

CSSC Scottish Region Quarterly Meeting

Held Tuesday 12TH August 2008 at Hampden Stadium Glasgow

Present: Bob Trainer (Chairman) George Dey (Treasurer)
Anne Young (Secretary) Darren Kelly (BDE)
Brian Daisley (Vice Chairman)

Executive Committee: George Churchill, Roger Ede, Robert Gillies,
Linda Booden, Paul Martin, Brian Daisley, Brian Donnelly, Allan Taylor, Davie
Elder, Robert Walker.

Area Representatives John Wilkie , Bob Harvey, Gilbert Gray, David Cant, Elaine
Nelson, Charlie McKinley, Paul Sheridan.

Sports Organisers Fraser McConnell, David Will, Steve Marzella , David Gillespie,
Harry Brebner, Simon Turner, George Hanley.

DA Reps Maggie Ritchie , Richard Dow

Head Office Staff Marian Holmes- Chief Executive.
Emma Hermon –Business Support Manager.
Hedley Featherstone -Volunteer Development Manager.

Apologies: Alan Taylor, Stuart Moscrop, John McDermott, Denise Connell
Bert Hunter, Joe Reid, Ian Kerr, Lisa Dominique, Anne Fox, George McLellan
Maureen Woodhead, Phil Thelwell Gwen Leiper, Derek Green.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Bob welcomed everyone, especially Marian, Emma and Hedley from head office , Bob Harvey, Charlie McKinley, Richard Dow, John Wilkie & George Hanley who were attending their first regional meeting .

Bob had attended his first CSSC Annual conference in June; he enjoyed the experience gained a lot of useful information and was able to network with other regional officers,
Bob also attended his first Celtic Games in Newport South Wales he found it a very enjoyable experience and reported that the Scots were narrowly beaten into second place by the host nation. He thanked all our sports organizers for organizing our qualifying events and Anne for organizing everyone and the trip to Wales.

Bob has started work on a management or business plan for our region, he feels that with the amount of activities that we organize within the region and the amount of finance and policy discussions that we hold should be captured and coordinated in a structured fashion. It will provided a focus to change and improve the infrastructure, he added that we run the plan, it doesn't run us .He will present the plan for detailed debate later this year.

He was concerned that the personal cost for the competitors attending the Celtic Games was £60 per head, they then had to approach their AA for assistance and some got the full amount back when others did not.

On behalf of the region Bob Congratulated Darren on the birth of his daughter Alyssa, and presented him with a gift.

2. Marian Holmes – CSSC Chief Executive

Marian told us that CSSC has been in existence for 87 years! We need to celebrate our success. Our Membership is declining though for lots of reasons, employers attitude, competitive leisure market, we need to halt this decline!

We have 136,000 members if everyone got one new member it would make a big difference.

We get a cabinet office Grant of 1.30 million pound per year because we provide for the Welfare of Civil Servants. We had a stand at the Civil Service Live Exhibition in London which filled two thirds of the main entrance, it would have costs thousands but CSSC got it free because of our standing within the Civil Service.

Marian was invited to go and talk to all the civil service permanent secretaries, there is a movement from the top to get staff fit and healthy, as the loss due to sick absence from the civil service as a whole was 393 million pounds last year.

Marian told the meeting about the West Midlands Project; it is sponsored by Sir Gus O'Donnell and Lee Lewis (DWP Permanent Secretary). It involves all civil service departments working together, having common standards, common induction and retirement. 38,000 civil servants got a leaflet inviting them to join CSSC. If this project goes national, Marian thinks that it will, it will be really big for CSSC.

One provider that covers all of the Civil Service, we need to appeal to a whole range of people.

Do you ? We should look to provide what people want!

3 Hedley Featherstone – Volunteer Recognition

Hedley reminded the meeting that volunteers are the life blood of CSSC; it is good recognize and reward our volunteers. Marian presented Certificates of Recognition to Linda Booden, Roger Ede Fraser McConnell and Anne Young for their invaluable contribution to CSSC both at local and National level, they were also presented with a gift from the Scottish region. Derek Green from Aberdeen area Also received a certificate of recognition at the annual conference in Manchester.

4 BDE Report

A copy of Darren's report is attached.

Darren asked that we keep Sarah sarah.kelly@cssc.co.uk updated with any changes for the Scottish Regional Reference book, he passed out paper copies and it is also available by email, please get in touch with Darren if you need one.

Darren asked that areas consider providing both him and Helen Marsden with some funding to purchase new member incentives like cinema tickets or CSSC merchandise like mouse mats.

Helen is the member of the new membership recruitment team with responsibility for Scotland & NE regions; we will invite her to the next regional meeting.

Roger asked if countdown would negotiate discounts in small areas, Darren advised as far as he knows you complete the form on the website and all requests are date with in the order they are received regardless of the size of the request.

Darren also asks us to remember we can submit articles for the Leisure Scene to him at any time.

5. Emma Hermon – Business Support Manager

Emma said that the formation of the Membership Recruitment Team is a key change in our National organization, the team is headed by Sam Harte with Alan Lewis, Phil Wright and Helen Marsden making up the rest of the team, they are very keen to link up with the region. If you know of any big offices please let Sarah Kelly know as she will be the first point of contact. Helen will be attending area meetings in Scotland.

Areas can have their own information leaflets printed which can be arranged through the marketing dept head office (area's pay the cost) this will be helpful in promoting CSSC at both a local and national level. Please contact ian.cooper@cssc.co.uk for information.

As business support assistant Sarah is looking to become more involved at area level and Emma said that she is keen to know all your problems, large or small, please ask her for help.

6 Hedley Featherstone – Volunteer Development Manager

Hedley told the meeting about the newly formed Volunteer Committee, It is chaired by CSSC vice chairman Peter Fischer and Anne Davison Clive Dennis George Dey & Tony Tate are the members. Their task is to create a Volunteer Framework for Action 2008-2010 which supports the CSSC's Strategic Plan to work together to ensure a co-ordinated approach to volunteer development. They will be seeking views from some of the 10,000 we have, to find out what the best and worst things about being a volunteer. They will be producing a good practice bank which will go live from the end of October, which will enable volunteers to share successful ideas & initiatives.

Linda Booden had issued a questionnaire to all the Scottish volunteer sports organisers, asking for their views on the help they get and need from head office. She received replied from 33% of those that she sent. The summary of her findings have been passed on to Emma, business support manager. Darren will be asking the remaining 66 % organisers to complete the questionnaire when he sees them.

Marian reminded everyone that head office is there to support and help volunteers, it is a long way from perfect but they are working on it. She issued an open invitation to anyone who would like to visit head office and the 40 staff who work there. She also asked that if there is any change in organisation be it area or sport, please don't assume that someone has told head office, tell them yourself.

7 Matters arising from minutes of meeting 27/05/08

1.2 Scottish Executive or Scottish Government as they are now known , Alan Peed has advised that they are still looking to affiliate to CSSC as a departmental association , it seems to be taking an extremely long time.

8.3 Marian advised that CSSC had not been consulted about the closure of clubs in HMRC premises, only health and fitness suites .Robert Gillies said he has 900 members who want to cancel their membership because CSSC have been seen, wrongly, to endorse the close of the club in Centre 1. Marian said that she will look at putting something out to the members in centre1; she will speak to Robert Gillies about this.

CSSC is still working at having as many fitness suites in the workplace as possible, pressure from the top is starting to pay off but there are constant battles with building owners like Trillium.

Davie Elder said that we should be looking at other things like Ti Chi where all you need is an empty room and an instructor.

Roger Ede raised the subject of office rationalisation across the civil service, we need to look at retention of members at the time of office closures, this raises funding issues as well, as some people move to work in another area and their subs move with them. Marian asked that if we know of a forthcoming closure we let head office know.

Davie Elder advised that he has researched affiliation to the Scottish Amateur Football Association; we are not required to affiliate.

9. Treasurers Report

George passed out copies of the accounts and explained them

Present Balance is £4879.14 and the balance of the Business Development Fund is £1583.58

Davie Elder asked that we put a bit about the development fund on the regional website, as previously agreed.

10 Secretaries Report

Anne reported that she had been really busy since the last meeting, with the annual conference and then the Celtic Games the following week. This prompted a discussion on the timing of the annual conference, being held at a time there are a lot of other events on and during the peak leave period, it can cause problems getting time of. Marian said that it was part of the constitution that it had to be held by the end of June.

Davie said that we should be lasing with Departmental Associations, with regard to the timing of Events, to help participation especially in the current climate when special leave is a big problem Marian said that this was part of the Strategic Plan.

DA's also needed to know what events regions are holding, Emma and Darren will look at these issues.

Davie added that the DA's should be asked to justify what they do with the money given to them by CSSC.

There had been a meeting held during the Celtic Games in Wales about next years event in Dublin The hosts have not yet decided which sports we will be having , that information should be available very soon . Anne has taken the responsibility of submitting the budget bid for Northern Ireland & Wales as well as Scotland, as the Sports & Leisure committee have only to get one bid. Anne is also in the process of organising the Joint conference that we are holding with the North East region on 3rd October in East Kilbride

11. AOB

Robert Gilles would like to thank both Darren and Brian Daisley for the help they gave him at the pool competition. He also told the meeting about "The Auld Enemy Challenge " that he had held. It was a Scotland V England pool competition, it was so successful that next year he is hoping to extend it to Northern Ireland & Wales

Area Pages on the website- Marian said that area representatives need to update and take responsibility & ownership of their respective pages on the website.

Next Meeting will be an executive meeting following the conference on Saturday 4th October

Please accept my apologies for these minutes being rather late, I have been a bit busy with all that is going on at the moment .

Anne Young
03/09/08