

# SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES SPORT

ACTIVE • COMPETITIVE • INNOVATIVE



Annual report 2010/11



# Scottish Universities Sport (SUS)

Is a partnership of Scottish Universities' Sport and Exercise Departments & Sports Unions who aim to continually develop & improve their sport & physical activity programmes.

Active • Competitive • Innovative

SUS is the lead organisation for the delivery and development of 'active, competitive, innovative' sport and physical activity for the tertiary education sector.

## Chair's Report

*Filippo Antoniazzi*

As Chair, I am pleased to be able to present the Annual Report for Scottish Universities Sport [SUS]. This summary identifies the major areas of our work and highlights significant achievements of the year.

SUS' members are served by an Executive Council, 3 core committees: Competitions, Physical Activity and Professional Development & a Marketing Sub-Group.

## The Executive Council

The Executive has met 5 times: Aug 10 [Dundee University], November 10 [Heriot-Watt University], February 11 [Glasgow University], April 11 [Robert Gordon University] and May 11 [Stirling University].

The year has been characterised by a period of presentation, consultation and refinement of ideas designed to develop the organisation to meet the needs and aspirations of the Tertiary Education sector into the foreseeable future.

The work has resulted in a number of key changes being proposed for approval by members at our Annual General Meeting.



## Operational Structure

Building upon the work lead by Julie Ommer last year, a small group continued to develop thinking and subsequently fully consult within the sector to establish a preferred operational structure for SUS. The target was a structure which will be able to meet the needs of Universities and Colleges in the short term as well as allow for growth into the future against a background of limited financial resource.

Agreement on a structure [see Appendix 1, ] was reached in April 2011 and the recruitment process initiated expeditiously with the appointment of Stew Fowlie as Chief Operating Officer coming into effect in June. At the time of writing all other posts are in the process of being filled and it is hoped that by August 1st 2011 the new structure will be operating.

Throughout this period of uncertainty our colleagues within SUS have continued to deliver excellent service as well as contribute to the shaping of the structures even though the resulting changes could impact upon their immediate futures. For all their professionalism I am extremely grateful.

The process was supported by Human Resources Oversight Group and by the very wise counsel of Lynne Moyes from the University of Edinburgh, without which we would not have been able to bring about the necessary change.



## SUS Awards 2010/11

SUS Athlete of the Year  
Robbie Renwick, Strathclyde University  
SUS Team of the year  
Stirling University Golf Club  
SUS Volunteer of the year  
James Dickinson, St Andrews University  
College Volunteer of the year  
Claire Gibb, Stevenson College

# Membership Fees Calculation Model

Brian Ewing led the development of a new method for calculating how member institutions contribute financially, a method first devised in 2005 and now deemed to be inappropriate. Again membership consultation was instrumental in developing the proposal. The new method is based upon a per capita model utilizing the two indices of team activity and institutional population and will be able to easily be applied to any new members in an equal way.

# Constitutional Amendments

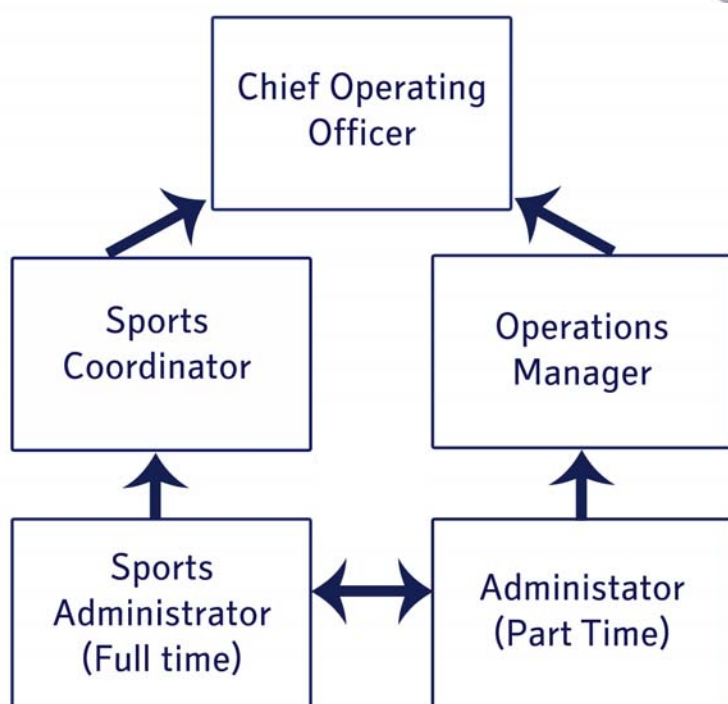
In order to be in a position to effectively provide services to and represent the whole tertiary education sector it was clear that our existing constitution needed significant amendment.

Mike Fitchett drew together thoughts on a draft constitution which was distributed for consultation and subsequently discussed at Executive Council in May 2011. There has been a further short period of consultation with members and a recommended constitution is being placed before the AGM for approval.

The main amendments include one vote per institution, equal voting rights between colleges and universities and changes to all our committees to reflect the full inclusion of colleges into our structure.

Executive is also recommending a name change to Scottish Student Sport.

Appendix 1 - Proposed SSS Staff Structure



# Finance

The audited accounts for 2009-10 were approved at the snow delayed EGM on 21st February 2011, showing a net surplus for the year of £5979. The balance held by SUS at the end of the year stood at £278,690 which included balances held on behalf of sports, the women's football partnership, and the SUS operating reserves.

As at end April 11 income and expenditure stands at £307,925 and £254,238 respectively. At the time of writing the predicted outturn for the year is still unclear with the likelihood of returning a balanced budget dependent upon income from a signed sponsorship agreement being fully realised. As is normal, the final figures will be reconciled, reported to Executive, internally audited and presented for approval at the EGM in December.

At the Executive meeting in May the Budget for 2011-12 was agreed and is attached for approval.

# Concluding Remarks

I must conclude by reiterating my thanks to our colleagues at SUS HQ for having again worked above and beyond the call of duty. The volunteers within SUS working on significant change also need to be thanked they include all committee members but special mention should go to Julie Ommer, Catriona McAllister and Brian Ewing for their efforts over an extended period of time.

This is my final report after 3 extremely enjoyable years as Chair; I believe that as we possibly move towards the development of Scottish Student Sport our organisation with its unique combination of voluntary effort and professional leadership and support will continue to go from strength to strength.

# Professional Development Committee

The committee met on six occasions this year with meetings moving round the various Universities of the committee members, so many thanks to these institutions for hosting us. This has been a positive year for PDC who have continued to deliver important developments for SUS.

## 2010-11 Actions for the Professional Development Committee

*SUS audit* - Carried out the annual Audit. Many thanks for all of the hard work administering this process and the institutions for providing this valuable information. This really helps SUS to promote the strength and reach of University Sport.

*Christmas seminar* - Unfortunately cancelled due to the snow which was a big disappointment as we had worked hard on the programme. However it will be back bigger and better next year.

*Annual Conference* - The annual conference continues to dominate the business of the PDC committee. We all enjoyed a very successful conference in Aberdeen and it worked well sharing the conference between Aberdeen and RGU.

We have developed this year's conference and are hopeful that this year's event will again prove a success and continue to be a worthwhile event for all who attend.

*Special interest groups* PDC continue to have special interest groups as required. The operations forum has progressed and recently had a successful meeting in Dundee looking at creating a mystery shopper scheme

*Volunteering* - PDC has been working on a volunteering strategy and guide and big thanks goes to Rona McIntosh (St Andrews) who has done a great job on this. Thanks to Jacqui for developing the strategy.

*Equity foundation standard* - PDC has worked for a couple of years towards getting SUS the foundation equity standard and I am delighted to say we achieved it this year. Again much of the credit should go to Jacqui for leading us through this process.

## Acknowledgments

This is my final year a chair of PDC having spent the last three years in the role. It has been a fantastic experience and I would like to say a massive thank you to all the great committee members I have worked with in my time. I would also like to extend a special thank you on behalf of the whole of PDC to Jacqui and Fiona who have guided and supported the committee. Your help allows us to achieve many things and makes our role as committee members a pleasure.

Catriona McAllister, Chair, Professional Development Committee

# Competitions Committee

A fantastic amount of action has happened in the comps engine room this year. The group have achieved the following:

## Comps sub groups

*Officials* – This year was the first year of Reffin' Brilliant. Reffin' Brilliant aims to provide a fun, easy way for new officials to gain qualifications and to provide them with support and opportunities in their first year. The programme is coordinated by SUS and supported by sportscotland. It is being delivered in conjunction with Tayside and Fife Sports Partnership and the University of St Andrews. The next event will be in November in St. Andrews.

*Fixtures & Events* – Once again the events calendar has been implemented to help with fairness and ease of facility allocation for SUS events. A lot of time and effort was put into fixture planning to help all the universities. The committee has focused on fixture admin between the universities and have put some suggestions in place for next year (2 points of contact in universities, regular fixtures meetings).

*Coaching* – The coaching sub group collated a paper to help universities with employment issues surrounding coaches.

*Cup Finals* – The University of Dundee again hosted a fantastic finals day. Paul McPate and his team planned and delivered a full day of finals



## Development Groups

Sports development groups are now up and running in several sports. This allows for a broad scope of individuals to contribute to the ongoing happenings within any particular sport.

## Future of Competitions The Future of SUS Competitions:

A review team looked at the delivery of the sports programme and agreed recommendations for the future of competitions. These included:

- o Centralising the work load within each sports programme
- o Improving the financial procedures, including removing any liability (all budgets will now be centralised).
- o Improving the administration of events (online registration option for all events).
- o Improving the management of the programmes
- o Making better use of the resources available

## BUCS Items

BUCS have trialled integrated leagues for Rugby and Football this year. Feedback is currently being sought to decide whether it was a success or not, to roll out for the future.

BUCS are also currently looking at a third premier league tier, which would mean less travelling for North Premier league teams.

Lastly, in part prompted by concerns from the Scottish members, BUCS are reviewing the issue of seeded teams receiving a home draw in knockout competitions.

### Acknowledgements

In closing, I personally would like to thank all of those who have contributed to any SUS activity; from the Comps members to our SDC's in the field. We all, especially the competitors, appreciate the hard work you put in to make our events the success they are. I would also like to wish the next Comps chair all the best with this role; I personally have had a fantastic experience.

Many thanks

Ross Campbell, Chair, Competitions Committee.

Dance and Salsa Hoop Dance. Excellent feedback received from participants and venue was fantastic.

*Appropriate exercise guidelines* Initially the plan was to put together a guide for exercise teachers on how best to deal with gym/sports participants with eating disorders.

Discussions and workshops were held during PAC meetings regarding content and best plan of action. Alan Currie who works with B-eat (UK Eating Disorder Association) and Zara Lipsey, Clinical Psychologist attended our meeting at Edinburgh University; both were positive and very helpful with our idea. It was also agreed that each institution should attend a workshop led by either Alan or Zara.

Hazel Ednie has been working closely with various departments at the University of Dundee to pull together the 'appropriate exercise guidelines' and this will hopefully set a template for all other institutions.

*Flyers* - The current flyers on the website are being updated and refreshed.

*Quarterly newsletter* - New areas in this year's newsletter included a featured exercise & recipe in each issue, myths about food & exercise, participant & staff interviews. Newsletter available for download from website, SUSPAC facebook page and printed annually for conference.



### Acknowledgements

Everyone in the Committee has worked extremely hard this year; the events have been fantastic and very well run. Special thanks have to go to Fiona & Jacqui for their continued support and much needed guidance.

Julie Falls, Chair, Physical Activity Committee.

## Physical Activity Committee

Four committee meetings were held in August, October 2010, February and May 2011.

Key areas of focus for PAC in 2010-2011

*Active Age Festival* - Held at The University of Strathclyde, 24th August 2010. Activities this year included chair based exercise, Pilates, yoga, indoor curling, badminton and hip hop. 90 participants attended the event and the feedback was very positive. We also had a selection of stands, BHF and health checks which were very popular.

*Dance Festival* - 7th November Edinburgh University, increased numbers from previous Dance Festival, 96 participants on the day and just over 100 booked. Styles included Nu & Old Skool Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, Contemporary, Jazz Funk, Swing Dance, Egyptian Belly



# SUS Marketing Sub-Group

The sub-group met on six occasions this year with meetings moving round the various Universities of the committee members, so many thanks to these institutions for hosting us. This has been an positive year for the marketing group who have continued to deliver the marketing strategy for SUS.

## 2010-11 Actions for the Marketing sub-group

*Marketing strategy / advocacy action plan* - We updated the SUS marketing strategy that will take us forward until 2012 and have a clear structure of what we intend to do within this time period

*SUS online marketing* - We have created a draft social media strategy for SUS and have started to implement it as we develop facebook usage for SUS and SCS. We are also developing Twitter for SUS, SCS, Casie McWinner as a means to interact with journalists and improve our online presence by using these to direct folk to where we want them to go.

*SUS iPhone App* - We secured a hosting/ maintenance contract for the current app for 1 year until the new structure of SUS is finalised. At this point we have option to re-design, develop or kill the app

*Annual Review* We designed the SUS Annual Review and have it available in print and PDF

*Brand Ambassadors* - We have revised the brand ambassador role and job description in order to make better use of brand ambassadors. A new induction pack is being created for them so that they are better prepared and list of key tasks are allocated to each ambassador

*Developed a journalist database* - We managed to source a database of journalists which we can use to target for particular areas of work. This will hopefully allow us to develop relations and increase media coverage

*SUS Challenge* - Helped develop the SUSPAC Challenge campaign

*Annual Conference* - Sourced the delegate gifts & Developed a list of potential sponsors for conference alongside PDC

*Volunteering Guide* - Helped design and produce the SUS Volunteering Guide

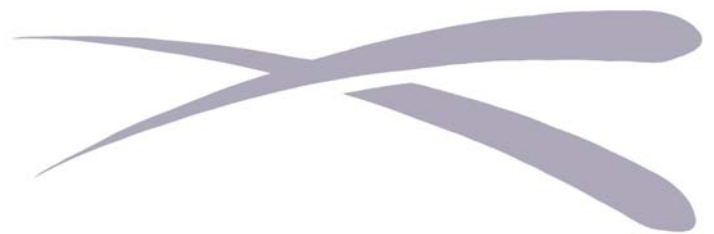


Contact Casie on Twitter  
[@CasieMcWinner](https://twitter.com/CasieMcWinner)

## Acknowledgments

It has been another fantastic year for the marketing sub-group with a team of enthusiastic individuals who have excelled in all tasks and have been supported by key office staff as required.

Grant Reilly, Chair, Marketing sub-group



## Contact information

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Scottish Universities Sport would like to thank everyone who has been involved in making SUS the success that it was and we look forward to working with you all as Scottish Student Sport.

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## Moving forward as Scottish Student Sport (SSS)

Scottish Student Sport (SSS) was formally created in June 2011 following a merger of Scottish Universities Sport and Scottish Colleges Sport and as a partnership between the sports related units within Colleges and Universities across the country.

The member institutions of SSS represent in excess of

**500 sports clubs,  
50,000 staff and  
500,000 students**

and the new organisation will be able to provide integrated opportunities for increasing numbers to take part in an activity they love.

Through Scottish Student Sport this huge population can enjoy equality of access to well over

**100 sports and physical  
activity events**  
throughout the Academic Year.

We also provide a whole host of member and network services to support excellence in the sector and champion the role of student sport in Scotland and beyond.

Scottish Student Sport will be developing its new identity and communications over the coming months.

A new logo has been created and the formal launch of [www.scottishstudentsport.com](http://www.scottishstudentsport.com) is expected in early 2012. We have also launched our new social media presence so please check out our new facebook and twitter pages.



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