

BUCS Update May 2011.

BUCS staff

Sion Williams will be leaving BUCS in July to get married and relocate to the United States. This will allow minor restructuring to take place in the Communications, Commercial and Media department, and his replacement will take on an account management role.

Aaron Campbell has accepted a competition manager role at the ECB and will take this up in July.

Both roles will be subject to the normal recruitment process and successful candidates announced in due course.

Sport Programme

The sport programme is largely complete with equestrian, cricket and a few small events to go.

Now that a full year of the new BUCS sport structure has been completed, some fixture timing changes are likely to result for events and championships finals for future years to ensure congestion is minimised and service levels improved at events. HEI's are advised to keep a close watch on fixture dates for next year, as some established dates can be expected to change.

It is unclear at present what the position will be with regard to ticket availability for members. Discussions are in progress with LOCOG and further information will be available as soon as possible.

A review has taken place following the pilot of an integrated leagues system, this will be further discussed at conference.

BUCS has awarded points and medals to athletes with disabilities in swimming, athletics and cycling this year, this improvement in inclusion and access will continue over future years. The results of research into the provision and experience of disability sport in HE, conducted by Gordon McTweed at Glasgow Caledonian University, will be published in June.

Fixtures System

BUCScore is now under test and will be available for entries in advance of the new season. All HEI's are strongly advised to ensure all users attend conference, where sessions will be conducted in the operation and capabilities of the system. Further training will follow.

Conference

Conference booking and awards nominations will open on Tuesday 17th May. The programme is comprehensive and some speakers are still outstanding, more information will be available shortly. The programme contains a strong sport development strand for the first time, and a new session for senior managers breakfast networking is available.

AGM

AGM will be conducted as usual at conference. AGM will be asked to ratify 2 new Board directors, following an open application process. Ed Smith has indicated his wish to continue as Chair for a second term of 3 years and Board will also recommend his further appointment.

4 student officers and one staff officer position (Commercial, Communications and Marketing) will be elected at AGM and subject to new election procedures which have been agreed by Board and communicated to members through Advisory Group. This will involve opening voting 4 hours prior to AGM and voting will be completed in advance.

AGM will be asked to agree the budget for 2011/12 which is to be available to members for consideration in advance of AGM. This has been submitted to Advisory Group members this week. As in previous years, an inflationary increase in fees is proposed which is mitigated by an early payment discount. Some additional staff resource is included to ensure financial investment by sponsors is supported, and to enable full advantage to be taken in profile terms of the opportunities around 2012, especially in regard to the BUCS test event in the Olympic stadium. No further additional investment is anticipated in sport this year.

AGM will also be asked to ratify the inclusion of Further Education members with participation in BUCS programmes for HE students aged over 18 only. This will in time increase members and make more local competition available. This proposal has been fully endorsed by Board and Advisory Group will be asked to agree in advance. This is not reflected in budget income figures at present.

AGM will also be asked to agree a proposal to move most sports to a new 3 conference structure, which will impact upon some HEI's with regard to the region they compete in, and the other HEI's they compete against. Advisory Group has considered and agreed this in principle and subject to AGM agreement, the new plan will be implemented in 2012/13 season.

World University Games

Planning is under way to send a very strong delegation to Shenzhen to compete in WUG's in August. BUCS is supporting the election campaign of Alison Odell to FISU Executive.

Karen Rothery, May 2011.