



Précis and action points from the Scottish Student Sport Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 7th August 2024 via Zoom

11:00-12:00

Attendance	Institution	Present	Institution/ Organisation
Andrew Kirk	City of Glasgow College	Jonny Pearson (SSS Chair)	Edinburgh College
Iain Houston	City of Glasgow College		
Ryan Cairns	Edinburgh Napier	Stew Fowlie	Scottish Student Sport
Tomisin Osinubi	GCU	Eilidh Patterson	Scottish Student Sport
Gordon McTweed	GCU	Chris Purdie	Scottish Student Sport
David Lambie	Heriot-Watt	Sean Berthelsen	Scottish Student Sport
Jordan Moore	Heriot-Watt	Sophie Charlton	Scottish Student Sport
Chris Sellar (Chris Sellar)	Heriot-Watt	Ruairidh Campbell	Scottish Student Sport
Karen Hanson	Heriot-Watt	Eilidh Gibson	Scottish Student Sport
Alex Chan-Taylor	Heriot-Watt	Ben Rowlings	Scottish Student Sport
Ben Graham	Heriot-Watt		
Ross Campbell	Heriot-Watt	Apologies	Institution/ Organisation
Abhishek Kumar	RGU	Joanna Bell	RGU
Phoebe Moncur	RGU	Michael Devlin	Abertay University
Ian Lowe	RGU	Sam Bell-Minogue	BUCS
Jeroen van Herk	SRUC		
Aonghus Sellar	SS Football		
Danielle Grieve	University of Aberdeen		
Tonis Tilk	University of Aberdeen		
Eamonn Laird	University of Dundee		
Paul McPate	University of Dundee		
Polly Pearse	University of Edinburgh		
Emily Roxbee Cox	University of Edinburgh		
Katherine Corbett	University of Edinburgh		
Millie Doherty	University of Edinburgh		
Noah Wells	University of Edinburgh		
Polly Pearse	University of Edinburgh		
Amber Campbell	University of Glasgow		
Euan Smith	University of Glasgow		
Karl Kirkpatrick	University of Glasgow		
Ian Gaunt	University of St. Andrews		
Callum Ball	University of Stirling		
David Bond	University of Stirling		
Laura Shaw	University of Stirling		
Murray Bushell	University of Stirling		
Ann Taylor	University of Strathclyde		
Anna Edvaldsson	University of Strathclyde		
Amanda Fleet	UHI		
Lindsey Brown	UHI Perth College		
Freya Rennie	UWS		
Jessica Westcough	West Lothian College		

JP welcomed everyone to the 2024 AGM, thanking everyone for attending.

I. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting, with one change to correct Eammon Laird's institution. Apologies were noted from Joanna Bell (RGU), Michael Devlin (Abertay) & Sam Bell-Minogue (BUCS).

II. Strategic Update

SF presented the following strategic update. Student sport membership continues to increase, this year has been defined by the start of the Active Campus Network. Uptake in student activity is married with increasing financial pressures across the sector. However, we look to recognise this, and continue to make sensible decisions. We've made a lot of progress as a network & organisation in last 12 months but always still lots to do, especially within story telling of the value of student sport.

Development

We have seen a successful cohort of young leaders and a triple figure number of new sports officials coming through our system. The Active Health brief remains in early stages, but has gathered significant focus this year, as has the recreational work across the sector. Partnerships remain important to our organisation, and has been great to bring the governing bodies together to build on current relationships and joint thematic areas. Member connects are vital, and elected students were thanked for being a fantastic asset to the organisation. Conference was a great triumph, and great to have so many members in the same place. Whilst we have seen some great progress across project areas such as concussion, student safety & safeguarding, next year we are likely to have less cash to fund new project areas.

Competitions

Our own event entries have gone up by 10%, demonstrating that a quarter of student sport members take part in SSS events. Thanks given to effort from staff & volunteers across the network. Strong completion rate of fixtures at above 90%, and great to see the return of the National Squad programme which includes over 400 athletes from 16 institutions. Deliberate effort given to balancing value for money, student experience and profitability across SSS' activities, which is helped considerably by members support in hosting events across the year.

Advocacy

We continue to aim to tell the story of SSS and be in the right rooms. This year we have been supporting a number of college and universities in discussions with local authorities. We have also contributed to national discussions focusing on student mental and physical health, as well as tertiary education's role within the context of the Scottish sporting landscape. Thanks given to Ruairidh Campbell for his work in SSS' communications, and an ask to the members to ensure they are connected into our networks where they can. **sportscotland** continue to be an important partnership, and have worked hard together to ensure that universities and colleges are part of a wider conversation, and looked at where we can connect differently at local and national level.

Strong Org

We continue to run a strong organisation, and we are close to where we thought we would be this time last year. The year has been made difficult by rising core costs, which is a theme across the sector. We're looking to try and explore new areas of business development so as not to have to depend on membership income. Significant staffing change across the team, and wanted to thank the team for adapting to these changes well.

We also have a team of at least 200 volunteers doing meaningful work across the business and we continue to aim to make their experience as positive as possible. Governance refresh is currently on hold, but this doesn't mean we can't aim to be more effective in the way we work between & during meetings.

Closing thoughts

We are in a bit of a reflection period, after challenging funding news which will come into effect in 12 months or so. We'll soon be moving on from the reflection, to the focus on the future as we work through this transitional year. Our strong organisation and advocacy work will continue to be important to the business, as will allow us to deliver on other areas such as our competitions and development work. We will see some new ways of working and new structures introduced; however, discussion is still to be had over the next six months about how we implement this. We also look forward to a fresh start with BUCS, and continue to work with Scottish Funding Council over the next 12 months.

Lastly a note to say that our most important relationship is with our members, and the relationship our members have with one another. This will always be a main feature with us as an organisation, and we will always focus on member service, and providing the space for members to learn from one another.

III. Financials

a. 23-24 End of Year Forecast

JS presented the 23-24 end of year forecast. 23-24 has seen significant financial changes across areas of the business. Both income and expenditure are down on our original budget, due a number of factors including lower membership income than expected and tighter control on spending, especially within the competitions programme. Our largest area of expenditure is our staffing resource, which also saw a rate of increase this year in line with UoE salary regrading. A forecast deficit of -£22,304 is close to the actual spend on special projects.

b. 24-25 Budget

JS then presented the 24-25 end of year forecast. We are proposing an operating loss of a little under £25k on the year. This would not be sustainable long-term but is certainly manageable short-term within our current reserves policy, and is in line with narrative from AGM '23. Wanted to draw attention to specifically the increase in staff resource spend which has a significant impact on our expense line, and also the fact that we aren't budgeting any special project spend for year 24-25. Careful management of the finances will continue to be important and the intention is to manage costs carefully and reduce deficit in year if possible, without cutting activities. Medium term picture will depend on improving our grant support and other income out with membership fees AND/ OR implementing new structure in line with refreshed strategy.

ES (UofG) asked a question about remaining reserves. JS said that we operate with 40% of our core costs in our reserve. With this deficit budget, we will still remain above the 40% of core costs as per reserves policy.

IV. Review and Set Membership Fees

The members were asked to approve the fixing of the 24-25 membership fees at a 3% increase on last year's totals. The membership fee increase was approved by the membership, via a Zoom poll.

V. Appointments

- a. Drummond Laurie were approved by all as the Auditors for the year ending 31st July 2025 via a Zoom poll.

- b. Mark Beaumont was approved by all as the (ongoing) Honorary President for the year ending 31st July 2025 via a Zoom poll.

Thanks was recorded to them all for their contribution.

VI. Elections

- a. Executive Council

The members voted onto the committee the following uncontested positions en masse: Chris Sellar (Heriot-Watt) as staff member, Euan Smith (University of Glasgow) as staff member and Ian Gaunt (University of St Andrews) as staff member.

The members voted on to the committee the following contested positions: Ryan Cairns (Edinburgh Napier) as student member, Mia Jennings (Dundee) as student member and Philine Rouwers (Edinburgh) as student member.

- b. Development Committee

The members voted onto the committee the following uncontested position: Andrew Kirk (City of Glasgow College as Colleges Lead.

The members voted on to the committee the following contested positions: Anna Edvaldsson (Strathclyde) as student member & Alex Chan-Taylor (Heriot-Watt) as student member.

- c. Competitions Committee

The members voted onto the committee the following contested position: Ben Graham (Heriot-Watt) as staff member & Johnathan MacLeod (UWS) as staff member.

The x2 student member Competitions Committees remain vacant. The Sabb officers will be contacted with the process for re-application.

The members voted onto the committee the following uncontested position: Aonghus Sellar (SS Football Chair) as Sports Chair.

All positions were elected via a Zoom poll.

VII. Acknowledgements

JP thanked all who had sent in nominations for 24/25 committee positions. He shared that working as SSS Chair is a privilege, and the people that work across the organisation inspire him on a daily basis. JP then thanked all out going 23/24 volunteers, especially thank the Executive Committee, as their work had been brilliant this year. Also wish to thank and acknowledge the amazing work that has been done in such a short amount of time by the Active Campus Coordinators, and have high hopes on what can be built on this programme moving forward. JP reiterated the note from SF that the team at SSS is fantastic, and it has been and will be a challenging next year for the organisation, but the team at SSS are an inspiring group, and we will move into this with a positive outlook. A final good luck to everyone for the next academic year, and a welcome to all who have been voted in.

Meeting closed 11:55

APPENDIX 1

The Committees for 2024/25 are as follows:

Executive Council 2024/2025:

Name	Institution	First date elected	End date current term	6 years in role
SSS Chair- Jonny Pearson	Edinburgh College	August 2023	July 2026	July 2029
Dev Chair- Katherine Corbett	Edinburgh	June 2021	July 2025	July 2027
Comps Chair- Eamonn Laird	Dundee	June 2022	July 2025	July 2028
Staff Member - Chris Sellar	Heriot-Watt	June 2022	July 2026	July 2028
Staff Member – Euan Smith	Glasgow	August 2024	July 2026	July 2029
Staff Member - Ian Gaunt	St. Andrews	June 2022	July 2025	July 2028
Student Member – Ryan Cairns	Edinburgh Napier	August 2024	July 2025	July 2029
Student Member – Mia Jennings	Dundee	August 2024	July 2025	July 2029
Student Member – Philine Rouwers	Edinburgh	August 2024	July 2025	July 2029

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

Development Committee 2024/25:

Name	Institution	First date elected	End date current term	6 years in role
Dev Chair- Katherine Corbett	Edinburgh	June 2021	July 2025	July 2027
Sport & Active Health Lead- Jordan Moore	Heriot-Watt	August 2023	July 2025	July 2029
Inclusion & Culture Lead- Jenny Beedie	Glasgow	August 2023	July 2025	July 2029
Learning & People Lead- Neil Rankin	Edinburgh	August 2023	July 2025	July 2029
Colleges Lead- Andrew Kirk	CofGC	August 2024	July 2026	July 2030
Student Member - Anna Edvaldsson	Strathclyde	August 2024	July 2025	July 2029
Student Member - Alex Chan-Taylor	Heriot-Watt	August 2024	July 2025	July 2029

Competitions Committee 2024/25:

Name	Institution	First date elected	End date current term	6 years in role
Comps Chair- Eamonn Laird	Dundee	June 2022	July 2025	July 2028
Staff Member – Ben Graham	Heriot-Watt	August 2024	July 2026	July 2028
Staff Member – Johnathan MacLeod	UWS	June 2022	July 2026	July 2028
Student Member – Freya Rennie (post AGM vote)	UWS	August 2024	July 2025	July 2030
Student Member – Laura Shaw	Stirling	August 2024	July 2025	July 2030
Aonghus Sellar - Sports Chair	SS Football	August 2024	July 2025	July 2030

Please note that the Fixtures Forum Chair may also be present at Competitions Committee meetings.