

**THE BUSA AGM 2012 HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 APRIL 2012 AT WEST KIRBY SAILING CLUB, AT
18.00HRS**

MINUTES

The Chairman welcomed the BUSA Members and introduced the attending BUSA Committee members:

Hon. President: Peter Johnson (PJ)
Hon. Member: Alan Baser (AB)
Secretary: Jess Beecher (JB)
TR Co-ordinator: Tessa Hamer (TH)

Hon. Treasurer: Jon Napier (JN)
Chairman: Ed Morris (EM)
Web Editor: Tony Mapplebeck (TM)
Men's Captain: Andy Shaw (AS)

Members in attendance (2 representatives per university): Bath, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Dundee, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Lancaster, Liverpool, Loughborough, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Portsmouth, Southampton, Solent, Strathclyde, Swansea, Warwick.

The Chairman ruled that a quorum was present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Midlands Rep: Tom Ripley, Scotland Rep: Alice Meaden, Western Rep: Andy Pinkham, VP: Ben Towell, VP: Chris Carden.

EM reported no apologies received from Northern Rep: Ed Fox, Ladies Captain: Anna MacKenzie or Keelboat Officer: Aaron Cooper

2. Welcome by the President

The President welcomed the Members to the 2012 AGM and congratulated the Committee on a successful year of events. The President thanked the Secretary for her continued work for BUSA. He also expressed his thanks to Plymouth for hosting the BUCS Fleet Racing, Portsmouth/Sunsail for the Yachting and Liverpool/WKSC for the Team Racing. The President thanked the volunteers for all the events and said they are invaluable. The President made special mention of the work done for the Qualifiers when hundreds of sailors were supported by lots of volunteers. The President hoped the Members would enjoy the rest of the week.

3. Brief Summary of the Year:

• **Area Rep Reports**

- a) Scotland – the Scotland Rep could not attend and in her place Niall Macleod reported to AGM. Full report, see Appendix A.
- b) Northern – 18 teams attended the Northern Qualifier. Conditions were windy and freezing. The event was run with the help of WKSC. Northern university events have performed well this year, with increased numbers of teams (15 plus) at most events.
- c) Midlands – It's been another good year for Midlands university sailing. All of the universities individual events have been well attended, well-run and produced some high quality team racing, as well as providing an opportunity for some of the less experienced teams to compete. The Qualifier ran without a hitch and was successfully completed within one day, providing a good spread of results, with top 4 university 1st teams placing top 4. The conditions were favourable and resulted in some good racing. A second Cambridge and Birmingham team then went on to compete at the Play-offs, both making the Finals and Cambridge placing first. Congratulations also to the Area's three ladies teams submitted in this year competition and especially to Cambridge who

placed 4th. All clubs have on the whole been responsive, efficient and a pleasure to deal with when necessary.

- d) Western – the Western Rep sent his report via the Men's Captain. Team numbers were down this year as Aberystwyth did not enter. Looking to run more interclub training for the smaller clubs next year.
- e) South/Central – Poor weather conditions hampered the Qualifier, but they managed to get the required racing in. Planning to move Oxford to the Midlands area as South Central is now at Maximum capacity with 3 new Bournemouth/Arts teams.
- **Team Racing** – the Team Racing Co-ordinator reported. Area reps did well despite poor conditions. Playoffs went well despite last minute drop outs by Southampton and Sheffield. Ladies Championships was successful with an increase in teams at the event. Winners were Southampton. Finals - Thanks go to WKSC and Liverpool for assistance with this event. Please bid for 2013 Championships.
- **Match Racing & Yachting**

Match Racing – the Secretary reported. 2 qualifiers have taken place (7 at SUSA, 9 at Southern). The Finals are due at the end of this month, 8 teams have confirmed, 1 withdrawn and the final invite is now awaiting a response. The RYA is still in discussion regarding 2012-13 programme.

Yachting – 29 teams entered. Exeter won narrowly beating Portsmouth and Plymouth Pink. A safety talk was held on the Monday evening and was well received. Easter holidays 2013 – the Secretary is looking into the dates and is aware of clashes with some universities term dates.
- **BUSA Teams**

Ladies – no report was received from the Ladies' Captain, but its believed no activity has happened.

Men – the Men's Captain reported that a mixed team has entered the Wilson, names tbc. In September plans are being made to run a team racing captains training weekend. All university captains are invited and it is hoped that this could include an RYA Racing Coach Level 2, Team Racing qualification.
- **Finance and Accounts**

The meeting received the annual accounts from the Honorary Treasurer. He reported that the Association had made a small loss due to the decision of the Committee to invest in the BUSA website, which now looks more up to date. There were no questions on the accounts.
- **Website**

The Web Editor reported. The new website and the BUSA Sailing Facebook group are the culmination of a lot of work by the Secretary. We are trying to help to ensure we get as much content, in terms of news and photos from events and activities. The website is there to serve University sailors and University sailing. BUSA Sailing on Facebook provides all our sailors and others involved in university sailing with a way to share news and ideas.

He went on to say that the website is also the shop window - one way to market university sailing – to the sailing community at home and abroad and to future university sailors. Many young sailors (and their families) are not aware of what sailing opportunities there are beyond their current youth class and what can they look forward to with their sailing careers. By creating interesting news about the range of sailing - match racing, team racing, yachting, as well as fleet racing, events, especially the those by individual universities - and linking these to class websites and having reports published on Y&Y, Sail-World etc., we can prepare our future university sailors....for Freshers' week, at least!

The Editor said that one of the things BUSA has started to do is to get news up from university events over the weekend -before, during and after. He mentioned especially the help of Jess Portway (Bristol Brew), Sophie Carr (Geordie Shore), Lucy Weys (Oxford Magnum) and Rebecca Talbot (Nottingham Snakebite) for doing just this. Members can, of

course, post their own – and some Members have set up their own event pages that BUSA can link to – but the Editor is very ready to arrange to ring someone after Saturday sailing to post the news.

The Editor said it is even better that BUSA can also post an event report, especially with some photos, afterwards. These can then be linked to other websites (e.g. if a former youth class sailor excels – the Mirrors, Cadets and 420s are very keen on this). Better still, BUSA can get the reports up on Yachts & Yachting and Sail-World. The Editor was very grateful to the Team Racing Co-ordinator (Bottled Firefly), Becky Diamond (Welsh Dragon), the Chairman (Wessex Alumni etc.) and Anthony Butler (Cam Cup, and Oxford & Cambridge Sailing Soc.) for supplying so much post-event information that we could arrange reports like this. The Editor also thanked Niall McLeod, the TR Coordinator of SUSA, for his excellent reports from so many events in Scotland this year and photos taken by the Scotland Rep.

Finally the Editor said he would like to make early contact with the new ‘movers and shakers’ in each university sailing club - who is who for 2012/13 - and to ensure BUSA gets a good build-up of news before the start of the new academic year, as well as early logging of events into the calendar.

4. Elections

The Chairman read through the nominations for non-contested and re-elected Committee positions:

- Peter Johnson nominated for Honorary President
- Alan Baser nominated for Honorary Member
- Jon Napier nominated for Honorary Treasurer
- Tony Mapplebeck nominated for Web Editor
- Steve Gibson for Vice-President
- Phil Derry for Men's Captain
- Marinathe Evangelidis for Ladies' Captain
- Theo Hoole for Scotland rep
- Tessa Hamer for Northern rep
- Ben Treloar for Midlands rep
- Miles Blaver-Mann for Western rep

The Chairman asked the Members if anyone objected to these appointments. No objections were raised and therefore the above were declared duly elected.

There was then an election for the contested position of South Central Rep. The nominations were Helen Taylor and Rajita Patel (both from Southampton). As neither was able to attend the AGM, the current Southern Rep read out Helen's information and the Chairman read out Rajita's.

A secret ballot was conducted and the results were announced at the end of the meeting.

5. Motions

a) Team Racing Review

MOTION: To agree that the General Committee may establish a review of BUSA and university team racing competitions and to make recommendations to the 2013 AGM or a Special General Meeting.

REASONS:

BUSA and university team racing remain popular with between 80 and 90 teams entering the BUSA Team Racing Championships each year. Alongside this, there are around 16 separate university events throughout the season to provide additional racing opportunities. However there are issues to be looked at such as format, the number of teams, capacity of venues, BUCS points allocations etc. In order to properly review these, the Committee would like the AGM's permission to begin a review of BUSA and university team racing. The review would report to the 2013 AGM or a Special General Meeting with a view for any changes being introduced for the 2013/14 season. No substantial changes would be made for the 2012/13 season.

The Members asked how is this going to be done. The Honorary Treasurer responded that BUSA will set up a review group to start thinking about how changes could be made and will ask people to send feedback to us. The Treasurer asked that Members let BUSA know if anyone would like to be involved with this (the Secretary at RYA.). The Secretary confirmed the Committee are also planning to meet with BUCS to assist in this development and the recent team cap discussion from Facebook will be used as part of this Review.

The Honorary Treasurer also raised the issue of the hosting the Team Racing Finals 2013 and said no Member had yet asked to host. The Treasurer reminded the Members that the RYA is not the organiser of last resort and if no one bid for the event, the Committee would not run it themselves.

The Chairman put the question and the motion was agreed to without objection.

b) Charitable Trust

MOTION: To authorise the General Committee to establish a charitable trust to support university sailing and racing and to make appropriate donations to it.

REASONS:

BUSA is not a charity and is therefore unable to invest its funds in anything other than cash (to do so would attract a tax bill). By creating our own charitable trust (under the control of BUSA-appointed trustees), we would be able to invest some of our funds and produce an income. Member clubs and university sailors would then be able to apply for grant funding and the trust would be able to apply for other types of funding for university sailing (BUSA cannot do so as it is not charitable).

The level of funding would be agreed by the Committee on the basis of BUSA's financial performance each year and taking into account the need to hold sufficient reserves to enable BUSA to operate.

Phil Derry (Oxford) added that if people want to get in touch with the holders of the Tour Trust fund please get in touch with him and he will be able to help you. PD also reminded BUSA members that the trust can support development and training, as well as the BUSA Tour.

The Chairman put the question and the motion was agreed to without objection.

c) Constitutional amendment

MOTION: Amend Article 11.3 of the Constitution by adding the following words that are underlined:

11.3 *The General Committee may appoint a Senior Officer or Officer or several of them to exercise the powers of an Organizing Authority under the RRS in relation to the Events (to be known as “Technical Delegates”).*

REASONS:

To update the terminology currently used.

The Chairman put the question and the motion was agreed to without objection.

6. Discussion Points:

Jamie Marston from the RYA Team Racing Working Group was invited to address the AGM.

The aim of the RYA TRWG is to make team racing grow in the UK. Team Racing revolves around BUSA. The RYA TRWG are aware that several clubs are having issues with their host clubs. This relationship needs to be nurtured and looked after.

There is some Sport England Funding that the RYA is applying for, being made available for 14-25 year olds. This funding may be available to buy equipment and resources, rather than training. There is a lot of thought and discussion to look into this as we will not be buying boats and ribs for all universities, without a comprehensive plan of how these assets will be used, looked after and maintained.

ISAF Team Racing Worlds 2013 – likely to be in Holland. European Team Racing event in Venice in September 2013. The current plans are hoping for a Europeans in the UK in 2014 - 15.

7. Any Other Business

The Secretary reported on e-votes and paper ballots. Rajita Patel received 6 votes. Helen Taylor received 25 votes. There were 13 abstentions. Helen Taylor was declared duly elected.

Manchester queried the hike in entry fees for university run events. The Chairman said as this is not a BUSA set entry fee, he invited responses from the floor. Jamie Marston responded – the quality of events is very low (equipment, clubs etc). Most of the top universities are not travelling to events. If you are going to travel, the events need to be good. This needs to be looked at as part of the TR Review. Cambridge reported that their entry fee is based on the fact that GWSC charge them £8 per person per day so it has to be high to cover this fee.

The Honorary Treasurer reminded the Members that the number of umpires is decreasing and there are never enough to cover all events. BUSA set up an umpire course for the two days before this event and only 3 students took up the opportunity even with BUSA paying 2/3rds of the cost. The Chairman reported that he attended the course and that it was really useful, insightful and that he has a new found respect for umpires. The Honorary Member said the RYA/BUSA can also run an introduction to umpiring course at your university. This is a one day course, with the RYA paying for the instructor, all you need to do is find a room for the day. Oxford reported that if Members do not start getting more umpires, event fees will always be high as they will always need to ship umpires in for an event.

The Chairman finally reminded Members of their behaviour and to have fun but not to cross the line. He remarked it was great to have an AGM well attended and hoped the Members would enjoy the rest of the event.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting.



SUSA Report: September 2011 – April 2012

As you all may have read from our reports on the BUSA website, SUSA changed the format for the league weekends this year. Instead of three weekends racing as has been done in previous years, our first weekend was dedicated to training, with an onshore theory session on the first day when the breeze didn't fill in. The leagues were started that afternoon due to the forecast, so we were able to finish the remaining 82 races on the second league weekend. We were then in a position to cut the fleet in half, with the top 8 teams going on to league 3, or the BUSA qualifier, in Granton, while the bottom half of the fleet were given training by coaches Callum Calder and Alex Ekström.

Edinburgh Blue, Strathclyde Blue and Glasgow Black qualified for Finals, whilst Dundee Red and Glasgow Yellow qualified for Playoffs. Playoffs were run jointly this year by Glasgow and Strathclyde at Bardowie, and that was also a great success, with Dundee Red also qualifying for Finals after the event!

SUSA Champs happened over Easter weekend, run by Dundee University and sailing from Loch Ore. With 18 entries, 5 of whom were Irish teams, the event was very competitive, but in the end * won, with * as top SUSA team.

Attempts to re-establish keelboat racing in Scotland, in the form of SUSA Yachting, were unsuccessful this year for a number of reasons, but we hope to have more success next year. Only Glasgow and Strathclyde universities entered teams for Match Racing in October, but Strathclyde Magenta, helmed by Ben Howett, qualified for BUSA Match Racing Finals. As the top Scottish boat they are also this year's Scottish Universities Sailing Association Match Racing Champions. Again, only Glasgow, Strathclyde and Edinburgh entered BUSA Yachting, but Glasgow came 9th, and as the top Scottish boat they qualify for SYWoC.

SUSA sent representational teams to Durham Dambuster and IUSA this year. Both events suffered from windy weather, but SUSA won the Dambuster (tied with 2 others) and reached the Gold fleet at IUSA.

Off the water, the final SUSA AGM happened on Saturday 7th April, in which it was decided to merge with Scottish Student Sport and RYA Scotland to form a new group, Scottish Student Sailing. The BUSA representative for Scotland will sit on this committee as well as the BUSA committee, and we would like to nominate Theo Hoole from Strathclyde for this position.

Finally, thanks to all who helped make SUSA a success, both this year and in previous years. Thanks to Bardowie Loch and the Clyde Cruising Club Dinghy Section, Royal Forth Yacht Club, Loch Ore and Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club for making our events a success, and to all the universities who hosted and provided helpers. Especial thanks to the final SUSA committee for all their hard work: Niall McLeod as Team Racing Coordinator, Robyn Fitzgerald as Keelboat Coordinator, Mark Taylor and Corey Fast as SUSA Captains, and Laurie Kibblewhite as Treasurer. Let's hope that the new Scotland region keeps up the good work!