

UK Sports Volunteering Research Network

Research Seminar

Wednesday 15th March 2017: 10am-4pm

Sport England, 1st Floor, 21 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3HF.

Outline Programme for 15th March 2017

Registration and Welcome	10.00 - 10.30
Understanding Women as Volunteers in Sport. Laura Matthews (Women in Sport): This qualitative research project aimed to explore women as volunteers in the sports sector. A literature review was undertaken followed by interviews with 60 volunteers, both men and women. These volunteers were involved in traditional sports, parkrun and non-sports activities. The gendered aspects of volunteering will be examined.	10.30 – 11.10
Bowling even more alone. English sport participation trends – implications for volunteering. Geoff Nichols and Mark Taylor (University of Sheffield), Spencer Harris (University of Colorado) Active People Surveys from 2005/6 to 2014/15 show a decline in participation in traditional team sports and an increase in participation in sports which can be taken part in informally. Explanations for this, and policy implications, are considered. One explanation is a reduction in the number of sports clubs and evidence for this is reviewed.	11.10 – 11.50
Managing volunteers: the importance of emotional labour. Dr. Jenna Ward (De Montfort University) This presentation uses research in the National Trust to explore implications of the high emotional commitment of volunteers for volunteer management. Managers may regard high emotional commitment as making volunteers 'difficult' to manage' and preventing the application of standard procedures; while at the same time, it is important for volunteer motivation.	11.50 – 12.30
Lunch (provided) and Networking	12.30 – 13.30
Sharing the Spirit and Inspiring a Generation? : Examining the Volunteering Infrastructure Legacies of the Sydney 2000 and London 2012 Olympic Games. Richard Shipway (University of Bournemouth) A summary is provided of an International Olympic Committee (IOC) report on the extent to which the Sydney 2000 and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games volunteer programmes led to post-Games volunteer legacies through engagement with the established volunteer infrastructure before, during and after the Games. Lessons learnt from the London 2012 Games, and recommendations to enable future host cities and countries to leverage Olympic volunteer programmes to generate wider community benefits, are considered.	13.30 – 14.10

<p>Discussion groups:</p> <p>1. How can clubs and policy makers react to changes away from team sport to informal participation?</p> <p>2. How can mega sports event volunteers be converted to club volunteers?</p> <p>3. How can volunteer management best channel volunteer enthusiasm?</p>	14.10 – 14.50
<p>The parkrun experience: establishing and managing a network of volunteers for a new enterprise. Chris Jones (parkrun, Head of Funding & Finance) and Jaz Bangerh (parkrun, Head of HR and Volunteer Management):</p> <p>An unintended consequence of establishing parkrun has been the high number of volunteers; enabling free, weekly runs at over 500 locations in the UK. This presentation explores a pyramid structure of volunteers that has enabled the rapid expansion of the network of events. This structures enables parkrun to call on 10,000 individuals every weekend of the year (as well as Christmas Day & New Year’s Day!)</p>	14.50 – 15.30
<p>Latest on Volunteering at Sport England. Jenny Betteridge, Strategic Lead Volunteering, Sport England: Introductions.</p>	15.30-15.40
<p>Closing remarks – and further networking time</p>	15.40 – 16.00

If you have any queries, please contact Fiona Reid, UKSVRN Secretary: Fiona.Reid@gcu.ac.uk.

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