

Competitions Committee

Friday 11 August 2006

1330-1600 hrs

Sports Centre, Heriot - Watt University

MINUTES

Present:	Raleigh Gowrie (Chair) Paul McPate Mark Ritchie Ross Campbell Graham Smith Euan Smith Angus Stevenson	In Attendance:	Stew Fowlie (SUS) Ed Nicholas (Edinburgh)
Apologies:	Chris Wilson Andrew Mallon Matt Adcock		

1. Setting the scene for 2006-07

The Chair welcomed the group to the first meeting of the new Academic Year and encouraged full and open participation in the meetings.
A broad set of principles for the work of the committee was set out and subsequently endorsed by the group viz;

- Formalising competition programmes
- Supporting the SDCs and overseeing programme development
- Placing student sport within national governing body plans and pathways
- Exploring new ways to enhance the student sport experience

It was decided that the items within the SUS COMPS action plan should be re-distributed under these headings and that these targets should form the basis of the future work of the group.

ACTION SF

2. Matters arising from previous meeting

2.1 SGB~SDC Seminar

SF reported that there had been difficulties in identifying a suitable date and venue for this event. Despite this, it was agreed that this event remained an important aspect of the calendar and that every effort should be made to deliver it during 2006.

Following discussion it was agreed that a renewed effort to confirm arrangements would be made, with the aim being to go ahead pre-Christmas. SF is to enlist the support of the Scottish Sports Association in promoting and encouraging attendance and to identify a suitable venue and date for the event. PMcP, RG and SF are to review the programme as required to ensure the best chance of a strong attendance on both sides.

ACTION PMcP, RG & SF

2.2 BUSA Fixture Admin

SF summarised the timeline and key actions that led to the publishing of the BUSA Scottish Conference League Fixtures during July and acknowledged the excellent contributions of Ross Campbell and James Williamson in the process.

The fixtures were live on the BUSA site and shared in a master spreadsheet across the SUS network before the start of August and only a small number of problem fixtures have been identified.

The same system will be employed next year and it is hoped that the process will run even more smoothly than in 2006. However, the accuracy of base-line data from member institutions will be central to the success or otherwise of the process.

2.3 Action Plan Progress

SF tabled an updated version of the SUS Comps Action Plan document. Progress has been made on a number of fronts over the summer period, including SUS Kit, medals, design of induction packs for SDCs and contact with governing bodies. More detail is given on some of these topics below.

2.4 SGB Communication

Meaningful discussions have been undertaken with a number of Governing Bodies with regard to competition programmes and other areas of common interest (such as coaching, officiating and the like).

Discussions are ongoing with Scottish Rugby, Basketball Scotland and Scottish Squash in particular. MR and ES have also been leading fruitful and unprecedented discussions with Scottish Hockey.

It is hoped that each of these sports will eventually have a shared service level agreement to commit both sides to the partnership work outlined and encourage rolling review of the linkages between SUS and the relevant SGB.

3. SDC communications

It was noted that a number of administrative tasks needed to be undertaken by SUS in order to make sound preparations for the forthcoming season of activity. SF outlined a timeline for completion of these key tasks (event calendar creation, gathering of contact details, budget requests) to be implemented ahead of early October. This was endorsed by the group for 2006-07 and it was agreed that this process should be advanced at an earlier stage in preparation for 2007-08, in order to allow for more strategic decisions and planning to be completed.

SDC appointments and activity plans are to be considered by COMPS or by a sub-group of COMPS at an appropriate point after receipt of the necessary information.

4. SUS Kit Tender project

MR and RC updated the group on the project of developing a range of kit and clothing for SUS teams and for general sale. A bidding process had been undertaken by 5 companies and a small group had scored the bids against pre-determined criteria. This small group presented their findings, which were subsequently endorsed by the meeting.

As a result of this, a 3 year deal with the preferred supplier (Kukri Sports) will be pursued and implemented ahead of the new season. **ACTION SF**

5. SUS Code of conduct

GS updated the meeting on the development of a code of conduct to cover regular league fixture administration across SUS. This has been created by members of the AU Forum and is now ready for implementation ahead of the new season. The code is to be adopted under a 'gentleman's agreement' across the network and should play an important role in guaranteeing good practice and a positive atmosphere for university sport in Scotland. GS and his colleagues from the AU Forum were congratulated on this venture.

6. SUS participation in BUSA Premier Leagues

EN was welcomed to the table and introduced the topic of involvement of Scottish institutions in BUSA Premier Leagues. Recent changes to the BUSA points system has been a significant factor in certain institutions seeking to pursue Premier League status. EN confirmed that BUSA is happy to open the possibility of entry to playoffs for any 1st placed tier 1 Scottish team at the end of the league programme and sought support from COMPS on this matter.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the matter, with a number of views being expressed. Some concern was noted on the issue that migration of teams may weaken the Scottish leagues and that the profile of the domestic programme may suffer as a result. It was also felt that Premier league involvement may be more suitable in some sports and in some institutions than elsewhere.

In summary, the group expressed sympathy for the view put forward by EN and recognised the particular importance of the subject to Edinburgh in their position as a top rated BUSA institution. However, it was felt that further consultation amongst distinct sports groups and members would be required before SUS would officially support the proposed notion.

7. BUSA/ SUS working relationship

