

SVRN Newsletter January 2013

This newsletter includes:

- details of the next meeting on 17th April 2013
- web site details
- minutes of committee meeting in November in which the SVRN was reconstituted
- information on the Sport Think Tank and European Sports Development Network

If you received this e mail indirectly and would like to be added to the distribution list, please contact Nick Wise, who is replacing Fiona Reid as membership secretary while she is on maternity leave. Please also contact Nick if you would like to be taken off the list.

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1. Next meeting 17/4/13

The next meeting will be held at University of Northumbria on Wednesday 17th April 2013. It is being coordinated by Lindsay Findlay-King. Programme and booking details will be circulated shortly.

2. Web site

The address of the new website is: **XXX**

On this you can find: presentations at meetings from 2009 to the last one in October 2012, previous newsletters, and a list of research reports on volunteers in sport. We hope to develop it to do more than this – see item 1.4 of the minutes below. In particular we'd like to develop a list of members, a PhD forum, and a discussion board. The web site officer is:

XXX

3. Reconstitution of SVRN

To meet its objectives the SVRN has become slightly more formal and formed a committee to run it. Hence a major review meeting was held in November last year. The minutes are below. If you'd like to contribute contact me, or another committee member.

Minutes of meeting 11/12

Attending: Geoff Nichols, Lindsay Findlay-King, Fiona Reid, Ryan Storr, Peter Taylor
Apologise: John Downes, Syann Cox, Terri Byers, Phil Collier.

1.1 Objectives were revised to include:

(i) To facilitate the interchange of information, ideas, and practice in the research of sport volunteers; especially between researchers and practitioners

- (ii) To actively disseminate research about sports volunteers;
- (iii) To support the work of the Sport's Strategic Partnership for Volunteering (SSP4V);
- (iv) To act as an authoritative body in matters of sport volunteer research;
- (v) To inform about volunteering research from other sectors.
- (vi) To identify, respond to and discuss practitioners' research needs; e.g. NGBs, CSPs, local authorities and universities.

1.2 A committee was instigated of:

Chair: Geoff Nichols, Sheffield University

Vice-chair: Lindsay Findlay-King, University of Northumbria

Secretary including membership: Fiona Reid, Glasgow Caledonian University (Nick Wise to cover maternity leave)

Practitioner: John Downes, Streetsport

Web site manager: Terri Byers, University of Coventry

Phd student representative: Ryan Storr, University of Northumbria.

Representative of next meeting host institution: if not from the above officers.

1.3 Membership

Membership will be free. Members will join by registering on the web site. Registration to include: name, organisation, e .mail and an optional biography of up to 100 words. Members to be automatically reminded to update membership every 2 years.

On registration members may opt into a PhD forum. They need to indicate if they wish to just be sent details of meetings or become members of discussion forums.

The e mail distribution list of members will be generated from the web site. This will also be held by the secretary.

Web site

1.4 A web site has been hosted at: XXXX

When fully operational it will include:

- Membership list and profiles of members
- Presentations from previous meetings
- Newsletters including summary of presentations by meetings
- Forthcoming events of interest to the group – to be moderated
- Space for practitioners to indicate if they have opportunities for MSc projects, PhD links or student research placements
- A PhD student forum – to be moderated [by RS]
- Summary list of research reports
- A discussion board for volunteer ideas/issues, academic links, literature sharing, notification of research taking place – to be moderated

1.5 Next full meetings

2013 April / May hosted by University of Northumbria to be a day adjacent to a coaching think tank day. LFK / RS.

2013 September run as a theme on the second day of the ESDN conference at Edgehill - SVRN to plan the programme. [day conference rate charge]

2014 May hosted by Glasgow Caledonian, possibly with a link to the Commonwealth Games Minimal fee to cover refreshments.

2014 September Theme on a day of the EASM conference, Coventry.

4. Sports Think Tank

This has been established by Andy Reed to feed research into policy makers.

<http://www.sportsthinktank.com/>

'Launched in 2011, the Sports Think Tank is a fully independent think tank dedicated to the most thorough and insightful thinking around sporting policy in the UK.

Based in London, we use various ways to stimulate debate and ensure accountability in sporting policy and governance including social media, blogging, publications, events and engaging with decision makers and governing bodies. We aim to push the boundaries of sports policy and as we are not aligned to any interest group, we are challenging of sport and the commercial interests too. We are committed to the following objectives:

- **Pushing the boundaries of thinking in sport:** Deconstructing sport to properly assess the 'case for sport' in society. Why and how should sport be so important to us? We aim to ask questions few others have asked in order to widen and deepen sport's influence for social good
- **Building a successful Olympic and Paralympic legacy:** An Olympic and Paralympic legacy will mean different things for different people including grass-roots sport, elite sport, jobs, regeneration of neighbourhoods. We aim to ensure rigorous thought is given to steps that need to be taken to secure these aspects of the legacy
- **Bridging the gap between the best academic research and policy makers:** There is a growing movement of innovative academic research into sport and its influence on society. We aim to make sure this is not missed by often very busy policy makers in Whitehall and it is given the coverage it deserves in an accessible format
- **Bringing together different sectors to ensure sport's contribution to social good is as effective as possible:** In particular, bringing together the commercial/business, public, non-profit and academic sectors to learn from and challenge each other with regard to their involvement in sport, and so all involved in sport can have an equal say at setting the agenda
- **Understanding and providing innovative solutions to the greatest challenges facing sport:** Through challenging and engaging with policy makers and opinion formers, we aim to ensure all parts of the sporting landscape have the tools to challenge themselves as well as be part of the long term policy formulation process. We will use links to other social sciences and new thinking to push the boundaries of thinking. Getting sport to think outside the box for its solutions.'

It is supported by a research officer who updates it regularly with news items.

5. Links with European Sports Development network and Voluntary Sector Studies Network.

The ESDN is establishing a web site we will link to.

The VSSN web site is at:

<http://www.vssn.org.uk/>

This includes news, events and details of the VSSN journal. The journal welcomes submissions on sport volunteers.

Geoff Nichols, Chair.