



SSS AGM 2025 Minutes

20.08.25

Online (Zoom)

11:00 – 12:00

Attendance

Mikey Devlin
 Tarik Yesildogan
 Andrew Kirk
 Gregor Cree
 Iain Houston
 Xsara Murray
 Craig Stephen
 Rebecca Reader
 Dean Mckirdy
 Gordon McTweed
 Ben Graham
 Chris Sellar
 Karen Campbell
 Ross Campbell
 Vinny Pemberton
 Ashley Robson
 Ian Lowe
 Joanna Bell
 Phoebe Moncur
 Scott McGregor
 Jeroen Herk
 Emma Gunn
 Katie Waters
 Aonghus Sellar
 Jack Whyte
 Adam Lambert
 Marie Sherriffs
 Audrey Duncan
 Kelly Moonlight
 Paul McPate
 Rory La Trobe
 Mark Munro
 Neil Rankin
 Alex Chan-Taylor
 Jo Foster
 Katherine Duncan
 Naomi O'Brien
 Polly Pearse
 Sean Berthelsen
 Euan Smith
 Karl Kirkpatrick
 Keith Joss
 Stephen Stewart
 Callum Ball
 Cathy Gallagher
 Laura Shaw
 Abby Irvine
 Neil Brown
 Leanne Carnan
 Ciaran O'Brien

Institution / Organisation

Abertay University
 Ayrshire College
 City of Glasgow College
 City of Glasgow College
 City of Glasgow College
 Edinburgh College
 Edinburgh Napier University
 Fife College
 Forth Valley College
 GCU
 Heriot-Watt University
 Heriot-Watt University
 Heriot-Watt University
 Heriot-Watt University
 Heriot-Watt University
 RGU
 RGU
 RGU
 RGU
 sportscotland
 SRUC
 SS Athletics
 SS Cricket
 SS Football
 UHI Moray & UHI Perth College
 University of Aberdeen
 University of Aberdeen
 University of Dundee
 University of Dundee
 University of Dundee
 University of Dundee
 University of Edinburgh
 University of Edinburgh
 University of Edinburgh
 University of Edinburgh
 University of Edinburgh
 University of Edinburgh
 University of Edinburgh
 University of Edinburgh
 University of Edinburgh
 University of Glasgow
 University of Glasgow
 University of Glasgow
 University of St Andrews
 University of Stirling
 University of Stirling
 University of Stirling
 University of Strathclyde
 University of Strathclyde
 University of Strathclyde
 UWS

Attendance

John McGonigal
 Johnathan MacLeod
 Jessica Westcough
 Jonny Pearson
 Jordan Dawson
 Julia Stenhouse
 Ruairidh Campbell
 Sophie Charlton
 Stew Fowlie
 Chris Purdie

Institution / Organisation

UWS
 UWS
 West Lothian College
 Edinburgh College (SSS Chair)
 SSS
 SSS
 SSS
 SSS
 SSS
 SSS

Apologies

Bob Wyllie
 Freya Rennie
 Anna Edvaldsson
 Liv Stevens
 Bill Stobie
 Eilidh Stewart

Institution / Organisation

sportscotland
 UWS
 University of Strathclyde
 University of Edinburgh
 SS Volleyball
 GCU



JP welcomed everyone to the 2025 AGM, thanking everyone for attending.

Part 1.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 2024 AGM were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting (proposed by Euan Smith, Seconded by Johnathan MacLeod). Apologies were noted as listed above.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising

3. Confirmation of Quoracy

A test poll confirmed quoracy, with 21 Voting Members in attendance.

Part 2.

1. Strategic Update

SF presented the following update:

Development

We feel that we have engaged the membership well this year. New project areas have come through with Coach Like A Girl being the favourite. From work last year, we feel we have a better way of reporting equality data for the future and have restructured the equality action group. It is encouraging to see club sport continuing to grow with a marked increase on last year. We looked to continue to provide the best support we can to the Active Campus Network, and great to see this programme thriving. Gathering good information continues to be important to us, and we have been trying to strike a good balance of our requesting of this across the network.

Competitions

Our competitions work is core business for us and an important part of our financial model. We looked to continue balancing fair pricing of entry fees for members, with understanding that our competitions programme is one of our only profit-making business areas. We can be really proud of our delivery across the past year, with 113 events taken place. Thanks given to the staff and volunteers responsible. Multisport events a success, with Conference Finals, as well as College Finals being the biggest we had ever hosted. We have also continued with the centralised fixture model which supports activity across the network, as well as SSS leagues & knockouts. We have also continued with National Squads, which is not getting easier to facilitate, and foresee challenges with this across the next few years. However NS continues to be an important part of our work. Strong facility support we receive from members is greatly appreciated.

Advocacy

The formal announcement of Active Campus support has led to extended commitment to the programme until 2027. Work has already started with partners to see how we can make this sustainable for the future.



Also, we are now in a different phase with **sportscotland** in which we'll be recognised as a national partner. This has given us the chance to reset how we work with **sportscotland**. We have tried to represent the network well through consultation work & national level discussions. We look forward to working with partners on a range of exciting projects in future also. BUCS remain a critical partner for us, success with teaming up on the Active Wellbeing survey this year which we hope will remain the case in future. Thanks to Ruairidh Campbell, as well as our network of volunteers, for their communication work in 24-25. With new strategies adopted this year we've seen significant increases in our content reach.

Strong Org

Whilst this year has marked by organisational change, we have had a bumper year of activity. Thanks given to staff colleagues, both remaining and those recently left, for the professional way they have handled themselves this year.

We have launched our new strategy and currently looking at how to embed new ways of working to help make the strategy realised. However, whether we can manage this across the year, is yet to be seen. Our strong policy framework in and out of the university is a massive advantage and we will keep an eye on governance structures as we progress through this period. We have been operating at a deficit in recent year, and we are promoting the thought that this continues for the next two years. Thanks given to Julia Stenhouse for stewardship of the finances. If you look at the long-term position, we are in a pretty healthy state, but we are still in a period of funding challenge. The aim is to be in a reasonable position to kick on and be in a better position by 2027.

2. Financials

a. 24-25 End of Year Forecast

JS presented the 24-25 end of year forecast. 24-25 has seen changes across different areas of the business but the overall the picture has remained steady. Both income and expenditure are down on our original budget. This is due to factors such as smaller development events held and less national squad activity than budgeted. We worked hard to ensure much tighter spending controls on our competition programmes also. Again, our largest area of expenditure is our staffing resource, which also saw a rate of increase this year in line with national insurance changes and staff redundancy costs.

In a tough financial year, with many changes across the business, SSS has done well to end up with a year-end deficit position of -£20,557.50, which is a smaller deficit than budgeted.

b. 25-26 Budget

JS then presented the 25-26 end of year forecast. SSS are proposing an operating loss of a little under £15k on the year. This would not be sustainable long-term but is certainly manageable short-term within our new reserves policy, and is in line with narrative from AGM '24. This year there is a significant decrease in staff resource spend. This reflects our new structure, which has been implemented to make our organisation more sustainable across our new strategy period.

We have also recoded some of our development income to be depicted in the budget more in line with how it's used throughout the year. Also, we wanted to share that we have lower targets in the competition space, which demonstrate our efforts to pull back on some elements of the programme.

Careful management of the finances will continue to be important. The intention is to manage costs carefully



and reduce deficit in year if possible. Cathy Gallagher (UofS) gave an observation from Executive Committee discussions that diligent saving from previous years has allowed the SSS reserves to handle another year of an operational loss.

The 25-26 budget was ratified via a zoom poll.

Paul McPate (UofD) gave acknowledgement on behalf of the members to Stew Fowlie and the SSS team for their hard work over such a difficult period, and in particular to acknowledge SF for his leadership during this time. PMcP also noted a 'call to arms' asking members to continue support the SSS team over 25-26, to help continue to with their delivery of sport across the sector.

3. Review and Set Membership Fees

The members were asked to approve the fixing of the 25-26 membership fees. SF provided context that SSS will look to raise the same total in membership fees, however with updated indices reflecting the new student data and activity data collected.

The membership fees for 25-26 were approved by the membership, via a Zoom poll.

Part 3.

1. Constitutional Changes

The members were asked to approve three constitutional changes (Appendix 2). All three changes were approved by the membership via a Zoom poll.

2. Appointments

- a. Drummond Laurie were approved by all as the Auditors for the year ending 31st July 2026 via a Zoom poll.
- b. Mark Beaumont was approved by all as the (ongoing) Honorary President for the year ending 31st July 2026 via a Zoom poll.

3. Elections

- a. Competitions Committee Chair

The members voted onto the committee the following: Ben Graham (Heriot-Watt University) as Competitions Committee Chair.

Personal thanks to Eamonn Laird was given by Jonny Pearson and Stew Fowlie for his excellent stewardship of comps committee in recent years, as well as his support on exec in the last very challenging twelve months.

- b. All other vacant roles

The members voted onto the committee the following uncontested positions en masse:

- i. Executive Committee
 1. Ian Lowe (RGU) as staff member



2. Anna Edvaldsson (Strathclyde) as student member
 3. Freya Rennie (UWS) as student member
 4. Liv Stevens (Edinburgh) as student member
- ii. Competitions Committee
1. Laura Shaw (Stirling) as student member
 2. Rory La Trobe (Dundee) as student member
 3. Aonghus Sellar (Scottish Student Football) as Sports Chair
- iii. Development Committee
1. Katherine Duncan (Edinburgh) as Chair
 2. Xsara Murray (Edinburgh College) as staff member
 3. Callum Ball (Stirling) as staff member

All positions were elected via a Zoom poll.

X1 staff member Competitions Committee role remains vacant. The membership will be contacted with the process for re-application.

x4 staff member Development Committee roles remain vacant. The membership will be contacted with the process for re-application.

The x2 student member Development Committee roles remain vacant. The Sabb officers will be contacted with the process for re-application.

4. Acknowledgements

JP thanked all who had sent in nominations for 25/26 committee positions. He noted that he is entering his 30th year working in the college sector in Scotland and that working as SSS Chair is a privilege. In an extremely challenging and year and an extremely challenging environment, he has been amazed and invigorated by the staff team at SSS. He paid special tribute to Jo Foster, Ben Rowlings, Sean Berthelsen & Eilidh Gibson who have since departed the organisation, but whose professionalism was incredible across the period. Also wanted to acknowledge the pride he had in the performance of the remaining staff who have since lost friends and colleagues from the organisation. Special recognition given to SF for his stewardship of the organisation through difficult times, and has maintained commitment from the group, despite knowing at somepoint they would be departing. JP then thanked all out going 24/25 volunteers. JP also wished everyone a great year, recognised that it is an exciting time for student sport with activity and participation levels on the up. He noted thanks to all, and to look to make this an even better year than the last.

He noted thanks for all who attended & hoped to see as many members as possible at SSS Festive Gathering in December.

Meeting closed 11:55

Appendix 1.

Executive Committee				
Name	Institution	First date elected	End date current term	6 years in role
SSS Chair- Jonny Pearson	Edinburgh College	Aug-23	Jul-26	Jul-29
Dev Chair- Katherine Duncan	Edinburgh	Jun-21	Jul-26	Jul-27
Comps Chair- Ben Graham	Heriot-Watt	Aug-25	Jul-28	Jul-31
Staff Member - Chris Sellar	Heriot-Watt	Jun-22	Jul-26	Jul-28
Staff Member – Euan Smith	Glasgow	Aug-24	Jul-26	Jul-30
Staff Member - Ian Lowe	RGU	Aug-25	Jul-26	Jul-31
Student Member – Anna Edvaldsson	Strathclyde	Aug-25	Jul-26	Jul-29
Student Member – Freya Rennie	UWS	Aug-25	Jul-26	Jul-29
Student Member – Liv Stevens	Edinburgh	Aug-25	Jul-26	Jul-29
Development Committee 2025/26:				
Name	Institution	First date elected	End date current term	6 years in role
Dev Chair- Katherine Corbett	Edinburgh	Jun-21	Jul-26	Jul-27
Staff Member - Andrew Kirk	CofGC	Aug-24	Jul-26	Jul-30
Staff Member - Xsara Murray	Edinburgh College	Aug-25	Jul-27	Jul-31
Staff Member - Callum Ball	Stirling	Aug-25	Jul-27	Jul-31
Staff Member (Vacant)				
Staff Member (Vacant)				
Staff Member (Vacant)				
Staff Member (Vacant)				
Student Member - College (Vacant)				
Student Member - University (Vacant)				
Student Member - University (Vacant)				
Competitions Committee 2025/26:				
Name	Institution	First date elected	End date current term	6 years in role
Comps Chair- Ben Graham	Heriot-Watt	Aug-25	Jul-28	Jul-31
Staff Member – Johnathan MacLeod	UWS	Jun-22	Jul-26	Jul-28
Staff Member – (Vacant)				
Student Member – Laura Shaw	Stirling	Aug-24	Jul-26	Jul-30
Student Member – Rory La Trobe	Dundee	Aug-25	Jul-26	Jul-30
Aonghus Sellar - Sports Chair	SS Football	Aug-24	Jul-26	Jul-30

Appendix 2. SSS AGM 2025

Paper 3 – Constitutional Changes

The following constitutional changes are proposed by the Executive Council and may be passed by a two thirds majority providing the AGM is quorate.

Section	Existing wording	New wording
5.1	Non-Voting: sportscotland (x1); British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) (x1); Scottish Funding Council (SFC) (x1); SSS Chief Operating Officer	Non-Voting: sportscotland (x1); British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) (x1); SSS Chief Operating Officer
5.5	<p>Development Committee</p> <p>The Development Committee shall oversee delivery of SSS’ work in the areas of member engagement, volunteer support, partnerships, information sharing, and sports development.</p> <p>The committee will receive reports and updates as appropriate from special interest groups and other project groups relating to development.</p> <p>Membership to comprise of:</p> <p>5.5.1 An elected Chair</p> <p>5.5.2 Up to four staff from within member institutions</p> <p>5.5.3 Two students from within member institutions</p> <p>Support to be provided by the relevant SSS staff member/s (non-voting)</p> <p>5.5.4 In the event of a tie, the Chair shall be entitled to a casting vote</p> <p>5.5.5 A quorum for the Development Committee will be 4 voting Members</p> <p>5.5.6 The Development Committee shall meet at agreed intervals and not fewer than four times per year</p> <p>Other individuals, including SSS staff, volunteers and partners may be asked to attend Development Committee as required by the business of the day.</p>	<p>Development Committee</p> <p>The Development Committee shall oversee delivery of SSS’ work in the areas of member engagement, volunteer support, partnerships, information sharing and sports development.</p> <p>The committee shall have the authority to initiate, develop and implement projects that align with its objectives and serve the interests of the SSS membership and the broader sports sector.</p> <p>The committee will receive reports, minutes and updates as appropriate from other relevant groups, forums and meetings, and other governance groups relating to development in the broadest sense.</p> <p>Membership to comprise of:</p> <p>5.5.1 An elected chair</p> <p>5.5.2 Up to seven staff from within member institutions</p> <p>5.5.3 Three students from within member institutions</p> <p>5.5.4 A minimum of one staff role and one student role shall be reserved for College representatives</p> <p>Support to be provided by the relevant SSS staff (non-voting)</p> <p>5.5.5 In the event of a tie, the Chair shall be entitled to a casting vote</p> <p>5.5.6 A quorum for the Development Committee will be six voting members</p> <p>5.5.7 The Development Committee shall meet at agreed intervals and not fewer than four times per year.</p> <p>Other individuals, including SSS staff, volunteers, members, and partners may be asked to attend as required by the business of the day.</p>
8.1	The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall normally be held in June	The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall normally be held in August