

THE BUSA AGM 2015 HELD ON FRIDAY 10TH APRIL
AT NOTTINGHAM SAILING CLUB, COMMENCING AT 18.00HRS

MINUTES

1. **In Attendance:** President Peter Johnson, Chair Phil Derry, Web Editor Tony Mapplebeck, Vice President Sean Clarkson, Vice President Tom Churchill, Treasurer Jon Napier, Women's Captain Emily Nagel, Men's Captain Connor Miller, Team Racing Co-ordinator Emily Wiltshire, Scottish Rep Theo Hoole, Keelboat Captain Tom Harrison, South Central Rep Jamie Barker, Midlands Rep Josh Flack, temp maternity cover for Secretary, Lizzie Fiddaman.

Apologies for absence: Western Area Rep Robbie Hooper, Northern Area Rep Charlie Fitzgerald

Universities in attendance: Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Liverpool, Loughborough, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Southampton, Strathclyde, Swansea, Warwick.

2. **Welcome** PD welcomed everyone to the AGM

3. **Brief Summary of the Year** Area Reports

1. **Scotland** Theo Hoole - Scotland had 18 teams for leagues this year, tried a new format and after a few glitches it was generally quite successful. Had lots of training and getting more umpires qualified has been good.

2. **Northern** Nothing from Charlie Fitzgerald but PD confirmed that qualifier went fine, expressed thanks to northern teams for getting that done. Yachting: there were 6 teams, Strathclyde, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and St Andrews. Team Racing Championships at Bardowie – 19 teams at the event run by Glasgow.

3. **Midlands** Josh Flack - Successful season, training with a coach paid for by BUSA in November with 7 teams from 4 diff unis. It was useful and well received. Moderately stressful qualifier although slightly more windy at Grafham than other places. 30 races on the Sat and 30ish on the Sunday afternoon which was deemed enough to get a result. It was good to have a lot of different events hosted by the Midlands clubs.

Chair confirmed that Scottish Student Sailing runs slightly differently to BUSA, alongside and independently and run their own events as well. Everyone is welcome to engage with Scottish events. Chair thanks Josh and the midlands group for their hard work and training throughout the year.

4. **Western** Robbie another good year Fleet Racing Nationals held at Plymouth Team Events throughout the year well attended and well supported by Western Universities have moved from strength to strength and lots of training at weekends throughout the year. Western Qualifiers had 16 teams attend from 7 diff unis and the playoffs hosted and won by Cardiff

5. **South Central** Jamie Barker – Qualifiers went really well everyone enjoyed it and got through all of the races by lunchtime Sunday with 17 teams. 2 Oxford events, Southampton and lots of London Universities all well attended and well run. Really good turnout at Yachting nationals with teams from all over the UK. Insight into training days but not much uptake from South Central Unis. Hopefully next year there will be more take up on training days, it's a really good idea to have a coach as well and there is some funding for that. JB wished his successor in the role good luck and confirmed that it's a fun role and he would recommend it.

Chair offered his thanks to all the area reps and confirmed that Team Racing is the biggest organisational part of BUSA and can only be run with work from the area reps. Five simultaneous events with 20 teams across the country makes it one of the biggest events of its kind throughout the world and a big strain on TR resources – umpires, race officers boats and ribs etc.

Team Racing Emily Wiltshire – Pretty good year events ran smoothly we felt all the teams who should have qualified did.

Jon Napier – There were 82 teams, which is good so the number stays between 80 and 90 each year. All the events have gone pretty well, there was bit of an issue with the playoff results but other than that no technical hitches. There remains problems with team changes right before the qualifiers. We changed the rules so teams can be set up to 2 weeks before the event but a lot of Unis didn't put anyone on their reserve list which causes the organisers big problems. JN advised teams to put entire club membership on reserve list so that they are insured if needed on final team. If they're not on the reserve list they need to go through BUCS.

JN expressed thanks to Nottingham for the event - it's been a great venue, a lot of work and a great working relationship. JN confirmed that after this event BUSA will publish the info to bid for next year – the plan is to have up until the end of April to send one page letter to express interest. Speak to Nottingham, Strathclyde or the Committee.

PD re-iterated the importance of the Reserve list.

Question from the floor – “Is there any way to change the limit of three teams to the qualifiers we're finding it restrictive for our club size to have only three teams to have the chance to progress through to nationals? Could 4 enter and only take the top 3

JN confirmed he wouldn't comment on policy – that's for students - but the rule is top three per club at the moment there's four qualifying direct and three going to playoffs but he would leave it to the students to discuss

PD confirmed that these things have been discussed over the years and Southampton often raise this issue. Originally you could have an unrestricted number to qualifiers but you could only take your top three results from that - that caused problems with top teams getting out qualified by their lower teams and then putting pressure on their lower teams to drop out and that was seen as not particularly sportsmanlike and also we don't want to see unis that might enter, not entering because there are not enough spaces. PD confirmed that if students want this changed to bring it to committee. If it does change it would have to be with the provision that if your qualifier reached capacity then you would have to turn away 4th teams then 3rd teams in the way that its done for yachting and MR. It is possible and decisions made in the past can be revisited

JN – this year we implemented a rule putting a cap in the qualifier of 20 – once it gets beyond 20 it becomes unmanageable. This means we had to set down a rule about the order of entries and some came down within minutes of each other so I would encourage you not to wait until the deadline as it could mean that you will not get a place. Once NoR is published, get the AU to put in a team entry.

Yachting Sean Clarkson – Yachting Nationals held at Portsmouth although the Tuesday was lost to bad weather we got in 6 races - Including the long distance race so we awarded the Jim Saltanshall Teapot Trophy - in spite of this. HRH and John Inverdale attended which brought a special element to the event.

Tom Harrison asked that any issues be raised with the committee so they can be ironed out next year.

SC echoed this and confirmed that events evolve and change and that as this was his first year he would like to change some things and encouraged members to come forward with input. SC also echoed JN's comments about adding all members to reserves list.

Chair thanked any students who attended for their cooperation with HRH's visit and leaving the boats in good condition.

SC thanked the competitors for good behaviour at Gunwharf and reiterated the chair's thanks for cooperation with the HRH visit.

Chair also thanked Theo Hoole for the SSS championships – great to see that back up and running.

Fleet Racing Sean Clarkson - Held at Plymouth, 162 sailors in 88 boats representing 16 Universities. It was an excellent event. Windy on the Saturday so had to hold racing in the Cattewater but Sunday in out the Sound. Really good racing and an excellent event. Looking forward to going Cardiff for next year's event

PD confirmed the committee was keen to hear if people were deterred from entering because they couldn't get boats there or if there were issues. Any feedback please send to the committee or your area rep. It's important we know how big a factor these issues are so we know when we are organising events

SC queried why was there no interest in the development fleet when there had been so much expressed the previous year.

PD highlighted that there were no BUCS points assigned to it and queried if that was why there was no uptake.

Comments from the floor - lack of points makes it difficult to get funding from the AU.

Chair confirmed that it is not possible to allocate it BUCS points as it's a participation element, not the performance end.

Match Racing Phil Derry - confirmed that the Match Racing event is at capacity and encouraged students to continue to use this opportunity. Re-iterated it is a great opportunity for Keelboat racing and entry fee very reasonable for the boat use and accommodation as the RYA heavily supports this for BUSA. Also worth entering Winter Match Racing. It's impossible to get that much time in a keelboat for that little money.

BUSA tour Connor Miller and Emily Nagel - 25 applications in total. Both confirmed a great deal of time and effort had been put into selecting the team by the selection committee of Phil Derry, Peter Johnson and Jack Fenwick.

PJ confirmed final selection: Connor Miller, Emily Nagel, Emily Wiltshire, Tim Gratton, Ben Gratton, Arthur Henderson, Cam Douglas, Charlie Makepeace, Matt Reid, and Mike Matthews

Reserves: Guy Dixon, Sam Jenkins, James Grant, Chung Yang

PD summarised for those unfamiliar with that that this is a Biennial tour held in Sept an exchange between ICSA, the American equivalent of BUSA including Match Racing and Team Racing across the USA. Encourages people to keep it in mind for the next one in 2 years.

Comments from the floor: Scottish universities go back in September so this is an issue. PD agreed it is a concern about Scottish participation but confirmed that the dates are set by the Americans by their academic calendar and suggested that perhaps it is something that could be reviewed with the Americans in the future perhaps changed to August.

CM asked students to let the committee know when they are available for the next tour to be UK based.

Finance and Accounts

JN confirmed that accounts are published on the website.

Income -is made up mostly with entry fees – money comes through BUCS, however BUCS deduct 5% for admin fees which this year the RYA absorbed so that entry fees to students don't increase. It is unknown if this will continue to be the case. Discussions with RYA are ongoing.

Subs - these will not increase so remain £150 for non-committee Unis, £100 if there is someone on the committee

Expenditure – most of this goes to events. £1k came from a late invoice for the 2015 tour. Money goes on development for TR and Yachting, including £1600 on SYWOC and training in Midlands. There is money available to spend but it must be spent on activity that benefits a number of universities. Speak to your area rep.

A small surplus of £700 made.

Website Tony Mapplebeck - Facebook BUSA Sailing group– TM confirmed that whilst it's difficult to restrain non university sailing students from joining, we probably reject more than join as so many people want to advertise. TM wanted students to be aware that we try to manage it so it is primarily about BUSA activities and Sailing Clubs.

TM confirmed that Jess Beecher, Sean Clarkson and TM have planned all additional sections for the website especially for the development section. This partly down to meeting in January with BUCS and the RYA Sport Development team. We want to give greater emphasis to increasing participation as this is very important to Sport England. University sailing is making a great but perhaps unnoticed contribution to this.

TM confirmed that there had been discussion with BUCS about the coverage of sailing that BUCS provide on their website and is pleased to report that BUCS have used the Yachting report as the headline for the first time. Reiterated that BUCS are very keen on press with freshers entering championships and he is happy to collect quotes from students.

PD reiterated that anyone wanting to provide quotes should email TM, SC or BUSA address. PD encourages students in journalism or electronic media and publicity who may or may not have a sailing background to get in touch with the committee to get involved.

TM confirmed that we work very hard with universities to help publicise their events and that AUs respond very well to this publicity. TM confirmed he is very happy to help make that happen

4. 2015-16 Committee (Elections)

PD asked candidates present to outline their experience and background.

Only one applicant for each of the following positions was proposed. No objections were made.

Chairman: Emily Wiltshire
Northern Co-ordinator: James Cunnison
Vice-President: (re-election) Tom Churchill
Scotland Co-ordinator: Emily Robertson
Ladies Captain: (re-election) Emily Nagel

Unfilled positions below will be filled by co-option. Positions are outlined in the constitution. Interested parties should get in touch with the committee and previous post holder.

Men's Captain
Team Racing Co-ordinator
Midlands Co-ordinator
South Central Co-ordinator
Western Co-ordinator
Keelboat Officer

Hon Member: Jack Fenwick and Andy Wibroe applied. Students invited to vote using paper ballot one per University. JF elected by clear majority.

No objections to re-election of President, Hon Treasurer and Web Editor.

5. Motions:

None discussed.

6. Discussion Points:

New Inland Fleet Racing event

PD asked for feedback on when would be the best time for this to be held. The consensus from the floor was early in the year.

7. Any Other Business

BUCS update Tom Churchill confirmed BUSA has met with them numerous times and they are not removing any points from sailing events. Not sure how long this is for but no further reviews planned at the moment. Confirmed that this is good news but we must remain diligent

TR Worlds in Rutland 19-24 July Jon Napier– announced that Rutland are looking for volunteers for crewing (incl for non UK entries), volunteering and training for developing nations. TM confirmed that non UK sailors are also welcomed. Contact JN for more details.

PD opened the floor to questions. None forthcoming.

JN expressed the committee's gratitude for PD's work for the committee

PD offered the floor to the new chair.

Emily Wiltshire closed the meeting.