

British Universities Life Saving Clubs' Association

Mid-Season General Meeting

08/02/2020





Mid-Season General Meeting Agenda

Location: Room S0.13 in Warwick University Social Sciences

Date: 08/02/2020

Start Time: 9:00 am

1 Welcome and Apologies

2 Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

3.1 Confirmation of Helpers Rule changes, arising from 2019 AGM

3.2 Review of Recruitment BULSCA Officer Position

4 Officer Reports

4.1 Julia Whitworth, Chair

4.2 Michael Kirkham, Secretary

4.3 Andrew Scoones, Treasurer

4.4 Hannah Smallwood, Development Officer

4.5 Jared Wray, Data Manager

4.6 Sophie Priddis and Stéphanie Panagi, Championships Coordinators

4.7 King Yee Cheung, Communications Officer

4.8 Joshua Hale, Recruitment Officer

5 Proposals and Discussion

5.1 Purchase of BULSCA Ropes Proposal (Appendix A)

(Committee recommendation: Discuss without recommendation)

5.2 Proposal for an alliance between BULSCA and GLSA (Appendix B)

(Committee recommendation: Accept with Discussion)

5.3 Discussion of League Structure Reform (Appendix C)

(Committee recommendation: Discuss without recommendation)

6 Notices from BULSCA Committee

6.1 BULSCA Award Nominations Open (Appendix D)

7 Date of Next Meeting

8 Any Other Business



British Universities Life Saving Clubs' Association Mid-Season General Meeting Minutes

Executive Summary

- As per the 2019 AGM decision, club committee leads and the BULSCA Chair have deliberated and decided that to improve volunteer attendance the helper rule implemented at the 2018 AGM will be enforced more strictly, but that no further action will be taken to improve this as a result of the 2019 AGM proposal.
- A review of the BULSCA Club Recruitment Officer will be undertaken and a report given at the 2020 AGM
- BULSCA Ropes Proposal: Passed with an amendment to impose a penalty for lost ropes
- GLSA and BULSCA statement of co-operation and understanding: Approved
- Possibilities for changing the league structure: Discussed
- Next meeting: The morning of 28/03/2020
- Loughborough are running a S&S instructor course on the 26th of April from 1pm to 7pm. Contact Immi Shepherd at Loughborough if interested.

1 Welcome and Apologies

Attendees: BULSCA Committee members (Julia Whitworth, Michael Kirkham, Jared Wray, Sophie Priddis, King Yee Cheung)

Club	Representative 1	Representative 2
University of Warwick	Maria Czajkowska	Chris Quinn
Birmingham University	Rory Swann	Chloe Warr
Loughborough University	Immy Shepherd	James Blaby
University of Bristol	Natalie Smith	Charlotte Grisby
University of Nottingham	Aoife Cleland	Nick Fruin
Sheffield Universities	Peter Woodmancy	Helena Darke

Apologies: Oxford University, Joshua Hale (Recruitment Officer) and Stéphanie Panagi (Championships Co-ordinator)

2 Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Jared Wray proposes to accept the previous minutes.

Warwick second.

Minutes are unanimously approved.

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

3.1 Confirmation of Helpers Rule changes, arising from 2019 AGM

As a result of the vote at the 2019 AGM about increasing helpers at competitions, after consultation between the BULSCA chair and BULSCA member club committee leaders, it has been decided that no change will be made to the existing rule implemented at the 2018 AGM.



That is:

(To be added to the competition manual)

2.2.5 Helper Requirements

2.2.5.1 If entering more than 2 teams to a competition, the club shall (at the discretion of the competition host) provide at least 1 helper or judge per additional team, i.e.

- 2 teams – no requirement;
- 3 teams – minimum of 1 helper;
- 4 teams – minimum of 2 helpers, and so on.

3.2 Review of Recruitment BULSCA Officer Position

Joshua Hale (current Recruitment Officer) will produce a review of the BULSCA Club Recruitment Officer and a report given at the 2020 AGM.

Suggestions from clubs for information to include in the report are welcome.

Suggestion from the floor: It would be worth having a long-term strategy/plan for recruitment. Useful for that to be set out in report.

4 Officer Reports

4.1 Julia Whitworth, Chair

First of all, I want to thank all clubs for their brilliant recruitment and enthusiasm this year. We have had 4 successful competitions and all fresher's (and returners) that I've been able to speak to have said that their individual clubs are putting in a lot of effort to make them feel welcome, so I'm very grateful for that.

There have also been 2 varsities run, including 4 universities and this really boosts the atmosphere of BULSCA and something that a few university clubs have said they are going to hopefully run throughout the rest of the year.

This year we have tried to make more links with the RLSS and moving forward are coming up with a structured plan which can hopefully run more smoothly next year. Between Josh and I, we have had 3 meetings with RLSS, and they are very keen to become more involved in BULSCA, we are looking into a day hosted by RLSS where club members are able to have a training day, using facilities and also meeting key people which would help with volunteers at further competitions. They would also like us to become more involved in RLSS campaigns and are very happy to support with this as well as our recruitment process. We are meeting with Angela over half term to discuss this plan in more depth. I think it would be a good idea to get all club captains of next year to meet with the RLSS to get things running and this is something that they are happy to accommodate.

Fundraising is also something I am keen to push after champs, maybe in the summer term, as we are finishing competitions relatively early this year. I have spoken to most club captains about this already but will elaborate further in the coming weeks. Any money made can be contributed to clubs and the RLSS.

The other thing I'm working on is putting together a plan for a training day in the summer with past and present members of BULSCA. This will be made available to all clubs and will include SERC workshops, training plans, notes from judges and recruitment - location is still pending.



Finally, want to thank the rest of the committee for their hard work so far this year. A lot of us are extremely busy and so making time to meet is not always the easiest, however they are doing a great job.

4.2 Michael Kirkham, Secretary

This year, the role of secretary has been a relatively simple one. So far there have been 4 BULSCA committee meetings, I have taken minutes at 2 of them and missed 2 due to illness/previous appointments. The minutes have not yet been published to the BULSCA website.

There is still a huge backlog of BULSCA documentation, some obsolete, some lost, some in use, all saved to a committee data storage account. I plan to examine this more closely and attempt to improve the filing system and remove duplicates to make the system easier to use for future committees and to ensure that the latest documents are uploaded to the website for general use. Hopefully this process will begin next week during my half-term holiday.

There have been occasional complaints received (with action taken where appropriate/requested) about the behaviour of club members at competition socials, behaviour from officials towards helpers and clubs not meeting their responsibilities to competition hosts. I'd like to take this moment to remind all of BULSCA that we are all volunteers brought together by our love of lifesaving and our desire to compete. Although being part of the organisation it can be stressful at times, especially during competitions, I ask that everyone treat everyone with respect and consideration so that we can continue to enjoy coming together, competing and training to save lives.

4.3 Andrew Scoones, Treasurer

Unfortunately, I've had some difficulty as treasurer; I've been unable to handover access to the accounts, but I am regularly meeting Lloyds and aiming to get this resolved ASAP. This is why membership was sent out late, apologies for this.

At the start of the year I looked into first aid kit suppliers to see if they would be interested in sponsoring the league/comps, and had some positive response. However, the responses were slow, and seemed less keen as the league had already started by the time our contact was regular, and the assumption was made that clubs would already have their kit for the year; this could be a good idea for next year however.

So far, the only substantial money spent has been the pool hire for the BULSCA championships, which will be balanced by the champs entries.

Hopefully I'll have full control of the accounts soon and be able to keep a closer eye on the finances.

4.4 Hannah Smallwood, Development Officer

Not submitted.

4.5 Jared Wray, Data Manager

This year I have taken on the role of Data Manager after previous experience on the committee as Chair and Secretary.

I have been facilitating the entry process to league competitions and the BULSCA Student Championships, and have been looking at ways to improve this for the future. Any technical issues with the league competition scoresheet have been promptly sorted before or during competitions.



Unfortunately, occasional errors with scoring do occur due to human error in data entry, however I am sure we can appreciate the extremely laborious and tough task they have.

The league results are very close at the top of the leaderboard in both leagues which is always exciting! There has been a delay in uploading documents to the website, a backend issue partly causing this problem along with other pressures on my time, but all scoresheets have been distributed to club captains in a timely manner once provisional/confirmed.

I am now beginning the process of going through Championships entries ready for the competition. Please do be keep a look out for communications about the competition to ensure you don't miss any deadlines or miss vital information!

We have had a limited number of committee meetings this year, and I must commend some of the other committee members' ability to be extremely proactive and proceed with what they need to do to ensure a good BULSCA experience for competitors, along with providing guidance and help to other committee members and clubs. Judges and helpers also need to be massively thanked for giving up their time so the competitions can occur, and I hope that clubs appreciate the time and effort they put in for making a competitions happen - please do consider looking into judging if you haven't before to keep BULSCA running well into the future!

I wish everyone the very best for the rest of the competitions this year! If you have any questions do feel free to drop me a message or grab me for a chat!

4.6 Sophie Priddis and Stéphanie Panagi, Championships Coordinators

Championships organisation has so far been going smoothly, we hope you're all looking forward to it! Any issues we've had have been minor and easily rectified. Please share any information on social media, especially related to our sponsors as we want to provide them with good value for their investment.

We will give a full report at the AGM later in the year once we know how it went.

4.7 King Yee Cheung, Communications Officer

A report for understanding the progress and achievements of the BULSCA Communications Officer

Introduction

The role of BULSCA Communications Officer has been rewarding and allowed me to utilise my previous Publicity Officer skills to get involved with lifesaving from a different perspective. The aims I set out to achieve were to keep our members updated with the latest BULSCA news, as well as to promote university lifesaving to the wider community. This season I have taken a rather new and different approach to this role and I am happy with the positive results so far.

Methods

To reach out to the wider community and to help improve the Championships experience, I have been working closely with the Championships Co-coordinators. I created an official BULSCA Championships sponsorship pack that was targeted at several businesses.

To carry on the work of my predecessors, I have been updating our social media pages relatively frequently, sharing all your successes on our Instagram story, and sending out all relevant emails on time to our mailing list. Unfortunately, we had some technical issues with the BULSCA website



so I was unable to update this for a long time, but thankfully Jared has sorted it out so it is now up and running.

Results

As a result of the BULSCA Championships sponsorship pack and large social media following, Stéphanie and Sophie have successfully landed four (4) sponsors. This work goes towards making Champs a better experience for all competitors, officials, and helpers. Most importantly, these partnerships create valuable links between university lifesaving and large businesses and promote lifesaving to the wider community. Since November, I have also liaised closely with the social media team at Camp Canada to fulfil the agreements of our sponsorship.

Discussion and Conclusion

At the time of running for this role (at the AGM in 2019), I did not anticipate that I would be starting a PhD in the following few months. I would've therefore liked to have done more but considering the time restraints due to my academic commitments, I am happy with what I have achieved.

I'm glad I decided to focus on the sponsorship side of things as this is quite new for BULSCA and will definitely help us develop in the long run. To help clubs in the future, I can send out the template for the sponsorship brochure so you can try and create your own. However, had I have had more time, I would've written post-comp reports and articles for the RLSS magazines and would've even liked to create a collaborative promo video for university lifesaving. This is something for future Communications Officers to think about.

Finally, the size of the BULSCA mailing list is decreasing as members graduate, so your important emails are not reaching many people. Please ensure your committee, club members, and alumni are signed up if you don't want to miss anything.

4.8 Joshua Hale, Recruitment Officer

Although I was passionate about the creation of this role, it is very challenging. It has been challenging for many reasons, but mostly because it relies on finding people at other universities who want to set up clubs. For BULSCA to survive, thrive and develop in this new decade I believe increased participation is essential. I have struggled to find others who are interested. While working in a Students' Union, I have found that student engagement levels are currently low and so I am not surprised that it is a struggle. I believe going forward this role next year needs to have someone in it who will bring something new to the role and build on what I have started.

5 Proposals and Discussion

5.1 Purchase of BULSCA Ropes Proposal (Appendix A)

Natalie (proposer): reads Appendix A. Additionally: Each competition host should take the ropes after their competition for the next competition.

Michael (Secretary): I foresee a possibility of them being lost in transit, misplaced between competitions, etc.

Ben Barker: Who would be ultimately responsible?

Natalie: Not sure. Hopefully the BULSCA chair would take responsibility.

Loughborough: Propose we move to a vote

No second

Ben Barker: What if next want manikins and whatnot for BULSCA?



Julia (Chair): This is the slippery slope fallacy. Ropes are needed for every comp and champs, so that's especially useful. Manikins are much more cumbersome and not as necessary.

Birmingham: How will people be held accountable if they're lost?

Natalie: Trust?

Ben Barker: Institute a fine?

Ben Baker proposes an amendment:

For each BULSCA rope lost, the penalty shall be a fine equivalent to the cost of two ropes, payable to the BULSCA account by the club responsible for the ropes at the time of the loss.

Amendment accepted by original proposer.

Loughborough: Why pay 2 instead of just one?

Ben Barker: As an extra penalty rather than just replacing.

Loughborough: If lose all the ropes, owe around £400.

To clarify: The intention is that, beginning with Freshers 2021, each competition will use the ropes for their rope throw event, then pass the ropes to the next competition host that same day. They will then store them until their competition, use the ropes and then pass them on to the next club. As per discussion, the BULSCA chair is ultimately responsible for facilitating this. The ropes should not be used for training by the club storing them. The ropes can and should be used for the BULSCA student championships, at which point they will be the responsibility of the championships co-ordinator(s).

Julia proposes move to a vote

Sophie seconds it.

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

The proposal is passed

5.2 Proposal for an alliance between BULSCA and GLSA (Appendix B)

Julia: Paraphrases Appendix B.

Jared proposes that we amend the name of BULSCA to be correctly phrased

Ben Barker proposes vote

Jared seconds

Accept: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

The proposal of co-operation and understanding is passed.

5.3 Discussion of League Structure Reform (Appendix C)

Ben Barker: See Appendix C

Would suggest a football/BUCS style relegation system, league 1, 2, 3 (as necessary)

Hopes would lead to more open and competitive feel to the league.

Sheffield: Current structure is quite limiting. Would like to have teams that can be competing in B league as they can't always get two teams to every competition and they have very little chance of success in the A-league.



Loughborough: Would each university count as an entry in the league, or each team?

Ben Barker: Each team. So Loughborough A, B, C could be in league 1 and D be in league 2.

Loughborough: Would teams have to be the same members?

Ben B: No. At each clubs' discretion

Brum: If a 'lower' team overtakes an A team from the same club, why not/could just swap teams around? Effectively cheating the system?

Ben Barker: No, changing members around is fine. It wouldn't benefit the club particularly.

Loughborough: Would this not complicate results?

BB: No.

Sheffield: There is nothing currently to stop clubs who can only effectively compete in the B league entering best competitors as B and anyone else as A.

Bristol: Can be a big variation in the number of teams from comps. Would teams then have one entry in some bottom league if they only turn up once?

BB: Pretty much.

Julia: Could be demotivating for big clubs who might all be in the same league

BB: Shouldn't be a problem, but then they should enjoy the competition more as they'll be against teams on the same competitive level.

Say a lower achieving team is a club's A team, they might be league 2 or 3, but then they're against similar level teams and encouraged to be competitive

BB: Whatever makes it more enjoyable and competitive. The proposal can be worked out.

Ellie Murray: Would like to be able to use the current system, and just enter a team in the B league

Michael: In the past, there has been a club who has had a few post-graduate experienced lifesavers but no other teams. They could enter only the B league and win by a large margin.

Ellie Murray: Smaller clubs are penalised by the current structure and that allowing registration as just B would mean that clubs could concentrate on development rather than trying to compete with higher performing teams.

BB: That would lead to fewer teams in the A league.

EM: But how would that differ from the proposed league structure? Smaller clubs would be in a lower league anyway.

Julia: End of discussion. If clubs discuss amongst themselves and Ben or whomsoever puts a proposal forwards for the AGM we can go back to it then

6 Notices from BULSCA Committee

6.1 BULSCA Award Nominations Open (Appendix D)

A form to submit nominations will be distributed soon.

7 Date of Next Meeting

The morning of 28/03/2020, Loughborough competition.

8 Any Other Business

Loughborough are running a S&S instructor course on the 26th of April from 1pm to 7pm.

Contact Immi Shepherd at Loughborough if interested.



Appendix A - Purchase of BULSCA Ropes

Proposer Name and Position

Natalie Smith – Bristol Club Captain

Second Name and Position

Charlotte Grisby – Bristol Treasurer

Aim – What do you want to achieve?

The aim of this proposal is for BULSCA to purchase a full set of ropes that can be used by each club for the line throw event when they host their league competitions.

Background – What do we need to know to consider the proposal?

Having a set of ropes that are all the same available to each club hosting a competition will help both with the organisation of competitions, removing the stressful process of acquiring kit from other clubs, and removes any inconsistencies between lanes when ropes are mixed.

Additionally, having a full set of 'BULSCA ropes' will prevent issues with clubs offering up their ropes and not getting the correct ones back.

Bristol have been taking their ropes to each of the competitions so far this season (Nottingham, Sheffield, Bristol and Birmingham) and while we have been happy to do this to ensure that each lane can have the same ropes, it does take up the already limited space we have going to competitions, particularly when we have to bring other kit such as fins, torps and BOBs as well. Thus, moving forward I propose that BULSCA purchases its own set of ropes that can be used at competitions.

Proposal Details – What, specifically, do you want to do?

I would like for BULSCA to purchase a set of 12 ropes that would be used for each of the league competitions throughout the year, as well as for the Student Championships.

After each competition the club hosting the next one can take the ropes back with them so they have them ready to use and this will limit the need for other clubs to bring kit to competitions or to the Championships.

Motivation – Why are you proposing this?

Overall, I think this will benefit every club for the next and future competition seasons and will ensure that the line throw event in competitions is always fair as everyone will have exactly the same ropes.

Purchase of 12 ropes allows enough for larger 10 lane pools with some spares in case of damage or loss and while I understand that this is a sizeable cost, considering that each club pays membership at the start of the year I feel it is definitely possible and will make the line throw event more fair for all the competitors.

Timetable and Actions – What do we need to do?

Action	Deadline
Buy a set of 12 ropes	October 2020

Resources – What will your proposal cost? What equipment/manpower is needed?



Resource	Source	Quantity	Price	Cost
Ropes	RLSS direct	12	£16.45	£197.40
		P&P:		£7.95
		Total Cost:		£205.35
		Total Profit:		

Supplementary Documents (Attached)

Link to ropes available on RLSS direct website:
<https://www.rlssdirect.co.uk/categories/Lifesaving%20Sport/Pool%20Equipment/products/LE1167S/Throw+Line+%2817+Metres%29/>



Appendix B – Proposal for an alliance between BULSCA & GLSA



Memorandum of Understanding between GLSA-BULSCA for University Lifesaving Sport

The British University Lifesaving Club's Association Championship 2019, was a landmarked year for British and Greek lifesaving sport in higher education. For first time, Greek students participated as a team in BULSCA and two weeks later, in the inaugural Greek University Championships. These events created a momentum that merits recognition and expansion.

Today, 29th February 2020, at the occasion of the annual British University Lifesaving Club's Association Championship, at the Hengrove Park Leisure Centre, in Bristol, UK, the representatives of the British Universities Club's Association (BULSCA) and the Greek Lifesaving Sport Association (GLSA), met and agreed on the following:

1. By constitution BULSCA aims to: (a) promote the training and development of lifesaving skills; (b) oversees competitive lifesaving between Higher Education institutions, (c) promotes and develops lifesaving as a sport, (d) represents university lifesaving clubs to the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) UK and other interested bodies, (e) supports new lifesaving clubs and the expansion of lifesaving sport.
2. By constitution GLSA aims to: (a) support Lifesaving Sport in Higher Education by facilitating events that will take place within Greece or in BULSCA competitions, (b) promote the training and development of lifesaving sport nationally.
3. BULSCA and GLSA recognize and support its other's efforts for advancing lifesaving sport in higher education in every possible legitimate means.
4. BULSCA and GLSA will encourage the participation of university students by as many countries as possible, to achieve internationalization of the BULSCA championship.
5. GLSA will offer the e-magazine "Sport Lifesaver" for free publicity of all the BULSCA championships and its member-universities. All BULSCA participants and organizers may publish articles that can be viewed by a wide readership (individuals and organizations in 113 countries).
6. GLSA will assist students of Athens University to participate each year in BULSCA competitions (offering equipment and expertise).
7. GLSA will encourage students of other universities in Greece or abroad to participate each year in BULSCA competitions.
8. GLSA will promote in every possible means the BULSCA championship.
9. GLSA will invite BULSCA students to participate in the Greek Lifesaving Cup to get an overseas competition experience that involves events and disciplines in pool, sand, sea.
10. BULSCA will welcome in its championships the participation of Greek university students and GLSA members (as Community Team).

On behalf of BULSCA and GLSA

Julia Whitworth

Dr. Stathis Avramidis

BULSCA Chair

GLSA President

Michael Kirkham

Eleftheria Avramidou

BULSCA Secretary

GLSA Secretary General



Appendix C - Discussion of League Structure Reform

From Ben Barker and Adam Lane of the University of Warwick

Currently the A-Team in A-League and everyone else in B-League league structure does not encourage as much competitive spirit as other sports who have adopted a promotion/relegation league structure. A reform to our league structure would not only encourage a greater competitive spirit across all levels, it would also rank teams based on their ability and not on a letter denomination. This would inherently encourage a constant competitive drive whilst simultaneously bringing the University Lifesaving Sport closer to that of other sports such as those who take part in BUCS.



Appendix D - BULSCA Awards

There are three BULSCA awards which will be presented at the end of the final league competition of the year. The nomination form will be distributed online.

The awards are:

BULSCA Club of the Year

Awarded to the club which has shown commitment to promotion of lifesaving both within the University and in the wider community. Clubs are encouraged to nominate themselves as well as others.

BULSCA Volunteer of the Year

Awarded to an individual who has shown unrivaled commitment to Lifesaving and promoting Lifesaving activities within their club, University and in the wider community. This individual has made a significant impact in Lifesaving.

BULSCA Sportsperson of the Year

Awarded to a BULSCA competitor who has shown exceptional sportsmanship and commitment to Lifesaving sport, both as an individual and as part of a team.