

**Further investigation into the
engagement of students in
disability sport across Scotland.**

**A Report to Scottish Universities Sport
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Executive Summery

The aim of this exploratory research was to determine the current state of play with regards to disability sport in Scottish Universities. The research was focussed upon the provision and facilities that are available and the structures and strategies that are in place to aid participation of the disabled.

There were 15 Scottish Universities involved in the study and interviews and questionnaires were carried out to collect both quantitative and qualitative data.

A review of previous research done in the area was carried out in order to acquire background information and allowed for the following hypothesis to be established:

'There is a lack of provision for disabled people in sport in all sectors, and many other barriers are facing disabled people in sport.'

The main findings from the research were that:

- Disabled participation at the University facilities is at a very low level, yet in most cases the facilities seem to be in place.
- The facility providers are lacking in specific strategies to increase disabled participation.
- The main barriers to participation are a lack of staff experience & time, facility access (inside & out) and suitability of facilities and/or equipment.

Introduction

Scottish Universities Sport (SUS) wish for more research to be carried out on the subject of disability sport in Scottish Universities. For the purpose of this research the term ‘disability’ refers to *‘a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on a person’s ability to carry out normal day to day activities.’*¹ SUS wish to understand, more thoroughly, the current level of provision and activity carried out by disabled students in order to allow for them to plan more appropriately for sport in this area. The research will also highlight who is leading the way in the university sector.

SUS carries out an annual audit which collates data regarding all of the sports departments and unions within Scottish universities. However, only one question on the audit is focussed on the topic of disability sport yet it is not specific to students thus making knowledge on the situation limited.

The research will be carried out using two methods of data collection over a 10 week period. During this period the research aim is to acquire data on:

- The number of known disabled members in sports unions/exercise centres in comparison to the able bodied students.
- Structures/strategies in place to facilitate disabled participation.
- Common barriers in providing support for disability sport.
- Any changes that are being made to assist in increasing disabled participation rates.
- Aspects of the facilities which are already disabled user friendly.

¹ www.scottishdisabilitysport.com

Literature Review

A literature review is carried out in any research in order to give more knowledge and understanding to the researcher about other work that has been carried out in the area. This will assist the researcher in providing suitable content for the questionnaires and interviews and will give facts that can then be compared within the analysis stage of the research.

As this research is based around students in disability sport, the structure which is available to them is going to be focussed on, and explored further in the literature review.

Through the analysis of a number of different sources it is clear that literature concerning student disability sport is scarce, yet there is a large amount of literature on the structure of disability sport at an elite level.

General Findings

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)² has a set of performance indicators which have shown that there has been a rise in the percentage of students in receipt of the disabled student allowance of 2% over the last 5 years. The Higher Education Statistics Agency states that in 2008-09 there was a total of 884,610 first year UK domiciled higher education students, 62,510 of whom have a disability. However with these high figures it seems from the literature that disabled participants have still not been integrated into sport in the same way that able bodied participants have.

Barriers to Participation

In society as it stands, individuals with disabilities are treated as a social minority group and are limited with their participation in society. DePauw (1995), states that these limitations and sanctions have been imposed for the inclusion of the disabled in the sporting world. This is confirmed by **sportscotland** who state that disabled athletes may take part in sport yet not be fully integrated with all of the clubs' operations.³

The English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS)⁴ has stated that there are a number of barriers that face disabled participants in sport. The barriers fall under four headings: physical barriers, transport barriers, communication barriers and peoples attitudes. This was further advanced by research from the Social Policy Research Unit (2001) who found that it was external barriers such as the unsuitability of facilities and funding which played the biggest role in low participation rates.

² www.hefce.ac.uk

³ www.sportscotland.org.uk

⁴ www.efds.net

Socialization may also be seen as a barrier as youths with disabilities may be socialized into different roles of sport instead of participating themselves. If they do participate they may then experience negative deviancy as some deem it inappropriate for the disabled to participate.

For all sporting competitions which are managed by British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) the national governing body guidelines have to be adhered to. These may act as a constraint for those who can compete whilst complying with the rules of the sport.

Participation in higher education sport by the disabled may be dependant on the sporting experiences that they had when they were at school. Research carried out by De Knop *et al* (1996) concluded that there was very little provision available for the disabled youth which therefore limits their ability to progress and desire to participate in the future.

Recommendations

This literature states that before anything can be done in order to increase the participation of young disabled athletes the sociological and environmental factors causing a decreased participation rate must be focussed on. More in depth knowledge must be gained specifically on disabled participants in universities as in most circumstances they may have different priorities to perhaps older or younger participants. Also the research that was carried out in the literature was very often only applicable to England or Wales, not to Scotland. Coakley (2001) proposes that participants with disabilities should have influence on the way that sports are played and developed. This can be seen in some circumstances where new equipment and rules have been integrated allowing more participation by disabled athletes. An example of this is trail riding where specialized bikes have been formed for the participation of disabled.

Conclusions

From the literature review it has become clear that a research study on the topic of disability sport within universities would be useful as there is currently a lack of research carried out in this area. The literature has highlighted the fact that the disabled are disadvantaged when it comes to participation in sport and in the research the reasons for this will be explored. The main questions arising from the literature review are:

- What is the situation regarding disabled members in the Scottish Universities and how many of these participate in sport?
- What are the more specific barriers to participation for the disabled?
- What is being done at the Universities to encourage disabled participation?

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Hypothesis

From the main points highlighted in the literature review the following hypothesis has been developed:

‘There is a lack of provision for disabled people in sport in all sectors, and many other barriers are facing disabled people in sport.’

Methodology

For this research two different techniques have been chosen which have been deemed the most appropriate to obtain the required information.

Due to the nature of the research both questionnaires and interviews will be carried out in order to acquire both quantitative and qualitative data yet the majority of the data will be qualitative. The use of both approaches will allow for the qualitative data '*to support and explicate the meaning of quantitative research.*' (Jayaratne 1993:117)

The interview is appropriate for gathering information which is not in a numerical or measurable format. Instead, it deals with people's opinions and feelings. The interview has a number of advantages including: elaboration can be made on specific topics, unexpected concepts can emerge and responses are described in a context which gives them more meaning to the researcher. On the other hand the questionnaire is used when the data required is relatively simple and factual which allows for easier analysis. Other advantages of using a questionnaire are that the data received is highly structured, there could be a reduction in bias and unlike in an interview situation the information can be given at a time that suits the respondent. (Gratton 2004:117)

In this research the 15 Scottish universities within the Scottish Universities Sport membership made up the population. Due to the nature of the research question it seemed appropriate to carry out interviews with a representative from each institution in order to gain a clearer view of the situation. All of the universities included in the study are demographically different allowing for a variety of results to emerge which therefore increases the validity of the research.

Interviews were carried out with the Sports Union President, or equivalent at each university on the area of disability sport in their union. Questions covered structures which are in place, staff and general questions about members. It would not have been feasible to travel to all 15 universities within the time period that was available, so some of the interviews were conducted via the telephone. The questionnaires were distributed to the Director, or equivalent, of the 12 sports centres in order to gain a more general picture of what facilities are available within the university and looked at concepts such as accessibility. The questionnaire was distributed via email which was in the form of a Word protected document. Sending the questionnaire by email reduced both time and cost issues. Due to the nature of this research it would have been very beneficial to gain data from the disabled students themselves, however it became apparent that getting in touch with the disabled students would be difficult as information on students is not easily accessible, due to the data protection and freedom of information.

Using the information gathered from the literature review the interviews and questionnaires were designed to incorporate the areas of literature which had not been explored in as much depth. A number of different question types were used for the questionnaires in order to reduce monotony and the questions were kept short to keep the respondents' concentration. The main types of questions used were Likert scales, closed pre coded, list and filter questions. Both the questionnaire and the interview were piloted in order to make sure that all the questions were interpreted correctly and the relevant information emerged.

In order to analyse the data, the sets of information generated from these two methods had to be reduced. The majority of the questionnaire questions were pre-coded although there were some questions which included an 'other' category. These 'others' were coded separately and then the data was entered into the SPSS program (see appendix 2).

The information from the interviews was recorded and transcripts were made which could be referred to. Codes were attached to certain sections of information to reduce the data. These codes had to be valid, mutually exclusive and exhaustive. To ensure that the information was coded accurately, it was carried out by two people.

Results

The data collected from the questionnaires showed that there was a range of facility members from 200 to 14,500 and the range of disabled facility members was from 0 to 400. However, in 6 (50%) of the cases the number of disabled members was unknown making this an inaccurate picture.

The table below shows clearly the number of disabled members each of the gym facilities had in comparison to the total population of their members.

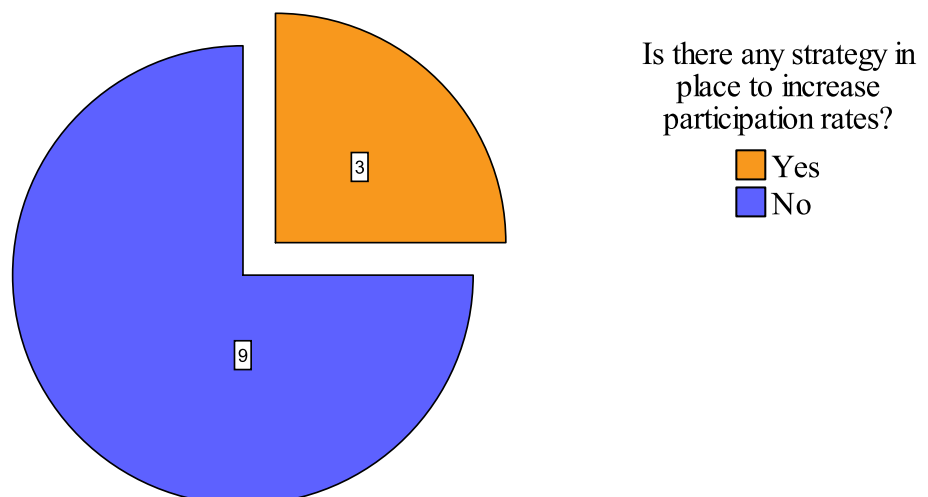
Table 1 – A table to show the number of facility members compared with the number of disabled facility members at each institution (information recorded, end of October 2009).

University	Members	Disabled Members	Percentage
Edinburgh Napier	200	0	0%
Abertay	471	0	0%
GCU	3,000	Unknown	-
RGU	3,500	10	0.29%
Strathclyde	4,500	Unknown	-
Heriot-Watt	5,000	6	0.12%
Stirling	5,000	Unknown	-
Aberdeen	5,500	Unknown	-
Dundee	6,000	400	6.7%
Edinburgh	6,277	Unknown	-
Glasgow	14,500	Unknown	-
St Andrews	-	1	-

Structures/Strategies in place to facilitate disabled participants

When asked if the facility currently had any strategy in place to facilitate disabled participants, 3 (25%) of respondents answered ‘yes’. This is illustrated in the pie chart below:

Figure 1 – A pie chart to show the quantity of Universities with strategies in place



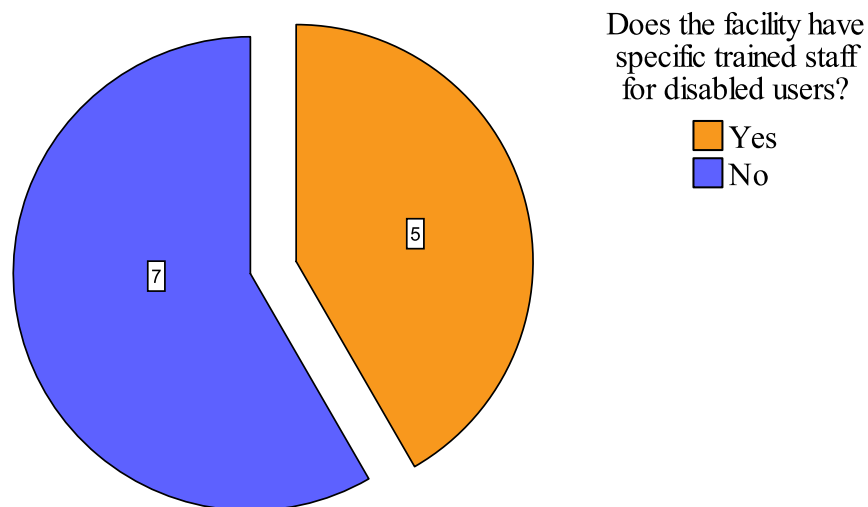
Of the 3 facilities that answered that they did have a strategy in place the aspects of their strategies are shown in the table below:

Table 2 – A table to show the strategy aspects used to increase disabled participation

Facility	Aspect of Strategy
Centre for Sport & Exercise - Edinburgh	Increasing awareness of disabled student needs
	Changing facility accessibility
Sport & Recreation Service - Glasgow	Learning more about the disabled population
	Identifying gaps in the provision
Sports Development Service - Stirling	Scholarships for elite disabled athletes
	Buddy System
	Specialist equipment

Out of the 12 Universities 5 (41.7%) answered that they do have qualified staff in place to deal with disabled participants. This is shown in the pie chart below.

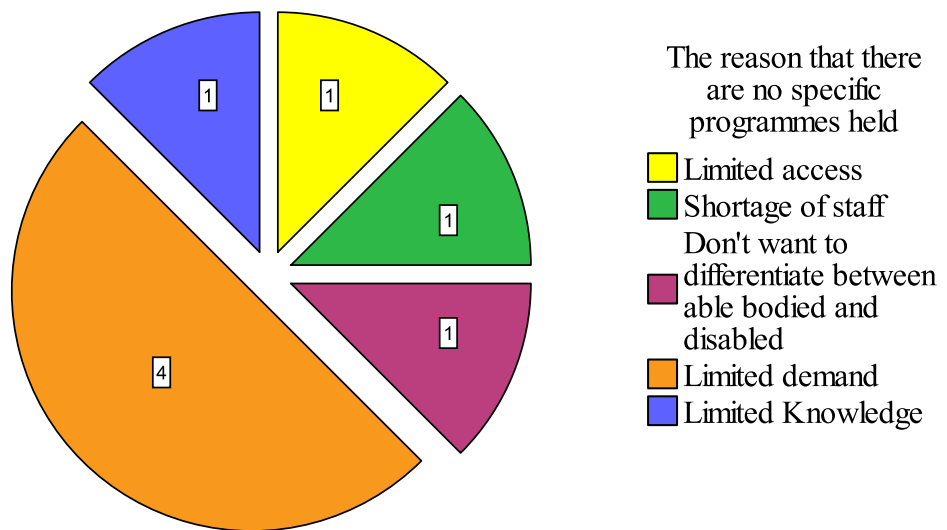
Figure 2 – A pie chart to show the number of facilities with qualified staff in place.



When asked if the facility currently has any specific programmes available for disabled participants 3 (25%) responded that they did. Out of the other facilities that responded that they did not, 8 out of 9 gave reasons why this was the case. The reasons that they gave were:

- Limited Demand – 4 – (50%)
- Limited Knowledge – 1 - (12.5 %)
- Shortage of staff – 1 - (12.5 %)
- Limited Access -1 - (12.5 %)
- Not wanting to differentiate between able bodied and disabled members – 1 - (12.5 %)

Figure 3 – A pie chart showing the reasons why the facility runs no specific programmes for disabled participants.



The respondents were asked to confirm whether or not they had a number of different disabled friendly aspects at their facility. Some of them also gave other aspects that they had present at their facility. This is shown in the table below:

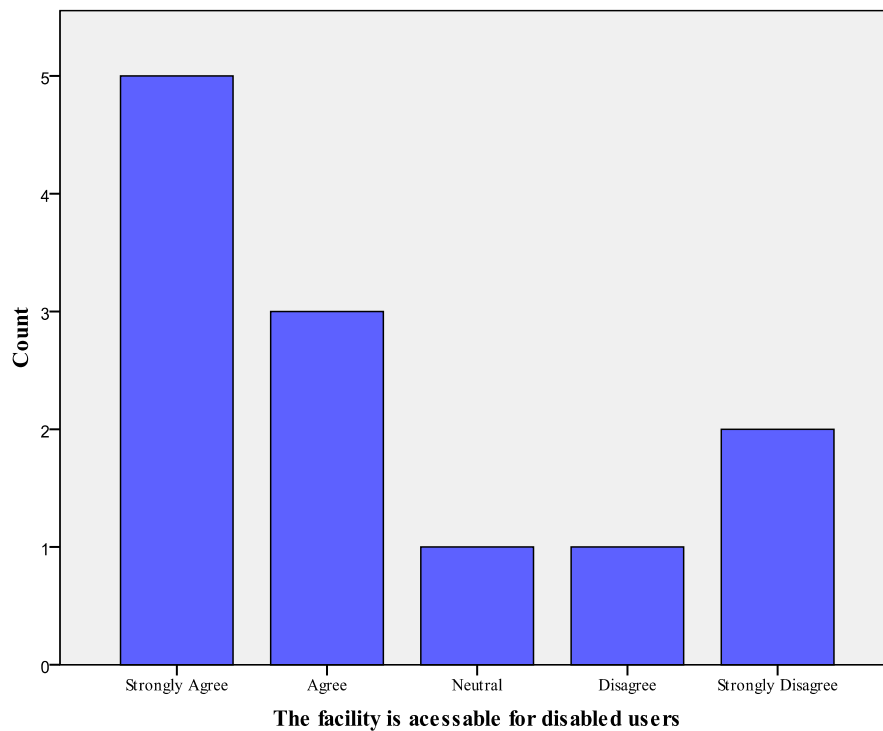
Table 3 – A table to show the availabilities and opportunities at each facility

Aspect	Frequency	Percent
Specialised Toilets	12	100%
Specialised Shower Facilities	11	91%
Specialised Changing Rooms	10	83%
Lifts	10	83%
Ramps	8	66.6%
Specialised Equipment	4	33.3%
Disabled Parking	3	25%
Disabled Friendly Website	3	25%
Scholarships	2	16.6%
Buddy System	2	16.6%

Common barriers in providing support for disability sport

The respondent was asked to give their opinion on the accessibility of their facility. Out of the 12 Institutions 5 (41.67%) strongly agreed that their facility was accessible to disabled students and 2 (16.67) strongly disagreed.

Figure 4 – A bar chart showing the accessibility of the 12 facilities.



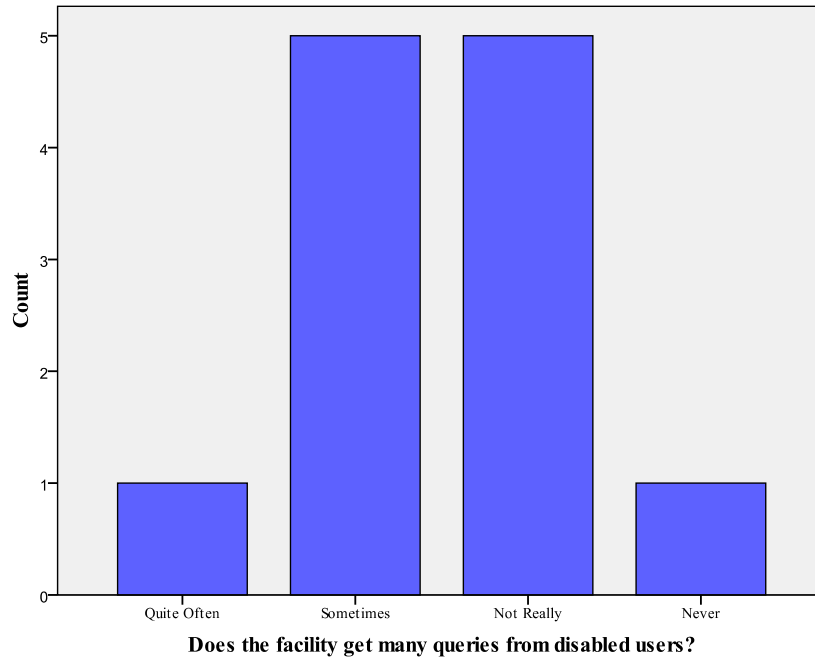
The respondents were asked to give the three main barriers preventing increased disabled participation at their facility. Some of the respondents only gave 1 barrier, some gave 2 and only 2 gave 3. The table below shows the given barriers to increased participation.

Table 4 – A table to show the perceived barriers to increased participation by disabled

Barrier	Frequency	Percent
Suitability of facilities and/or equipment	5	41.6%
Facility Access (inside & out)	5	41.6%
Lack of Staff Experience & Time	5	41.6%
Lack of Demand	3	25%
Lack of knowledge	2	16.6%
Nothing	1	8.3%
Perceived barriers of exercise	1	8.3%
Funding	1	8.3%

When the respondents were asked if they get many queries from disabled users interested in joining the facility 8.3% responded that they never had any queries and 0% answered that they always encountered queries. This is shown in the bar chart below.

Figure 5 – A bar chart to show the frequencies that the facilities encounter enquiries from the disabled



Aspects to increase the participation rates

In response to the question ‘Do you currently have any information available for disabled students/staff who may wish to join your centre?’ 58.3% answered that they did have information available. The information that they had available at their facilities is shown in the table below.

Table 5 – A table to show the information that the facilities had to offer

Type of information	Frequency
Flyers/information packs at the facility	6
Information on the website	5
Independent survey of facilities	1

The main results from these findings are that:

- Disabled participation at the University facilities is at a very low level yet in most cases the facilities seem to be in place.
- The facility providers are lacking in specific strategies to increase disabled participation.
- The main barriers to participation are a lack of staff experience & time, facility access inside & out) and suitability of facilities and/or equipment.

Discussion

This discussion shall focus on the main features which emerged from the research and look at them in terms of the literature and other results from the study.

The research findings reflect the information that was highlighted in the literature review and as the literature on University sport was scarce, some new, more specific findings emerged.

At present, only 25% of facilities have a structure in place to increase disabled participation. With only 8.3% stating that funding was a barrier to them in regards to disability sport, the following question arises; what are the barriers causing these facilities' failure to produce strategies? When asked what structures the Sports Unions had in place however, more strategies emerge:

- One Sports Union has good links with the facility staff in order to cater for any disabled members that they may have.
- A Disabled Student Convenor was present at one institution who represents students in all fields.
- One Union had a 'Club Cap' scheme to ensure that all sports are accessible to disabled members. This requires clubs to *adapt their practices in order to suit disabled needs.* (Dave Hegarty – RGU)
- An Advise Sports Equality Officer sits in on a disability forum in one university.
- An Equal Opportunities Sports Advisor has just been introduced at one university.

From the respondents asked if they had any information available for disabled staff/students who may wish to join the facility, 58.3% answered that they did have information available. However this was not reflected in the interviews where in most cases information was either not available or was not disabled specific information.

Research carried out by the English Federation of Disability Sport identified physical, transport, communication and peoples attitudes as the main barriers that face disabled participation in sport. This was highlighted in the questionnaires as 41.6% of the respondents stated that suitability of facilities and/or equipment, facility access (inside & out) and lack of staff experience & time were the main barriers preventing disabled participation at their facility. Another barrier that was highlighted more so in the interviews was demand, - '*I guess that we have not had a huge demand for it as such so have not had to explore it in that much detail.*' (Sarah McMichael – Dundee) This was confirmed by the questionnaires as 83.4% of respondents state that they only sometimes, or scarcely get queries from disabled users about their facility.

Due to the nature of a sports facility and a University Sports Union where the main aim is to encourage highest possible levels of participation, membership levels on many occasions are at the point where it is difficult to cope with the demand. This high level of demand combined with limited funding means that in most cases to focus on disabled sport is not feasible. Andrew Maclean, Queen Margaret University stated his two definite barriers were demand, *'we just didn't have the numbers to support a disabled club*, and finance, *'we just wouldn't have the money to support a disabled club.'* However only 25% of the respondents of the questionnaires identified demand as a barrier and 8.3% identified funding as a barrier.

In 50 % of cases the respondent was unaware of the number of disabled members that were present at their facility, indicating that their knowledge and perceived importance on the situation is perhaps not as high as it could be. In some cases, it was stated that members do not indicate whether they have a disability when joining the facility so therefore the facility does not have this information available. In one case the facility was advised by the University disability service not to ask perspective members to state this. Laura Hayward, Edinburgh states that *'we are trying (to make an effort to learn more about the disabled population at our University) at the moment but we are struggling to even manage what the able bodied students are doing.'* This lack of knowledge means that there is no awareness of needs for the disabled population meaning that providing provision for them becomes difficult. It also became apparent that the relationship between the Sports' Unions and Scottish Disability Sport (SDS) is extremely limited. SDS has a vision of *'leading the development of sport and physical recreation for disabled people in Scotland'*⁵ so direction from them on this area could improve the issue.

Another issue that presented itself in the research was responsibility, and whose responsibility it is to provide equipment, funding and support for the disabled members; *'We don't really have a grip with it at all or know what to do with it'* (Laura Hayward, Edinburgh). In one case it was mentioned that the majority of coaches at the Sports Union were student coaches who *'were not willing to take on disabled students because they do not know how to deal with disabled students in certain situations'* (Bryan Carson, Heriot-Watt).

⁵ www.scottishdisabilitysport.com

Conclusion

In conclusion, it has become clear from the questionnaires and interviews that in most cases facilities and Sports Unions are experiencing many of the same issues with regards to disabled sports participation. In terms of the facilities it is apparent that some are more pro-active in their approach to dealing with the lower numbers of disabled participants.

The hypothesis was confirmed with relation to the many barriers that are facing disabled students in sport. However, with regards to provision, in some cases the provision is present yet there are no disabled members to make use of it, thus preventing development in this area.

Limitations & Recommendations

Limitations

The first thing to highlight is that due to the Sports Union president being on sick leave no interview could be carried out for the University of the Highlands and Islands. This University was therefore not represented in the research.

In all cases the questionnaire was filled out and returned, however, in some cases it was not the director who filled it out; instead it got passed on to another member of staff. As only one person from each facility was filling out the questionnaires it may have increased validity if their position at the facility stayed constant throughout the facilities. Also on the questions regarding numbers of members, these data figures were not always known making it difficult to form an accurate picture of disability sport in these facilities.

Due to the data protection and freedom of information it was made very difficult to get in touch with the disabled participants themselves. This obviously limited the amount of information that could be collected because it would only be from the service provider's point of view.

As the previous research carried out specifically for disabled students in sport was scarce this meant that there was very little to compare with, therefore relationships and similarities could not materialize.

Recommendations

In order to improve this study it would be beneficial to include the opinions of the disabled members themselves. Asking them the kind of facilities they would make the most use of and what kind of programmes they would want would provide the facilities with the knowledge needed to get the suitable provision in place.

Both the questionnaires and interviews were planned well in advance making sure that the research question would be covered in detail. However, this being the case it still seemed that the research question could have been explored in further detail with perhaps more probing questions and a wider variety of questions.

Finally, in order to get the most accurate picture missing figures should be collected; however this may not be possible in some situations.

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In terms of what the universities could be doing in order to aid increased participation by the disabled, they firstly need to increase their knowledge on the whole situation. It became apparent from the study that knowledge was a very big barrier in universities in a variety of forms. First and foremost universities need make themselves aware of the disabled population at their facility before they can begin to provide for them. Once this is done an effort needs to be made in order to find out what these members want and need from the facility. This increased knowledge could be acquired by forming closer relationships with the university disability service or just by asking for more information when members join.

For unions, some form of Disability Sport Officer would be useful in order to represent disabled students needs and help to develop this area. Also, implementing the Club Cap scheme as RGU have done will help to aid greatly in the development of disability student sport.

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Books

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www.hefce.ac.uk/news/hefce/2009/pi.htm

www.scottishdisabilitysport.com/sportsinfo/aboutus.cfm

www.sportscotland.org.uk/channel/Navigation/Topics/TopicNavigation/Ethics/Equality/Disability

Appendix 1 – Questionnaire

This questionnaire is being carried out for Scottish Universities Sport (SUS) in order to find out about the provision which is available for disabled participants throughout Scottish Universities. The questionnaire should only take about 5 minutes to complete so if you could take the time it would be very much appreciated.

The information collected from this questionnaire is solely for the use of SUS in order to understand more about the current situation of disability sport in Universities.

If you wish to be informed of the results of this research you may tick the box and leave your name and this information can be sent to you when it is available Name

This questionnaire is split into two sections. The first asks general information about your facility and the second section focuses on the disability aspects of the facility.

If you require any further information please contact Ellie at SUS.

Section 1 – Your Facility

- 1) Name of facility
- 2) No. of facility members
- 3) No. of disabled facility members?

Section 2 – Your Facility & the Disabled

- 4) Would you agree with the statement that your facility is easily accessible for disabled users?
(check appropriate box)

Agree 1 (go to Q6) 2 (go to Q6) 3 (go to Q6) 4 (go to Q5) 5 (go to Q5) **Disagree**

- 5) Is your centre trying to tackle this problem? YES (go to Q6)
NO (go to Q7)

- 6) If yes, in what way is this problem being dealt with?

- 7) What disability friendly aspects do you have at your facility?

Ramps	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Lifts	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Specialised changing room	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Specialised shower facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Specialised toilets	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Other (please specify)	

- 8) Do you get many queries from disabled users interested in joining your centre?

Always	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Never
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- 9) Do you have specific trained staff to deal with disability members? YES
NO

- 10)** Do you currently have any information available for disabled students/staff who may wish to join your centre? YES (go to Q11)
NO (go to Q12)

11) If yes, what information do you have available?

- Information on the Website 1
Flyers/information packs at the facility 2
Posters around the University on encouraging disabled users. 3
None of the above 4
Other (please specify)

- 12)** Do you currently have any strategy in place in order to increase participation amongst disabled populations? YES (go to Q12)
NO (go to Q13)

13) If yes, could you please indicate three main aspects of this strategy:

1

2

3

- 14)** Does your centre run any specific programmes for disabled participants?
YES (please specify)
NO (please state why not)

15) What do you think are the main three problems preventing disabled participation at your facility?

1

2

3

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire, your answers are highly valued and your help is greatly appreciated.

Appendix 2 – Additional Quantitative coding of questions 6, 7, 13, 14 & 15

Question 6

- 1- Design of the inside & outside of the building
- 2- Open Door Policy
- 3- Buddy System
- 4- Increased Staff Training
- 5- Increasing Knowledge of the Situation

Question 7

- 1- Disabled Parking
- 2- Disabled Scholarships
- 3- Buddy System
- 4- Specialised Equipment
- 5- Website Disabled Friendly

Question 13

- 1- 1-Scholarships for elite athletes
- 2- Buddy System
- 3- Specialist Equipment
- 4- Learning more about the disabled population
- 5- Identifying gaps in the provision
- 6- Increasing awareness of disabled students needs
- 7- Changing facility accessibility

Question 14

- 1- Limited Access
- 2- Shortage of Staff
- 3- Limited Time
- 4- Limited Demand
- 5- Limited Knowledge

Question 15

- 1- Nothing
- 2- Lack of knowledge
- 3- Lack of Staff Experience & Time
- 4- Lack of Demand
- 5- Facility Access (inside & out)

These codes are from questions which had an ‘other’ option, or on questions where there was not a coded answer already provided for them. Each of these ‘other’ answers were grouped and coded in order to help with the data analysis.

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Appendix 3 – SPSS Data Entry for Questionnaire

Appendix 4 – Interview Questions

- 1) The SUS audit 2008 indicates that you have _____ members. If this figure still accurate?
- 2) How many of these members are disabled?
 - a. Could you email these figures to me if you do not have them to hand?
 - b. Have you or are you planning on making an effort to learn more about the disabled population at your university?
- 3) What is your most popular sports club and how many disabled members do you have at this club?
- 4) Has your sports union encountered difficulties in providing opportunities for disabled students?
- 5) What sort of relationship do you have with Scottish Disabilities Sport?
 - a. Do you feel that they have given you adequate information on what is expected from your Union in regards to disability sport?
- 6) What structures do you have in place to facilitate disabled participants? (For example in terms of committees or links with the university disability service)
- 7) Do you have qualified staff in place for disabled participants?
- 8) What information do you provide for any disabled participant that would want to join a club in your union?
- 9) What kind of recreational/intra mural activities do you offer and how accessible are these to disabled students?
- 10) What are the biggest barriers that prevent your union doing more to support disability sport?

Appendix 5 – Interview Transcripts

Interview 1 – Christine Duncan, Sports Union President, Aberdeen University

1) The SUS audit 2008 indicates that you have 3000 members. Is this figure still accurate?

I don't think that it is. I think that it has gone down.

2) How many of these members are disabled?

Well I haven't been informed that we have any disabled members myself.

3) Has your sports union encountered difficulties in providing opportunities for disabled students?

Well I have been talking to my equal opportunities and welfare officer and she was wondering if there was a possibility of us opening up our sports clubs to disabled students or even opening specific disabled orientated sports clubs and I said that's fine but there is policy that we have to go through to open these. From my knowledge our university is not widely populated by disabled students, it is increasing but just now we have not had a high amount of students which are disabled so we haven't had much call on it.

4) What sort of relationship do you have with Scottish Disability Sport?

Very little

5) What structures do you have in place to facilitate disabled participants? (for example in terms of committees, links with the university disability service)

Well for our Students Association we have a disabled officer who mainly contacts with the equals opportunities and welfare officer and if they have any views towards sport then they will bring it to me and then I will deal with it by either trying to get popularity or get people wanting to do it and then we would make a club, because obviously we have a policy where you have to have more than 10 people wanting to do a sport to make it a club. But no we don't really communicate with the University a lot about the disability service for sport. When it comes to wheelchair access to the university then we do.

6) Do you have qualified staff in place for disabled participants?

For sport, no.

7) What information do you provide for any disabled student that would want to join a club in your union?

We have no leaflets or anything but if they wanted to come to me I would talk to them about it and we would get the captain of whatever club they wanted to do and also the safety officer from the university who would discuss things and allows us to put in place the things needed for them to participate in the sport. I mean obviously we have 55 different sports and they are all different.

8) What kind of recreational/intra mural activities do you offer and how accessible are these to disabled students?

Well this year we have tried to improve this for disabled students as well, and we have introduced a three a side basketball which means you could do wheelchair basketball as well, and also pool and bowling. So pool and bowling are our intramural sports to entice other people who are less sporty and wheelchair or disabled students to join. Even though, no one has actually taken up these sports yet.

9) What are the biggest barriers that prevent your Union doing more to support disability sport?

Well I think that we just don't have enough people interested in it. Because no one comes to us about it we can't do anything because we don't know of people wanting to do it. Basically we need to increase the awareness to get people interested. If I don't get anyone coming to me then I cant really go to the University or go to the Students Association and say we need this and this because I have no one coming to me saying that they need this. I have no background knowledge on what is needed.

Interview 2 – Peter Burgon, Sports Development Officer, University of Abertay

1) The SUS audit 2008 indicates that you have 4155 members. Is this figure still accurate?
Yes

2) How many of these members are disabled?

Declared none of them

3) What is your most popular sports club and how many disabled members do you have at this club?

Dance and cheer is the most subscribed club and I don't know of any members.

4) Has your sports union encountered difficulties in providing opportunities for disabled students?

We've never had any complaints I suppose, I don't think we have had any problems

5) What sort of relationship do you have with Scottish Disability Sport?

None what so ever, I have not had any literature or contact of what I can think of.

6) What structures do you have in place to facilitate disabled participants? (for example in terms of committees, links with the university disability service)

None, I suppose

7) Do you have qualified staff in place for disabled participants?

Not within the sports union, there is obviously University staff but there isn't anyone within the sports department.

8) What information do you provide for any disabled student that would want to join a club in your union?

Nothing specifically for disabled students

9) What are the biggest barriers that prevent your Union doing more to support disability sport?

Probably just information, I think that if we knew what would help and what would make our programmes more accessible we would be able to do something about it, if we knew what the expectations were and what would be good for us to do then we could more readily do it I suppose.

Interview 3 – Sarah McMichael, Sports Union President, the University of Dundee

1) The SUS audit 2008 indicates that you have 1400 members. Is this figure still accurate?
Yes

2) How many of these members are disabled?

None that I am aware of

3) Has your sports union encountered difficulties in providing opportunities for disabled students?

Not this year. We have not encountered any problems

4) What sort of relationship do you have with Scottish Disability Sport?

Minimal we do not really get in touch with them that often.

5) What structures do you have in place to facilitate disabled participants? (for example in terms of committees, links with the university disability service)

We don't really have any links as such, I don't really know of any situations where that has been needed but I guess it is a small enough university that we could get involved in the university disability service if needed.

6) Do you have any qualified staff in place for disabled participants?

Not in the sports union but I think that the ISE might do.

7) What information do you provide for any disabled student that would want to join a club in your union?

We've not actually got a set piece of information

8) What kind of recreational/intra mural activities do you offer and how accessible are these to disabled students?

We do different intramural, one of the main ones that disabled students would get involved in would probably be the table tennis one the rest of them vary week by week, sometimes we would have a basketball tournament sometime it would be netball and then we have hockey as well.

9) What are the biggest barriers that prevent your Union doing more to support disability sport?

I guess we have not had a huge demand for it as such so we have not had to explore it in that much detail.

Interview 4 – Laura Hayward, Sports Union President, University of Edinburgh

1) The SUS audit 2008 indicates that you have 4155 members. Is this figure still accurate?

It will have slightly increased this year but it will be accurate for last year but it would have increased for this year.

2) How many of these members are disabled?

I wouldn't know of any that are disabled.

a. Are you planning on making an effort to learn more about the disabled population at your university?

We're trying to at the moment but I would say that we are struggling to even manage what the able bodied students are doing, so it's really difficult to really kind of know what to do with them.

3) Has your sports union encountered difficulties in providing opportunities for disabled students?

Yes, recently we had a disabled rower, a Paralympics rower who wanted to participate and she needed the equipment to do it and then we kind of had a problem like who was supposed to provide the equipment, were we supposed to provide it, was the sports centre supposed to provide it, so we really struggle with it and we don't really have a grip with it at all or know what to do with it.

4) What sort of relationship do you have with Scottish Disability Sport?

I have no dialogue with them what so ever.

a. So they haven't given you any information about what is expected from you in regards to disability sport?

No, the CSE do a lot for their facilities but for the student population for the sport students, No nothing.

5) What structures do you have in place to facilitate disabled participants? (for example in terms of committees, links with the university disability service)

No none at all. We know that they exist but they do not provide funding or support for any sort of sporting activity.

6) Do you have qualified staff in place for disabled participants?

No

7) What information do you provide for any disabled student that would want to join a club in your union?

We would try to assist them kind of on a one to one basis what there requirements were in terms of equipment and we would take it kind of yeah just completely on each case as it came. We would try to facilitate them as much as we can and find funding and try to ensure that they could participate but we do not actively promote that we offer disability sport.

8) What kind of recreational/intra mural activities do you offer and how accessible are these to disabled students?

We offer basketball, netball, tennis, football, squash, rugby, and none of them are offered to disabled students at all.

9) What are the biggest barriers that prevent your Union doing more to support disability sport?

Being well informed, knowing where to start as such, kind of having the information and knowing what to do with it, marketing it to the disabled students and funding and I would say knowledge, time and we don't have the staff or funds to provide for the disabled students which is a bit of a shame.

Interview 5 – Ollie Cruikshank, Sports Union President, Edinburgh Napier University

1) The SUS audit 2008 indicates that you have 1008 members. Is this figure still accurate?

At present, yes

2) How many of these members are disabled?

I think about 10

3) What is your most popular sports club and how many disabled members do you have in this club?

Our most popular sports club is snow sports and there is one disabled member.

4) Has your sports union encountered difficulties in providing opportunities for disabled students?

Yes, facilities and provisions for disabled athletes

5) What sort of relationship do you have with Scottish Disability Sport?

At the minute, none

6) What structures do you have in place to facilitate disabled participants? (for example in terms of committees, links with the university disability service)

At the minute we are going through a structural review looking into getting more disabled students into sport.

7) Do you have qualified staff in place for disabled participants?

Not in the sports union but there are in the University.

8) What information do you provide for any disabled student that would want to join a club in your union?

We would take it on a case by case basis depending on the level of disability so it is kind of varied.

9) What kind of recreational/intra mural activities do you offer and how accessible are these to disabled students?

At the minute we do not do any so there is nothing to offer at the moment.

10) What are the biggest barriers that prevent your Union doing more to support disability sport?

At the minute I would say funding that is the biggest barrier.

Interview 6 – Steven Flahavan, Sports Union President, University of Glasgow

1) The SUS audit 2008 indicates that you have 4155 members. Is this figure still accurate?

Its probably accurate in terms of our club sports here or there about but our associate membership ties in with our department and its nearer lets say 13000 gym members, so there is a much higher participation in recreational sport, club sport and sort of activities and for club sport id say its probably around 15000 mark.

2) How many of these members are disabled?

No. I'm not sure if that's part of the information that we gather when people become members

a. Are you planning on making an effort to learn more about the disabled population at your university?

It hasn't been a project that I am particularly looking at, not because I'm against it but just with the time constraints of my year, you know I'm only here until June of next year and I've taken on other things.

3) Has your sports union encountered difficulties in providing opportunities for disabled students?

It generally not something that has come past my door, people actually requesting and saying that there is a short fall or a lack of it, its not something that has been put on the radar with me in my time in office. We do have disabled access to our facilities at the gym, there is a ramp access and lift to all the floors so I think from the gym provision well we haven't had any complaints, and nothing has come past my door saying that we are not providing.

4) What sort of relationship do you have with Scottish Disability Sport?

Personally I do not really have one.

a. So they haven't given you any information about what is expected from you in regards to disability sport?

No

5) Do you have qualified staff in place for disabled participants?

I don't know

6) What information do you provide for any disabled student that would want to join a club in your union?

No it would be on a club by club basis and we would just provide support and logistics unique to each club. We would visit this as the situation came up, what club is the student interested in and it would be a case of easing that with the committee to find if any excess support was needed. It would be a case of if the door gets knocked then we would deal with it, it's not something that has been raised that we need to be more pro active with it.

7) What are the biggest barriers that prevent your Union doing more to support disability sport?

At the moment I would say it is probably lack of awareness of need. As I say the door is not getting banged off the hinges asking for support in that area and as a result it's probably time constraints on other demands for other aspects of sporting provision. I hope were not falling short for our membership and for our students and my gut feeling is that were probably not. But you would hope that if there are people in that situation that they would approach us, which I would say, is exactly our job to cater for their needs as students of this university. But as I say it just hasn't been raised that often.

Interview 7 – Beth Montgomery, Sports Union President, Glasgow Caledonian University

1) The SUS audit 2008 indicates that you have 1608 members. Is this figure still accurate?

Yes

2) How many of these members are disabled?

None to my knowledge

3) Has your sports union encountered difficulties in providing opportunities for disabled students?

Not that I'm aware of, certainly not in my year here anyway.

4) What sort of relationship do you have with Scottish Disability Sport?

Minimal in my experience, we have not had any links with them as far as I am aware.

5) What structures do you have in place to facilitate disabled participants? (for example in terms of committees, links with the university disability service)

We do have a disabled student convenor who sits on the Caledonian student parliament and represents students in every field, so that would obviously cover the area of sports as well so they can represent issues to the University.

6) Do you have qualified staff in place for disabled participants?

We do yes in our gym facility.

7) What information do you provide for any disabled student that would want to join a club in your union?

It would be the same information that all students would receive unless they maybe had a specific request.

8) What kind of recreational/intra mural activities do you offer and how accessible are these to disabled students?

Not so much by the way of a specific programme, the gym facility offers like exercise classes and things like competitive sport which are open to everyone, and the staff there are obviously trained to deal with any clients that they may have.

9) What are the biggest barriers that prevent your Union doing more to support disability sport?

At the moment id say time pressures, in the same way as we find it quite difficult to deal with the demand already so probably just that.

Interview 8 – Ross Simpson, Sports Union President, Heriot-Watt University

1) The SUS audit 2008 indicates that you have 4155 members. Is this figure still accurate?

There is probably a couple of hundred more.

2) How many of these members are disabled?

That is Sport's Union numbers, so that's the amount members we have at within Sports Union so I think there is one disabled person within the sports union.

3) What is your most popular sports club and how many disabled members do you have at this club?

Most popular sports club is the snow sports and there are no disabled members

4) Has your sports union encountered difficulties in providing opportunities for disabled students?

Yes we definitely have. We've had members who come along to ask if they can compete in certain sports, yet we do not have the provision to be able to safely provide for a disabled sports athlete. Also a lot of our coaches within most of the clubs are just student coaches who are just volunteering and a lot of them aren't willing to take on disabled students because they do not know how to deal with disabled students in certain situations. That's the main problem that we have.

5) What sort of relationship do you have with Scottish Disability Sport?

We don't have any relationship with Scottish Disability Sport but the East of Scotland Institute of Sport is based at Heriot Watt just along the corridor so we have, especially last year worked quite closely with them to work on a disability scholarship because we have been given money for a disability sports scholarship but we've had issues with who do we give it to and how do we use it, especially in terms of within sport, because it is easy to get someone who is disabled into the gym but how are they actually going to be participating in sport is how we have been working with ESIS to work on the scholarship.

6) What structures do you have in place to facilitate disabled participants? (for example in terms of committees, links with the university disability service)

The only links that we have is one with the alumni fund who deals with the scholarship and how they would want us to deal with disability sports athletes. And the other one is just through the facilities how we can cater for anyone who does come through and the big problem we do have at Heriot Watt is the gym is on the top floor and there is no lift so anyone who is heavily disabled cant access the gym but there's the sports halls and stuff. So we work closely with the facilities and the alumni fund but that is about it.

7) What information do you provide for any disabled student that would want to join a club in your union?

None what so ever

8) What kind of recreational/intra mural activities do you offer and how accessible are these to disabled students?

We don't have intra mural based on the size of the university but we do have one off tournaments in certain sports like touch rugby or basketball 3's and as far as I'm concerned any disabled student could take part but there is no special information given out about these events for disabled students.

9) What are the biggest barriers that prevent your Union doing more to support disability sport?

The access to facilities is obviously the biggest one. The number of disabled students we actually have within the university willing to participate in sport, because we have found that we have had this disability scholarship available for people within sport and we have always found it difficult to find someone who wants to take part in sport. The other one is coaching and finance for coaches being able to work with heavily disabled participants within the club. We just don't have that kind of funding.

Interview 9 – Andrew Maclean, Sports Union President, Queen Margaret University

1) The SUS audit 2008 indicates that you have 350 members. Is this figure still accurate?

I couldn't tell you the exact figures for this year but that number does seem pretty accurate.

2) How many of these members are disabled?

There is one that might not be a member but none have come forward to say that they are disabled.

3) Has your sports union encountered difficulties in providing opportunities for disabled students?

Yes we have, there was one girl who, over the summer contacted us saying that she is paralysed from the waist down and wanted to get involved in a rowing club and because we are such a small union we just don't have many clubs and rowing is not one of them, because we don't have the interest. So we tried to get in contact with Heriot Watt to get her involved in that, but I don't know what happened with that in the end. But we didn't get to offer her the sport that she wanted,

4) What sort of relationship do you have with Scottish Disability Sport?

Honestly, none what so ever.

5) What structures do you have in place to facilitate disabled participants? (for example in terms of committees, links with the university disability service)

We do have our advise sports equality officer who sits in on a disability forum with the university student services with the disability coordinator, but in terms of sport I highly doubt that they would talk about sport, because that just seems to be the nature of our university where sport is just not very high on the agenda.

6) Do you have qualified staff in place for disabled participants?

Not in the students union no.

7) What information do you provide for any disabled student that would want to join a club in your union?

Currently none

8) What kind of recreational/intra mural activities do you offer and how accessible are these to disabled students?

Recreational sport wise we just offer the very basic sports, rugby and football, there are no intra mural sports at the moment and nothing would really be geared towards disabled students.

9) What are the biggest barriers that prevent your Union doing more to support disability sport?

I'd say that there are two definite barriers. The first is participation, the first ever disabled student to contact us in a long number of years was this summer and we just didn't have the numbers to start a disabled club, and the second barrier would be finance we just wouldn't have the money to support a disabled sports club or disabled sports students wanting to go out and do it on their own.

1) The SUS audit 2008 indicates that you have 748 members. Is this figure still accurate?
Yes it is fairly accurate, we may have increased slightly from this figure but it is fairly accurate.

2) How many of these members are disabled?

It depends on actually how you class it. If you are looking at physically disabled then there are actually no members who train with us.

3) Has your sports union encountered difficulties in providing opportunities for disabled students?

I think there are a few issues around this. We actually have a relatively small amount of physically disabled students in our university because we are not a very big university but there are some schemes like there is indoor curling that we run in the university for disabled students and hopefully in the next while we are going to try and improve on that as well.

4) What sort of relationship do you have with Scottish Disability Sport?

I'm afraid to say that we don't actually have a relationship; it is something that I am trying to work on this year and that is why I brought it up at the AU Forum, so hopefully we will try and get it cleared up.

5) What structures do you have in place to facilitate disabled participants? (for example in terms of committees, links with the university disability service)

Well the only real thing that we have around sport to help disabled students is the 'club cap scheme' which is where, we are trying to get as many clubs through as possible and they have to have a disabled assessment basically so that their sport would be able to be played by a disabled person. So for example horse riding has looked at how accessible it would be for a disabled person to get up onto a horse, and they would have ramps and everything present and how you could do it. And all the clubs that go through this club cap process look at that and see how they could adapt their practices to suit disabled needs. That's how we're doing it but we still have along way to go with the club cap process ourselves.

6) Do you have qualified staff in place for disabled participants?

We don't have them specifically for sport but we do have staff in the university who are very qualified for people with disabilities. We have an entire physiotherapy department as well, and occupational therapy and nursing, so there is a lot of help line staff at our university and the boards that they work for are very skilled when it comes to disabled issues. So there is a lot of experience there but unfortunately we have not tapped into it as much as I would have liked to.

7) What information do you provide for any disabled student that would want to join a club in your union?

I'm afraid to say that we don't actually provide any information at the moment which is again one of the issues that we want to address. Were not a very strong university when it comes to disabilities and I'm trying to change that this year.

8) What kind of recreational/intra mural activities do you offer and how accessible are these to disabled students?

The only one that we have just started last year is football, other than that there is no accessibility for disabled through intra mural sport, it is only really the community run curling club that any disabled students can use.

9) What are the biggest barriers that prevent your Union doing more to support disability sport?

I think the biggest barrier is really just a lack of knowledge and a lack of communication from the disability office because I lot of the time, All the people in the union once I brought it up were really keen to address it, so everyone is keen to do it but they are not aware of what the needs are and how to address them and if there are people in the university who want to place sport, we are just not aware of them.

Interview 11 – Sam Roberts, Sports Union President, University of St Andrews

1) The SUS audit 2008 indicates that you have 2026 members. Is this figure still accurate?

I think that we probably have more than that now.

2) How many of these members are disabled?

Good question, I don't know.

b. Are you planning on making an effort to learn more about the disabled population at your university?

We don't ask so, no.

3) Has your sports union encountered difficulties in providing opportunities for disabled students?

It's never been an issue that has particularly raised its head so, no I would say. We probably would if it did, but I think that there is quite a lot of funding there to sort out any problems if there were problems.

4) What sort of relationship do you have with Scottish Disability Sport?

I think that our department has a relationship with them but I have never met them.

5) What structures do you have in place to facilitate disabled participants? (for example in terms of committees, links with the university disability service)

We would refer anything to the disability service I would guess.

6) Do you have qualified staff in place for disabled participants?

Not specifically

7) What information do you provide for any disabled student that would want to join a club in your union?

The same information that we would give to anyone else I would guess unless they asked questions that were very specific to their disability.

8) What kind of recreational/intra mural activities do you offer and how accessible are these to disabled students?

Again it depends on the disability, but we offer sort of a whole sports programmes for firsts years and then leagues for others, but depending on the disability, I mean it really just depends on the disability.

9) What are the biggest barriers that prevent your Union doing more to support disability sport?

I don't really think there are many barriers, I think the main barrier would be not having enough people to make teams up if you wanted to, for example wheelchair basketball because I think there is only like 3 or 4 people in wheelchairs at the university.

Interview 12 – Jamie MacDonald, Sports Union President, University of Stirling

1) The SUS audit 2008 indicates that you have 4155 members. Is this figure still accurate?

No it's about 1450

2) How many of these members are disabled?

Probably 5, maybe 6

3) What is your most popular sports club and how many disabled members do you have at this club?

It would be football and there would be none

4) Has your sports union encountered difficulties in providing opportunities for disabled students?

No we haven't, I think every disability is catered for and a certain level of provision has been provided for them.

5) What sort of relationship do you have with Scottish Disability Sport?

In terms of professional relationships with organisations there is not a lot of contact but in terms of disability sport in generally in terms of participants I think its really good.

a. So they haven't given you any information about what is expected from you in regards to disability sport?

No they have not come forward to us and said here is some information this is what we would like you to do

6) What structures do you have in place to facilitate disabled participants? (for example in terms of committees, links with the university disability service)

From a sports union perspective we have an equal opportunities sports officer who sits on our committee who we brought in this year so that should hopefully help. More importantly we have very close links with our sports department here and I sit on the Sports development committee and on each agenda of that committee there is always an equality item on the agenda which looks at provision for disability sport an example of that at the moment is that we are in talks with the department to introduce new equipment to the gym for disability users.

7) What information do you provide for any disabled student that would want to join a club in your union?

I suppose it would depend on what club they would like to join. Obviously there are clubs which don't have the ability to provide for certain students but for the majority of clubs in the past they have had disabled students and I don't think there have been any problems with provision.

8) What kind of recreational/intra mural activities do you offer and how accessible are these to disabled students?

In terms of intra mural activity that is all provided by the sports development service and as far as I'm aware there is only football and golf so therefore I do not think there is any provision.

9) What are the biggest barriers that prevent your Union doing more to support disability sport?

I don't think there are any barriers other than that we don't actually get that many people coming to us saying that they want to take part. I suppose we could do more in actually trying to get people involved but certainly you know the sports such as tennis, swimming and actually disability sports themselves I think we offer very good provision.

Interview 13- Phillip Gallacher, Sports Union President, Strathclyde University

1) The SUS audit 2008 indicates that you have 1065 members. Is this figure still accurate?

Currently just now, members are just under 1000; however we are in the process of just doing our spot check so we should be able to break this barrier quite easily.

2) How many of these members are disabled?

I don't know

a. Are you planning on making an effort to learn more about the disabled population at your university?

Yes, we are currently in the process of reviewing our whole system, finance system and computer IT system because it is very old fashioned, so we will be able to fit people who have extra needs, and also we need to be more accurate about how many members are attending which clubs.

3) Has your sports union encountered difficulties in providing opportunities for disabled students?

As far as I know, we haven't encountered anything; in my time in office I haven't encountered any difficulties, however we do encourage all students from all backgrounds and all abilities to get involved in the sports union.

4) What sort of relationship do you have with Scottish Disability Sport?

Honestly, I do not know a lot about it, I would like to, I would be more than happy to learn more about it and I would like to promote Scottish Disabilities Sport because I have quite a few friends who are deaf and play football so I would be more than happy to promote this and learn more and build closer relationships with SDS.

5) What structures do you have in place to facilitate disabled participants? (for example in terms of committees, links with the university disability service)

We are very fortunate in that we have very close links with our university and also our sports centre who actually have access for disability students, so if we know that there will be individuals that would want to join the Sports Union, we usually speak to people face to face however its something we would like to improve again, I'm not entirely sure on this one but, if we know that we are going to have disability students in we will cater for their needs.

6) Do you have qualified staff in place for disabled participants?

We have a Sports Administrator and we have a Safety Development Coach, I would have to check in the remit for that. Our whole university is undergoing a governance review and some of the job descriptions are actually getting changed so it is something that we would be more than happy to encourage, or encourage members on the Sports Exec to take courses on this and take action.

7) What information do you provide for any disabled student that would want to join a club in your union?

We would put information out to all students, we would make it clear that we are open for all abilities, and all kinds of life, we wouldn't actually section off disability students, and however we would encourage all people to get involved in sport. We are very open her at Strathclyde,

8) What are the biggest barriers that prevent your Union doing more to support disability sport?

The biggest barrier is probably just not having enough information about it. Just maybe not having enough information about it, and just not being sufficiently knowledgeable about it. However we would be more than happy to learn more about it, the more we learn about it the more successful we will become. So we would like to build closer relationships with you guys a SUS, we have close relationships as it is. I'd say that it's just lack of information.

Interview 14 – Arnaud Bastianelli, Sports Union President, University of the West of Scotland

1) The SUS audit 2008 indicates that you have 178 members. Is this figure still accurate?

I think it is but I'm not really sure at the moment because I am going through the membership, so I will have a definite number by December.

2) How many of these members are disabled?

None

3) Has your sports union encountered difficulties in providing opportunities for disabled students?

Yes, well actually, the main concept to give access to disabled students and at the moment we are looking to get like a Star group for disabled students, so all the disabled students will get together, and from that point of view we might actually start to get them involved in sport if they are quite interested, but at the moment it is quite hard to get access to them to be honest.

4) What sort of relationship do you have with Scottish Disability Sport?

To be honest, none

a. So they haven't given you any information about what is expected from you in regards to disability sport?

No, I know that we do have disabled students here and I know that we are making everything, like safety and accessible for everyone and with all the regulations. But we do not have any information for sports for disabled students.

5) What structures do you have in place to facilitate disabled participants? (for example in terms of committees, links with the university disability service)

Yes the University has the service for disabled students, and as I mentioned earlier we are looking to get a group set for disabled students, and we are actually starting on that next week, when we are having the first meeting, and from that, I am going to try and get in touch with them and try to get them involved. So far we have never had any demand from disabled students

wanting to be involved in sport and at the same time we haven't really pushed them to be involved in sport.

6) Do you have qualified staff in place for disabled participants?

Yes we do yes. We have officers who have been required to get the qualification to deal with disabled students, especially in the University, not so much in sport but definitely in the University.

7) What information do you provide for any disabled student that would want to join a club in your union?

At the moment none, but I would probably try to get some sessions for disabled students and try to give them access because that is the main difficulty at the moment to be honest.

8) What kind of recreational/intra mural activities do you offer and how accessible are these to disabled students?

Well at the moment, none, and we will try to, when we get contact from the disabled students wanting to participate in sport we will probably do something about it but at the moment there is no demand so we are not doing anything for them. Sports wise, I mean they are involved in some other activities or societies but sports wise hopefully it will kick off once this group is set up.

9) What are the biggest barriers that prevent your Union doing more to support disability sport?

I think it is more kind of communication and publicity to get the disabled students involved, and at the same time it is quite hard to get in touch with them.

Appendix 6 – Qualitative Coding (word groups)

Knowledge

None to my knowledge, None what so ever, I don't know, Lack of awareness of need, being well informed, having the information and knowing what to do with it, knowledge, lack of knowledge, they are not aware of what the needs are., information, I do not know a lot about it, we don't know of the people, I have no background knowledge on what is needed.

Responsibility

Who was supposed to provide, volunteers, I've taken on other things

Provision

Facilities & provision, try to facilitate them and assist with equipment, we do not have the provision to safely provide, a certain level of provision has been provided for them, looks at provision for disability sport, introduces new equipment to the gym for disability users, I do not think there is any provision, disability sports themselves I think we offer very good provision.

Funding

Second barrier would be finance we just wouldn't have the money to support a disabled club, funding is the biggest barrier, we don't have the funds to provide for the disabled students. Finance would also be a barrier.

Demand

The number of disabled students we actually have within the university willing to participate in sport, the first is participation, we just didn't have the numbers to start a disabled club, so far we have never had any demand from disabled students wanting to be involved in sport, no demand, our university is not widely populated by disabled students, we just don't have enough people interested in it, we have not had a huge demand for it, we don't actually get many people coming up to us saying that they want to take part, the door is not getting banged off the hinged asking for support, it just hasn't been raised that often.

Structure

We have links with an alumni fund, club cap scheme with a disabled assessment adapting practices to suit disabled needs, we are going through a structural review looking into getting more disabled students into sport, none I suppose, very close links with the university, advise sports equality officer, star group to get all disabled students together, equal opportunities and welfare officer, students association disabled officer, disabled student convenor, equal opportunities sport officer.

Time Pressures

At the moment we are struggling to even manage what the able bodied students are doing, id say time pressures, time constraints of my year, time constraints on other demands.

SDS Relationship

We don't really have a relationship with Scottish Disability Sport, I have no dialogue with them what so ever, I'm afraid to say that we don't really have a relationship, at the minute none, none what so ever I have not had any literature or contact of what I can think of, honestly none what so ever, to be honest none, very little, minimal in my experience we have not had any links with them, minimal we do not really get in touch with them that often, there is not a lot of contact, personally I don't really have one

Eleanor Sykes s0790981

Access

There is no lift so anyone who is heavily disabled can not access the gym, the access to facilities is obviously the biggest one, there is no access for disabled students, what would make our programmes more accessible, have access for disabled students, to give access to disabled students, we do have disabled access at our facility.

Appendix 7 – Respondents

Interviews

Christine Duncan – The University of Aberdeen – President for Sport
Peter Burgon – The University of Abertay – Sports Development Officer
Sarah McMichael – The University of Dundee – Sports Union President
Laura Hayward – The University of Edinburgh – Sports Union President
Ollie Cruikshank – Edinburgh Napier University – Sports Union President
Beth Montgomery – Glasgow Caledonian University – Vice President Sports & Societies
Steven Flahavan – The University of Glasgow – Sports Union President
Bryan Carson – Heriot-Watt University – Sports Union President
Andrew Maclean – Queen Margaret University – Student Vice President
Dave Hegarty – Robert Gordon University – Sports Union President
Sam Roberts – The University of St Andrews – Sports Union Present
Jamie MacDonald – The University of Stirling – Sports Union President
Philip Gallacher – The University of Strathclyde – Sports Union President
Arnaud Bastianelli – The University of the West of Scotland – Sports Union President

Questionnaires

Jan Griffiths – Aberdeen Sports Village – Sports Development Manager
Peter Burgon – Abertay Sports Facility – Sports Development Officer
Brian Ewing – Institute of Sport & Exercise, Dundee – Facility Director
Louise Campbell – Centre for Sport & Exercise, Edinburgh – Assistant Director
Graeme Turton – Edinburgh Napier University Fitness Suite – Sports Technician
Corrinne Menzies – Arc, GCU – Director of Sport
Julie Ommer – University of Glasgow Sport and Recreation Service – Director
Olly Robertson – Centre for Sport & Exercise – Facilities & Shift Manager
Filippo Antoniazzi – RGU:Sport – Director of Sport
Lindsay Sharp – St Andrews University Sports Centre – Sports Supervisor
Peter Bilsborough – Sports Development Service – Stirling – Director of Sport
Niall Sturrock – Centre for Sport & Recreation, Strathclyde – Head of Centre for Sport & Recreation