



Précis and action points from the Scottish Student Sport Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 via Zoom Webinar

10:00-11:00

**Attendance**

Ian Lowe  
 Jonny Pearson  
 Georgia Moran  
 Nikhil Reddy  
 Kirsten Mullen  
 Zoe Nicholson  
 Chris Sellar  
 Ross Campbell  
 Ben Graham  
 Catherine Wilson  
 Emma Cartmill  
 Emma Robson  
 Andy White  
 Kieran Matthews  
 Jordan Moore  
 Katherine Corbett  
 Hannah Leslie  
 Rory Anton  
 Danielle Grieve  
 Cecilia Wallback  
 Fraser Lovie  
 Dan Sayer  
 Eamonn Laird  
 Keith MacLeod  
 Paul McPate  
 James Aitken MBE  
 Julia Stenhouse  
 Alex Crespo  
 Ross Simpson  
 Michael Webster  
 Katie Macdonald  
 Eve O'Loan  
 Keith Joss  
 Paddy Everingham  
 Euan Smith  
 Jamie Taylor  
 Shereif Kholeif

**Institution**

Abertay University  
 Edinburgh College  
 Edinburgh Napier  
 Edinburgh Napier  
 Fife College  
 Glasgow Caledonian University  
 Heriot-Watt University  
 Heriot-Watt University  
 Heriot-Watt University  
 Heriot-Watt University  
 Heriot-Watt University  
 HISA  
 QMU  
 RGU  
 RGU  
 RGU  
 RGU  
 University of Aberdeen  
 University of Aberdeen  
 University of Aberdeen  
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 University of Dundee  
 University of Dundee  
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 University of Edinburgh  
 University of Edinburgh  
 University of Glasgow  
 University of Glasgow  
 University of Glasgow  
 University of Glasgow  
 University of Glasgow

Claire Scott  
 Leah Allcock  
 Edd Keeler  
 Cathy Gallagher  
 Alban Dickson  
 Gill Thayne  
 Abby Irvine  
 Maddy Watson  
 Ann Taylor  
 Leanne Carnan  
 Neil Brown  
 Eilidh Sneddon  
 Joe Gilfillan  
 Ciaran O'Brien

**Present**

Pete Burgon (SSS Chair)  
  
 Emma Borthwick  
 Alan Easson  
 Aaron Johnson  
 Yubo Rasmussen  
  
 Sarah Birrell  
  
 Stew Fowlie  
 Nicola Scott  
 Chris Purdie  
 Totty Horn  
 Gavin Rittoo  
 Jess Barrows  
 Eilidh Patterson  
 Megan Richardson  
 Neil Rankin  
 Leah Davidson  
 Sarah Gandon

**Apologies**

Sophie Tyler  
 David Bond  
 Audrey Duncan  
 Isla Scott  
 Stephen Stewart  
 Fraser Michie

University of St Andrews  
 University of St Andrews  
 University of Stirling  
 University of Stirling  
 University of Stirling  
 University of Stirling  
 University of Strathclyde  
 University of Strathclyde  
 University of Strathclyde  
 University of Strathclyde  
 University of Strathclyde  
 University of Strathclyde  
 UWS  
 UWS

**Institution/ Organisation**

Outgoing SSS Cycling Chair  
 Outgoing SSS Rowing Chair  
 Incoming SSS Cycling Chair  
 SSS Table Tennis Chair  
  
 sportscotland  
  
 Scottish Student Sport  
 Scottish Student Sport  
 Scottish Student Sport  
 Scottish Student Sport  
 Scottish Student Sport  
 Scottish Student Sport  
 Scottish Student Sport  
 Scottish Student Sport  
 Scottish Student Sport  
 Scottish Student Sport  
 Scottish Student Sport

**Institution**

University of St Andrews  
 University of Stirling  
 University of Dundee  
 University of Aberdeen  
 University of St Andrews  
 University of Strathclyde

PB welcomed everyone to the 2020 AGM- the first virtual edition. PB hoped that everyone in the membership was well in the challenging times and thanked everyone for attending, expressing his delight by the high number logged in. PB recognised that we find ourselves in uncertain and divided times and that people will of course be looking for reassurance from SSS. PB ran through the housekeeping notes for the virtual call. Apologies recorded from Sophie Tyler, David Bond, Audrey Duncan, Isla Scott, Stephen Stewart and Fraser Michie.

#### **I. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- a. The minutes of the 2019 AGM, held at the University of Strathclyde, were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting, proposed by Neil Brown and seconded by Ciaran O'Brien.
- b. One matter arising- catching all students wishing to be engaged in SSS governance. The view of SSS Exec is to keep the committee numbers as per the Constitution, but aim to use the opportunity to co-opt onto committees for those not elected. PB resolved to contact all unsuccessful applicants post-AGM.

#### **II. Strategic Update**

SF presented the strategic update - we understand the challenge we find ourselves facing, well aware of the difficulties across our membership.

Strong organisation - we are financially sound, with robust systems in place, achieved 'satisfactory' at the KPMG audit (the highest level) and have seen increases in both our efficiency and effectiveness. Our financial management remains very strong and credit in particular goes to TH for her outstanding stewardship.

Development - there has been a 12% increase in club activity since 2019, our 16<sup>th</sup> successive year of growth as a network. The governing body work has moved on apace, with remodelled SSS staff input and higher engagement from the governing bodies, including four new formalised partnership agreements. HBHM has also moved on a level and huge thanks go to SG for expertly managing this project.

Competitions – it was regrettable but necessary to cancel 27 events in response to the pandemic, curtailing an otherwise excellent year, characterised by an increase of almost 1000 entries and slots of encouraging, useful feedback. We are currently focusing on a return to play, which of course looks very different for each sport, working closely with BUCS and other partners. Sports Chair recruitment is also well underway for next year, with JB leading out on this important aspect.

Advocacy- remains an important pillar of what we are doing: our strategic and funding relationships are in good shape, the College Sport Award is now embedded across six sites, which is encouraging. The podcast is super and has been well received, so many thanks to GR for his work on this.

In general, our target progress against next year is tracking well, and while there remains a lot to do, we are broadly where we hoped to be at this stage in the strategy. The real pain to come is clear, we are listening keenly to our members, and we know there are financial pressures and that student numbers and locations will be variable. We aspire to SSS being viewed as part of the solution, and aim to give continuity and flexibility and try to connect everyone as well as possible. Our Strong Org work will continue in the background, whilst in both Development and Advocacy there is more to do than ever. The Competitions scene is of course uncertain but we will do our best to bring clarity in the months ahead and to add value to local efforts.

PB congratulated the staff, the leadership of the COO, and in particular the response to lockdown and the change in circumstances - the staff team are an inspiration to other organisations. Many thanks to SSS on behalf of the members.

### **III. Financials**

#### **a. 19-20 End of Year Forecast**

SF presented the 19-20 year end forecast, stating that we are on solid ground, our finances are very carefully managed and that Covid-19 hasn't had much impact on us for 19/20, as any lost income from cancelled events is broadly echoed in lower expenditure below the line. With reduced income and expenditure held in close balance we are forecasting returning a modest surplus, which is helpful in light of 20-21.

20-21 will of course be very different, we are only too aware of this, and we present a conservative but realistic budget in the next agenda point.

CW questioned the transparency of the accounts, asking for greater detail to be provided. RC responded that the governance structure of SSS provides the right level of scrutiny of the accounts and this has been refined and improved upon over a number of years, added NB. SSS operates an open door policy and are only too happy to receive queries regarding the finances. CW was encouraged to get in touch with TH and/or SF post AGM, at which time access can be made available to detailed accounts and further breakdown info provided.

#### **b. 20-21 Preliminary Budget**

SF moved on to the preliminary budget for 20-21, presenting the figures, qualifying that the budget is currently a draft, to be adopted and finalised by Exec in the coming weeks. SF felt it provides a solid platform from which to move forward. All non-essential costs have been stripped out, removing as much risk as possible. We hope to maintain a full staff team and use the non-fixed reserves in order to sustain business continuity and as full a programme of activities as proves possible.

CW queried a few of the overheads and SF responded that we are operating leanly, in his solemn view. RC thanked the SSS team for the well-managed finances and agreed with SF that the costs presented in the budget were all necessary to running the organisation and the level of detail was adequate. This was echoed by CG, EM, PM, NB. EL added that the summary was useful and thanked the team for the positive position we are in. GM further echoed her thanks, stating that from a student point of view, SSS had always been transparent about all figures and welcomed views at every point of the process. CG agreed, thanking the whole SSS team.

PB thanked TH and SF for their continued efforts and stewardship of the finances.

### **IV. Review and Set Subscription Rates**

The Chair proposed to maintain the 2% increase in subscription rates, but also to endorse a 25% discount on the fees. Both elements of this were approved by the membership, via two Zoom polls, as follows:

1. Maintain 2% increase: in favour x 15, not in favour x 3, abstain x 2
2. Endorse 25% discount: in favour x 19, abstain x 1

### **V. Elections**

Firstly, PB thanked all those who had nominated themselves for positions - we are very grateful to all the committees and the time each member devotes to them and we hope there are sufficient opportunities across the organisation for everyone to be able to get involved in their chosen area.

#### **a. Executive Council**

Andy White, Jordan Moore, Reif Kholeif and Katie Macdonald put themselves forward for the 3 Student Member positions on the Executive Council and the membership voted. Andy, Jordan and Katie were voted

on and congratulated by all. PB passed his thanks on to Reif for his nomination and urged him to look to assist on another group or committee.

Poll results: Andy: 14 votes in favour, Jordan: 11 votes in favour, Katie: 10 votes in favour, Reif: 6 votes in favour, prefer not to say: 1 vote.

b. Competitions Committee

Eilidh Sneddon, Nikhil Reddem and Sophie Tyler put themselves forward for the 2 Student Member positions on the Competitions Committee and the membership voted. Eilidh and Sophie were voted on and congratulated by all. PB passed his thanks on to Nikhil for his nomination and urged him to look to assist on another group or committee.

Poll results: Eilidh: 16 votes in favour, Sophie: 14 votes in favour, Nikhil: 2 votes in favour, prefer not to say: 1 vote.

c. Development Committee

Amber Taylor, Edd Keeler and Joe Gilfillan put themselves forward for the 2 Student Member positions on the Development Committee and the membership voted. Following the Zoom Poll, the nominees were separated by only one vote, so it was decided that 1 would be co-opting on immediately, so all 3 students would sit on the committee, not least due to the volume of work expected in Development in 20-21.

Poll results: Joe: 12 votes in favour, Amber: 10 votes in favour, Edd: 10 votes in favour, prefer not to say: 1 vote.

d. Uncontested positions

All uncontested positions were voted on en masse as follows, with 16 votes in favour:

Chair- Pete Burgon

Exec Staff Members- Ciaran O'Brien, UWS, Neil Brown, University of Strathclyde and Jonny Pearson, Edinburgh College

Sports Chair- Yubo Rasmussen (Table Tennis)

West Regional Chair- Abby Irvine, University of Strathclyde

South & East Regional Chair- Alex Prior Crespo, University of Edinburgh

Highlands & Islands Chair- Emma Robson, UHI

PB thanked all candidates for putting themselves forward and asked them to stay on the call. He thanked all outgoing committee members, in particular JT and MW as they both leave their regional chair roles, we are delighted by their efforts - their intelligence, passion and skill shone through to us all throughout their tenures. A very warm welcome to AI and AC who take up these regional chairing roles.

**VI. Appointments for Ratification**

- a. Drummond Laurie were approved by all as the Auditors for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021, with 17 votes in favour
- b. Mark Beaumont was approved by all as the (ongoing) Honorary President for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021, with 17 votes in favour.

**VII. Acknowledgements**

PB thanked the SSS team for their work over the past year and ambitions moving forward. He thanked JA and the University of Edinburgh, as hosts of SSS. A thank you to all partners and stakeholders for supporting the organisation. A special thanks to GM and her band of student officers - we understand that this is a scarier

prospect than for friends in previous years but we hope they've gained enough confidence and experience to tackle the challenge ahead.

Thanks to TH for organising the AGM this and taking the minutes.

A final thanks to the Tribe as a whole - we will move forward and we will be stronger together.

**VIII. Close**

PB closed the meeting at 11:02.

# APPENDIX 1

The Committees for 2020/21 are as follows:

## Executive Council 2020/2021:

Name	Institution	Start date in current role	End date of current term
Pete Burgon- Chair	SRU	June 2020	June 2023
Claire Scott – Dev Chair	Stirling	Dec 2019	June 2022
Chris Sellar – Comps Chair	Heriot-Watt	June 2019	June 2022
Neil Brown	Strathclyde	June 2020	June 2022
Jonny Pearson	Edinburgh College	June 2020	June 2023
Ciaran O'Brien	UWS	June 2020	June 2023
Cathy Gallagher (co-opted on as BUCS SMN Chair)	Stirling	Dec 2019	June 2021
Andy White	QMU	June 2020	June 2021
Jordan Moore	RGU	June 2020	June 2021
Katie Macdonald	Edinburgh	June 2020	June 2021

Please note that representative(s) from **sportscotland**, **SFC** and **BUCS** may also be present at Executive Council meetings.

## Competitions Committee 2020/21:

Name	Institution	Start date in current role	End date of current term
Chris Sellar – Comps Chair	Heriot-Watt	June 2019	June 2022
Eamonn Laird	Dundee	June 2019	June 2022
Iain Christie	UWS	June 2019	June 2022
Yubo Rasmussen – Sports Chair	n/a	June 2020	June 2021
Eilidh Sneddon	Strathclyde	June 2020	June 2021
Sophie Tyler	St Andrews	June 2020	June 2021

## Development Committee 2020/21:

Name	Institution	Start date in current role	End date of current term
Claire Scott – Dev Chair	St Andrews	Dec 2019	June 2022
Katherine Corbett – Grampian Chair	RGU	June 2018	June 2021
Abby Irvine – West Chair	Strathclyde	June 2020	June 2023
Alex Crespo – SE Chair	Edinburgh	June 2020	June 2023
Emma Robson – H&I Chair	UHI	June 2020	June 2023
Ian Lowe – T&F Chair	St Andrews	Dec 2019	June 2022
Amber Taylor	HWU	June 2020	June 2021
Edd Keeler	Stirling	June 2020	June 2021
Joe Gilfillan	UWS	June 2020	June 2021