

2025-26 BUCS SQUASH SAG - MEETING 1 - MINUTES

Date Friday 17th October
 Time 10:00-12:00
 Location Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Simon Tunley
 Maz Veater
 Hannah Underhill
 Guy Cole
 Thomos Rosser
 James Marengi
 Jo Rowbottom
 Erin Simmonds
 Phil Lyon

ORGANISATION

University of Sussex
 BUCS
 BUCS
 University of West of England
 Squash Wales
 University of Manchester
 England Squash
 BUCS
 Scottish Squash

APOLOGIES

Jon Tate
 Liam Gutcher
 Emma Turnball
 Greg Lobhan

ORGANISATION

University of Birmingham
 University of Newcastle
 Herriott Watt

Item	Action
1. Apologies / Welcome Apologies were received from Jon Tate (University of Birmingham), Liam Gutcher and Emma Turnball (University of Newcastle), Greg Lobhan (Herriott Watt)	
2. Minutes and Matters Arising (Meeting on 16/05/25) Covered below	
3. Role Updates Conversation on re-advertising the chair role and seeing if there is an expression of interest. ST happy to stay in role until someone suitable found. Action: MV to advertise chair role, PL to check in with Greg on staying on committee as student male rep and ST to contact LG to see if Emma is still happy be the women's student rep.	MV/HU/ ST
4. Squash Review Update JM revisited the review process. JM stated the main feedback from the reviewing the proposal was concern on the standard of teams and the talent coming into HE squash is now a lot poorer. JM stated the feedback was positive from the review however leaves us in position of three options: keep the status quo; alter the proposal slightly to ensure teams playing at the right standard's based on the fact there was the interest to change and the third option is proposing something totally new.	JM

Action: Next JM arrange a separate meeting to speak to relevant people to have that conversation. Any paper would need to be with BUCS by end of January if a new proposal was put forward.	
5. 2025/2026 Season Planning on all Competitions ES confirmed Nottingham hosting the individuals as only HE that bid. Works well with the table tennis championships which is also hosted at the same time at Notts. Entry set close on the 4/11/25 entries low at present so keen we all push. Scoring will be done on iPad to be more sustainable and makes it a lot smoother. Dan Roberts looking to use for the premier league (stage 1 and 2) matches too. Looking for recruitment for support in delivering the event as keen to find some new blood and seeing if anyone on SAG keen to support or know of volunteers. ES agreed to send details to JR at England Squash and promote to squash committees. Stage 2 premier league being hosted at Herriott Watt which will be a positive. Newcastle and Birmingham to host stage 1 events. Big Wednesday will be hosted again in Loughborough in March 2026. Action: ES to send details to JR at England squash and promote squash committees	ALL/ES
6. Thinking on Graded events for 25/26 Season. GC, TR and PL mentioned opportunities to host events in Bristol, Scotland and Wales. ST suggested we used BUCS and ES to help promote the events. JM keep to roll out the template and agree dates and locations and try and note where there are gaps. Action: ST to reach out to Liam and James to try and put some events on for the coming season across the regions.	ST
7. World University Championship 2026 ST confirmed the thinking on WUC and the fact there was no longer the need for NGB blessings for a player to attend. Players would be able to self-nominate themselves if they met the selection criteria. NGB's would create a selection criteria for BUCS to send out to seek nominations from students who were interested to represent GB and this would include clearly defined costs that would need to be covered by the athlete. BUCS would then create a selection committee to agree the players GC mentioned again the value and whether institutions, based on present finances can justify sending players based on the costs and actual benefit, he stated there maybe scope for a basic subsidy however students would mostly likely be expected to cover a large proportion of the cost. GC commented that UWE had players represent Switzerland and France and they received at least 50% subsidised by their countries. Action: To speak to NK about a membership option for squash players to help monitor player numbers from HE across the UK.	ST
8. England Squash (ES) Initiatives Feedback from JR on changes in coach education with ES. JR keen to know what support HE would need on coach education and development. JR have changed the model of the coaching pathway so more flexible and better value and no longer	

rigid in regards being a level 1-3 coach. Routes into coaching has changed you can now do delivery at an entry level and progress based on your CPD and experience. Potentially be a leader or a coach or both; there are also bolt on workshops to help develop your knowledge. TR noted they are reviewing the squash Wales coaching offer and JR stated that ES would be more than happy to share their thinking with squash Wales. JR keen to speak with HE to see their thoughts on the new programme and how it can be utilised within institutions. MV/HU and ST to see support JR in getting information out to HEI's. ST stated we need to work with HE to promote more community squash and protect courts and develop students to help deliver squash in line with the 2028 games where squash will be hosted for the first time. PL mentioned Scottish Squash also looking at a similar model Action: MV/HU and ST to see support JR in getting information out to HEI's.	
9. AOB TR raised comment on membership, and they are keen to know if we would require students to be members of NGB's to play squash in BUCS as a lot of other sports do require this. TR confirmed it would help with the ability to monitor numbers playing. MV/HU agreed to investigate it and feedback to NK and try and link in the NGB's. MV mentioned it has been looked at in tennis, so there maybe scope to look at moving forward. PL asked would this be a paid membership or free as paid does provides benefits and with students being transient and not cash rich maybe less keen. PL stated they offer a supporter membership for free which could be an option. PL suggested TR speak to their membership lead and agree to put him in touch. JM stated such costs are being seen as even more prohibitive in some sports and its even tougher for students to fund. JR raised the point that we need to show the value of membership to the NGB. JR made suggestion that could we work with other racket sports to create a role in BUCS that would help support HE delivery of squash. Action: ST to discuss with HU about easier ways to minute the meetings to ensure capture all discussions and if we can use a digital platform to support this i.e. transcription tool ST to book in next meeting based on SAG agreed timetable on 20/02/2026	ST

Dates and times of meetings for 2025-26 season.

Meeting 1 – Friday 17th October 2025

Meeting 2 – 19th February 2026

Meeting 3 – TBC

Meeting 4 – TBC