



Sabbatical Report 1

Gary Richardson - Student Activities Officer

September 26th, 2011

Summer Summary

BUCS Conference

Before my role and handover from Jamie officially began I attended the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Conference in Leeds with the activities department. The conference was my first taste of Sabbatical Life, as well as BUCS, so I wasn't sure of what to expect and what to get out of the event.

The first and final day of the conference there was a series of keynote and mini-note speeches, some were boring and pointless but some were informative and I will include what I learnt going forward in order to deliver the aims of my manifesto.

Whilst at the conference I was elected on to the BUCS West Midland Executive along with Ali Burr (Student Activities Coventry) and Tim Smith (Chair - AU President Birmingham) and we will meet three more times over the academic year having met on the 14th of this month at University of Birmingham.

Because of my lack of knowledge going into the conference I have recommended that the outgoing and incoming Student Activities Officer should attend the conference as it will help the incoming Officer understand some of the processes of BUCS.

Leadership for Trustee

At the beginning of August, Liat Norris, Malik Moiz Uddin and Katie Mitchell attended Leadership for Trustee training at De Montfort in Leicester which was a two day course to teach and inform us the role of the trustee and how that differs from my role as a Sabbatical officer within the organisation.

RAG 11

Attended the RAG Conference in Durham at the beginning of this month with the aim to liaise with other RAG's around the country, especially in the Midlands, make contact with charitable organisations and come out with inspiration and ideas in order to help move our RAG forward.

The conference was an overall success as I met up and received a lot of advice especially from the prestigious RAG's (Loughborough, Nottingham and Manchester), smaller/new RAG's (Bournemouth and Oxford Brooks) and charities who help lead events and challenges. It would have been useful to have the committee members of the RAG at the conference as it

would give them some direction and inspiration to take the RAG forward in the upcoming years.

During the four day conference, there was a meeting of a representatives from 20 different RAG's with the aim of starting the development of an umbrella organisation like BUCS and NUS is to University Sport and Students' Union's respectively. However the meeting lasted longer then expected and a working group, with me on the group was formed with a view of meeting in October.

On the final day of the conference, I decided to bid for host of RAG 12 along with Loughborough however as a result of this I will be opening talks with the Students' Union venue team and the University's conference department with the aim to have a prepared pitch for next years event to host RAG 13.

Important Areas Of Work

Leek Road Large Astro turf

The Women's hockey club have started a petition to have the Leek Road Astro turf fixed which their NGB Register coach has said that he believes it is unsafe to train on.

Having had a look at the images that have been sent by the Women's hockey club it is clear that urgent work is needed to repair the damage and I will be aiming to meet with Fiona Roberts and Charles Manners to discuss the current state.

Areas Of Work For The Next Council Meeting

- Single tour provider for our clubs and societies
- Plan Student Activities Executive
- Set plans for the alternative Varsity
- Attend the 2nd BUCS West Midland regional meeting
- Plan Clubs and Societies Meetings for Mid-Late November
- Set guidelines for constitution and code of conduct polices for our Clubs and Societies in accordance to the Student Activities Bye-Laws
- Start the plans for a World Record Attempt