



Précis and action points from the Scottish Student Sport Executive Council
Meeting held on Friday 1st November in the Presley Suite, Strathclyde Sport, 160 Cathedral Street,
Glasgow, G4 0RQ
Meeting 10:00 – 14:00

Present

Pete Burgon (Chair) (PB)
Neil Brown (NB)
Chris Sellar (CS)
Ciaran O'Brien (CO)
Jonny Pearson (JP)
Maddy Watson (MW)
Georgia Moran (GM)
Paddy Everingham (PE)
Cathy Gallagher (CG)

In attendance

Stew Fowlie (SF)
Totty Horn (TH)

Apologies

BUCS
Andre Reibig (SFC) (AR)
Sarah Birrell (sportsotland) (SB)

[Actions](#)

1. Welcome, intro and scene setting

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked Neil Brown for hosting, and thanked everyone for their attendance and engagement.

2. Homologation

Apologies were received from SB and from BUCS as a collective. SF informed the group that moving forward, Vince Mayne would attend the SSS Exec meetings, and no longer Danielle Shields (DS), so as to have a national representative as opposed to a regional one. The group thanked DS for her engagement and her enthusiasm at past SSS Exec meetings.

The minutes from the previous meeting in August 2019 were accepted as a true reflection. The actions arising from the meeting in August were talked through and all actions were noted as complete, with a discussion surrounding National Squads to be had during the Competitions section.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Business Updates

1. Strategic plan- progress v targets

SF talked through the progress in each area of the strategic plan, with the help of the online dashboard.

A number of membership invoices remain unpaid; we are up on where we were this time last year, however, we must continue to engage with those who are yet to join. CS queried if the colleges are automatically enrolled into the CSA when they join the Tribe. The group discussed the positive and negative surrounding this and concluded that the CSA would remain separate to SSS membership at this time.

SF presented the National Squad review and it was well received. The group agreed that important and rationalised communication must go out to the network from the office to ensure it is clear which sports will have a national squad programme for 19/20 and why. There may be some comments from students as for example a hockey player could no longer be eligible for a Blue if they hadn't participated in the SSS National Squad. SF reassured the group that National Squads would be reviewed annually so a student may have an opportunity in a subsequent year. CO praised the review, thanking BP and CS in particular, saying it was an excellent piece of work and it is super to have clarity on the key elements required to run a National Squad programme.

SF mentioned the SGB day scheduled for Friday 15th November and hoped that as many institutions as possible would be represented.

SF presented a draft of the new Development page that GR has been working hard on and we hope will launch in the coming weeks.

2. Finance matters

a. Year end 1819

SF talked through the year end position which sees a modest surplus. The group thanked Drummond Laurie for the curation of our annual accounts. A final version will be published on the SSS website once TH has reconciled everything with the accountants. Our income total is as expected. National squad activity is slightly down on the previous year, due to a few sports not having any activity, but as budgeted. On the Balance Sheet, all is as expected. We have now run down the women's football fund and the SFA have taken over this project. The small surplus made on the year will be put into Special Projects, to leave our reserves at £200K as per our policy. CG noted that we haven't supported many Special Projects this year, which SF agreed with, but recognised that the assessment has been fair against the criteria. CG thanked the University of Edinburgh for hosting SSS and their ongoing support of the staff team.

b. Q1 1920

SF presented the figures for Q1 1920. Both income and expenditure are as expected for the first quarter. We hope to receive the majority of membership fees by the end of the calendar year.

CG asked TH if in the front sheet of the accounts, there could be a column with the figures from the previous year, so as to give context.

TH

4. Partner Updates

1. BUCS

SF presented the BUCS update, received by email, covering initiations, the sport review and reward and recognition.

CG asked if Nicola Scott had been at the disability forum and if not, if someone from Scotland was and if they could therefore update the whole membership. This approach was endorsed by all, for all areas of work.

The group discussed BUCS Play and voiced their frustrations, but praised the App support team who have been very responsive. SF thanked the group for their patience and urged them to persevere and support this new development. BUCS is much more flexible now which is recognised and appreciated.

CG gave an update from the recent BUCS Board. A new 5 year plan was presented with very ambitious commercial targets in particular. The group responded that BUCS mustn't lose sight of their purpose, with such heady commercial ambitions. BUCS recognise the challenges surrounding their new digital solution but remain confident in their approach. NB asked who is leading the commercial aspect and whether they will recruit and CG reassured the group that they have a plan in place. The only concern from the SSS membership is that decisions will become solely commercial and not for the sole benefit of enhancing the student experience. However, it was also discussed that these new partnerships may bring new opportunities for SSS too.

2. sportscotland

In the absence of SB, SF reassured the group that the relationship with sportscotland remains strong; things are as expected and the autumnal reporting is now complete. SF has a scheduled catch up with SB the following week and hopes to will meet with SH in the coming weeks.

3. SFC

In the absence of AR, SF noted that we need to continue our engagement with the SFC.

CG gave an update on Winning Students, a programme supported by the SFC. Funding has been approved until July 2020 but beyond remains uncertain. In a recent meeting, the Winning Students Board recognised the challenge ahead but also the necessity of the programme so will continue to explore various options as the consequence of the programme ceasing to run is too significant. CG asked for SSS's support of Winning Students and the group echoed their backing of the programme.

5. SSS Awards

Prior to the meeting, SF sent the group a Typeform survey to respond to, to ascertain their view on the current SSS awards. SF presented the Typeform results, talking through each area.

The discussion commenced with the question of why awards are given out at the end of the academic year and it was agreed that they were to identifying key people within our network and celebrate them.

Much debate ensued in particular in the area of sex and whether male and female awards should in fact be combined, and whether full time paid coaches and volunteer coaches should be recognised separately.

An additional award 'The Chair's Award' was added in, at the discretion of the group and Chair, yet to be formally named, for exceptional contribution where another award wasn't deemed suitable. This wouldn't necessarily be awarded annually.

The group concluded that the following categories would be awarded for 2019/20, but that this would be under continuous review- Female Athlete of the Year, Male Athlete of the Year, Team of the Year, Club of the Year, Coach of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Rob Macpherson Award, 'Chair's Award'.

It was agreed that the next step would be to refine the criteria of the various awards to be as clear as possible when it comes to nominating and voting.

TH

6. SSS Financial Model

SF presented a comparison of the 2011/12 figures, with those from 2019/20, looking into the various areas of income and expenditure.

NB asked how sure we are of the SFC funding moving forward; SF responded that there is a risk- their project funds have been vastly reduced and our funds now come from the Colleges Innovation pot.

The group discussed whether fresh data and insight, to cement our message was required.

The group further discussed the aims and core message of SSS.

The membership fee structure was talked through, with NB reminding the group that institutions also pay an affiliation to BUCS and questioning whether a single payment including insurance, affiliation to BUCS, affiliation to SSS and affiliation to the SGBs could be a possible option in the future.

JP asked if any students paid affiliation currently and wondered about the complexity of college students.

The group agreed that the key priorities and core business needs to be mapped out, to ensure that spending is directly focused in right areas. Insurance feels like an area where economies of scale could benefit the membership and reduce costs overall.

It was agreed that the membership need to be asked what they want in the future and how we pay for it. We should also finish off our thinking surrounding individual membership (and possibly get some help to carry out this project) to answer the question 'what would be a good value proposition for a student'?

The Chair thanked the group for their discussion and encouraged them to continue engaging with the top of future financial planning.

7. AOCB

1. Jarvie Report

SF talked through the report, which the group had seen prior to the meeting, and concluded that no immediate change is expected as a result of it. We had thought it might, and therefore had the report on our risk register, but in light of the current view the group concluded that a response to the government was not necessary.

2. Charitable activity including Row Britannia and Big Sleepout

SF presented the idea of the Big Sleepout to the group, suggesting we support the initiative. The group were in favour and SF said details of the SSS team would be communicated to the network.

SF talked about [Row Britannia](#), asking the membership to get behind the idea in any way possible.

Moving forward, with the help of the Advocacy Group, we aim to be more deliberate about our charity work.

3. Special Project Bids for funding

PE asked if the Sports Sabbs group could benefit from funding to go to events, such as the BUCS AGM, as certain smaller institutions simply cannot afford to send staff, whereas the larger institutions can.

SF told the group that Andy McGeough, our Audit and Risk Chair, is willing to host a Zoom call for with the membership, in order to walk through the BUCS accounts when they come out.

Bids are currently being received for a new Development Committee Chair and voting will be open for a week, with details being sent to the membership the following week. SF reminded the group that institutions needed to have paid their SSS membership in order to be eligible to vote.

SF drew the group's attention to the fact that Festive Gathering will fall on General Election Day; the view was that this wasn't an issue, people would have the opportunity to vote before or after going to Perth.

4. Dates and venues for the diary:

- a. Thursday 4th December, BUCS Senior Managers Network, Birmingham
- b. Thursday 5th December, BUCS AGM and Winter Seminar, Loughborough
- c. Thursday 12th December, SSS Festive Gathering, Perth College
- d. Friday 31st January, Exec Meeting, Stirling

5. Confirm actions and close

PB closed the meeting, thanking everyone for their attendance and NB for hosting the meeting. PB wished everyone well and looks forward to seeing everyone again at Festive Gathering.

ACTION LIST

Summary of Action	Initials
Ensure new Dev page on website live by end of November.	GR
Add a prior year column into the front sheet of the monthly accounts, so as to give context.	TH
Oversee revision of award criteria, based on input from others, by Jan Exec meeting	TH