



**Sports and Societies Zone**  
**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 4pm**  
**DG123**

## Present

### Chair

George Coombs - SU President (PRES)

### Students' Union Officers/staff

Paul Murtough – Representation and Democracy Coordinator (PM), Matt Allton – Design and Communications Coordinator (MA), Annie Severn – President of Wellbeing and Diversity (AS)

### Student members

Recorded via a register

## Apologies

All apologies were delivered to the S&A team prior to the meeting

## Welcome & Introductions

PRES welcomes everyone to the zone

## Items for Any Other Business

No items were submitted

## Agenda Items

1. Clash of the Minsters review
2. Leeds Trinity Varsity
3. Question Time
4. Facilities
5. SU Event bookings
6. Communications
7. Open discussion
8. Any other business

## 1. Clash of the Minsters review

PRES asked for any feedback relating to the varsity event which was held in October.

Students proposed a varsity against a different university

PRES responded by stating this is currently set to take place against Leeds Trinity  
*\* refer to agenda item 2*

Netball requested that for the future, logistics of transport for fans, i.e. walking buses should be looked into to avoid large empty halls with little support from spectators. Further to this, earlier notice of fixtures was proposed in order to teams to be able to accurately select and ensure they have the teams to play or not.

Cheerleading noted issues with members attending later games/sessions due to the demand on attending the results night at Fibbers.

PRES took the points on board and acknowledged that Varsity isn't just about the sports it is about support and everyone coming together.

A number of teams expressed their disappointment with the lack of play opportunities within the varsity.

PRES stated that this often came down to last minute drop-outs from Sunderland and a flaw in the opposition organisation of the teams.

Swimming requested that a minimum number be required for participation (YSJ – 17 members, Sunderland 6) to ensure fairness on either side.

Geek Society noted that they did not know what Varsity was, other than a sporting event.

PRES stated that there was a disconnect in the communication of the event, a number of students queried why they needed to pay when just spectating – what more could be done to engage students?

Societies agreed that they feel as they have no place in Varsity and are forgotten about. Could there be a potential for a Society event? (Geek Society)

PM stated that this had been in discussion in previous years, PRES stated he would look into this.

**Action: PRES to review society involvement.**

It was noted that focus should be equally placed on members of the Students' Union who aren't a part of Sports and Societies

Potential to alter students' desktops, attendance to lectures etc.

Mountaineering highlighted that campus advertisement was non-existent and purely stuck to social media – consider expanding.

**Action: PRES to look into future potential advertisement opportunities**

LGBT Society that at current level there would be limited support from the society due to lack of knowledge and interest.

Radio Society felt that it had become an expectation that the society would be a part of such events. Potential is there to look at innovative ways the Societies can be integrated into Varsity.

Mountaineering highlighted that campus advertisement was non-existent and purely stuck to social media – consider expanding.

SnowSports felt that they did not get the full varsity experience due to the poor organisation of their specific event and travel time meaning they missed the food provisions and results event in the evening.

## 2. Leeds Trinity Varsity

PRES continued the discussion raised in item 1 regarding the potential for a Leeds Trinity Varsity event.

The dominant concern from clubs was what teams are available to compete.

PRES stated that when more information was available committees would be informed.

**Action: PRES to update CCs and VCs accordingly**

## 3. Question Time

PRES opened up the idea of a regulated Question Time for committees – this would link to the accreditation and provide opportunities for development as much as operational improvements.

PRES asked for any objections/concerns to this idea – none were presented.

## 4. Facilities

PRES asked members if there were any issues regarding facilities.

### Haxby Road:

Archery stated that equipment is currently held behind a number of other items and it difficult to access.

Cheerleading asked if YSJ Active staff were to set up equipment or if it was the duty of the committee.

PRES stated that the staff should have equipment set and ready

It was stated that this does not happen

This was also reiterated by Volleyball, which subsequently disrupts their training times.

### Foss Sports Hall:

Basketball reported that they have found their equipment to often be used and not returned to the store cupboard but are unsure of who is using them.

Women's team stated that training has been cancelled due to Open Days – can this be changed.

PRES informed the members that unfortunately nothing can be done regarding these events due to the set up time.

Mountaineering also stated that the blue mats are continuously used and as a result minor damage can occur if not taken care of. The mats are expensive to replace and they requested that whoever used them

**Action: PRES to work with S&A team and liaise with staff at the facilities to improve and resolve issues.**

### Campus (other)

Drama Society commented on issues with theatre spaces.

PM clarified that with the theatre in question (Theatre Studio 1) it should have been removed from timetable, however it wasn't and there has been some confusion with this which has since been resolved.

Further to this MPS stated that there are problems with Theatre 3 due to it now belonging to Film and TV – this causes issues with equipment and furniture moves and may make (in some instances) the space unusable.

Dance have experience multiple issues with room bookings this semester – this shouldn't have happened due to how early the bookings were done (the day timetable opened).

**Action: PRES to review with S&A team the space requirements for Societies**

## External

Boat club raised concern over the unsafe nature of the current boat house and that it could potentially pose a large risk to members. Attempted communication with Neil Rogers but no further forward.

PRES stated that this will be taken to the exec board and discussed with Rob Hickey.

**Action: PRES to liaise with RH and feedback to the club**

## 5. SU event bookings

PRES asked for any comments on the booking of events.

Geek Society stated that the process for room bookings can be quite arduous and that it would be a benefit to enable the students to book their own spaces, they acknowledged that in doing this their bookings may be overlooked as a 'student booking'.

## 8. Communications

Members raised queries regarding the promotion of events etc.

MA stated that if committees presented a blog it would receive two weeks of traction on the website and social media.

## 9. Open discussions

Members took the time to advertise upcoming charitable events – a full list can be found at [www.ysjsu.com](http://www.ysjsu.com)

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## Summary of actions

Agenda item	Action:	Assigned to:
<b>Clash of the Minsters review</b>	Action: PRES to review society involvement. <i>(Page 3)</i>	PRES
	Action: PRES to look into future potential advertisement opportunities <i>(Page 3)</i>	PRES
<b>Leeds Trinity Varsity</b>	Action: PRES to update CCs and VCs accordingly <i>(Page 3)</i>	PRES
<b>Facilities</b>	Action: PRES to work with S&A team and liaise with staff at the facilities to improve and resolve issues. <i>(Page 4)</i>	PRES/S&A Team
	Action: PRES to review with S&A team the space requirements for Societies <i>(Page 5)</i>	PRES/S&A
	Action: PRES to liaise with RH and feedback to the club <i>(Page 5)</i>	PRES