



BUSA Annual General Meeting 2026

The 2026 Annual General Meeting held at 18:00 on Monday 20th April 2026

Via Google Meet, 18:00 - 20:00

This Meeting will be undertaken in accordance with the procedures set out in the BUSA Constitution and Standing Orders

Attendees

Bangor, Bath-University of Bath Sailing Club, Brunel sailing club, Cambridge University Cruising Club Durham University Sailing Club Edinburgh-University of Edinburgh Exeter Lancaster Liverpool-University of Liverpool Sailing Club Loughborough Student Sailing and Windsurfing Club Newcastle University Sailing and Yachting Club, Nottingham-University of Nottingham Oxford University Yacht Club, Portsmouth-University of Portsmouth, Reading University Sailing and Windsurfing Club, Southampton University, St Andrews-University of St Andrews, Strathclyde, Surrey, UEA-University of East Anglia, Warwick-University of Warwick, York-York University Windsurf and Sailing Club Plymouth-University of Plymouth Sailing Club Cardiff Karen Rawson KR Dan Flood DF Isobel Hedley Fenn IHF Freya Mason FM Jamie Edwards JE Jess Beecher JB George Atwell GA Henry Collins HC Lucy Cox LC Jack Dolder JD James Gifford JG Kate Wharmby KW Ella Nichols EN Henry Hollingworth HH Ollie Meadowcroft OM Neil Collingridge NC

Minutes

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Document</u>
1.	Apologies for Absence Notified:	KR	Alexander Inchbald AI Will Fearn WF Lottie Holland LH Tanyel Mustafa TM Tom Edwards TE
2.	Notifications of Any other business	KR	None
3.	Chair's Welcome	DF	DF welcomed everyone to the AGM and read out the BUSA mission statement. EN was thanked for the coastal race and talks will continue with BUCS to increase the number of BUCS points for this.
4.	Minutes of the 2025 AGM	DF	Proposed Neil Collingridge Second Sam Collins Approved by majority
5.	Finance and Accounts	HC	2025/26 YTD Report Good year building on last year with most events coming in on budget. We still have a few outstanding payments but will break even due to costs saved on insurance.

6.	Matters Arising - BUSA Safeguarding Policy Update	DF KR	The policy is due for review in May; it will remain unchanged as there have been no legislative updates this year. Furthermore, regarding this policy, we have had no student contact requiring investigation at any BUCS events.
7.	Reports of the Officers - Executive Committee Reports - Area Reports - Scotland - Northern - Midlands - Western - South-Central - Discipline Officers - Team Racing - Keelboat Racing - Match Racing - Fleet Racing - Development	DF JG JE LC OM LH IHF EN TE KW JD	President At the end of my third year with BUSA, I remain amazed and excited by the amount that BUSA achieves. I've been proud to be present at both Team Racing finals and at Yachting – the standard of sailing is high and competitive but generally undertaken in a positive and sportsmanlike manner. Outsiders who come and help or watch are often speechless at the scale and complexity of what we do. Match at WPNSA and Fleets at Derwent also went well by all accounts although I was sorry not to be there. I'd like to thank the Exec Team lead by Dan who work extremely hard to make sure these events happen and are at a consistent high standard. As someone who spends a lot of time at non-BUSA events I can assure everyone that, on the whole, they are. As with every year a number of the Committee are leaving today – we are indebted to all their hard work. If you are elected today to the new Committee – welcome! - please get stuck in – we need people who get stuff done rather than just sticking their job title on their CV. If you want to see things done differently within BUSA that's fine – you are the customers, but you'll need to help that happen. Despite there being much to be positive about and proud of, we do have ongoing issues. I'm delighted to see the Proposal for a Women's Captain. I trust that will get widespread support today. 47% of Team Racing Finals were female (still too few helms at 27%). A third of competitors at Yachting were female, and our Women's Team Racing Championships was a sell out – 18 teams but more who wanted to join in. We need to resolve how we run this going forwards and an element of that is our ongoing relationship with the RYA. I am very focused on ensuring entry costs are kept to a minimum as this is the best way to make our events inclusive. All universities and students remain under financial pressure. There's no magic money tree which can transform every university's finances but we need to ensure we run BUSA responsibly and get value for money. There is more that we can do with both BUCs and the RYA to ensure they give student sailing as much support as is possible. We also need to make sure we tell the BUSA story better as that is an essential element to them and others understanding the support we need. We've now got a much better functioning safeguarding policy and I'm personally grateful to Karen for volunteering for this important role but there are changes to safety requirements coming from the MCA and RYA which we will need to navigate carefully. Finally I'd like to thank all the students who sail under the wider BUSA umbrella – you are a credit to your generation and the future of sailing as a sport. And thank-you all those volunteers who turn out week after week, often through the bitter winter, to assist. If you think you're cold sailing your firefly in January or February, you should try sitting on a rib umpiring or race officering barely moving for hours on end – it freezes the balls off the brass monkey. Please remember that the vast majority of our volunteers give their time for

		<p>free (many don't claim the full cost of their expenses) and even when a decision goes against you remember that they've made that decision in good faith.</p> <p>Well done everyone for the last 12 months and good luck for the year ahead.</p> <p><u>Vice President</u></p> <p>Thanked the committee for all their work in the last year. DF thanked GA for all his work on the committee over the last few years.</p> <p><u>Vice Chair</u></p> <p>Busy year on BUSA committee!</p> <p>Maintained existing partnerships with a particular focus on developing the KSail partnership and how to strengthen this going forwards</p> <p>Event support across the year</p> <p>Ran additional sessions such as 'How to Run a Team Racing Event' in collaboration with the UK Team Racing Association</p> <p><u>Scotland</u></p> <p>has had another strong year, with our 3 event SSS qualifiers, completing 160 races in the round robin stage 1 and 175 in the Leagues stage 2 for a combined 335 races. Huge thank you to St Andrews, Strathclyde and Glasgow as well as all the external volunteers for making my life very easy running these three events. Outside of qualifying events this year has seen the most competitive editions of Glasgow Grouse and the Scottish Team Racing Championships I can remember, thank you to Glasgow and Edinburgh for running those events so well. Unfortunately, Ceilidh Cup, which incorporates the Scottish student match racing event as well as a match racing finals qualifier, was cancelled due to very high wind. Our Keelboating event took place in march and as BKL Forth qualified two Strathclyde teams and one Glasgow team forwards to BKL Finals.</p> <p>This year has also been a very successful year for Scottish Universities in BUCS, with Scottish unis competing at every single BUCS event, and winning BUCS points at all.</p> <p>Strathclyde won the overall team event at Fleets as well as the handicap fleet, with Edinburgh and Aberdeen also representing Scotland. For the first time since 2022 a Scottish uni made the trip to Match Racing, with Strathclyde finishing 5th.</p> <p>4 teams went to Playoffs, with Glasgow qualifying for Finals. 5 Scottish teams from 4 different universities went to finals, with Edinburgh finishing in 5th.</p> <p>3 teams also made the trip down to Yachting, with Strathclyde continuing the trend by finishing in 5th. Our year is not quite over, with Strathclyde running Wrath O'Strath, a random pairs team racing event, at the end of May, with all details on Instagram.</p> <p><u>Northern</u></p> <p>The North has had a fantastic year with Sheffield Shuffle, Angel of the North, The Howler and The Lash all going very well. Northern Quallies was a great weekend of very close racing at West Kirby with a massive 152 races completed, big thank you to Liverpool and West Kirby for hosting. The brilliant atmosphere in the region this year also resulted in an impromptu weekend of joint training before quallies. Northern teams had a successful time at Finals with 4</p>
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		<p>teams in the top 11, a truly fantastic achievement for everyone involved and the wider region.</p> <p>A large contingent of Northern teams made the journey to BUSA women's nationals, making up 50% of the teams. Durham and Newcastle both also sent teams to both match racing and yachting championships.</p> <p>We welcomed Queen's University Belfast to the region in December and over the course of the year held 3 regional events: an online team racing rules session, a captains training day with West Kirby and a regional team racing training weekend. All were very enjoyable and well attended, many thanks to James Chapman and Mike Hartley for delivering the rules session and captains training day.</p> <p><u>Eastern</u></p> <p>The most notable highlight was the return of the Losers Playoffs, now going by the name of development playoffs, which included Reading, Brunel, and Sussex, as well as a new entry from Imperial's "Kobra Hurricane" (their 4s). Unfortunately, UCL were unable to join us. The event was hosted by Imperial at Queen Mary's, and they deserve a great deal of credit for their hospitality and organisation. Maybe next year it could become a development tournament for the whole eastern area.</p> <p>On the administrative side, I established a regional group chat at the start of the year. Moving away from Facebook messenger, and over to WhatsApp, it has functioned as a central point for clubs to request advice or exchange contact numbers.</p> <p>I wish the committee a productive meeting and the very best of luck to my successor in the coming year.</p> <p><u>Midlands</u></p> <p>Over the 2025/26 academic year, the Midlands region has seen strong progress in participation, collaboration, and competitive engagement, alongside improved communication between clubs. Inter-university engagement has improved more broadly, with Midlands universities making a greater effort to attend each other's events and support regional competitions. This has had a positive impact on event viability and participation.</p> <p>A key development at the start of this year was the establishment of a two-month training partnership between Loughborough and Nottingham County Sailing Club, alongside Nottingham University Sailing Club. This was implemented in response to Loughborough temporarily having no access to boats, due to Ovington delivery delays. The partnership ensured continuity of training for sailors across multiple teams and, importantly, strengthened inter-university relationships within the region.</p> <p>BUCS Midlands Qualifiers were successfully delivered, hosting 13 teams and completing a full schedule of racing (117 races). While the event ran to a high standard, there were some late team withdrawals. Addressing these dropouts and improving commitment will be a focus for next year to maximise participation and stability. Building on this, there has been a noticeable increase in collaborative training opportunities. Pre-BUCS Finals training sessions were delivered all across the Midlands, involving Loughborough, Nottingham, Cambridge, and Rutland Sailing Club, providing higher-level preparation and encouraging knowledge</p>
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		<p>sharing across institutions. This has contributed to stronger regional cohesion and a more competitive standard across Midlands teams. Looking ahead, the Midlands region will host BUCS Fleet Racing Championships, delivered through a collaboration between Loughborough and Rutland Sailing Club. This presents a strong opportunity to showcase the region and is expected to drive high levels of participation and engagement.</p> <p>It is also encouraging to note that there is already at least one nomination for Midlands Area Chair for the upcoming year, which is a positive step in ensuring continuity of the role and avoiding the position being left vacant over the summer period.</p> <p>Overall, the Midlands region has made clear progress this year in strengthening relationships, increasing collaboration, and improving competitive standards. Continued focus on early engagement, commitment to events, and shared training opportunities will be key to building on this momentum.</p> <p><u>Western</u></p> <p>EIGHT team racing events run in Western region across the year Western Warmer hosted by Cardiff offering cheap coached racing for less-experienced team racers</p> <p>Increase in inter-club training drove improved participation and performance</p> <p>Due to complications with Cardiff Bay YC, Western Keelboat Association has become unsustainable - efforts should be continued regardless to allow student match racing to occur on a regular and affordable scale.</p> <p>Attempts made to host Women's Championships within Western Area - challenges currently exist across most Western venues preventing the hosting of 4+ flight team racing events. This is important to confront, as Western USCs are highly engaged and willing to run such events.</p> <p><u>South-Central</u></p> <p>This year in the South has been characterised by a continued focus on development and inter-club collaboration, particularly among newer and less established teams across the region's 8 clubs. A key feature of the region remains a wide range of experience levels between clubs consistently competing at a higher level and those still building experience. This disparity continues to shape levels of engagement, reinforcing the importance of accessible, development-focused opportunities for emerging teams.</p> <p>In response, a number of Southern clubs have increasingly engaged with others at similar stages of progression, both within the region and in collaboration with Eastern clubs. These relationships have provided valuable opportunities for shared training and racing experience.</p> <p>Within the South, Surrey hosted Sussex for a training day earlier in the year. Although conditions limited time on the water, the day still offered meaningful racing experience and helped to strengthen developing relationships between the clubs. In addition, Surrey are hosting a further training day with Brunel, continuing this pattern of engagement with Eastern counterparts.</p> <p>The South-Eastern 'Development Playoffs' also ran for a second consecutive year, with Sussex, Reading, and Brunel joined by a mixed UCL and Imperial team. Hosted by Imperial, the event</p>
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		<p>provided valuable competitive exposure for developing teams, particularly alongside more established programmes such as UCL and Imperial, whose institutional knowledge of team racing offered a strong learning environment. While regional representation was weighted toward the East, it was nevertheless encouraging to see clubs at similar stages coming together to train and compete. Opportunities such as these remain particularly important for developing clubs, offering accessible racing experience and a pathway into more formal competition structures. South Central BUCS saw 14 entries this year compared to 19 last year, with the reduction largely reflecting the absence of clubs that are still in the development phase.</p> <p>Looking ahead, there is clear value in continuing to support and expand these collaborative initiatives, both within the South and in coordination with the Eastern region. Encouraging greater engagement across clubs, alongside more regular and structured training opportunities, will be key to strengthening the region as a whole.</p> <p>Overall, it is encouraging to see continued momentum in development and collaboration within the region, providing a solid foundation to build on in the coming year.</p> <p><u>Team Racing 2025/26</u></p> <p>Qualifiers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Total of 58 teams and 348 competitors in England, Wales and now Northern Ireland, compared to last year's 67 teams and 402 competitors. •New teams competing: UEA Blue, QUB •5 universities who competed in last year's event did not compete this year. This might be due to rising financial pressures •Completed 645 races across all the regions – and no reserve weekends needed •Full round robins completed and multi-round robin scoring appendix used effectively – means sailors get more racing but fair scoring •Thank you to Loughborough for stepping in to host Midlands Qualifiers. Reminder that hosts do have the right to enact NOR 11.1 (Provision of Helpers) and competitors are required to comply with this •Several teams were impacted by a lack of BUCS Play reserves. In one case this led to a withdrawn entry •Note for next year: work with area chairs to gain a better picture of expected teams as this seems much more variable now <p>Playoffs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Only 18 teams present – would have preferred to offer remaining spaces to other teams but late communication from withdrawn teams means this was not possible whilst aligning with BUCS regulations •Full round robin completed <p>Women's Championship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •92 races completed in suboptimal conditions, plus full petit final and final •17 teams in the end instead of intended 18. Again, last minute withdrawals meant places could not be redistributed despite the high levels of demand – 28 teams had put forth entries! •High level of demand also demonstrates this event could and
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		<p>should be expanded if possible next year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Very successful event ran by Oxford, huge thank you to them•Exeter claimed victory for the second year in a row <p>Finals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•168 races in the Swiss League under suboptimal conditions. Huge thank you to Keith and race management team for their patience and excellent decision making to enable this•Full knockouts and finals completed•Many teams did not register any substitutes – this only proved to be an issue for one team but teams need to understand the risk associated with not registering substitutes•Top 10 were much more regionally-varied than usual years – all regions represented demonstrating rising standard at all qualifiers•47% of competitors were women, but only 19/84 (23%) of helms were women. This is an improvement on previous years but still a way to go•Thank you to Imperial for hosting <p>Overall notes and suggestions for future</p> <p>For competitors, it is important to remember that running any one of these events is a huge operation involving lots of people – all of whom are volunteers doing this for the love of our sport. Clear and prompt communication about your entry or any issues you having is an easy and helpful way to support the running of these events. Most organisers would much rather deal with lots of early silly questions than any last-minute panics!</p> <p>BUCS regulation on substitutions should be made clearer earlier to avoid the disappointment several teams experienced this year. This is clear in the NOR but should be emphasised in other ways too, such as through the area chairs and WhatsApp groups.</p> <p>Playoffs, Women's and Finals were all in the south of the country this year. Bids from midlands, northern and Scottish clubs should be encouraged for these events next year to redistribute the distance teams have to travel.</p> <p>Financial pressures may be becoming a barrier to entry for smaller clubs. This trend should be monitored, and next year's committee should investigate ways to improve affordability and accessibility</p> <p><u>Keel Boat</u></p> <p>We ran the first ever separated event with a distinct coastal and inshore championship.</p> <p>Good feedback from the volunteer team on how the event was run, awaiting feedback from competitors through the results of the BUCS feedback form.</p> <p>There were a few breakages at the event - some caused by the sailors, some equipment failures, in most cases Fairview were able to fix these issues and keep the boats competing as much as possible. Great relationship with Fairview.</p> <p>Despite the difficulty with finding qualified skippers and concerns with rising costs of the event, we managed to increase the number of boats entered over the last two years from 12-13 to 14 in the coastal event, and 15 in the inshore event.</p> <p>We had a lot of last-minute skipper and crew changes - right up until the on the day of the coastal race!</p> <p>Lots of universities did not have reserves entered which made this issue a lot more difficult to handle and coordinate between us, Fairview and BUCS, one of the reasons may be that the AU charge</p>
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		<p>the reserves the same amount as the team to be put on a reserve list. We need to speak to BUCS in regard to the cost of entering reserves and inform universities that they should have at least two listed.</p> <p><u>Match Racing 2025/26</u></p> <p>The 2026 Match racing championship took place in Portland, hosted by WPNSA and supported by the RYA. 15 entries from USCs were received with 14 invited to compete. The event was challenged by strong weekends on the first and third days of the championship. Whilst the event wasn't able to complete a full round robin as planned, a 2-group round robin was completed followed by playoffs for places 5-13 and semifinals for places 1-4.</p> <p>Whilst the event was successful and met many of the key development points highlight by BUCS, In light of rising costs and the length of the journey to Portland for northern and Scottish USCs, it will be important to carefully consider where the 2027 championship will be hosted.</p> <p>The increased popularity of Match racing should additionally be considered by the committee in discussing how additional qualifier, training and development events could be run by BUSA in the future.</p> <p><u>Fleet Racing</u></p> <p>Successful event back in November hosted by Durham University 148 competitors in 8 classes made the trek up North to Derwent Reservoir for the event</p> <p>Huge thanks go to DUSC volunteers, Derwent volunteers, and all sailors for making the trek up North</p> <p><u>2026 Event Save the Date!</u></p> <p>6-8th November Hosted by Loughborough Rutland Sailing Club</p> <p><u>Future</u></p> <p>Planning ways to make the rules less confusing (e.g. how the team competition and allocation of BUCS points works)</p> <p><u>Development</u></p> <p>Sailor Survey & Club Development Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Majority of clubs responded- Key issues raised regarding funding which was discussed before the release of the development fund regarding changes.- Lack of engagement over BUSA social media, I believe this has been rectified via advertisements of events which was highlighted as a key issue by multiple responses. <p>Development Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1 Round of Funding- 8 Bids submitted- 4 Bids Granted, some of the rejected ideas were appealing and will be looked into by future Development Officers- £720 of funding Approved, and on its way to be delivered <p><u>Media</u></p> <p>Media in 2025/26 has been highly productive, with good coverage of major events such as Playoffs, Finals, Yachting, etc. and positive relationships with universities in terms of reposting and communications between BUSA committee and member clubs. Photography at events has also been at a high quality and</p>
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			abundant, especially at major events (yachting is a prime example of this!). I hope to have a few 'year in review' montages posted in the coming weeks as well.
8.	<p>Motions</p> <p>(A) Motion to amend Fleets Regs & NoR</p> <p>(B) Motion for the creation of a BUSA Women's Representative</p>	DF	<p>(A) 2026 Fleets Proposal</p> <p>The full details are in the link above with a slight changing in the wording from last year. There are 4 proposals which are BUCS related bar proposal C which is BUSA only. With the passing of the proposal, this can go to BUCS with the full backing of BUSA.</p> <p>All 4 of Fleets proposals were passed with results below</p> <p>Fleets Proposal A: 37 For, 8 Against, 1 Abst Fleets Proposal B: 38 For, 6 Against, 2 Abst Fleets Proposal C: 43 For, 0 Against, 3 Abst Fleets Proposal D: 30 For, 12 Against, 4 Abst</p> <p>(B) Women's Rep Proposal</p> <p>The full details are in the link above and IHF addressed the AGM with the proposal</p> <p>This was passed with results below</p> <p>Women's Rep Motion: 44 For, 3 Against, 2 Abst</p>
9.	<p>Officer Elections (all candidates for the below positions will be encouraged to say a few words and answer any questions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Vice-President</i> - <i>Vice-Chair</i> - <i>Treasurer</i> - <i>Team Racing Officer</i> - <i>Fleet Racing Officer</i> - <i>Keelboating Officer</i> - <i>Match Racing Officer</i> - <i>Development Officer</i> - <i>Media Officer</i> - <i>Tour Manager</i> - <i>Regional Chairs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Scottish</i> - <i>Northern</i> - <i>Midland</i> - <i>Western</i> - <i>South-Central</i> 	DF	<p>BUSA Committee Applications 2026-27</p> <p>Three roles are contested-Northern, Vice Chair and South Central Leonie MacDougall, Jamie Edwards & George Lance-Northern Area Chair Chloe Mills & Erin Gaynor-South Central Area Chair Will Fearn & Kate Wharmby (second Becky Gaiger)-Vice Chair</p> <p>The following roles are uncontested</p> <p>Amy Boyle-Development Officer Rose Ling-Fleet Racing Officer Tom Edwards-Treasurer Dominic Switzer-Keelboat Officer Ava Rose Roberts (second Terry Hacker)-Midlands Area Chair Rory Gifford-Scottish Area Chair Lucy Cox-Team Racing Officer Josh Lyttle-Tour Manager Freya Mason-Vice President (proposed by George Atwell and second Rose Ling) Max Sydenham-Western Area Chair</p> <p>Roles with no nominations are Match Racing Officer, Eastern Area Chair and Media Officer</p>

	- Eastern		We had 3 nominations for Media after the deadline-Will Fearn-Asher Williams and Freya McCloskey. Asher took the majority votes and was co-opted on by the committee
10	Results of the 2026-2027 Elections Announced	DF	<p>Northern Area Chair- Leonie MacDougall South Central Area Chair- Chloe Mills Vice Chair-Kate Wharmby</p> <p>The results of the votes are below</p> <p>Vice-Chair: KW (30), WF (13), ABST (4) Northern AC: LMD (26), JE(10), GL(9), ABST (3) South Central AC: CM (29), EG(1), ABST(7)</p> <p>All non-contested roles were co-opted in</p> <p>As the Women's Rep role was passed a vote on the 3 nominations was held Becky Caiger, Martha Kristensen and Enya Gibbs. Becky was co-opted onto the committee</p> <p>The result of the vote is below</p> <p>Women's Rep: BC(17), EG(16), MC(7), ABST(1)</p>
11	Other Items of Business	DF	NC thanked the previous committee for all their work last year
	Emergency and Special Business	DF	<p>Motion to change BUSA Standing Orders [Code of Conduct]</p> <p>Change of wording to the Code of conduct with full details in link above. This was passed with a majority</p>
12	2027 General Committee Meeting Dates	KR	<p>Tuesday 12th May 2026 Tuesday 16th June 2026 Tuesday 21st July 2026 Tuesday 8th September 2026 Tuesday 3rd November 2026. Tuesday 15th December 2026 Tuesday 2nd February 2026 Tuesday 9th March 2026</p>