£2,464.82
Napier	£990.00	£110.00	£3,467.54	£3,467.54	£2,027.54
QMU	£495.00	£110.00	£1,041.02	£1,041.02	£411.02
RGU	£990.00	£220.00	£3,103.22	£3,103.22	£1,843.22
SAC	£110.00	£0.00	£228.12	£228.12	£48.12
St Andrews	£2,310.00	£880.00	£7,198.93	£7,198.93	£4,858.93
Stirling	£1,705.00	£660.00	£6,069.80	£6,069.80	£4,359.80
Strathclyde	£1,485.00	£550.00	£5,816.08	£5,816.08	£4,286.08
UHI	£55.00	£0.00	£378.77	£378.77	£288.77
UWS	£495.00	£0.00	£1,497.32	£1,497.32	£687.32
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£20,955.00</b>	<b>£7,480.00</b>	<b>£70,726.92</b>	<b>£70,726.92</b>	<b>£48,576.62</b>

**Summary:**

- By not entering teams below tier 1 Scottish Institutions would save approx £13.5k per annum, commencing immediately
- A further saving of approx. £22k per annum would kick in after 12 months as the portion of affiliation fees linked to team entries began to reflect the limited involvement

<sup>4</sup> These figures assume no price increase per team from 08-09

<sup>5</sup> Annual affiliation fees include an index based on previous year activity. Under this index each 07-08 team entry was factored in at a cost of £90 as part of the 08-09 fee

<sup>6</sup> No saving would be made on affiliations in 09-10, given that previous year entries are used. These figures again assume no cost increase per unit. Further savings would come into force in 10-11 figures (see table)

<sup>7</sup> Savings in terms of the annual affiliation fee would come into force after one full year of option 3, such that the 2010-11 figures are significantly lower – again this is merely illustrative as does not account for fluctuations in unit price