



University of Bath
Blues Awards
2024

50th Anniversary

Order of Events

ROMAN BATHS - DRINKS RECEPTION

Welcome

Keith Stokes
Warden of the Blues

Ribbons, Colours, Half Blue and Honorary Colours

Presented by
Keith Stokes, Warden of the Blues

PUMP ROOMS - BLUES DINNER

Review of the Year

Abbie Watkin, Students' Union Sport Officer

Full Blue and Honorary Blues

Presented by
Keith Stokes, Warden of the Blues

Vice-Chancellor Speech

Professor Ian White, Vice-Chancellor and President

Special Awards

Presented by
Professor Ian White, Vice-Chancellor and President

Sports Personality of the Year

Presented by
Matrix

Thanks

Abbie Watkin, Students' Union Sport Officer

Welcome

Blues Awards 2024

Professor
Keith Stokes
Warden of the Blues



Blues 2022 -
Warden of the Blues, Keith Stokes

Following another fantastic year of sport at the University of Bath, the Blues Awards give us an opportunity to reflect and celebrate the contributions to, and achievements in, this key part of University life. We saw a large increase in nominations this year and it is wonderful that we can congratulate so many people for their successes. As always, I was incredibly impressed by the nominations which spanned examples of sustained excellence in performance, dedication to running our SU sports clubs, and the provision of inclusive opportunities for participation in sport. Once again, while I was reading about the activities and achievements described in the nominations, I was reminded just how special it is to be involved in sport at the University of Bath.

I work with the Blues Committee to ensure that the award of Ribbons, Colours, Half-Blues, Blues and the Special Awards reflect the important sporting heritage of the University and maintain the high and consistent standards of achievement of previous years. The dedication of the Blues Committee in maintaining these high standards ensures that all of the award winners are thoroughly deserving of recognition. I would like to thank the committee for all of their hard work.

I know that we are all extremely grateful to the many people who contribute so much to ensure that sport at the University of Bath goes from strength to strength. I would like to thank all those who made a contribution to University sport this year and to congratulate all of the award winners.

Stephen Baddeley

Director of Sport

It is wonderful to see so many students, athletes, coaches and staff here tonight to celebrate another outstanding year of sport at the University of Bath.

One of the undoubted highlights of the past 12 months was when we successfully hosted the UIPM Laser Run and Pentathlon World Championships at the Team Bath Sports Training Village in August. Among the record-breaking field of more than 800 athletes from 50 countries were six current students who enjoyed the ultimate 'home' championships with Pentathlon GB.

Charlie Brown claimed men's team silver alongside alumni Myles Pillage and Joe Choong. The latter defended his men's individual crown in magnificent style to become one of five athletes to be crowned as World Champion while training at the University during the past 12 months along with Tom Dean, James Guy, Suzanna Hext (all swimming) and Piers Gilliver (wheelchair fencing).

All of them will be targeting more medals this summer at the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, where we are looking forward to seeing a host of athletes from Bath once again compete on the ultimate sporting stage.

Among the students who have already set the Olympic qualifying standard are Leah Crisp, in marathon swimming, and fellow sporting scholar Kate Shortman, who made artistic swimming history for Great Britain at successive World Championships by winning Solo Free bronze in 2023 and Duet Technical silver earlier this year. Leah was among the student-athletes who won 19 medals while representing the University in this year's BUCS Nationals. Fellow swimmer Josh Gammon won double gold in Sheffield and there were also successes in athletics and karate, while a 12-medal haul at the BUCS Judo Championships included seven golds.



Blues 2016 - Stephen Baddeley, Director of Sport

The student fencing club won three BUCS titles and other league crowns were secured in badminton, dodgeball, hockey, netball, rugby union, squash, table tennis and tennis, with seven teams going unbeaten through the season.

There was Western Conference Cup success in hockey, netball and table tennis, while the futsal men's 1sts, golf mixed 1sts and 2nds, netball women's 2nds and tennis men's 2nds were all going strong in their respective National Championship and Trophy knockout competitions at the time of writing.

It has been a particularly memorable year for the rugby club, with Archie Griffin becoming the first current student to represent his country at senior level when he played for Wales against England in the Guinness Six Nations.

Jenny Hesketh and Mollie Wilkinson were selected for the Wales Women's Six Nations squad while Scott Kirk, Billy Sela (England), Ludo Kolade, Murdoch Lock (Scotland), Ieuan Davies and Louie Hennessey (Wales) all featured in the U20s competition. Austin Emens also made his GB Rugby 7s senior debut and is among the students hoping to compete at Paris 2024.

Tonight, we celebrate not only those successes but also the fact that hundreds of students partake in sport every week at the University of Bath. Congratulations all and enjoy your evening.



Student Sport, Review of the Year

The Blues Awards is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate all that sport has had to offer throughout the year at Bath. This year we have had we had 6290 student members of SU (Students Union) sport, with over 8304 total club affiliations, and our largest club being Tennis with over 555 members. 1,600 of our SU Sport students have participated in BUCS (British Universities & Colleges Sport) so far this year across both BUCS League and Tournament competitions. More than ever, students have been looking for more opportunities to participate and excel in sport with many creative ideas of new activity moving forward.

This year there has been a large focus on charitable events on campus, many clubs have combined with RAG, V-Team and SUBUBT to create fundraising events. Movember was a huge success, raising over £33,000 for the campaign, with Rugby Union sitting high at a huge £16,000 raised, the 8th highest University team in the UK. International Women's Month saw clubs raising money for 3 female orientated charities, in many creative ways. Hockey ran a women's health workshop, with CrossFit Bath to Women's Rugby showcase fixture on the infield. These examples are just a snapshot of what has been going on within clubs and it is inspiring to see what

our student leaders are able to create and develop, leaving their legacy on SU Sport.

The BUCS season was a successful campaign, with 2 teams qualifying for BUCS Big Wednesday at the University of Loughborough, coming away with 2 silver medals. An additional four teams were sent to Conference cup finals at the University of Exeter, coming away with 3 golds and a silver. 13 teams were unbeaten in their leagues including teams from Women's Rugby, Dodgeball, Hockey, Netball, Tennis, Squash and Ultimate Frisbee, with many more winning their leagues and heading for promotion. In BUCS Tournament, Bath have also found success in multiple sports, with 19 podium finishes at BUCS Nationals in Sheffield, including double gold for swimmer Josh Gammon.

Outside of BUCS, we have also had success, with students trialling and representing their country in all kinds of sports, from Swimming and Dodgeball to Rugby and American Football. Paris 2024 is closely approaching, with many of our students and alumni securing their sport at the momentous event.

Recreational sport at Bath has been a massive drive this year from clubs, with over 1,200 students participating in our free social sport offer, Bath Active. This opportunity focuses on getting students engaged with



physical activity on a non-commitment level which is affordable to everyone. This year sports took the initiative to create their own recreational offers, as well as providing a competitive offer outside of BUCS. We have had massive uptake in intramural and interdepartmental offers, with more appetite than ever before, seeing a development in Netball, particularly with a mixed and Men's league, in a previously female dominated sport.

It has been a priority to make sure all students feel comfortable to participate in sport, should they wish. Equality, Inclusivity and Diversity has had a huge uptake in priority for clubs, we distributed over 400 pairs of rainbow laces for teams to wear and provided guidelines for clubs to make their environment inclusive for all. We've ran inclusive sport sessions, such as sit-down volleyball, wheelchair basketball and 'Queer Active'. This has not only been down to our fantastic student leaders but also our staff members, and Sports Department. Students also have been running their own initiatives, making sport a welcoming place at the University for all abilities.

Not forgetting our social side to sport, our Christmas ball, Snowball, was once again a sell-out event with 1,200 students attending each night. Rugby at the Rec shone this year, despite the pouring rain, with a crowd of

around 6,000, saw a thriller of a game result in a 25-20 win for Bath over rivals Cardiff Met. Varsity returned home for its 7th anniversary, showcasing 13 sports, featuring new highlights for squash and table tennis. The night ended with Women's Rugby under the floodlights on the infield, drawing to an end a successful day.

Facilities at the University are always developing, and this year has been no different. With student feedback, where possible we like to make sure issues are addressed and they meet the needs of the athletes using them. Working this year with the Sports Department and other University members, the Sulis Club and 3G pitch have all seen developments started on them, with the hope they are ready for our athletes to use for the 24/25 academic year, what a great way to expand on our world class facilities.

As I am sure you will agree, this has been a phenomenal year for student sport with some amazing breakthrough moments for clubs and individuals on a university stage. I look forward to seeing how sport at the University of Bath continues to develop in future years and continue with the incredible sporting culture.

Abbie Watkin
Students' Union Sport Officer

50th Anniversary

Ribbons

Ribbons are awarded to students who have consistently represented the University over a two or three year period in non BUCS sports.

Cheerleading

Melody Batt
Jamie Cubitt
Erin Goodchild
Ellie Linton

Motorsports

Vincent Cavailhes
Jesse Doorgeest
Axel Slijepcevic

Colours

Colours are awarded to students who have consistently represented the University over a two or three year period in BUCS sports.

American Football

George Craven
Hassan Hammad

Badminton

Adam Shepherd

Association Football and Futsal

Isabella Fry
Rachel Stevens

Basketball

Torin Jenkins

Climbing

Kai Pheasant
Brennan Sykes
Emma Wilkes

Fencing

Ned Dreamer

Golf

Will Lancaster

Hockey

George Adshead
Ellie Allsop
Charly Archer
Lily Badaway
Rory Brown
Tom Chamberlain
Elliot Clarke
Alyssia Dockerty
Anna Doherty
James Edwards
Alicia Fairman
Zoe Fassone
Rosie Firth
Katie Foster
Thomas Gilmour
Ella Godfrey
Sara Gotham-Pardo
Sam Highman
Oliver Hill

Dylan Holland

Ruby Jarman

James Lander

Sam Mackenzie

Oliver Mcarthur

Saty Mishra

Anna Padt

Will Quirk

Scott Reed

Alexander Renwick

Howard Richards

Zac Stickland

Olivia Smith

Emilia Thomlinson

Tabitha Tinniswood

Edward Tomlinson

Alex Weaver

Liam White

Annie Wilson

Karate

Farouk Attia

Adam Deaney

Arya Mukherjee

Maria Petrou

Lacrosse

Emily Cole

Larissa Gaunt

Katerina Daniela Goold

Benedict Hall

Thomas Hills

Louise Kiely

Ellie Livingstone

James Parrett

Netball

Molly Robb

Rugby Union

Thomas Berry

Anya Cooper

Lucy Dodd

Dominic Goulder-Perks

Megan Hance

Gabriela Louro

Mairead McErlean

Bethan Thomas

Abbie Watkin

Table Tennis

Jake Crawshaw

Mert Sark

Daniel Watkinson

Volleyball

Dominique-Lea Bonelli-Bean

Nia Cameron

Jisoo Kim

Yuen Yau Jovia Leung

Moniqa Nielsen

Rudolf Peli

Paul Soellinger

Honorary Colours

Honorary Colours are awarded to students who have made a valuable contribution to the administration and development of a sport or recreation in the University or British Universities, either within a club or SU Sport as a whole.

Association Football and Futsal

Megan Goff
Hayden Morris

Badminton
Adam Shepherd

Basketball
Kyra Trinity Kentopp

Fencing

Luca Volentir

Hockey

Ellie Allsop
Luke Cunningham
Liam White

Motorsports

Axel Slijepcevic

Rugby Union

Max Covill
John Taylor

Volleyball

Jisoo Kim
Camille Kok
Helin Ozer

Yoga

Jasmine Dean

Half Blue Award

Half Blues are awarded to students with junior international representation or podium finishes in BUCS whilst competing for a University first team.

Badminton

Carys Batiste
Cara Collins
Harry Jones

Golf

Will Lancaster
Kobe Wesson

Judo

Alex Jenkins
Adam Vosper

Lacrosse

Isabella Sale

Netball

Poppy Tydeman

Taekwondo

Lewis Blakeborough
Ismail Hussain
Sam Slocombe

Water Polo

Emils Limanans
Alexander Mosey
Fletcher Stevenson

Full Blue

Full Blues are awarded to students who have competed for a University 1st team for two years along with two years' representation at international level.

Justin Davies

Athletics



Justin has progressed consistently throughout his time at the University. Despite running into severe injuries in 2022/2023, Justin has managed to bounce back and improve on his fitness. He has gained invaluable knowledge with regards to lifestyle, training practices and race tactics. Justin holds a deep passion for the athletics team. To demonstrate this, he was kit secretary last year, and this year he is the Male Track and Field Captain.

Justin has been running since he was young, and he experienced success before starting university. This includes earning a silver medal at the English Schools' Championships. Since he joined the University of Bath, he has medalled at BUCS three times, represented Great Britain twice, earned a World Student Championships silver medal, become the England 800m Champion, and earned a bronze medal at the British Indoor Championships. For Justin it has been a real privilege to represent the University at these high-level competitions. Being a part of a high-quality training group for the first time has shifted Justin out of his comfort zone, increasing his performance in turn.

Full Blue



Louise Sadler

Fencing

Louise has represented the Women's 1 Fencing Team for BUCS during the second (2021/22) and fourth year (2023/24) of her degree.

During lockdown, Louise was a sparring partner, training with the British Olympic fencing team and Pentathlon GB for the Tokyo Olympics. Louise embraced this role, which served as motivation to continue to train hard for the 2021/22 season. Louise was selected for U20 Europeans and Worlds, despite Covid, reflecting on her hard work and dedication during a challenging time.

Sparring with the pentathletes proved to be invaluable in maintaining training consistency – Louise took a gold and

bronze medal in domestic ranking competitions. She was selected for all the Senior internationals and represented GB at 6 World Cups with a season's best in Switzerland in March 2022 with 32nd. Louise took bronze at the Welsh National Championships and team gold and was selected to represent Wales at the 2022 Commonwealths. Here she came 5th in the individual and 2nd in the team event, qualifying for the U23 European Championships 2022 but had to decline due to exams. During her year abroad, Louise competed for GB, coming 32nd in Switzerland in October 2022 and two other Senior World Cups. This year, Louise is reigning British U23 Champion and 2 x British National Team Champion (2022 & 23). In October, Louise represented GB in the European Cup of Club Champions, where the team came 12th. She represented GB on the U23 European circuit and fenced for Wales in the 2023 Senior Five Nations. Recognised with stripes for Wales and GB, Louise has developed as an athlete while maintaining a First-Class degree, persevering through Covid and during exams, demonstrating dedication and hard work ethic across multiple areas of her life.

Louise is proud to have been a part of the successful Women's 1 team,

undefeated in the 2021-22 season in Western Division 1. They won the 2022 National Trophy at Big BUCS Wednesday. Competing in weapon (epee) and in foil. Additionally, she took silver in epee at the 2022 BUCS Individual Championships and secured a commendable 26th position in foil. Building upon this momentum, this 2023/24 season was a triumph in the Southern Premiership (2nd) and the team reached Top 8 in the BUCS National Championships, falling agonisingly short of the semi-finals by 5 hits. At the 2024 BUCS Individual Championships, Louise came 8th in epee, missing out on the semi-finals by one point, and secured a strong 10th place in foil.

This season has been a culmination of resilience and dedication. Louise's commitment to fencing is marked by several achievements, particularly while juggling a degree alongside fencing commitments. Her university experience has been characterised by personal growth and collective triumph, serving as a role model for BUCS teammates to help mentor inexperienced fencers as well as investing time and effort into the university team as a core member and mentor of the women's team.

Nat O'Dwyer

Hockey



Whilst growing up Nat enjoyed many sports, but mainly hockey and football where he represented Swindon HC and Cheltenham Town FC respectively. He also represented West Panthers as an U13 against teams from the south, east and north of England as well as Scotland and Wales, securing a bronze medal at the tournament.

It was not long before the two sports began to clash and when Nat moved to Bath Buccaneers as an U14 it became apparent that his heart belonged to hockey. Nat quickly established himself as an integral part of the team and during his time with the Buccaneers junior teams he competed at the National finals at

U14, U16 and U18 level. During this time Nat also made his debut for Bath Buccaneers 1st team in the England Hockey National League as a 16-year-old and has enjoyed playing for the last 5 seasons.

Nat was determined to secure a place at Bath University and in his 4 years at Bath he has been an integral part of the 1st XI Hockey team and prides himself on leading by example but also supporting his team mates to succeed too. This year, Nat and the team secured some impressive victories in the National BUCS league and narrowly missed out on securing a national semi-final place!

Away from University, Nat is proud to represent Wales Hockey and his list of achievements include representing Wales at Futures Cup, U18 level, U19 level, u21 Level and U23 Level. Nat's fondest memories are the home Nations U19 tournament which included a famous victory for the Welsh over England and securing a bronze medal at the European II U21 tournament in Czechia.

This was particularly poignant for Nat as he and his Welsh team missed the U18 tournament due to Covid 19.

Throughout his time at University, he has represented Wales, navigating the age group teams from the U18's category in his first year to the U23's level during his third and final year at university. During this time, Nat represented Wales at many international competitions including a Home Nations tournament against Ireland, England, and Scotland at the U19 level during their first university year.

Further international recognition includes test matches against Scotland U23's and England U23's, as well as Canada U23's, all taking place prior to the U21 European Championships. At the U21 European Championships, Nat and his team secured a commendable 3rd place finish to secure a bronze medal. It was a fiercely competitive tournament against Ireland, Czechia, Poland, Turkey, and Italy.

Full Blue

Sophie Kelly

Netball



This is Sophie's second year being part of the Netball 1st team and most often the starting player at GA. Last year the team reached the final of BUCS, playing against Loughborough in the final on Big BUCS Wednesday, and they finished 2nd. That season they won the Southern Premier League with an unbeaten season until the final. This season they have finished 2nd in the Southern Premier League, losing only 2 games and have progressed to the quarterfinals. Sophie is a dedicated BUCS athlete and plays as many games as she can alongside other playing commitments. Over the past 2 seasons, she has played in every game possible except 1, as the Europe netball competition was the next weekend and she was on rest.

Sophie is currently in her 2nd Super League season with the Team Bath SL netball squad where they have been named in the SL team of the week twice and started a few of the games at GA. This year Sophie represented England U21 at the Europe Netball Championships where they won gold, and she gained 3 more international caps after playing against Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Currently Sophie has 10 U17 and U21 England caps after playing in a U17 Europe netball championship and two U21 Europe Netball championships, where they won gold and were unbeaten in all competitions.

Full Blue

Hannah Passmore

Netball

Hannah's impressive netball journey includes representing England at the U21 level against strong opponents like Wales and Scotland, leading her university squad as 1st team captain, and excelling at the Superleague level for the past five years, helping Bath secure 2nd and 3rd place finishes as well as securing a starting seven position at Cardiff Dragons. Her outstanding leadership, skill, and dedication make her a deserving candidate.

Despite facing setbacks along the way, Hannah has displayed incredible resilience and perseverance, overcoming challenges with grace and determination. Her journey is not only defined by her impressive performances on the court but also by her exceptional leadership off it.

Hannah's illustrious career includes representing England at the U21 level against formidable opponents such as Wales and Scotland. Additionally, her role as 1st team captain for the university squad has shown her outstanding leadership qualities, guiding her teammates with passion and integrity all the way to the semi-finals.

Moreover, Hannah's performance at the Superleague level over the past five years is a testament to her unwavering commitment and relentless pursuit of excellence. She has continued to push herself to new heights, earning herself a starting seven place in her new



team at Cardiff Dragons, but having also contributed to Bath's commendable finishes at 2nd and 3rd.

Hannah's ability to overcome setbacks and emerge stronger, coupled with her exemplary leadership both on and off the court, truly sets her apart. She is not only a phenomenal athlete but also an inspiration to her teammates and peers.

Full Blue

Jayda Pechova

Netball



In her early days at the University of Bath, Jayda embarked on a remarkable journey by enrolling in the esteemed Future Roses Programme. This decision propelled her into the realm of international netball, where she proudly represented England in the prestigious Fast5 World Championship. Simultaneously, she showcased her talents as a formidable member of the 1st team in BUCS 1, achieving a commendable second-place finish. Her prowess extended to the Superleague, where she made significant contributions to Team Bath, leaving a lasting impact on the squad.

After re-signing, she continued to elevate Team Bath in the Superleague, solidifying her position as a key player. Her exceptional skills earned her selection for the esteemed Full Roses Programme, leading to notable appearances in the New Zealand Series, including a memorable debut on kiwi soil. She further distinguished herself during the South Africa Series, playing a pivotal role in securing victories for her team.

Her journey reached new heights with participation in the recent Nations Cup, where she faced formidable opponents from New Zealand, Australia, and Uganda, ultimately clinching a commendable second place. Currently holding six International Caps, she harbours aspirations for further success in her netball journey. Alongside her international endeavours, she remains actively engaged in BUCS competitions, eagerly anticipating upcoming challenges, such as the eagerly awaited semi-final match.

Cameron Brooker

Swimming

Cam joined the University of Bath and the 'Elite' Bath Performance Centre for swimming (that trains on campus) as British National Junior Champion in the 200m Backstroke. Covid wiped out his chance to be selected for his first GB Junior team, as well as all BUCS tournaments in his first academic year at the University (2020/21). Since joining the University, Cam's swimming career has excelled. He made multiple finals at the Olympic Trials in April 2021 and subsequently was selected for UK Sports 'World Class Programme', the aim of which being to support athletes who show Olympic medal contention. This upward trajectory was not always a common theme however, and he has faced difficulties with his career along the way; he missed out on a home Commonwealth Games selection in the summer of 2022 – which was a big target for him. This adversity did not get the better of him though, and he bounced back at the following British Championships (2023) to be selected for his first Senior GB team at the World Aquatics Championships, whilst juggling the difficult academic demands of 3rd year Mechanical Engineering, and subsequently the European Short Course Championships where he placed 6th in December of 2023.



During his time at university, he has shown the upmost commitment to university teams – having represented the BUCS team at every possible Short Course and Long Course BUCS tournament – amassing a total of 21 medals for the University across these competitions. This feat includes 4 individual national titles, 3 of which were at the recent 'Short Course Championships 2023/24', where he went on to win 4 more medals (2 silver & 2 bronze) to medal 7 times out of 7 events across the 3 days of competition.

Full Blue

Leah Crisp Swimming



Leah joined the university and British swimming performance centre in 2020 to study economics and mathematics and continue to build on her successful junior swimming career, hoping to break into the senior international scene. Despite setbacks of broken elbows and illnesses during her first two seasons here, in her 3rd year Leah began to make strides towards her goals, achieving her first personal bests in the pool for over 3 years at the 2022 BUCS short course nationals, alongside winning a gold and 2 silvers at this meet and breaking a BUCS record in the 800m freestyle. She then went on to take a leap of faith in switching focus from the 800m and 1500m freestyle in the pool to the 10km open water marathon swim. In March 2023 she competed in her first senior 10km race at a European cup, finishing 14th. She then built on this and qualified to represent Great Britain at the 2023 World Aquatics championships in July 2023. She spent the season racing at various European and World cup events, gaining as much 10km practice as

possible. That summer she finished 24th at the World championships, just 4 months after her first senior international open water race. In December she then qualified to represent Great Britain at her second world aquatics championships being held in February 2024, with this race doubling up as the Olympics qualifier, with everyone competing to get their nation a quota spot to race in the 10km marathon swim at the 2024 Paris Olympics. In that high stakes race she produced her best performance yet, finished 17th and only 23 seconds behind the winner after almost 2 hours of racing. This was enough to secure Great Britain the continental quota spot for the Olympics, qualifying Leah for her first Olympic games. As well as this Leah has been a consistent dominant force in the 400m, 800m and 1500m freestyle at a national level, winning numerous individual medals (6 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze) at BUCS nationals between November 2021 and November 2023, winning 2 or more medals at every BUCS nationals she has competed in.

Sebastian Hart Ultimate Frisbee

Throughout his time at the University of Bath, Sebastian has made sure to dedicate a large amount of his time to developing the Ultimate Frisbee Club. Having played the sport for 5 years before coming to university he was already one of the most experienced players on the team and so made sure to use his knowledge to help coach and develop other players. Although he was unable to take part in his first year due to Covid preventing any competitive fixtures or training from taking place, he became the men's captain in his second year and led the Men's 1 through a successful season that saw them finish in the Top 8 teams at outdoor nationals (the culmination of the BUCS league schedule), winning indoor regionals and attending the indoor nationals. Sebastian also took on the additional role of coaching the clubs open-to-all beginner sessions, creating a scenario where he was responsible

for leading the development of all players of all abilities within the club. This took a large amount of planning and commitment on his part, but he was always extremely motivated to spread his enjoyment of the sport and to increase its participation at the University. He very much enjoyed this role and felt that the level of the club was rising quickly which was shown in his third year when the Men's 1s won both Indoor and Outdoor nationals, the first time any university had achieved such a feat. In his final year he was successfully nominated as coach and has continued to spend large amounts of time helping to coach players completely new to the sport into confident players, as well as also playing for the Men's 1 winning the BUCS league and finishing 4th in Indoor nationals so far this season, with the hope of retaining their national title later this year.

Separately Sebastian has been involved in high-level competitive ultimate in the club and GB setups. He competed for the Great Britain Under-24 Men's team at the 2023 World Under-24 Ultimate Championships where he was part of



the leadership and official "spirit captain", an important role within the team due to the self-refereeing rules of the sport. He also played Senior Club Ultimate at one of the highest ranked clubs in Europe frequently travelling to play 3 or 4-day tournaments around Europe and recently won the UK national championships and competed at the European Club championships, finishing the top 6 clubs in Europe.

Honorary Blue

Awarded to any person who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of University Sport, or who has medalled at a World Championships, World Cups or Commonwealth Games and uses the University of Bath as their main training base.

Charlie Brown



Sports Management and Coaching student Charlie has been training and studying at the University of Bath since September 2021, when he first joined the elite Pentathlon GB squad at their National Training Centre. He won mixed relay gold at the Junior World Championships the following year before enjoying a breakthrough season on the senior circuit in 2023.

He teamed up with Kerenza Bryson to win mixed relay gold in only his third World Cup, then won men's team gold with Joe Choong and Myles Pillage at June's European Games in Poland. Charlie was also selected in the Pentathlon GB squad for the 'home' UIPM Pentathlon World Championships at the University of Bath in August, where he reached the men's final and won men's team silver with Choong and Pillage.

Charlie has continued to build into 2024 and won his first senior title in February when he finished 15 seconds clear of the field in the men's final at the Hungarian Indoor Open in Budapest.

Supported by the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS), Charlie has deferred the final year of his Sports Management and Coaching degree as he bids to qualify for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Honorary Blue

Kerenza Bryson

Kerenza earned Team GB a quota place for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games when she won a brilliant bronze in the women's final at the 2023 UIPM Pentathlon World Championships, staged at the University of Bath. She also won women's team silver with Olivia Green and Jess Varley.

It was the second time Kerenza had won a medal while competing on home turf at Bath, having claimed mixed relay gold with Myles Pillage at the 2019 European Championships.

Kerenza, who made her senior World Cup debut for Pentathlon GB in 2017, enjoyed an excellent season during 2023 and placed in the top six in every international competition she entered. This included double gold at the UIPM World Cup in Sofia, Bulgaria where she won the women's individual race and the mixed relay with Charlie Brown.

She now trains full-time at the Team Bath Sports Training Village having previously been a satellite athlete while studying a medical degree at the University of Plymouth, a course she completed in June 2023. Kerenza is also a British Army officer with 165 Port and Maritime Regiment.



50th Anniversary

Honorary Blue

Jamie Cubitt

Jamie picked up cheerleading during his first year at university having attended a very fun taster session and subsequently attending try-outs where he was selected for the Level 2 Cyclone squad. Since then, bar a hiatus during Covid and on placement year, Jamie has competed at Uni National Competitions as part of both the Cyclone and Group Stunt teams. Highlights from his time as a Bath Jet include the long, jolly journeys down to Bournemouth to train on a full size sprung floor and placing third at ICC with extremely narrow point margins between Bath and first place. Outside from competing, he was Competition Organiser in 22/23 year, taking over a hundred Bath Jets to compete in Manchester and Nottingham as well gaining his Level 2 coaching qualification to assist the Recreational coach training the next generation of Bath Jets on Sunday evenings.

Jamie has also held the position of Exec Treasurer on the Sports Exec Committee for the academic years 22/23 and 23/24. In this capacity, he has attended monthly Sports Exec Committee meetings supporting the Sports Officer and SU Sport Team, voicing the views of sports clubs. Every week during semester time for the last two years he has visited SU Finance/SU Activities Office to approve all 52 club's expenditure as well as going in outside of his regular slot for urgent authorisations.



He has assisted the SU Sports team with the running of Rugby at the Rec, wearing mascot costume (Duck Norris) in the half term competition (22/23) and the following year with the prize giveaway. He has also been the mascot at Varsity 22/23 and Freshers Week Sports Day. Both years he helped the SU on the SU Sport stand at the FW Sport Day, assisting freshers with general SU Sport questions and signposting them to the right clubs of interest.

He is also running a Sport Committee night in March to train the committees on the Finance best practice, procedures and budgets. Additionally, last year he ran the SU Finance training nights for incoming Chairs and Treasurers something that he will also be doing again this year in April.

Honorary Blue

Robert Preston



Before university, Robert progressed from playing handball with his local club to the England development squad via regional representation. Covid hindered his first year at Bath, so he didn't officially join the team until his second year, when he contributed to the men's 1st team's 3rd place in the BUCS trophy. Returning to play after his placement year, the youthful team placed 5th in the South region, with several of their losses only being by a couple of goals. The future is bright for this team.

Rob has been elected for two years on the SU Sport Executive committee supporting the SU Sport staff as well as the Sport Officer in their duties to represent students. He has voiced the views of the student body in monthly committee meetings in which they make decisions about the direction about sport at Bath.

Each week for two years he has had a set slot to go into the Finance Office/SU Activities Office and do approvals for all the Sports clubs in the SU. Rob endeavours to ensure a smooth process both on the side of clubs and the Finance Team and therefore often go in on an ad hoc basis or answer queries and approvals out of hours.

As part of his role on Exec in 21-22 and this year (23-24) he has helped with: the organisation and sourcing of inflatables for Varsity, supported the SU Sport team on the day of Varsity, assisted with the planning and running of Snowball, attended the Sports fair

during fresher's week to be on the information point, helped organise Speed Dating for sport and refereed an interhalls football event.

Alongside SU staff, he has had input into new procedures for payment approvals to aid the Finance team better track spending and ensure that clubs are following budgets.

He is also going to be running a committee night on finance in March alongside the other Exec Treasurer to help answer FAQs that clubs may have, how we can all seek to improve the process and better transparency on how the SU would like club finances to be managed. Additionally, there will be 2 training nights in April for the new committees where Rob will present and train the incoming committee members on finance best practise, procedures, and budget management.



Blues 2002



Blues 2016 - Warden of the Blues, Chris Jennison



Blues 1994 - Assembly Rooms, Bath



Blues 2001 - Men's Football with Andy Hibbert and Paul Tisdale



Blues 2004

50 years University Blues



Blues 2016



Blues 2017

50th Anniversary

Years of of Bath



Blues 1988 - Pump Rooms, Bath



Blues 1992 - Assembly Rooms, Bath



Blues 2004 - Ant Bush & Ivor Powell



Blues 1995 - Assembly Rooms, Bath



Blues 2023



Blues 1992 - Ged Roddy, Director of Sport, Assembly Rooms, Bath



Blues 2012

Blues 2004 - Women's Football 1st



50th Anniversary

Honorary Blue

Kate Shortman



Artistic swimmer Kate began studying International Management and Modern Languages (French) at the University of Bath a month after representing Team GB at the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in August 2021. She is supported by a Bill Whiteley Sporting Scholarship.

During the past 12 months she has made history for British Swimming at successive World Aquatics Championships. At the 2023 event in Japan, Kate became the first-ever British artistic swimmer to win a World Championships medal when she claimed bronze in the Women's Solo Free discipline.

The 2024 competition in Doha saw Kate and partner Izzy Thorpe win silver in the Women's Duet Technical – Britain's first-ever World Championships medal in a Duet event. They followed that up three days later with bronze in the Duet Free discipline, securing qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Kate, who has now competed at five World Championships, is from Bristol and trains at the City of Bristol Swimming Club, home to British Swimming's artistic performance programme.

Honorary Blue

Louis Treays

Louis Treays is a dynamic athlete whose passion for touch rugby has propelled him to remarkable heights in both competition and coaching. With a history of stellar performances and leadership on the field, Louis has left an indelible mark on the sport during his time at Bath University.

As a key player in the first team during the 2021-2022 University Touch Championship, Louis showcased his exceptional skills, contributing significantly to Bath's overall victory. His commitment to excellence led to a consistent presence in all UTC tournaments. Demonstrating both talent and dedication, Louis continues to represent the University first team in the ongoing 2023-2024 season, serving as a role model and coach for aspiring athletes.

Beyond university competitions, Louis has proudly represented England on the international stage,



achieving gold medals at the European Championships in 2022 and 2023. His outstanding performance and leadership qualities were further highlighted when he captained the team during the 2023 European Championship. Louis' contributions extend to the global arena, having competed for England in 2023 during their tour to Australia and currently preparing for the prestigious 2024 Touch World Cup hosted in Nottingham.

In addition to his achievements as a player, Louis is deeply committed to nurturing the next generation of

athletes. His role as a coach at the university club underscores his dedication to sharing his expertise and fostering talent within the community.

Louis' impressive track record includes multiple appearances at the National level, representing his region with distinction and securing silver and gold medals in successive years (2021, 2022, 2023). His unwavering commitment to excellence, both on and off the field, makes him a deserving candidate for recognition in the realm of touch rugby.

Honorary Blue

Ian White



Blues 2023 - Vice-Chancellor, Ian White

Throughout his five years as Vice-Chancellor, Ian has been a constant and enthusiastic champion and advocate for the importance of sport at the University in all its aspects. He has celebrated the myriad achievements of student athletes and written numerous letters of congratulations to those who have achieved at national or international level. He is equally passionate about students enjoying an active lifestyle and regularly highlights the impressive level of student sporting engagement at the University and the benefits in terms of health and engagement that this brings.

Despite the prominence of sport on campus, Ian believed that the University was missing a golden opportunity to fully exploit our strong reputation in this field, and he was the driving force behind an initiative that has become known as 'Sport@Bath'. Designed to maximise the opportunities that sport provides for the University, the initiative can already boast several successes in attracting new research opportunities as well as enhanced partnership working through an integrated, pro-active, and externally engaged approach.

During his tenure, he has guided two significant projects to achieve formal approval, namely a £4m plus investment to develop a 3G pitch and multi-use games area on campus and a £2m refurbishment of the Sulis Club which will significantly improve student and community experience on that site. Both projects have been desired and worked on by Student Officers, The SU and DSDR staff over many years but have only come to fruition thanks to Ian's leadership and advocacy.

These two major projects will provide a fitting sporting legacy for Ian and, together with his passion for student sport at all levels, make him a thoroughly deserving recipient of an Honorary Blue.

Special Awards

Gethin John Bevan Club Member of the Year

SU Sport Volunteer Coach of the Year

The David VandeLinde Prize

The Martin Hedges Award

BUCS Team of the Year

Club of the Year

Sports Personality of the Year

50th Anniversary



Blues 2005 - Women's football 1sts



HRH Prince Edward - Blues 2017



Blues Awards Evening 1983 -
Assembly Rooms, Bath

Gethin John Bevan

Club Member of the Year

This award acknowledges that SU Sports clubs would not function without a substantial input from student volunteers.

Luke Cunningham

Luke has been without doubt the most dedicated, committed, and hard-working Chair the club, and quite possibly the University has seen in recent years.

His passion for the sport, participation, social activity, and charity has seen him thrive in the role. He has taken an analytical view of all aspects of the club, taken feedback from all members, coaches and captains and put all his efforts into improving the experience of each one of the 312 hockey members.

Luke, has gone far above and beyond the responsibilities expected of the Chair of the club, including working remotely throughout the summer from Peru to manage the organisation of our very first Open pre-season, offering the opportunity for new first years as well as returners to access early training and to get the best possible start to their year. This initiative can without doubt be credited with much of the success of the Men's 2s, (who finished 4th



in their first season in the National League South), Ladies 2s (who have been promoted and at time of writing are in a cup semi-final), Ladies 3s (who have had their best season on record), and Men's 3s (who can still achieve a league and cup double). Luke put in an incredible effort to promote fundraising for the Movember campaign, setting himself a selection of challenges to do at various levels of money raised. These included physical challenges such as a 70km cycle, 4km swim and 15km run; travelling to Portugal from Bristol at his own expense to complete more challenges; and an extremely long time in an ice bath! These efforts played a huge role in the club raising over £2500 for Movember. He organised the first ever Hockey Showcase events earlier this month for the M1 and L1 Premier Division matches against Loughborough. That involved co-ordinating with the

SU, URB, Campus TV and Cheer. The event was a huge success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all viewers, both in-person and online. Luke was a driving force behind several other major changes in the club this year, with a key focus on increasing participation, improved offerings for all members, and creating a better club culture. These included the introduction of a 7th Ladies team, a weekly Bath Active session for beginners, and the promotion of inclusivity and Beyond Equality talks. All these decisions have been well received by members.

Finally, Luke has been an extremely capable and organised leader of the Committee this year. He has communicated effectively with various SU staff and officers.

He has supported his committee well and gone above and beyond what is expected of him. Whoever takes on the role next year will have a very challenging job to live up to the standards he has now set, given the almost unquantifiable positive impact he has made on the Hockey Club this year.

Luke has taken an extremely proactive approach to the role of Chair of the Hockey Club this year. He has gone far above and beyond what is expected of him, in almost every aspect of the role, all while balancing his studies (3rd year of Architecture), his search for a placement, and representing the 1st XI himself.

Examples of his brilliant leadership this year include his determination to add a 7th Ladies team and a Bath Active session, the recruitment of a new M2s coach, the introduction of Open Pre-Season in September and the organisation of the Showcase matches against Loughborough and the upcoming Derby Day against Bristol. On top of this, Luke has been instrumental in progressing club culture and making socials more inclusive, for which all in the club are grateful to him.

The SU Bath Sport Volunteer Coach of the Year

This award recognises the significant impact to sport made through coaching by student volunteers. It recognises that such volunteers give a substantial amount of time to improve the coaching provisions within their club.

Briony Smith

As a full-time student, Briony has committed herself wholeheartedly to the development of women's football at the university while simultaneously pursuing her degree.

Briony has strived to make a significant impact on the university's sporting landscape through coaching the Women's 3s Football Team. Despite the demanding nature of academic pursuits, Briony has consistently dedicated a substantial amount of time to coaching the women's 3's team. Coaching at least twice a week, with additional time devoted to game arrangements and individual player development.

One of the primary aspects of her coaching involvement has been with the team that required extensive work on its setup. Through tireless effort and thorough planning, she

has overseen remarkable progress, with the Women's 3s team now achieving victories and displaying commendable cohesion. Classroom sessions, meticulous designed individual player development plans, and proactive fixture arrangements have been integral components of her coaching approach and the huge amounts of progress seen within the squad and its set-up.

Moreover, Briony has not only focused on the immediate success of the Women's 3s Team but also on its long-term sustainability and growth. Despite knowing that she will not be at the university next year, she has worked diligently to position the squad for continued success. Initiatives such as bringing the team to a level where it could be a Sunday league team or even good enough for BUCS for the first time ever demonstrates her commitment to ensuring the team's future prosperity beyond her tenure.



As a female coach in a traditionally male-dominated field, Briony has been dedicated to promoting inclusivity and diversity within women's football coaching. Encouraging participation and involvement in coaching among team members, particularly among women, has been a priority. Her selection as one of the "top aspiring female coaches" in the UK through the Powerhouse Project stands as a testament to her dedication.

Furthermore, her efforts have not gone unnoticed beyond the university setting. Interest from professional clubs such as West Ham Youth Academy and Cheltenham Town, as well as her forthcoming role with Tier 3 women's side Plymouth Argyle, speaks volumes about the impact of her coaching endeavours.

Briony's dedication, achievements, and ongoing commitment to personal and professional development epitomise the qualities sought after for the University Volunteer Coach of the Year Award, particularly in the context of her contributions to the Women's 3s Football Team.



Blues 2004 - Ivor Powell, Lyn Gunson and Matt Birch



Blues 1998 - Assembly Rooms, Bath



Blues 1982 - Blues Evening presentations by Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Matthews and Director of Physical Education Tom Hudson

The David Vandelinde Prize

The David Vandelinde Prize recognises sporting accomplishment, leadership and academic success.

Rory Brown



Rory has had an incredibly successful 3 years in the University of Bath Men's 1st XI, culminating in being made Captain in this, his final year. With age group representation with Ireland to his name, Rory's knowledge and experience has been extremely valuable throughout his time with the squad, but particularly in his leadership role. He has a brilliantly positive influence on all those who cross his path. He is a competitor, fierce and passionate and astute on the pitch. He also plays with intelligence, is an outstanding communicator and reads the game superbly, all qualities of a truly excellent player.

Rory takes these characteristics and more into his leadership. Having assembled a leadership group from across the squad, he has gone about captaining the M1s with great character. He offers advice and support to younger players, demands high standards from all, but is always willing to listen to others, recognise different points of view and act in the team's best interest. He takes the selection decisions, administrative tasks, and emotional conversations in his stride, and is without doubt the best captain we have had in a long

time. If you were to ask any player, in or surrounding the M1s, they would all tell you the same.

This leadership has led to great success for the team this year. They finished in the Top 6 in the BUCS Men's Premier Division, a fantastic achievement. This allowed them to qualify for the knockout stages of the competition, and at the time of writing, are still in contention to win BUCS Gold!

Rory has done all this outstanding work while balancing his full-time undergraduate studies. He is on-track to secure a 1st class degree in Management. He has refined his options to focus on his core areas of interest, which include marketing and finance, having done a highly competitive placement in the automobile industry in Bristol last year.

Clearly, Rory is a brilliant character, a great leader, and an outstanding hockey player. He has had a positive influence on all who come across him, has led the team by example throughout, and made a genuinely huge impact on hockey at Bath, all while managing and flourishing in his academic studies.

The Martin Hedges Award

This is the highest accolade that is awarded by the University of Bath Blues Committee and the recipient must have demonstrated more than simply aptitude at a given sport. It is presented in memory of the original Sports Scholar at Bath, Martyn Hedges, who was an exceptionally talented Canoeist at the University from 1976 to 1982. His list of achievements is remarkable, yet does not reflect his value to the University. He was totally dedicated to the Canoe Club, even following his graduation. He was selected to represent Great Britain at the Barcelona Olympics, but was tragically killed in a car accident shortly before departure. This award is made to those who have made a significant contribution to furthering the progress of others within their sport over a period of time. They will have excellent knowledge of their sport and will probably have reached a recognised level as a player or coach.

It recognises outstanding individuals whose commitment and enthusiasm has been exceptional.

Caroline Searle and Bryn Vaile

Caroline Searle and Bryn Vaile have made outstanding contributions to the sporting landscape and environment at Bath over many decades, helping to create the facilities and services that the University proudly offers today to students, staff, performance athletes and the community.

Caroline, an alumna of the University who won a Full Blue for Tennis, founded Matchtight Ltd in 1992. Bryn Vaile, an Olympic Gold medallist in Sailing from the Seoul 1988 Olympic Games, joined in 1993 and they returned to Bath in 1996 to take on the contract for the Department of Sports Development and Recreation's

marketing, communications and press office, a role they served with distinction through to their semi-retirement in 2022.

Their collective knowledge and experience of sport and major events contributed to the University hosting the Youth Olympics, the creation of the Team Bath brand, the successful bid for Lottery funding and subsequent building of the Sports Training Village, the creation and successes of the Super League Netball programme, National Governing Bodies choosing Bath as their base for performance training, the hosting of the European and World Modern Pentathlon Championships, and thousands of students accessing and benefiting from sport and physical activity over the years.



The impact on sport at Bath that Caroline and Bryn had over a quarter of a century of dedicated and passionate service has been fundamental to Bath's position today as a leading environment for student sport, a UK Sport-accredited Elite Training Centre and a beacon of activity to the South-West community attracting more than a million visitors per year.



Team of the Year

This award is only open to the 1st team of any sport and will be presented purely on the level of performance and achievement during the season.

Men's Football 1st Team

The men's football 1st Team have had a strong year. Unbeaten at home and only suffering two defeats in the league. Currently through to the 1/4 final of the BUCS at the time of writing and hoping to go all the way. They have a strong group of players who perform on and off the pitch maintaining high standards, representing the club and the university extremely well.

Having won BUCS south last year and finishing 3rd this year whilst also being through to the quarter finals, the men's football first team largely goes under the radar. They are an exceptional group of players who are a great representation of the whole club.



Team of the Year

Mixed Golf 1st Team

The BUCS Golf 1st Team made history by reaching the BUCS National Finals for the first time ever in the university's golfing history in late April of 2023. This remarkable feat demonstrates the excellent talent, dedication, and teamwork within the team.

Despite facing very strong opponents from universities with high-performance golf programmes, the Golf 1st Team showcased their skills and competitive spirit by advancing to the BUCS National Finals. Their ability to excel in such a challenging environment where they were seen as the tournament underdogs highlights their grit, excellent capabilities, and resilience.

In the 2023/2024 BUCS league, the team have aimed to replicate last year's pioneering performance. Despite losing many of last year's squad, the team have rallied to better their previous best points tally, finishing tied 1st in the Premiership South league and earning yet another home BUCS quarter final and the chance to reach the final four at National Finals for the second year running.

The team's dedication to excellence and their hunger for success is evident with excellent standards shown in both training and away from the golf course. They embody the spirit of sportsmanship and competition in all matches, making them deserving candidates for the Team of the Year award.

Men's Water Polo 1st Team

Throughout the season, the team remained steadfast, consisting of a mix of first-year, second year, and final-year players, all united in their pursuit of league victory. Despite a disheartening loss in the opening game, the team rallied, embarking on a remarkable nine-game winning streak and achieving one of their most impressive goal differentials in recent memory. Unfortunately, all league fixtures concluded by the end of 2023, leaving Bristol aware of the necessary goal margin for victory. Leveraging matchups against weaker opponents, they capitalized on opportunities to boost their goal difference. While falling short of the league title is disappointing, securing nine wins out of ten matches and amassing a goal difference of 83 would typically ensure championship glory.

Club of the Year

This award recognises the success and substantial achievements clubs can attain when they function effectively as a whole.

Hockey Club

With over 300 members across 8 BUCS teams, 5 Rec teams, 2 Mixed Teams, Hockey is always a club with a brilliant atmosphere!

Whether you're a regular in the Blue and Gold Stands at the Astro to watch the Bath Rangers, came to watch for the first time at our recent Showcase event for the 1st team's fixtures against Loughborough, or have seen their members around campus and the city sporting some incredible fancy dress costumes each week, you will know that being a member of the Hockey Club makes you part of a wonderful family at the University of Bath.

This year has seen immense success on the pitch for the Hockey Club, with at least 2 promotions (at the time of writing), courtesy of the awesome Ladies 2's and Ladies 4's, as well as 6 ongoing cup runs, ranging from both the 1st teams down to the Ladies 5s! As well as these big wins, with goals and celebrations aplenty, Hockey have hugely increased the levels of participation and quality of coaching this year, thanks to a superb team of volunteers in Captaincy, Coaching and Committee roles.

The introduction of a 7th Ladies team and a new Bath Active beginner's session prove the popularity of the club and the interest in joining the fun!

Equally, the club has had a tremendous year off the pitch. Socials have been more inclusive, fun, and better attended than ever, and you are sure to see a huge Hockey turnout at the SU's Score event almost every week. The Showcase matches against Loughborough were a major highlight, in collaboration with CampusTV, URB and Cheer! Fundraising efforts, and in particular the Movember campaign which saw Hockey raise over £2500 also stand out as a factor that has made this year such a special one for the Hockey club!

It's been a whirlwind year for the Hockey Club, but a brilliant one to be a part of.

Club of the Year

Netball Club

The netball club has a community of over 300 members this season, and is working hard to continue finding ways to increase performance and participation to be inclusive to as many students at the university as possible.

The club hosts 4 BUCS teams, competing in, and consistently dominating the Premier, Western Tier 1 and Western Tier 2 divisions. These BUCS teams also take part in the Western Conference Cup, National Trophy, and National Championships, with the 1st and 2nd teams both making the finals on Big BUCS Wednesday last season and hoping to replicate that this year.

The club has both several international and Superleague representatives, in addition to many students representing Team Bath in the National Performance League. The 2023/24 season saw the creation of 2 new competitive teams, the Bath Tubs, and Bath Ducks who now compete in the Moonraker League based in Devises. The teams were made to combat the loss of our 5th BUCS team which was sadly cut due to funding issues. The club wanted to continue to grow the offer available to

members so made 2 new teams! Both Tubs and Ducks are top of their league standings, vying for promotion into the Premier and Tier 1 divisions respectively.

Netball has 6 development teams which compete in a round-robin style league. The development programme is fully organised and coached by student volunteers. Since 2021, the netball club has been working hard to improve inclusivity and open the club to men, with many male students trying netball out for the first time and some committing to regular training with our Men's and mixed team. The 2023/24 season was the first year the club held a fixture that was only with male players, and additionally the club was one of 8 universities to send a Men's team to the inaugural BUCS Men's netball cup.

Many of the netball club members are a part of the recreational side of the club which runs every Sunday afternoon. The sessions are led to encourage those who may have not engaged in sport since leaving school to get involved and play netball, with several fun games and regular opportunities to meet new students. The 2023/24 season has also seen the introduction of friendly recreational matches against other universities which has been a great success.

Club of the Year

Rugby Union Club

The Rugby Union Club has had one of its most successful years to date. For a second year running, the Women's 1st XV finished top of their league, winning every game. In addition, the Men's 2nd XV finished 2nd in the league, which is their highest position ever in Premier 1 South. Further successes across the club included the Men's 3rd XV staying unbeaten until February and the Men's 1st XV with an almighty victory over Cardiff Met at the Rec in front of 7000 spectators.

The Rugby Club went above and beyond all expectations for Movember this year, raising over £16,000, which is more than the whole University has ever raised and placed them 6th in the country for sports clubs! The month was filled with fantastic fundraising events, from a Movember Ball to a charity rugby match against Bath Spa. They were able to impress the university with a 60-hour continuous cycle on the parade, raising several thousand pounds alone! Most importantly, and appreciated by the wider community, they produced several clips of members of the club opening up about their experiences of mental health, it was a touching tribute to a phenomenal movement and reached an enormous audience across social media.

The club has also shown its commitment to supporting the wider community through litter picking events and helping at Gensis lunches on a Thursday – the day after tough games for many players! They have done a fantastic job at actively engaging with other charities, such as OddBalls, CoppaFeel! and 40tude.

It has been a year of firsts for the club. One of the most notable is that it has been the first time in the history of the university that the rugby club has had a women's 2nd XV. The dedication and work over several years to get a women's program has paid off and to see the club expand this has been brilliant. They have had a record number of female members and the way it's going, there will be even more next year.

Lastly, with full credit to the committee members, a 4-team internal league was set up. This consisted of 12 rounds, starting with an NFL-style draft at the beginning of the year, a prize for the team top at Christmas, then a trophy for the winning team at the end. Further to this, the club honoured the winning team by allowing them to play against the Alumni before their annual end of season dinner.

It has been an outstanding year for the rugby club, with huge successes on and off the pitch – full credit must go to the commitment, hard work and dedication of the committee that goes on behind the scenes.

Sports Personality of the Year Nominees

This award recognises a student who has contributed significantly to student sport during their time at University, and encapsulates the spirit of University sport. 'Positive contribution' may take many forms, including performance, service, and participation. Candidates may have achieved outstanding levels of performance, represented the University in a number of sports, or had significant input into a team, both on and off the pitch.

Sports Personality of the Year

Kate Shortman

Artistic Swimming

Artistic swimmer Kate began studying International Management and Modern Languages (French) at the University of Bath a month after representing Team GB at the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in August 2021. She is supported by a Bill Whiteley Sporting Scholarship.

During the past 12 months she has made history for British Swimming at successive World Aquatics Championships. At the 2023 event in Japan, Kate became the first-ever British artistic swimmer to win a World Championships medal when she claimed bronze in the Women's Solo Free discipline.

The 2024 competition in Doha saw Kate and partner Izzy Thorpe win silver in the Women's Duet Technical – Britain's first-ever World Championships medal in a Duet event. They followed that up three days later with bronze in the Duet Free discipline, securing qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Kate, who has now competed at five World Championships, is from Bristol and trains at the City of Bristol Swimming Club, home to British Swimming's artistic performance programme.



Sports Personality of the Year

Jayda Pechova

Netball

In her early days at the University of Bath, Jayda embarked on a remarkable journey by enrolling in the esteemed Future Roses Programme. This decision propelled her into the realm of international netball, where she proudly represented England in the prestigious Fast5 World Championship. Simultaneously, she showcased her talents as a formidable member of the 1st team in BUCS 1, achieving a commendable second-place finish. Her prowess extended to the Superleague, where she made significant contributions to Team Bath, leaving a lasting impact on the squad.

After re-signing, she continued to elevate Team Bath in the Superleague, solidifying her position as a key player. Her exceptional skills earned her selection for the esteemed Full Roses Programme, leading to notable appearances in the New Zealand Series, including a memorable debut on kiwi soil. She further distinguished herself during the South Africa Series, playing a pivotal role in securing victories for her team.

Her journey reached new heights with participation in the recent Nations Cup, where she faced formidable opponents from New Zealand, Australia, and Uganda, ultimately clinching a commendable second place. Currently holding six International Caps, she harbours aspirations for further success in her netball journey. Alongside her international endeavours, she remains actively engaged in BUCS competitions, eagerly anticipating upcoming challenges, such as the eagerly awaited semi-final match.



50th Anniversary

Sports Personality of the Year

Leah Crisp Swimming



Leah joined the university and British swimming performance centre in 2020 to study economics and mathematics and continue to build on her successful junior swimming career, hoping to break into the senior international scene. Despite setbacks of broken elbows and illnesses during her first two seasons here, in her 3rd year Leah began to make strides towards her goals, achieving her first personal bests in the pool for over 3 years at the 2022 BUCS short course nationals, alongside winning a gold and 2 silvers at this meet and breaking a BUCS record in the 800m freestyle. She then went on to take a leap of faith in switching focus from the 800m and 1500m freestyle in the pool to the 10km open water marathon swim. In March 2023 she competed in her first senior 10km race at a European cup, finishing 14th. She then built on this and qualified to represent Great Britain at the 2023 World Aquatics championships in July 2023. She spent the season racing at various European and World cup events, gaining as much 10km practice as possible.

That summer she finished 24th at the World championships, just 4 months after her first senior international open water race. In December she then qualified to represent Great Britain at her second world aquatics championships being held in February 2024, with this race doubling up as the Olympics qualifier, with everyone competing to get their nation a quota spot to race in the 10km marathon swim at the 2024 Paris Olympics. In that high stakes race she produced her best performance yet, finished 17th and only 23 seconds behind the winner after almost 2 hours of racing. This was enough to secure Great Britain the continental quota spot for the Olympics, qualifying Leah for her first Olympic games. As well as this Leah has been a consistent dominant force in the 400m, 800m and 1500m freestyle at a national level, winning numerous individual medals (6 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze) at BUCS nationals between November 2021 and November 2023, winning 2 or more medals at every BUCS nationals she has competed in.

Sports Personality of the Year

Jamie Cubitt

SU Sport Exec

Jamie picked up cheerleading during his first year at university having attended a very fun taster session and subsequently attending try-outs where he was selected for the Level 2 Cyclone squad. Since then, bar a hiatus during Covid and on placement year, Jamie has competed at Uni National Competitions as part of both the Cyclone and Group Stunt teams. Highlights from his time as a Bath Jet include the long, jolly journeys down to Bournemouth to train on a full size sprung floor and placing third at ICC with extremely narrow point margins between Bath and first place. Outside from competing, he was Competition Organiser in 22/23 year, taking over a hundred Bath Jets to compete in Manchester and Nottingham as well gaining his Level 2 coaching qualification to assist the Recreational coach training the next generation of Bath Jets on Sunday evenings.

Jamie has also held the position of Exec Treasurer on the Sports Exec Committee for the academic years 22/23 and 23/24. In this capacity, he has attended monthly

Sports Exec Committee meetings supporting the Sports Officer and SU Sport Team, voicing the views of sports clubs. Every week during semester time for the last two years he has visited SU Finance/SU Activities Office to approve all 52 club's expenditure as well as going in outside of his regular slot for urgent authorisations.

He has assisted the SU Sports team with the running of Rugby at the Rec, wearing mascot costume (Duck Norris) in the half term competition (22/23) and the following year with the prize giveaway. He has also been the mascot at Varsity 22/23 and Freshers Week Sports Day. Both years he helped the SU on the SU Sport stand at the FW Sport Day, assisting freshers with general SU Sport questions and signposting them to the right clubs of interest.

He is also running a Sport Committee night in March to train the committees on the Finance best practice, procedures and budgets. Additionally, last year he ran the SU Finance training nights for incoming Chairs and Treasurers something that he will also be doing again this year in April.



Thanks

Sport at Bath has been a pleasure to develop, I am extremely grateful for the opportunities it has provided me with this year. I will always reflect on this year as one of my proudest, seeing the impact I've provided on facilitating student-led activity has been momentous, I hope the students take away from what they have achieved this year with great pride.

Being a volunteer is a huge role to take up during studies; the effort that all have put into their clubs and the sport executive committee has not been over-looked. On behalf of SU staff, we've thoroughly enjoyed seeing them evolve and thrive in leadership roles and look forward to where it will take them next. With over 450 volunteers in sport, I'm sure there will be plenty to see!

The offer for students would not be possible without the incredibly patient and dedicated SU Staff. With challenges evidently present around the cost-of-living crisis, and seeing its impact on students as well as institutions, the staff have shown absolute grit to adapt, and push on to maintaining and improving the student sport offer, to make it a highlight of a student's experience at Bath. With this, I would also like give huge thanks to the Sports Department, with all they do to facilitate student sport, it would not be possible without them.



Thank you to everyone who has been involved with the Blues Awards, the committee, our sponsors, and the venue. This event is a staple in our calendar to celebrate sporting achievements. I would like to congratulate everyone who has been nominated and those who have won awards. This year grants the 50th Anniversary of the Blues, making it the biggest yet.

The Blues Awards celebrate all that we have to offer in sport during our time at university, and I am extremely thankful for all that sport at Bath had to offer me during my time as a student, and Sport Officer. I, much like many of my peers will never forget the impact of the sporting community at Bath and I would like to wish Sports Office elect, Olivia Warner, the best of luck for her year ahead.

Abbie Watkin
Students' Union Sport Officer



Blues 2023



Blues 2023 - Roman Baths and Pump Rooms, Bath



Blues Awards Evening 2019 -
Assembly Rooms, Bath



Blues 2002



Sailing Club Club of the Year Award,
Blues Awards Evening 2022 -
Assembly Rooms, Bath

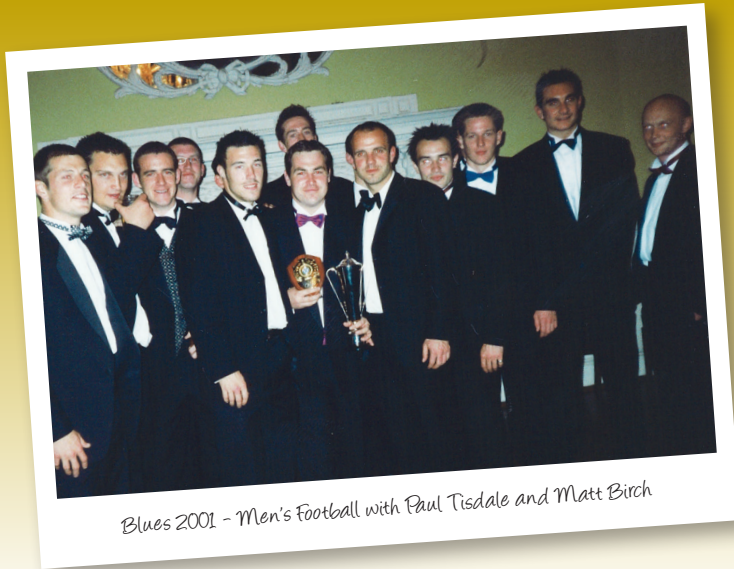


Blues 2016 - Assembly Rooms, Bath -
Vice-Chancellor Professor Glynis Breakwell presents the Team
of the Year award (third place) to the Men's 1st lacrosse team



Blues Awards Evening 2011 - Assembly Rooms, Bath

50th Anniversary



Blues 2001 - Men's Football with Paul Tisdale and Matt Birch



Blues 1985 - Assembly Rooms, Bath



Blues 1999 - Assembly Rooms, Bath

