



BUCS Update, April 2011.

Sport

BUCS is approaching the end of the competition season, and activity turns from sport delivery to planning for next season. The new fixtures and results system is on track for delivery to all members for the start of the season, and all institutions will need to make sure they attend training sessions, which will be delivered at BUCS conference in Leeds in July with follow up regional sessions pre season. The entry procedures will be different from the current system and all administrators and officers who currently input entry details will need to attend training. The new system will be known as BUCScore, and is a bespoke system built from scratch to BUCS specifications, following consultation in 2009/10.

BUCS Championships took place again in Sheffield in March, with 19 sports (some venues were unavailable this year due to a change in the date), and almost 5000 students. Feedback has been largely positive; however we welcome constructive feedback and would ask that the SUS group feed back any comments through the usual channels.

The Rugby Championships is taking place at Twickenham on 27th April, and the football finals in Sheffield at Brammall Lane, on 11th May, where Edinburgh University will feature. The rowing and athletics major events take place as usual over the weekend of 30th April to 2nd May. The cricket finals are likely to take place at a new venue, Wormsley in the south east of England.

Work continues on the BUCS strategy for sport which is now out with members (see BUCS Essentials) for consultation. SUS members are asked to review and feedback. Further sessions will be run at BUCS conference explaining the impacts of the new strategy, and the first individual sport strategies will also be launched at conference.

In order to provide better service to members, it is likely that some events scheduling will change in 2011/12 season in order to ensure BUCS staff can attend. Members are advised to keep a close eye on BUCS Essentials and the website for details of any date changes.

Disabled athletes will be able to compete in more events across the spectrum following the successful introduction of an inclusive programme this season, and further information will be available in future seasons of this additional opportunity.

Commercial, Communications and Marketing

A tender process has resulted in a new BCS national travel partnership, which will shortly be announced. Members are advised that significant costs savings on travel and accommodation will be available to all members, further information will follow.

CCM involvement in events through sponsor engagement has demonstrably improved the student experience, and this engagement will continue in 2011/12. The mountain biking and surfing events are good examples with significantly improved services and entertainment facilities provided by Red Bull and other partners.

Significant activity is currently under way securing new commercial arrangements in a very tough sponsorship market and further news will be published as available.

Staff

Daisy Martin has joined BUCS as part time administrator working with Aaron Campbell in the competitions area. The Sport Development team has secured continued funding from Sport England to continue its activity,

delivered in England only, however James Birdsey will be leaving to take up a facility manager's role in Warrington in May, due to the funding for his post coming to an end. Tim Nicholls is the new Head of Finance and Governance at BUCS; he also takes on the roles of Company secretary for BUCS and BUCS Trading Limited.

AGM and Conference

This takes place in Leeds between 12th and 14th July this year, and as last year, to allow members to save travel and accommodation costs, the conference now includes both the AGM and the Annual awards dinner. There are plans in place to expand and improve the trade fair, and more partners and commercial concerns will be invited to the new Exhibition. The theme of the conference this year is "Demonstrating the Value of Sport" and the programme will be published shortly. Nominations for Award winners will be published during the next few weeks and members are reminded to enter their athletes, volunteers and other outstanding performers.

2 Directors positions will be vacant (Sport and Marketing portfolios) and as last year, these posts have gone out to applicants. A panel will consider the applications and AGM will be asked to ratify the recommendations of the Board. Student elections will take place, to a slightly different format (see paper circulated by Susannah Attwell via Advisory Group), and hustings will take place the day before elections at conference. One staff post will be vacant (unfilled in 2010/11) and 4 student posts will be available.

Board meets in April and will be asked to consider an outline budget, which will propose affiliation and entry fees, following Boards recommendations this will be submitted to the Advisory Group for pre AGM consultation, and this process will remain in place in future years.

Professional and Regional Update

A new senior managers networking group has now met for the second time, to general positive response, in Sheffield. This is in response to members wishes expressed in the member survey conducted in 2010. This will be repeated in May 2011 and overall member findings published at conference. BUCS ran its first coaching conference (delivered by the Sport Development team but open to all members) in Birmingham in March, with the main speaker, Tony Minichello, delivering an outstanding address. Feedback was excellent and this will become a regular part of the BUCS offer.

The professional development events have also continued with this year's second being delivered in Surrey Sports Park on 6th April. The final Advisory Group will meet on May 19th, at which point any projects which have reached a conclusion will be discussed and actions agreed. Stu Wade and a broader group have produced recommendations on the composition of playing conferences in order to reduce travelling time and make more sport available more locally to more students, as well as to align political and playing regions, and I ask members to read and feedback on these proposals.

Further Education students (only those studying HE courses and subject to age restrictions) will also be permitted to take part in BUCS competitions from September 2011 subject to agreement by members at AGM.

International

The international department is busy making arrangements for the biggest ever athlete delegation to attend World University games in Shenzhen in August. Elections for the FISU executive take place at this event, and BUCS is supporting the nomination of Alison Odell, from Manchester University, to the Executive.

Karen Rothery, CEO