

MINUTES

Members in attendance: Birmingham, Cambridge, Cardiff, Durham, Exeter, Glasgow, Loughborough, Manchester, Oxford, Plymouth, Southampton, Strathclyde, Surrey, Swansea.

BUSA Committee in attendance: Emily Wiltshire (EW), Jess Beecher (JB), Tony Mapplebeck (TM), James Cunnison (JC), Neil Marshall (NM), Tom Churchill (TC), Peter Johnson (PJ), Jamie Barker (JBa), Jon Napier, Emily Robertson (ER), Tim Gratton.

1. Apologies for Absence: Sean Clarkson, Ella Stoggall, Emily Nagel, Amy Yeoman.

2. Welcome:

3. Brief Summary of the Year:

- Area Reports
 - **Northern** – JC reported – strong university events. Sheffield and Leeds ran full events. Windy winter, so a lot of training time lost. BUSA Qualifier - had some problems with the pontoons and start boat sinking and engine issues with the ribs. Each team achieved 6 races each, which was enough to give results for teams to go to finals and playoffs. Everyone had fun.
EW thanked JC for his work as Northern Rep this year.
 - **Midlands** – No report AW. A member from the Midlands reported - Racing went well and quickly over 2 days. Cambridge were very helpful. Connor Miller (Loughborough) confirmed that AY did a great job.
EW thanked AY for her work as Midlands Rep this year.
 - **Scotland** - ER reported – 3 qualifier events (3 days), 15 teams. We ran a Ladies Team racing event, a Fleet and yachting events too. We used swiss league at SSS Champs. We ran coaching event at beginning of year.
EW thanked ER for her work as SSS Rep this year and looked forward to working with her next year.
 - **Western** – NM reported. Cardiff hosted fleets in November, which went well. Several universities ran their own events. BUSA Qualifier was difficult with lots of damage, so we used the reserve day. The combined results were enough to get a fair result for Playoffs and Finals. Swansea hosted playoffs, which went very well and completed within one day.
EW thanked NM for his work as Western Rep this year.
 - **South Central** – JBa reported – well run, but windy. Finished racing after 14 races each on the second day due to the wind. Strong and fair result to send to playoffs and finals.
- **Team Racing** – JBa reported – Generally all qualifiers went well. Damage – few incidents sorted by damage officers in most regions. Jamie Barker thanked the area reps for all their work, especially ER. Playoffs – thanks to Swansea. Hopefully the Finals will go well too. EW thanked JBa for his work as TR Co-ordinator this year.
- **Fleet Racing Championships** – Joylon Ferron from Cardiff reported – windy weekend, some talks of water quality issues, which was out of our control, but testing was inconclusive. Socials good. Fair amount of racing. EW thanked Cardiff for hosting with CBYC being very supportive.
- **Yachting 2016 review** – JB reported – Successful event, 24 teams. Won by Southampton Red by one point to Loughborough, with Durham in 3rd and Strathclyde in 4th. Close racing all week, in light airs days 1-3. Day 4 was 25+ knots, seeing some damage, gear failure, a man overboard, but no injuries.
Had more support from Sunsail this year with prizes for best photo, water bottles for all and boat charter for Most improved team – to Surrey.
Planning for 2017 – 28 boats booked, guest entries is awaiting approval from BUCS (for mixed uni teams).
9th-13th April 2017.

- **Match Racing 2016 preview.** JB reported – 14 teams have been confirmed and the event is full. Details going to teams next week. Plan for 2017 – 21-23rd April 2017.
- **BUSA Teams (events)**
TG reported – Tour last summer went well (we won) – thanks to Connor Miller and Emily Nagel for organising it. Sending a team to the Wilson and maybe a few other event opportunities later in the summer. EW thanked TG for his work this year.
- **Finance and Accounts** – JN reported. We made a small loss of about £600 due to damage from finals last year that BUSA had to contribute. JN reminded clubs that damage must be attributed to the teams at the events and that BUSA is not the bank of last resort. Costs of the Tour fell into this year. The trophy went missing last year and the insurance company paid up. As soon as the money was in our account the trophy turned up, so we returned the money. JN is now stepping down after 5 years on the Committee. EW thanked you JN for all of his work and support over the years.
- **Website/PR** – TM reported - We've had a few hiccups this year with our provider (DataSouth). They Server being replaced. Suggestions and proposals are always welcome. TM requests clubs send reports for their own events and we can help get them on Yachts and Yachting, Yachting Monthly etc. TM pleased to help, but cannot write reports for events he doesn't attend. Send your reports in (and photos). Less reports this years due to the increased admin workload, but planning for more next year.

EW confirmed that JB has now returned from maternity leave and Lizzie Fiddaman has now left the RYA. JB is now your point of contact at the RYA and BUSA.

Connor Miller (Loughborough) – Ask if any of the Tour press made it to BUCS? TM – not sure, BUCS push BUCS/FISU events more. We have not moved forward since our meeting with BUCS over a year ago, but we hope to be able to move forward now that JB is back.

4. 2016-17 Committee (Elections)

President – Peter Saxton (PS) – Competed in BUSA in 1978 in Manchester. Involved in Race management and have 2 sons come through BUSA and Tours. There were no objections and PS was duly elected.

Hon Member – Keith Sammons (KS) – Keen to help and improve the standard of events in the uk. There were no objections and KS was duly elected.

Hon Treasurer – Chris Lindsay (CL) – Umpire. PHD at Oxford. Happy to help. There were no objections and CL was duly elected.

Team Racing Co-ordinator – Neil Marshall (NM) – Having been Western rep this year. Keen to develop BUSA, regional training stuff and yachting development. There were no objections and NM was duly elected.

Scotland Co-ordinator – Emily Robertson (ER) – Been Scottish Rep this year, been on the Glasgow team for 3 years, bit of umpiring. Will push 4th teams in SSS and ladies teams this year. There were no objections and ER was duly elected.

South Central Co-ordinator – Ella Stoggall (ES) – There were no objections and ES was duly elected.

Ladies Captain – Millie Gibbons (MG) – Loughborough, 3rd year, have attended all BUSA championship events. Aim to push ladies participation in all areas and win the tour again. There were no objections and MG was duly elected.

There were no applications received in time for the following roles: Men's Captain, Northern Co-ordinator, Midlands Co-ordinator, Western Co-ordinator and Keelboat Officer.

We have had a few late applications; however we will be extending the deadline for remaining places to next Friday 8th April 2016. The committee will then consider them and co-opt to fill the roles.

Re-Election of Vice President – Sean Clarkson and BUSA Web Editor - Tony Mapplebeck. No objections, SC and TM were duly re-elected.

We have realised the large workload that TM does, especially with the absence of JB over the last year, therefore we are planning to develop/create a marketing/comms/PR role to assist TM. We would be looking for a student to help with event reports etc – More information to come over the summer.

5. Motions:

Constitutional amendments: None

Any other special business proposed by the Committee: None

6. Discussion Points

EW opened the floor to the members to bring forward any points they would like discussed.

Connor Miller (Loughborough) asked: Would BUSA consider implementing an SSS style league system for Team racing qualifiers to England and Wales. TC responded: It will need a lot of consideration as it would effectively bring in more events that would be run on the same weekends as universities own events. I'm conscious that for a lot of universities, they need to run their own event to secure funding to go to other events. It would need careful consideration in terms of the calendar and would need a full review of all the events calendar. If that is something that our members wish us to look at, then we can, but it would have a big knock on effect to the university team events and eligibility/crew changes etc. We would need to find out from SSS how they manage this. This would take at least a year of planning and prep to change this, if the membership wanted to go to leagues.

JB also inputted that there would also be a knock on effect to officials and resources. There is only a small pool of umpires and you would be tripling their workload.

CM – from the perspective of teams that put in a lot of effort and pay for a lot of coaching, but then miss out on spots to the playoffs and finals down to a umpires decision.

TC – unfortunately that is the nature of our sport and it would be same for football etc. It would be very difficult for us to just change.

ER – For SSS it has been a very effective way of qualifying team to playoffs and finals. We never have half-finished pools etc.

TC – Our system relies on the weather being good to get enough racing in to get a fair result.

TM – A practical problem between Scotland and England/Wales is the calendar. The competition to get your own event on the calendar in a strategic places is very important and we don't advertise events on dates that clash with BUCS championships dates. In Scotland the leagues provide some regular opportunities to team race, however in England we would not be able to set aside more weekends to fit in additional dates. Most weekends there are 3+ university events on.

TC – to implement we would need every member university to agree to this format.

ER suggested that areas have flexibility in when they hold the other league weekends, to fit around existing events as long as they do it before the February qualifier date.

TC – I quite like that the universities have the chance to go to different areas, competing against other regions within England. In the past there have been concerns that some regions are stronger than others and I think it currently benefits TR as a hole.

A member asked – what would stop a university's own event becoming a league event?

BUCS would need to have some sort of oversight of each event, BUSA would need to ensure the standard of each event was consistent, making sure officials and umpires are qualified and in adequate numbers. Plus the entry would be through BUCS. JB also commented that no Alumni, old boys or mixed teams would be able to compete. It would have to be universities only.

TC confirmed that after 6 races we have a fair result with the HL system.

PS – SSS to summaries and give pros/cons for league in Scotland – Action ER, plus please include what else you are doing when not doing leagues.

TC - Please send your thoughts to – busa@rya.org.uk

7. Any Other Business

TC confirmed that the Green Blue Sustainability gold award is going to York University. Well done to York. RYA will run this again next year. Launching it in a few weeks – Keep an eye on the website.

Bidding information for 2016 Fleets and 2017 Team Racing Finals are not online, please make contact with JB asap. Deadline for applications is 20th April. Playoff bids will open later in the summer.

Many thanks to PJ, our outgoing President, for all his work with the Committee over the last 5 years.