

BUSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Minutes

THE BUSA AGM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th April 2024 at 19:00-21:22 via Google Meet.

Neil Collingridge , James Chapman, Calum Bell, Amelia Sadler, Robin Alexander, Jake Miller, George Atwell, Oliver Evans, Karen Rawson, Dom Williams, Michaela Attfield, Ashi Banerjee Richard Moxey and 2 members from the following Universities-

University of Lincoln, Leeds University Sailing club, Birmingham, University of St Andrews, Cambridge University Yacht Club, University of Plymouth, Southampton University Sailing Club, Aberdeen University Sailing Club, University of Sheffield, Durham, Newcastle, Warwick, University of Bath, Dundee, UCLSC, Solent, Loughborough university, University of Sussex, Imperial College Sailing Club, University of Bath, University of Strathclyde, Exeter University, University of Nottingham, Aberystwyth, University of Bristol Sailing Club, University of Portsmouth, University of York, Glasgow university, Oxford, University of East Anglia, Cardiff, Liverpool, University of Reading, Imperial College Sailing Club & Edinburgh

	Item	Lead
1.	Apologies for absence -Stuart Farmer, Jess Beecher Matty Evans, Thomas Woodall, Matthieu Gillet, Jodie Lawrence	KR
2.	Notifications of any other business -None	KR
3.	Welcome To open the meeting the mission statement was read out to all attendees as a reminder what BUSA is about and where its going. Its mission is to support all students in the sport of sailing at university and beyond, regardless of their experience level, interests and background	JM
4.	Minutes of the 2023 AGM -Proposed by George Atwell and second by Amelia Sadler	JM
5.	<p>Summary of the Year</p> <p>Executive Committee Report-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● President It's the end of my first year as BUSA President and I will keep my comments short as BUSA is rightly run by students so its not really my gig. But I do want to say a couple of things, first how impressed I've been by the range of activities both run by BUSA and by Uni clubs who form part of BUSA. And it's the quality of those events too. The fleets at Strathclyde – fantastic, well worth the drive north, Team Racing qualifiers – over 470 students sailing the length and breadth of the country the same weekend. Match Racing and Yachting; not even hosted by a Uni club but great events, nonetheless. All these events don't just happen. They rely first and foremost on student volunteers and in particular the BUSA committee. I'd like to say a big thankyou to Jake and his team who are truly impressive. The experience that they gain in running BUSA will stand them in good stead in later life I'm sure. And so the obvious point is we need more people like them to step forwards. Even if you haven't put your name forwards today please think about what you can do to help. And my final observation is that everything we do costs money and inflation has put that under pressure. We need to stay relentlessly focused on not allowing student sailing to become "Just too expensive" – your committee has worked really hard at that but there's also stuff every club can do to help each other to keep costs under control. If everyone pulls in the same direction, I've no doubt BUSA can continue to go from strength to strength. So that's it from me – well done everyone. Your commitment and enthusiasm is great to see. Neil ● Vice President This is the end of my 2 year stint as VP and its been great to see the progress the 	JM

association as a whole has made. It's been a strong year for the committee with a lot of challenges dealt with throughout. Many of these were helped by taking on action points built on from last year. It's good to see a lot of people having the drive to push for changes to make university sailing how the membership wants it, compared to what has previously been dictated to us. Many of the actions points from last year's AGM have been taken forward and progressed, and it's great to see more ideas coming in as can be seen from the discussion part of the AGM. There's still work to be done but there's a lot of work already been done to get to where we are and full credit is deserved by those involved who are getting it forward.

A big difference compared to a few years back is the level of engagement at the BUSA level that is now happening. It's better but there is still room for improvement. While there's a BUSA committee it is not independent from member clubs, and university sailing needs strong links between all clubs, locally and nationally, to make sure university sailing is pushing in the right direction that sailors need and want it to go in. If you have a thought on anything, you don't need to be on BUSA or even your own committee to put it forward, you are able to chat to the officers or area chairs to discuss ideas of ways forward.

I think it's accurate to say that most clubs have now recovered from the post-COVID issues with membership numbers generally on the up, and this is mirrored in the numbers of entries that are now seeing at events across all disciplines and levels which is fantastic. Hopefully this means going forward that the changes to how the events are structured will also see more variety in host clubs for the various events.

There are lots of important conversations being led by members of the current committee, such as gender rule discussions and finance management which have big impacts club willingness to get involved at the national level. We are aware these are areas where there is frustration and hesitance from the membership in getting involved in BUSA events. The current trend of progressive discussions will help a lot with these issues and if you have queries about hosting an event please speak to the committee as a lot of the historical issues have been resolved to enable better event management all round.

I look forward to seeing what all clubs and BUSA can do next.

- **Chair**

First of all, I would like to say a huge congratulations and a massive thank you to the outgoing committee who faced many challenging and unforeseen circumstances throughout the 2023/24 season yet still were able to deliver 4 very successful BUCS Championships and support to university sailing.

One of those challenges was the loss of key committee members, including myself for a period of time, but the teamwork and commitment by the rest of the committee ensured that BUSA remained on track to deliver the main events - shout out to George Atwell and Robin Alexander who took on the responsibilities of social media and the delivery of BUCS Match Racing.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all of the clubs and volunteers who gave up their time to help us deliver University Sailing this season. Without volunteers, the events simply cannot happen. Bidding for the 2024/25 championships will be opening in the coming weeks and I encourage you to take the time within your clubs to consider running an event next season.

Looking ahead into next season, I would like BUSA to focus on maintaining the quality of our event whilst also increasing our engagement with you guys, do do that we need volunteers.

Vice Chair Report

This year BUSA has continued to work with our partner organisations, and we are very thankful for their support of student sailing. We're grateful for the range of benefits these partnerships offer but particularly BUSA would like to thank Rooster for continuing to provide discounts for chandlery items to universities and event prizes; and KSail for their continued support of university team racing through all BUSA USCs having free use of scheduling software, the provision of their online portal for the Team Racing Championships, and advice and discounts for USCs in the care and maintenance of their fleets.

BUSA has continued to promote opportunities across sailing for students, and encourage classes, clubs, and competitions, to continue to reach out to us to promote these to USCs and their members. The RYA's British Keelboat Academy continues to provide dinghy racers the skills to move into the world of keelboat and yacht racing. Both RORC's Griffin Team and the Etchells Class have provided further opportunities to remove some of the barriers to compete, and the National Firefly Association continue to encourage further student involvement across a range of areas. The NFA's offer of coaching and Nationals

support is particularly notable. BUSA encourages all university sailors to take up the opportunities offered and appreciate the work of all groups to encourage student participation.

The committee has faced some challenges this year, but all of the Championships were delivered to a high standard, and we have continued to provide support to USCs through the Development Fund. Thanks to Neil and James for their advice, and to the BUSA Committee for their work in ensuring the sustained development of student sailing.

- **Area Reports**

Scotland- This year in Scotland, we've achieved a lot. Glasgow University successfully organised the Glasgow Grouse event. Additionally, Dundee, Glasgow, and Strathclyde between them hosted three successful team racing qualifiers for Scottish student sailing. St Andrews hosted a good SSSailing champs, the main annual Scottish open event. Last month, SSS keel boating took place at Port Edgar, with support from the RYA and the 707 Class Association. On top of that, on behalf of BUSA Strathclyde hosted BUCS fleets, and Edinburgh hosted the Team Racing Playoffs. Overall, it's been a successful year, with efforts focused on developing quality events for the future. Currently, we're working with SSSailing to ensure we continue delivering high-quality events.

Northern-No report

Midlands- It's been an absolute pleasure to represent the midlands on BUSA committee this year. We started the year off really strong by running Midlands Mixer, which was a great showing for our community, and it encouraged two new teams enter the team racing circuit. So thank you to Harris and Warwick for helping me make that happen. I have also helped facilitate new inter club relationships, which I hope in the future will mean more teams on the circuit. Nottingham ran a really successful TR qualifiers, and we had a really strong showing at both BUCS TR and Yachting from midlands teams.

Western- It has been a delight to witness the remarkable achievements made by teams across the West of England this year. From exhilarating Team Racing events hosted by Plymouth, Bristol, Bath, Cardiff, and Exeter, to the spirited camaraderie during fun socials, each occasion served as invaluable practice for teams aspiring for BUCS glory. The USC's in the West have displayed outstanding prowess, with Swansea and Exeter showcasing formidable performances at BUCS Fleets in Scotland. Exeter, in particular, returned home with a commendable set of results. Noteworthy achievements abound, with Exeter Blue securing a well-deserved silver surfer overall win at UKTRA, and Exeter Yachting 1s clinching second place at the Match Racing Finals this February. TR Finals witnessed the participation of seven Western university teams qualifying through to finals, with Exeter securing a commendable second position, closely followed by impressive performances from both Bristol and Bath. Collaborating with the NFA, a joint training day was orchestrated between Bristol and Bath, facilitating external insights to enhance future development training initiatives. Western University Sailing Clubs stand firmly in a position of strength, and I am excited to witness future plans unfolding in the upcoming academic year. It has been a pleasure to connect with many of you throughout this year. To fair winds and promising horizons ahead - Robin

South Central- no report

Eastern It has been a good year in the Eastern region. Communication with eastern universities has been effective generally with communication from both sides. Some difficulties in establishing a captains and commodores chat but the messenger groups have been fairly good for sharing links and messages and would be good for the Eastern area to continue to use these going forwards.

- **Discipline Officers**

Team Racing - 28 teams qualified to the British University Sailing finals on the 2nd of April at Grafham water. From day one anticipation was high thanks to BUSA's livestream (revealing the first set of races), the forecast looking spicy, and a few teams coming off unprecedented success at the senior team racing nationals.

A plethora of teams found their way into the top 8 (the all important quarter finals cut off) through the first day, with moderate and shifty breeze. Surprisingly far down after day 1 was current UKTRA champions Exeter, leaving last years winners Cambridge, along with Loughborough and Southampton, battling for the top of the pile for now.

Day two brought the breeze, and some teams found their stride. Strathclyde leapt up the leaderboard until, with wind jumping up well over 25 knots, racing was postponed, and then abandoned for the day. Allowing a rest after a lot of hard hiking. Thanks to their performance Strath, taking down some top teams, sat near the top. A black horse into last years quarters they were looking good to repeat the feat again.

Day 3: With the wind moderating overnight, full sails were put up and the most important day in the university sailing calendar began. There was much discussion about bouncing,

not because of a sudden uptick in trampolines fans, instead referring to the tough nature of the Swiss league format, creating close scores so wins on the final day could make a good day a great one. So it looked to be for Exeter Red, no longer just notorious just for stapling themselves Red "hot hot" as they flew up the leaderboard to make the cut called at about 1 o'clock. Quarter finals then. Cambridge took on Imperial (recent Excalibur winners, happily controversial thanks to their "nose tape" and nothing else this year!). The second quarter was an exciting Exeter derby Red vs Blue. Loughborough got Southampton and UEA took on Strathclyde.

After taking a race from their 1sts, the Exeter red armada came to an end. As The quarters came to a close, those who lost sailed ashore, leaving the semi finals Cambridge vs Strathclyde and Exeter vs Loughborough to begin. The second being a family affair, brothers Ben and Jamie both hoping to help their team to the elusive finals. Both semi finals were won in a 2-1 score. Ultimately, it was Exeter and Cambridge that prevailed. In the finals Cambridge sailed extremely well to take the championships for the second year running. Medals were awarded, volunteers thanked, and then teams made their way into Cambridge for the BUSA awards (official and unofficial) and dinner.

Keelboating- This year's Yachting Championships was a great success with the maximum possible 14 teams entering to use Fairview's matched Oceanis 37s. The 3rd year in a row now that we have used Fairview as our partner for the championship. This year due to the timing of the championship, Thursday was able to be a full day of racing, allowing competitors to get more value for money for their final days racing. The midfield was very competitive, with teams able to apply the invaluable coaching given from Mason King and improve throughout the week. The coaching aspect of the event is something I really hope continues to be carried forward, and Mason has already nominated himself to do the event again next year.

Unfortunately due to the heavy winds in the weekend prior to the event, training for teams was limited, which potentially helped cause the gap between the top competitors and the midfield. Going forwards it would be massively beneficial to organise a training weekend with Fairview where competitors get the opportunity to practise with each other in the Fairview boats a few weeks prior to the event. With discussion there is potential that Fairview could apply the discounted rate they do for the weekend prior to the event.

Match racing- Match Racing has had a pleasing year, with the Championships hosted over the weekend of 24th and 25th February at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy. Following the original Match Racing Officer stepping down from the Committee, I took on the organisation of the Championship and am grateful for the support received from the Jess Beecher and Moxey at the RYA; Tom Rusbridge, BUSA Technical Delegate; Robin Alexander, Western Chair, who volunteered as Event Director for the weekend; and our team of volunteer Race Officials.

Historically BUSA has had some struggles with Match Racing as an expensive discipline to run with a number of barriers to entry, and this year's Championship followed the aim from last season of running an event that could break even with sensible entry prices. Of the eighteen teams who applied for entry, thirteen were invited to compete and despite some challenging conditions over the weekend all teams demonstrated their skill and experience. Congratulations to Southampton for winning the Championships.

Looking forwards I am grateful for the teams that took the time to fill in the feedback form, and hopefully with a dedicated Match Racing Officer more training opportunities will be able to be organised. We will review the format of racing and how to ensure that all teams get fair value for the entry fee. In the past the Match Racing Championship has been held over three days in the Easter Holidays and BUSA worked on feedback received last year that hosting Team Racing, Yachting, and Match Racing over this period was a strain for sailors with the culmination of the academic year and institutions' differing Easter Holidays, alongside the increase in cost that this period brought. We will continue to work with BUCS to ensure that the entry system is as efficient as possible and thank Karen Rawson for her continued support as BUSA Secretary in this process. As with all Championships, we will review the options available and will continue to develop these events to ensure BUSA provides competitive Championship events for students.

I wish next year's Match Racing Officer the best of luck in carrying the discipline forwards and will be happy to support however I can.

Fleet racing- This academic year, the Fleet Racing Championships ventured north to the inner Clyde estuary of Helensburgh Sailing Club, as hosted by Strathclyde University in Glasgow. With a total of 59 entries, the event comprised two fleets: firefly and handicap classes.

Unfortunately, on the Day 1, despite the November sunshine coming out, the complete absence of wind meant no races could be completed. However, Sunday brought a fresh

	<p>breeze of 15 knots, allowing the fleets to engage in four tough races. This year's event saw the introduction of many new aspects, including a reduced entry fee and the option of charter boats. Strathclyde University took on the organisation of 22 charter boats out of the total firefly fleet of 35, with the generous assistance from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and St Andrews. Furthermore, free hosting was offered to all competitors. In the end we hosted 72 people across Glasgow, which facilitated the arguably the most important aspect of the weekend, the Saturday night ceilidh social, which was enjoyed by all, particularly newcomers from England. Overall, the weekend was deemed a great success, owing to the seamless race management and the tremendous efforts of various parties. Helensburgh Sailing Club deserves special commendation for maintaining constant communication channels with us to ensure planning and execution of all aspects of the event. Additionally, thanks are extended to the RYAS for lending their three VSR ribs, which greatly contributed to the event safety. Altogether, I am pleased with the overall outcome of the event, of which it received a lot of positive feedback. And hopefully some of these aspects can be retained for next year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development -6 clubs were paid development funding for Round one this season and round two are still outstanding for clubs that bid and these will be resolved during the next term. ● Finance and Accounts It was reported that we started the year with 27000 and finished with 24700. A major expense was the BUSA tour and payment from the USA team is still outstanding though being chased. Payments for charter fees are being looked at with options to pay online or through the website. Payments for Round One of Development fund have been paid with payments for Round Two still to be sorted 	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Discussion Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RYA Affiliation Update- Michelle Gents attended the meeting to update universities on the new policy. The affiliation renewal 2024 have changed to help maintain connection to the right people within each affiliate, help us understand the needs of our affiliates and tailor support accordingly, and to create a value of affiliation, not only for our affiliates but also those who view sailing as potential activities and wanting to be reassured it's a place for them. The RYA are asking all affiliates to answer a series of simple questions as part of the renewal process and this will be used to focus support they provide across 2024. BUSA will be completing this renewal process shortly and any clubs requiring advice, should contact Michelle at the RYA. ● 2023 Warwick Fleets Proposal-Motion to change the Team Championship criteria for BUCS Fleet Racing Championships to allow for mixed teams.pdf Voting was to take place on this motion to move it forward to BUCS. Harris Goodman addressed the AGM with regards to the changes and a discussion was had on the implication of the affect on female helms. The proposal on changing the criteria but not necessarily the final version was voted on and 51 for, 3 against with 1 abstained. The committee will now take this forward to BUCS before 24 April. ● TR Qualifier Reserve Weekend-A discussion was had with the members on a payment to be made in case a reserve weekend is needed. Although more thought is needed on how this will work and the fact BUSA would continue to subsidise a reserve weekend, BUSA would incur a significant loss if all weekends went to reserve putting the association in risk as funds in the bank are needed to run university sailing for the next few years for any unforeseen circumstances and although at present the funds are healthy, these do drop significantly through the year and BUSA needs to keep ahead of payments as they come in. A jam board was set up for feedback on this which the committee will discuss at the next few minutes to which the outcome will be detailed in future minutes. ● How can BUSA better communicate to clubs? This was put to the members with ideas put on the Jam board. These different ideas will be looked at during the committee meetings to find a good solution. ● Irish Proposal- Based on feedback from 2023 Team Racing Championships, the Irish were not invited to participate in this years event. The Irish team can influence the distribution of BUCS points at finals and this can have a huge impact on university funding. Although the Irish team were unhappy with this decision they did understand the reasoning behind it. The tour did not happen this year due to various reasons and the proposal will be to have a BUSA Rider cup with the top 3 teams from Ireland and UK competing. Ireland wish to host late April or May and UK to host September. Pros and cons to both and a Jam board was set up to float ideas and options. This will be discussed with the committee and decisions will be noted in the minutes. 	<p>JM</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other discussion points- Jake Miller showed the members a 24-25 calendar with all the key dates noted which will shortly be posted on the website. 	
7.	<p>Officer Elections -all uncontested bar Northern Chair which had 3 nominations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice-president George Atwell Vice Chair Amelie Sadler Treasurer Dan Flood Team Racing Officer Freya Mason Fleet Racing Officer Robin Alexander Keel boating Officer Tom Clayton Match Racing Officer Teodor Tiryaki Development Officer Matt Shaw Media Officer Archie Bagshaw Tour Manager Ben Tylecote Regional Chairs: Scottish Becky Caiger Northern Angus Collingridge-James Edwards- George Schofield Midlands Henry Medcalf Western Ciara Charlwood Southern Sam Richardson Eastern Amy Wrightson 	JM
8.	<p>Any Other Business (AOB) Nothing Raised</p> <p>-</p>	JM
9.	<p>Results of the 2024-2025 elections</p> <p>All uncontested roles passed with no vote and with the Northern Chair the votes were as follows Angus Collingridge 25, James Edwards 19 and George Schofield 11 with Angus Collingridge voted in</p>	JM
10.	<p>Annual General Meeting Dates for the coming year</p> <p>- April 2025 AGM TBC</p>	KR