

SSS AGM 2026 Minutes

19.08.26

Online (Zoom)

11:00 – 12:15

Attendance

Mikey Devlin
 Austen Brunton
 Gordon McTweed
 Hamza Siddiqi
 Ben Graham
 Chris Sellar
 Josie Murray
 Karen Campbell
 Ross Campbell
 Ian Lowe
 Joe Macdonald
 Phoebe Moncur
 Bob Wyllie
 Scott McGregor
 Jeroen Herk
 Lena Koch
 Ana Jurado
 Jenna Gray
 Julie Jones
 Adam Lambert
 Marie Sherriffs
 Audrey Duncan
 Kelly Moonlight
 Morgan McMillan
 Amber Main
 Connie Chen
 Doreen O'Donnell
 Mark Munro
 Neil Rankin
 Scott Ball
 Sean Berthelsen
 Eilidh McQuillan
 Jenny Beedie
 Aidan Horsburgh
 Cathy Gallagher
 Harry Sawdon
 Abby Carney
 Neil Brown
 Tilly Galvin
 Ciaran O'Brien
 John McGonigal
 Johnathan MacLeod
 Laura Young
 Linsey Roseman
 Jordan Dawson
 Sophie Charlton
 Chris Purdie
 Stew Fowlie
 Julia Stenhouse-Walton
 Jonny Pearson

Institution / Organisation

Abertay University
 Edinburgh Napier
 GCU
 GCU
 Heriot-Watt University
 Heriot-Watt University
 Heriot-Watt University
 Heriot-Watt University
 Heriot-Watt University
 RGU
 RGU
 RGU
 sportscotland
 sportscotland
 SRUC
 SS Handball
 SS Volleyball
 UHI Inverness
 UHI Inverness
 University of Aberdeen
 University of Aberdeen
 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 Glasgow
 University of Glasgow
 University of St Andrews
 University of Stirling
 University of Stirling
 University of Strathclyde
 University of Strathclyde
 University of Strathclyde
 UWS
 UWS
 UWS
 UWS
 UWS
 Scottish Student Sport
 Scottish Student Sport
 Scottish Student Sport
 Scottish Student Sport
 Scottish Student Sport
 Edinburgh College/SSS Chair

Apologies

Hannah Cowie
 Aimee Ridgeway
 Aonghus Sellar
 Susan Brown
 Xsara Murray
 Rebecca Reader
 Chris Piper
 Ruairidh Campbell

Institution / Organisation

University of Aberdeen
 NESCol
 SS Football
 Edinburgh Napier University
 Edinburgh College
 Fife College
 Heriot-Watt University
 SSS

Part 1.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Jonny Pearson (JP) welcomed all to the AGM. The minutes of the 2025 AGM were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting (proposed by University of Edinburgh, seconded by Heriot-Watt University). Apologies were noted as listed above.

2. Matters arising

No matters arising

3. Confirmation of Quoracy

14 voting members were in attendance.

Part 2.

1. Strategic Update

An overview was provided by Stew Fowlie (SF) regarding key organisational developments over the past year, ahead of the formal annual report.

Advocacy

Continued engagement across the sporting system with national partners, local authorities and wider networks. Active Campus Network - work is underway with **sportscotland** and the college sector to secure future funding, with a refreshed proposal expected to go to the **sportscotland** Board before year-end. Relationships with **sportscotland** and BUCS have been strengthened and repositioned over the past 12 months. Thanks were noted to colleagues involved in supporting these partnerships. More than £300,000 of additional funding has been secured, with efforts underway to distribute funding across the network. Summer of Sport activity was noted as progressing well. Over 3 million impressions were achieved across organisational channels, a significant increase on the previous year, providing a strong platform for the final year of the current strategy.

Competitions

A significant volume of competitions activity was delivered throughout the year, averaging one event every two days during term time. Thanks were extended to Sports Chairs, sports group volunteers, officials and institutional administration staff for their contribution to delivering the programme, as well as members supporting facility access. Particular thanks were given to Chris Purdie (CP) and Sophie Charlton (SC) in the Competitions team for their management of the programme. National squad activity has been successfully reintroduced and is progressing well. The programme is overseen by Ben Graham (BG) and the Competitions Committee, with a strong focus on value for money and generating a surplus to support the wider organisation. Thanks were extended to everyone involved in delivering the competitions programme.

Development

The development programme has had to adapt to significant staffing changes, with thanks to Jordan Dawson (JD) for managing the transition effectively. A broad range of development activity has been maintained, alongside a clearer reset with members and partners around roles and responsibilities. The Equality Action Group was relaunched with a new plan. Thanks were noted to Waiyin Hatton for her impactful leadership. A successful period kits project, delivered in partnership with the SFA and Grace & Green, demonstrated the value of partnership working and economies of scale. SSS Conference received very positive feedback, with thanks to the hosts at St Andrews. Greater focus will be placed on research and insight, including the new student research group, which has made positive early progress and is expected to develop further in 2027. Collaboration with BUCS has continued across areas including belonging, learning and networking opportunities. A special thanks was given to Katherine Duncan and all members of the Development Committee for their contribution and support during a period of changing staff capacity.

Strong Org

Despite a year of uncertainty, the organisation delivered strongly against its priorities. Membership remained at a record high, with key areas of work maintained and continued efforts to provide greater support for volunteers. Around 150 volunteers contribute weekly to SSS activity, with their contribution acknowledged and appreciated. The SSS staff team will increase from six to seven, with a new member expected to join before September. Particular thanks were given to Julia Stenhouse-Walton (JSW) for her careful stewardship of the organisation's finances, and also to members and partners for their continued support. The organisation is in good financial health as 2025/26 closes, providing a strong position to complete the current strategic cycle and look ahead to the next phase through 2031 and beyond.

2. Financials

(i) 25/26 End of Year Forecast

JSW provided an overview:

SSS have ended the year in a stronger financial position than budgeted. This increase in income is primarily driven by higher grant funding, from both BUCS and sportscotland, as well as increased competition programme income, national squad income and development event income, which more than offset shortfalls in sponsorship and merchandise income. Direct costs are £5,745 above budget, largely due to higher national squad and development event expenditure. Overheads are forecast with a small percentage over our budgeted amount. Overall, the organisation has finished the year with a net profit of £19,390, compared with a budgeted loss of £15,028. This is a strong position going into 26/27.

(ii) 26/27 Preliminary Budget

JSW provided an overview:

Budgeted income is up significantly from the forecast for 2025/26, largely driven by a substantial increase in grant funding. This grant funding is comprised of core **sportscotland** investment, as well as the additional Summer of Sport, Club Support & Growth & Innovation Funds. A major increase in direct costs from last year, primarily due to higher planned development expenditure from the **sportscotland** additional funding. Staff costs represent the largest overhead with an addition of a new staff member @ grade 4. The net position is a £6.3k surplus. This is only a small buffer, so careful cost control and delivery against the increased grant income will be important.

Ross Campbell (RC) commended the organisation's careful management of membership funds, particularly given the challenges of the past year. The team was recognised for delivering strongly with a smaller budget.

A question was raised by Cathy Gallagher (CG) regarding the level of reserves and whether the Executive would consider reducing them. It was confirmed that Executive Committee had previously agreed a two-tier reserve approach. Current reserves remain above the agreed comfort level, with Executive retaining the option to use some reserves to support operations if required.

The 2026/27 budget does not forecast a deficit, reflecting confidence in increased funding and delivery plans. A question was raised regarding the £12,000 sponsorship income target for 2026/27. It was noted that this remains optimistic, with the current headline agreement entering its final year and future sponsorship subject to renegotiation.

CG also asked whether a three-year financial forecast had been considered. It was confirmed that longer-term financial planning is undertaken alongside the organisation's strategic cycles. SF noted that the organisation is currently in a stronger financial position than anticipated for 2027, providing an opportunity to consider additional investment in the next strategy while avoiding a structural deficit. It was noted that the majority of the additional funding received this year is being reinvested in activity, meaning its potential future loss would not fundamentally affect the underlying SSS business model.

The 26-27 budget was ratified via a zoom poll.

3. Review and set Membership Fees

Paper published on SSS website

The members were asked to approve the fixing of the 26-27 membership fees. SF provided context that SSS will look to raise the membership fees by a modest percentage with updated indices reflecting the new student data and activity data collected.

The membership fees for 26-27 were approved by the membership, via a Zoom poll.

Part 3.

1. Appointments

- a. Drummond Laurie were approved by all as the Auditors for the year ending 31st July 2027 via a Zoom poll.
- b. Mark Beaumont was approved by all as the (ongoing) Honorary President for the year ending 31st July 2027 via a Zoom poll.

2. Elections

- a. Honorary Life Membership
 - i) Paul McPate

Paul McPate's contribution to student sport reflects over four decades of unwavering passion, leadership and advocacy for the transformative power of sport. At the University of Dundee, he has helped shape an inclusive, student-centred sporting culture focused on participation, wellbeing, development and belonging. For over 40 years, he has volunteered with Dundee volleyball as a coach, mentor and leader, helping build a thriving and accessible community. Beyond Dundee, Paul has held influential roles across Scottish and UK student sport, including Chair of BUCS and SSS Volleyball. His commitment, expertise, mentorship and positivity have shaped opportunities and inspired generations of students, athletes and colleagues.

Paul was unanimously elected to Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the organisation via a zoom poll.

b. Contested Roles

JSW provided an overview on the different elements of the voting system. Members first voted on the contested roles:

i) **Executive Council Staff Members**

- (1) **Chris Sellar – Heriot-Watt University - 11/14 – Elected**
- (2) **Mark Munro – University of Edinburgh - 10/14 – Elected**
- (3) Susan Brown – Edinburgh Napier - 7/14
- (4) Abstain – 0/14

ii) **Development Committee Student Members**

- (1) Joseph Macdonald – RGU - 5/14
- (2) **Connie Chen – University of Edinburgh - 6/14 – Elected**
- (3) **Aidan Horsburgh – University of St Andrews - 6/14 – Elected**
- (4) Morgan McMillan – University of Dundee 3/14
- (5) Chris Piper – Heriot-Watt University - 4/14
- (6) Hannah Cowie – University of Aberdeen – 4/14
- (7) Abstain – 0/14

iii) **Competitions Committee Staff Member**

- (1) **Johnathan MacLeod – UWS – 7/14 – Elected**
- (2) Megan Robertson – Edinburgh Napier – 3/14
- (3) Scott Ball – University of Edinburgh – 4/14

c. Uncontested Roles

The members voted onto the committee the following uncontested positions:

i) **Executive Committee**

- (1) Jonny Pearson – Edinburgh College – SSS Chair
- (2) Hamza Siddiqi – Glasgow Caledonian University – Student Member
- (3) Tilly Galvin – University of Strathclyde – Student Member
- (4) Eilidh McQuillan – University of Glasgow – Student Member

ii) Development Committee

- (1) Craig Stephen – Edinburgh Napier – Staff Member
- (2) Amber Main – University of Edinburgh – Staff Member
- (3) Anna Edvaldsson – University of Stirling – Staff Member

iii) Competitions Committee

- (1) Toni Woods – UWS – Student Member
- (2) Aonghus Sellar – SS Football – Sports Chair

All positions were elected en masse via a Zoom poll.

The following roles remain vacant after the AGM:

- Development Committee Chair (x1 position available)
- Development Committee staff member (x2 positions available)
- Development Committee student member (College) (x1 position available)
- Competitions Committee student member (x1 position available)

The membership will be contacted with the process for re-application.

JP noted that co-option may be used to fill vacant roles with approval from the management committee.

3. Acknowledgements

JP thanked members for attending. It was noted that, as a member-led organisation, the input and participation of members is highly valued and essential to the organisation's work. Particular thanks were extended to JSW for the considerable effort involved in organising the meeting. The Chair expressed his delight at continuing in the role for another year, describing it as a great honour and privilege. He reflected positively on the work undertaken by SSS staff and volunteers over the past year, describing their contribution as remarkable and expressing his gratitude to everyone involved. Looking ahead, JP noted he was very much looking forward to another successful year and, in particular, to meeting and working with members and volunteers. He noted that each year he had been impressed by the standard of capacity, capability and commitment demonstrated by volunteers, both those serving on committees and those contributing in other ways. The Chair concluded by thanking everyone for their time and wishing them a successful year ahead and a wonderful week.

4. Close

Meeting closed 12:05

Appendix 1.

<i>Role</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>First date elected</i>	<i>End date current term</i>	<i>6 years in role</i>
<i>Executive Committee</i>					
Chair	Jonny Pearson	Edinburgh College	Aug-23	Jul-29	Jul-29
Development Chair	Vacant				
Competitions Chair	Ben Graham	Heriot-Watt University	Aug-25	Jul-28	Jul-31
Staff	Chris Sellar	Heriot-Watt University	Jun-22	Jul-28	Jul-28
Staff	Mark Munro	University of Edinburgh	Aug-26	Jul-28	Jul-32
Staff	Ian Lowe	Robert Gordon University	Aug-25	Jul-27	Jul-31
Student	Hamza Siddiqi	Glasgow Caledonian University	Aug-26	Jul-27	N/A
Student	Tilly Galvin	University of Strathclyde	Aug-26	Jul-27	N/A
Student	Eilidh McQuillan	University of Glasgow	Aug-26	Jul-27	N/A
<i>Development Committee</i>					
Chair	Vacant				
Staff (College)	Xsara Murray	Edinburgh College	Aug-25	Jul-27	Jul-31
Staff	Craig Stephen	Edinburgh Napier	Aug-26	Jul-28	Jul-32
Staff	Amber Main	University of Edinburgh	Aug-26	Jul-28	Jul-32
Staff	Anna Edvaldsson	University of Stirling	Aug-26	Jul-28	Jul-32
Staff	Duncan Caithness	University of St Andrews	Aug-25	Jul-27	Jul-31
Staff	Vacant				
Staff	Vacant				
Student (College)	Vacant				
Student (University)	Connie Chen	University of Edinburgh	Aug-26	Jul-27	N/A
Student (University)	Aidan Horsburgh	University of St Andrews	Aug-26	Jul-27	N/A
<i>Competitions Committee</i>					
Chair	Ben Graham	Heriot-Watt University	Aug-25	Jul-28	Jul-31
Staff	Kelly Moonlight	University of Dundee	Sep-25	Jul-27	Jul-31
Staff	Johnathan MacLeod	University of the West of Scotland	Jun-22	Jul-28	Jul-28
Sports Chair	Aonghus Sellar	Scottish Student Football	Aug-24	Jul-27	Jul-30
Student	Toni Woods	University of the West of Scotland	Aug-26	Jul-27	N/A
Student	Vacant				
Fixtures (co-opted)	Ann Taylor	University of Strathclyde	Aug-25	Jul-27	Jul-31