

2025-26 BUCS GOLF SAG - MEETING 1 - MINUTES

Date Tuesday 9th December
Time 9:00-10:00
Location Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

S Wade (Chair)
 Dean Robertson (Stirling)
 Ian Gaunt (St Andrews)
 Chris Purdie (SSS)
 Maddie Cannell & Hannah Underhill
 (BUCS)
 K Barnes (Bournemouth – Student)

APOLOGIES

Harry Scott (Exeter)

Item	Action
1. Apologies / Welcome Apologies were received from Harry Scott	
2. BUCS Tour Events – Venues policy and future. MC gave an overview of Tour challenges which included access to venues for three day events, cost of venues, the impending R&A review and clashes with other events such as Lytham Trophy in May. CP gave an overview of the Scottish events which other than the West of Scotland event remain well supported. In addition SSS have made redundancies which have not yet impacted the events CP puts on. MC confirmed Tour Finals will happen at Princes in early May. Events at Nottingham and Trevose will also happen and discussions continue with Seaton Carew.	
Action:	
3. Matchplay Team Event Going Forward – Going National There was general support for creating a four team national league which would involve St Andrews, Exeter and Stirling plus one other based on yet to be decided performance metrics over a number of years.	

Not all were 100% supportive but their position softened as the meeting moved on and they offered a suggestion of playing some fixtures abroad to take advantage of better weather. Flexibility as to how the fixtures are to be arranged can be built in and the four Universities will be able to modify fixtures within the period before deadlines.

The benefits were clear as it would ensure more Universities played at appropriate levels including high level Universities second teams. At present the three Universities are winning comfortably far too often whilst involving significant distances of travel. The new structure will see home and away return to all as all leagues below the National League will be of 6 teams and teams will play 10 fixtures plus cup ties: a weakness of the present system.

Other sports such as Tennis started off a National level league with four teams. This league will become a target for teams in the leagues below to become a part of and if it helps develop golf at other Universities we can look in the future at increasing its size.

It is aimed at beginning in the 2027/28 season with all details in place before the start of the 2026/27 season. Minimum Operating Standards (MOS) can be used to ensure level of facility and team can sustain such a high standard of golf. This league will be one of the highest level amateur leagues in the UK.

Action: SAG to work on paper for 4 team National League if want to move forward with this idea

4. Golf Rules – Making them reflect our realities

Rules will be reviewed frequently. At present games are being awarded or replayed as student clubs either have no influence over the golf clubs they play at (women's tees or length of course) or do not communicate any potential inadvertent infringements. Such walkovers at high league levels is not a good luck.

Travelling long distances, spending a lot of money getting there and taking a lot of time out from University should not result in games not happening or results being challengeable on technicalities.

At Premier League level it was suggested that shots for women be considered when courses provide tees for women that do not match the requirements. This would enable the matches to be played and be counted.

It is also important to note that some Universities have been repeat offenders and the rules are clear and should be known by all. There was also feeling that it is possible to manipulate these rules.

Communication with the host clubs and with opponents must happen to ensure all relevant information is shared with opponents. It was suggested more work goes in to sharing such information and if necessary the Chair can write a letter to all clubs hosting University teams thanking them for supporting student golf and to share bits of information that can be helpful to the various relationships.

Alan at UHI had asked about students on PGA courses and their eligibility for BUCS and in particular the Tour events. If the students followed the required credits then they would be available. Nobody saw an issue with this. In reality many are not at University but away within the golf community which is why Alan referred in particular to Tour events not weekly league fixtures.

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Action: Action in Rule and Regulation Review	
<p>5. Cup Developments & Team Finals Venues – 2027 onwards</p> <p>At present our team finals are at Woodhall Spa and are expensive. The Chair has spoken with West Lancashire and Royal Liverpool about them alternating the hosting from 2027. They were positive in response to such a request.</p> <p>The 2026 finals are at Woodhall.</p> <p>Action: DR has good contacts with the EGU would be willing to have conversation with them about costs.</p> <p>Woodhall is a good venue as indeed the other two courses would be. DR will keep us updated.</p>	
<p>6. Regional Events – Shining a light on Category 1 and 2</p> <p>Kent University will host a one day regional event for those University golfers who do not qualify for Tour events. They will open it out to beyond the South East and MC will offer the organisers support. It could become a template for more regional competitions for such golfers. The recent golf student survey threw up good support for such events. Reaching out like this may help in any future engagement with golfing bodies.</p>	
<p>7. Update on BUCS Golf SAG composition</p> <p>BUCS are reviewing how SAGs operate and how their work can be underpinned by interested members with good sport knowledge and undertake definitive roles within the group. Golf has interested people including Kira, our student rep and is in a good position to push on and play a key role in developing student golf.</p> <p>Action: BUCS to keep SAG update on review</p>	
<p>8. NGB Support – Do we need a plan?</p> <p>The R&A have been good supporters of all parts of student golf: BUCS, SSS, high level student golfers and high-quality student golf teams. Gavin Forrester is the new staff member we will deal with. They are reviewing their support for all golf. We will look to meet with them once they appear to have a position to share.</p> <p>Action: Continue to try and engage R&A</p>	
<p>9. AOB</p> <p>England & Wales Universities v Scotland – National Team Event</p> <p>This event was an important part of University golf some years ago. Not discussed in any detail. Given the many pressures on student golfers a window could be difficult to find and of course the finance to make it happen. I leave it here but we may one day come back to it if a role could be found for it.</p>	

Dates and times of meetings for 2025-26 season.

Meeting 1 – 9th December 2025

Meeting 2 – TBC

Meeting 3 – TBC

Meeting 4 – TBC