

# 2025-26 BUCS SQUASH SAG - MEETING 2 - MINUTES

Date Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
 Time  
 Location Microsoft Teams

## ATTENDEES

Simon Tunley  
 Hannah Underhill  
 Guy Cole  
 Thomos Rosser  
 James Marengi  
 Phil Lyon  
 Jon Tate  
 Nick Burley

## APOLOGIES

Zena Wooldridge  
 Emma Turnbull  
 Liam Gutcher  
 Greg Lobhan  
 Dan Busby

## ORGANISATION

Chair N/A  
 BUCS  
 University of West of England  
 Squash Wales  
 University of Manchester  
 Scottish Squash  
 University of Birmingham  
 BUCS

## ORGANISATION

World Squash Federation  
 University of Newcastle  
 University of Newcastle  
 Herriott Watt  
 University of Warwick

Item	Action*
1. Apologies  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above</li> </ul>	
2. <b>Matters arising from minutes 25/10/2025</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joanna Rowbottom now left ES and JM has reached out to ES about a replacement for her on the Committee</li> <li>Membership option for HE squash players: Progress stalled due to staff changes at England Squash.</li> <li>JM using digital transcript to produce minutes and help support admin burden in the future. JM to send through to ST for this meeting</li> <li>PL confirmed Greg Lobhan will be leaving the group and ST confirmed Emma Turnbull and Liam Gutcher will also be leaving. Recruitment exercise needed to replace especially the student reps.</li> </ul>	JM
3. <b>Role Updates and Future Responsibilities</b>	

- ST confirm JM will take on the chair role ready for the next academic year. JM thanked ST for his commitment in the role for last ten plus years. JM sent around a survey checking to see what roles people would be prepared to do and what roles are needed. He confirmed that Dan Busby will be joining the group to support James on the review piece. James will analyse the survey responses and feedback to the group. JM confirmed the importance of improving institutional diversity, gender balance, and wider sector representation from a wider cross section of universities.

JM

#### 4. Rules and Regs Review for 26/27

JT stated his preference would be to have a 17inch tin however easiest option is to get both teams to agree prior to the match and event e.g. Big Wednesday. JT feels a blanket change would benefit some universities over the another.

On gender identity it was agreed by BUCS in the 25/26 season that Cis women can now play in the men's leagues, however there is a need to tighten the regulation to make it clear what is allowed for future seasons. JT confirmed the women do not have as good a playing experience or opportunity as the men so the option to allow women to play would give them a better experience or more participation. GC stated we should look at gender identity and standard of women's squash separately. HU stated it is about making squash as fair as possible and not using it to manipulate the result. HU stated we need to ask Cis women to confirm whether they would prefer to play in the men's or women's leagues or we allow them to play in both. HU stated she had no issue with them playing across both especially as females have less opportunities to play. If you restricted which category they play in it could seriously dilute the women's leagues especially. JT said he would next season have to give the women the opportunity based on the present rule. JM stated the only way it could go wrong is it could damage the women's game as the better players will choose to play in the men's league. It was agreed we should leave as now however ensure we communicate the change across the squash community and see how the season goes and then adapt the rules for 27/28 based on the outcomes. Nick Burley did confirm a Cis women could play for both a men's and women's team on the same day if the rankings allow and it was logistically possible. JM and JT stated they did not agree with this. NB/HU agreed to raise this issue and explore whether it is a sport wise policy across BUCS sports. A conversation was also had on the individual's whether a cis women could play in both the men's and women's draw. However, it was agreed this was not practical.

NB/HU

Tier 1 seeding for the championship needs to be tightened so it has a clear tender process, is communicated and to confirm who is responsible for this process. Needs to be made clear in the regulation to ensure there is clarity and consistency of delivery. NB confirmed in 21/22 it was compulsory that teams attended the seeding weekend, however, there needs to be some clarity on the process and how it works. JM stated the focus is to ensure there are clear timelines and communication from BUCS. HU agreed there needs to be a date around the tender process in regards hosting and a caveat to clearly state if no one agrees to host then a neutral venue is found or we default to randomised seedings. JT

<p>suggested we scrap the seeding playoffs and get a panel to seed. All agreed to stick with the present regulation for the seeding weekend however BUCS to ensure a fixed date is agreed to submit tenders to host. JM confirmed he would produce a template to show the schedule and courts needed for the weekend event.</p>	<p>HU  JM</p>
<p>JT raised the issue on the trophy draw and the fact the best teams do not make the finals as they tend to meet each other in earlier rounds. He is keen that we try and seed this draw to prevent this happening. JT feels we should have the option. HU/JM agreed with JT thinking however it would take a structural change in the rules to make this happen. NB suggested we could potentially challenge for next season to use the league result data to seed the trophy. HU asked Neal Kington and he confirmed it would be possible just need to draft a change to the regs so they can update. <i>Jon</i> to draft proposed wording for a seeded Trophy draw and send to group.</p>	<p>          JT</p>
<p>JT asked about using a single yellow dot for tier 2 women's and NB confirmed it does state it is in the rules they should use a single yellow dot. NB suggested the following <b>SQU 14.1 Female Tier 2 and below league matches and Conference Cup matches</b> A single yellow spot ball shall be used, unless otherwise agreed between the two players involved in a rubber. All agreed. TR suggested we send out an education piece on the type of ball via BUCS. TR agreed to produce an infographic. ST confirmed a single yellow dot was used this year in the women's C and D grades at the Individual championships, with no concerns from players.</p>	<p>          TR</p>
<p><b>5. Review of 25/26 Season so far</b></p>	
<p>ST confirmed all went smoothly. JT mentioned trying to stream and providing an MC and music plus greater visibility via social media. ST agreed to speak BUCS on including these options. JT stated we should look at reviewing the way the draws work in the future to allow more players in the A grade. Sponsorship options would be good too. ST mentioned Ashway was a sponsor and if this could link with squash too. JM stated the importance of providing feedback post events to the SAG so we can review the future delivery. JT agreed Premier stage 2 went well although scheduling did not showcase the best matches on the show courts and the location meant travel costs were high. ST to put a date in the diary to review delivery of the individuals although option to get institution feedback too.</p>	
<p><b>6. Review Next Steps</b></p>	
<p>JM confirmed this was still work in progress and more thought is needed on what this would like and how it would work</p>	
<p><b>7. Future thinking on Graded Events</b></p>	
<p>TBC</p>	
<p><b>8. World University Championship Update</b></p>	

JT to confirm dates and timelines with BUCS on team selection for the event and the delivery. ST to set up selection meeting with the NGB's.

**9. England, Scottish and Welsh Updates**

**TBC**

**10. AOB**

JM to book meeting 3 based on SAG agreed timetable

**JT**

**Action Point List**

Hannah Underhill

1. With Nick Burley to check the feasibility of a Cis women being able to play twice in one day both in the men's and women's leagues
2. To ensure tender process for tier one seeding weekend has a fixed date to agree host venue

Simon Tunley

1. Set up a meeting to review options on the future delivery of the individuals and review tender to ensure includes live streaming and MC
2. To book a date for the selection committee for the world university championships (WUC)

James Marengi

1. To send digital minutes to ST
2. To analyse survey results on roles within the SAG and personnel.
3. To book SAG meeting 3
4. To send template on what playing scheduling should look like for tier 1 playoffs

Jon Tate

1. To confirm dates with BUCS around the WUC event
2. To draft thinking on seedings for the trophy and send to JM

Tomos Rosser

1. To draft an educational piece around selecting the right colour dot ball based on ability

All

1. To speak to relevant parties to see if interested in volunteering to help with the squash individuals in 2026/27

**Dates and times of meetings for 2025-26 season.**

Meeting 2 – 20/03/26

Meeting 3 – TBC

Meeting 4 – TBC