

MINUTES

In attendance: Philip Derry, Jess Beecher, Tom Churchill, Sean Clarkson, Tony Mapplebeck, Nick Wilkinson

Welcome by Phil Derry, Chairman: Welcome to the BUSA AGM 2014. Thank you for being here, and I hope you all had a great day on the water today. I'm Phil Derry, the BUSA Chairman, and I'd like to introduce Tom Churchill, Vice President to open proceedings.

Tom Churchill – BUSA VP. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the BUSA 2014 AGM. Each year BUSA grows and this year is no exception with nearly 1000 students participating in BUSA run events and many more in your own university run events. It is a real strength of our sport to see so many people competing on a regular basis. BUSA exists solely for the facilitation of student sailing and we are reliant upon individuals stepping forward for either Committee positions or hosting events. The next few years for BUSA will be both positive and challenging. The change in BUCS point's allocation is on the horizon and we should be mindful of the impact this may cause. As BUSA, we will work towards resolving any issues to ensure a positive effect for all of our members.

Finally it falls to me to express thanks to our retiring committee members, the RYA, Strathclyde, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Birmingham, to our qualifier host clubs and to all our members for your participation and work towards ensuring a successful season for the British University Sailing Association.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Peter Johnson (President), Jon Napier (Treasurer), Alan Baser (Member), Bex Dawkes (Northern Rep), Josh Flack (Midlands Rep), Jilly Darling (Western Rep), Sarah Moulder (Ladies Captain), Steve Gibson (VP), Amy Prime (Keelboat), Ruth Cannel-Whitely (SSS rep).

- 2. Brief Summary of the Year:**

- Area Reports

Scotland – report to follow.

Northern – Report from Bex Dawkes, delivered by SC.

“We have had 5 great university hosted events in the region this year. The RYA/BUSA Ladies Nationals was held at WKSC this year and northern sailors making up 5/6 of the BUSA Ladies Team and team from Manchester. We have had a tricky year for the Northern Qualifier, due to bad weather both the qualifier and reserve weekend were postponed, which resulted in a reduced event being run on a Wednesday afternoon at Pennine SC, by Sheffield Hallam to meet the deadline for the finals.

8 people from the region have attended and RYA umpire seminar and are on their way to becoming qualified. This course was set up by BD. SC reminded all clubs that this offer of the course/seminar is available in all regions, simply gather a few clubs together and contact JB or Jacqui Roberts at the RYA. BD has rekindled and re-united the Northern area universities this year, after the demise of ANUSC. A new Facebook group has been set up. Northern universities have also been represented at the Match racing (York, Newcastle and Durham) and at the Yachting (Newcastle and Durham).

SC thanked BD for a good year.

Midlands – JF report. It's been a strong season for Midland universities, we've had some excellent and well attended events in the region. Collaboration between clubs has been good this year.

Successful TR qualifier with the full round robin sailed and all 14 teams, despite strong winds on the day. Birmingham hosted a successful Playoffs. Congrats to Cambridge Pink who won the TR Finals last week. Other activity from the area includes Connor Miller and his Loughborough team who in their first year of Match racing have made an impact on the MR scene, coming 3rd at the MR Championships and have been selected for FISU. The region also have 3 teams at the yachting (Cambridge blue and red, Loughborough). Discussions are underway between clubs in the region to run training next season.

Western – report to follow

South Central – Report to follow.

- **Team Racing** – SC reported. It's been another busy year with a number of well-run university events throughout the country. The BUSA qualifier events went well, in difficult conditions. Playoffs at Birmingham, mixed conditions, but some very good sailing. Strathclyde hosted the Finals – This was a very well-run event with a mixture of conditions to challenge the teams and some great sailing. TR forum at Finals – A number of ideas came out of the forum. Money is available for groups of universities wishing to train and be coached together, simply write up a bid and send it to your area rep and/or Jess.

We are planning a new course/meeting for event organisers in September/October in order to assist clubs with running events. Racing Coach L2 courses – subsidised courses are available through area reps/or Jess.

- **Match Racing** - With 14 teams this year it was a great event. Won for a second year in a row by Solent's Philip Bendon, Chris Tiernan, Bruno van Dyke. The plan is to repeat the event next year in the same format over 3 days, with training on the day beforehand.
- **Yachting** – 23 teams. Date set of 2015 (week before Easter). Any feedback, post event would be welcome.
- **Fleet Racing** - Nearly 200 sailors, just over 110 boats in Plymouth last November. We will announce the 2014 venue after the next committee meeting. Additional help with getting charter boats is in the plan for 2014 event. As soon as more information is available we will publish it and contact clubs.
- **BUSA Teams** (Events, FISU) – NW reported – This year BUSA had a selection criteria for the Wilson Trophy, which was to send the top university team that had not already attend the event. Due to the top 8 teams already having attended the event or are unable to attend, BUSA will not be sending a team this year. We will review this for next year.
2K Team Racing – available National and European circuit. Need 6 – 8 sailors per team.
FISU – Teams selected at event in February. Nick Wilkinson, Connor Miller and Annabel Vose selected. Good mixture of universities involved.
SYWC top 3 teams (Scot/Eng/Wales) from this event.
- **Finance and Accounts** –PD - I've been asked by Jon Napier (Hon. Treasurer) to report on the finances for the Year Ending August 2013. Generally the accounts remain in good health and Jon is happy. We ended the year with a small surplus, and accounts have been well managed since then. Happy with TR Qualifiers and Finals; worked well putting all the entry fees through BUSA. This resulted in a higher overall turnover in the accounts. Overall we're in good shape, and there remains money available to groups of member clubs (a few universities) for specific purposes/projects (e.g. training, officials courses), so please get together, work out what would benefit you and put a proposal in to your Area Rep, the BUSA Captains and/or the Secretary and Chair. We all want to support student sailing in any way we can, but you need to come to us!
- **Website** – TM reported – TM reminded sailors to please pass feedback to us about events and the website. This year we have used Twitter/Cover it live successful again. The cover it live blog for the Team Racing Finals had 2980 clicks through it and 500 watching on the last day.
Publicity – we are keen to gain as much publicity not just in the UK, but also abroad. Reports for all BUSA events have been posted on Sail World this year. Members own events coverage has increased. TM needs a club member to write the reports as TM isn't there, but TM is happy to support etc. Special thanks to London Duck, Exeter Excalibur, Big Lash and Nottingham Snakebite; all had really strong reports. Sailing clubs want to increase their own marketing for sponsors, alumni etc. Thank you to those who have contributed text/photos.

PD thanked the committee for their hard work this year.

PD reminded members to get involved, apply to be on the committee.

3. 2014-15 Committee (Elections)

Vice President – Sean Clarkson (Sheffield Hallam)

Ladies Captain – Emily Nagel (Southampton)

Scotland Co-ordinator – Theo Hoole (Strathclyde)

South Central Co-ordinator – Jamie Barker (Southampton)

Midlands Co-ordinator – Josh Flack (Cambridge)

Uncontested positions. Any objections – none.

Re-election of President, Hon Member, Hon Treasurer, Hon, Member and BUSA Web Editor.

Any objections – none.

No nominations for Keelboat Officer, Northern Rep and Western rep. People have now put themselves forward for the Northern and Western roles, the Committee will then review applications and co-op people into these roles at the next meeting.

Full job descriptions are in the constitution.

Contested Roles:

Team Racing Co-ordinator – Emily Wiltshire (Cardiff) or Ali Sims (Ex Leeds)

Men's Captain – Connor Miller (Loughborough) or Ben Gratton (Oxford)

4. Motions:

1. Constitutional amendments

Delete Articles 7 and 8.2 and replace with:

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7. OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

7.1 *There shall be the following Senior Officers:*

(a) *The Honorary President*

(b) *The Chairman*

(c) *Two Vice-Presidents*

(d) *The Secretary*

(e) *The Honorary Treasurer*

(f) *The RYA Representative*

7.2 *The Honorary President, the Chairman and Vice-Presidents shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for two years.*

7.3 *The Honorary Secretary shall be appointed by the General Committee following consultation with the Royal Yachting Association and shall hold office for such term as the Committee thinks fit.*

7.4 *The Honorary Treasurer shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office until the succeeding Annual General Meeting.*

7.5 *The RYA Representative shall be appointed by the Royal Yachting Association with the consent of the General Committee and shall hold office for such term as the Committee thinks fit.*

7.6 *There shall be the following Officers:*

(a) *The Team Racing Co-ordinator*

(b) *The Men's Captain*

(c) *The Ladies' Captain*

(d) *The Website Editor*

(e) *The Keelboat Officer*

(f) *The Honorary Member*

7.7 *The Officers shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting and shall hold office until the succeeding Annual General Meeting.*

7.8 *There will also be an Area Representative for each Area defined in Article 12.2 who shall report and be responsible to the Team Racing Co-ordinator. Area Representatives shall be elected by the Member Clubs of the relevant Area.*

7.9 *The Honorary Member shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office until the succeeding Annual General Meeting. The Honorary Member must be an RYA-qualified race official.*

7.10 *No more than two of the Senior Officers or Officers may be undergraduate or postgraduate members of the same Member Club.*

7.11 *Retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election but shall not hold office for more than four years unless the General Committee recommends to the Annual General Meeting that they be re-elected notwithstanding they have served more than four years.*

7.12 *The Chairman, the Secretary and one other Senior Officer appointed by the Chairman shall represent the Association to British Universities & Colleges Sport.*

7.13 *Where the position of any Senior Officer or Officer is vacant, the General Committee may co-opt a suitable and competent person to fill that office until the next Annual General Meeting when he or she shall retire. Any term of office served as a co-opted officer shall not count towards any limit on terms of office or the length of a term of office.*

8. GENERAL COMMITTEE

8.2 *The General Committee shall consist of the Senior Officers, the Officers and the Area Representatives. "*

VOTE – motion passed, all agreed

5. Discussion Points:

- **New Inland Fleet Racing event:** As discussed at the TR forum at Finals. The Fleet racing is a large scale coastal event, with several fleets, which does bring some difficulty with finding host venues and for members to attend the event. In the past there has been an Inlands event. There is a plan to rejuvenate the event this autumn with a short course fleet racing event aimed at beginners. Races would last 15-20 minutes on a windward/leeward course. Sailed in 18 matched boats (OA provided) in 2 divisions (Division A and B, each team enters 2 boats (A and B)). Each sail 2 races, alternating between the 2 divisions. Scores would be added together into a single team score. If the interest is good, we could look to expand this to the regions in the future.

Scotland are interested in running something similar, however when in the calendar is there a plan to run this? PD responded that we would plan to run during the first term and possibly just before or just after the Fleet racing in November. If you would like to know more, please contact PD. In the US the teams only do short course fleet racing for the first team.

6. Any Other Business

- Report on e-votes and paper ballots
Team Racing Co-ordinator – Emily Wiltshire (Cardiff)
Men's Captain – Connor Miller (Loughborough)
- TC thanked all the members for their support this year. There have been no reports of dissent from any of the events this year. This is a positive message to the officials at the events. TC reminded that you represent BUSA and BUCS at this event, so please take responsibility for not only yourselves, but everyone at the event.
- Damage at Team Racing events: BUSA produced a code of conduct for dealing with damage at events. Clubs had to agree to the code of conduct to be advertised on the BUSA website. There have been no reported incidents this season.
- BUCS Sports Criteria and points review: The committee have been working with BUCS and the RYA to try to clarify the situation and how to maintain our current points and strengthen our position. It is unclear from BUCS as to how they are going to do this. The committee will continue to do everything it can to fight your corner and to keep member clubs informed when we have some more solid information.

Question: Is there anything that BUSA can provide to help our AUs fight/put our case forward at the BUCS conference.

JB - BUCS have provided very little information to us at the moment. We have had nothing new from them since last August. The Points are remaining the same for this year and are being changed for the 2014-15 season. Many of the other NGBs are also not happy with the changes that are being pushed through without consultation. JB advises you all to speak to your AU's to put forward your own case that you want to attend the sailing events, as if you don't then gaining funding for a non-BUCS event next year will be very difficult.

Question: Does BUSA have a contingency plan?

JB/PD – not yet, but we will work on one when we have a better idea from BUCS as to what is happening. PD reminded the members that we have the full support of the RYA and that we will plan to run the events next year

TC reminded members that it is not just sailing that is in this situation, there are several others that are in the same position.

PD we will continue to fight!

Meeting ended.