



University of Bath
Blues Awards
2022

Order of Events

Welcome

Keith Stokes
Warden of the Blues

Ribbons, Colours and Honorary Colours

Presented by
Elizabeth Stacey, Students' Union Sport Officer

BLUES DINNER

Review of the Year

Elizabeth Stacey, Students' Union Sport Officer

Guest Speaker

Tom Dean
Swimming Olympic Double Gold medallist Tokyo 2020

Director of Sport Speech

Stephen Baddeley

Half Blue and Full Blue

Presented by

Stephen Baddeley, Director of Sport

Honorary Blues and Special Honorary Blues

Presented by

Keith Stokes, Warden of the Blues

Special Awards

Presented by

Professor Ian White, Vice Chancellor and President

Sports Personality of the Year

Presented by

Matrix

Thanks

Professor Ian White, Vice Chancellor and President

Elizabeth Stacey Students' Union Sport Officer

Welcome



THE SU
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Professor
Keith Stokes

Warden of the Blues

BLUES AWARDS 2022

Although there have been some bumps in the road, it has been fantastic to see sport return this year. For those of us involved in playing, coaching, administering or watching sport, the past two years of disruption have served to bring into sharper focus the value of sport and the rich experiences it brings to so many people. However, bringing sport back has not been without its difficulties and I would like to congratulate and thank all of those people who have worked so hard to reset and restart sporting activities at the University this academic year. I know that for many of our clubs simply getting people back into the habit of participating and contributing has been a huge challenge.

The Blues Awards offer an opportunity to celebrate sport at the University of Bath across a wide range of contributions and successes made over this and previous years. I thoroughly enjoyed reading nominations that highlighted

contributions that included displays of excellence on the national and international stage, consistent dedication and performance in University teams, and the development and support of inclusive recreational sporting opportunities. All of these activities and achievements make the University of Bath a special place to be involved in sport.

My role is to work with the Blues Committee to ensure that the award of Ribbons, Colours, Half-Blues, Blues and the Special Awards reflect the high and consistent standards of achievement seen over the previous year. I would like to thank the Blues Committee for their dedication in maintaining these standards. The bar is set high and the award winners are thoroughly deserving of recognition.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the achievements of those who have contributed so much to sport at the University of Bath. Congratulations to all award winners and thank you all for your dedication to our sporting heritage.



Stephen Baddeley

Director of Sport

After two years of online ceremonies, it is truly a pleasure to welcome you all to the Assembly Rooms for the 2022 Blues Awards – our annual celebration of student sport at the University of Bath.

And there has been plenty to celebrate over the past 12 months, not least the return of BUCS competition. I wrote in last year's awards booklet about how much we'd missed the buzz of BUCS Wednesdays at the Sports Training Village and across campus, and it has been a joy to see so many students and teams enjoying their sport once again during this academic year.

Covid has continued to pose challenges, of course, and I would like to thank coaches, support staff and students for adapting to the ever-changing landscape and ensuring a safe return not only to competition but also recreational sport and fitness for everyone to enjoy at the Sports Training Village.

There have been some fantastic performances during the season, including the women's fencing team being crowned as National Champions and 17 medals for Bath students across athletics, badminton, fencing and swimming at the first BUCS Nationals since 2020. Among the medallists was Justin Davies (Biomedical Sciences), who went on to win mixed relay silver with Great Britain at the World University Cross-Country Championships in Portugal.

Previous Blue & Gold medallists at BUCS Nationals include swimmers Tom Dean, Calum Jarvis and Anna Hopkin, all of whom won gold in magnificent fashion for Team GB at last summer's Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. It was the most successful Games yet for athletes who train at the Team Bath Sports Training Village, with fellow Blues Awards recipients Joe Choong and Kate French winning a historic double gold in modern pentathlon while Maths & Physics graduate Stuart Wood was a paracanoeing bronze-medallist at the Paralympic Games.

There were 21 medals in total brought home from Tokyo by Bath athletes and graduates, and we could not be prouder to have played a part in their sporting journeys. We are delighted to be celebrating that success tonight too,

as well as the achievements of the Bath-based bobsleigh and skeleton athletes who competed at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

Other standout sporting moments for Bath students during the past year include Jack Kenningham helping Harlequins win the Premiership Rugby title just days before graduating in Sports Performance; Jenny Hesketh captaining England Rugby Women's U20 and fellow Sport Management & Coaching student Grace Crompton becoming a regular for England and GB Women's Rugby 7s; a gold medal for Alumni Fund Sporting Scholar Olivia Green (Sport & Exercise Science) at the Modern Pentathlon European U24 Championships; and silver and bronze respectively for Sports Performance students Ross Charlton and Emma Whitaker on their Modern Pentathlon World Cup debuts in Cairo.

There is another exciting sporting year ahead, including the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games this summer, but before then I am grateful we have this opportunity to come together, reflect on a momentous 12 months and thank everyone who has enriched the University of Bath's sporting legacy.

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 saw the return to in person sport for our students, but also presented its challenges. Regardless of the previous two COVID years, we had 5,600 students participating in sport with 1,600 of these students participating in BUCS. More than ever, students have been looking for more opportunities to participate and excel in sport.

SU Sport run several events throughout the year, and after two years of interrupted activity, Freshers' Week couldn't come quickly enough. With record numbers attending Sports Day on the Parade, people were keen to try new things and meet new people, it was the start to the University experience that the year before them had missed out on. Getting re-started with all sports from American Football to Windsurfing was extremely rewarding and a relief for all the staff, I'm sure.

Sports clubs had a tough start by losing a large amount of knowledge and experience over the COVID pandemic and it was difficult to provide the level of leadership needed to develop sports clubs. Many have focussed on creating an offer that brings people into the club and can develop over the coming years. However, some of our sports teams have been working on new offers such as: Shooting currently creating a paintball strand, Sailing developing the 'Bath

Robe', a regatta for the Southwest; cycling, offering track cycling for the first time ever and so much more. It has been inspiring to see what our student leaders are able to create and develop, leaving their legacy on SU Sport.

One of our fantastic sports teams were fortunate to reach the National Trophy final at BUCS Big Wednesday at Nottingham. Women's Fencing came away with a win and were the only one of our sports clubs to attend this year. However, we have had some other fantastic results, including Women's Football 2s winning their Cup Final and Men's Squash winning the Conference Cup. In February, the first BUCS Nationals in two years found 17 medals being brought home from four sports, including golds in Swimming and Badminton!

There have also been fantastic developments outside of BUCS, with four women's rugby players representing England on an international stage, and several of our male rugby players representing Premiership and international teams throughout the year. We have also had a few players from netball, football, hockey, athletics, and swimming selected to represent their country at international and national university squad level. We have also had multiple successes in events such as Southern Champs for Athletics, where they came away with gold, silver, and bronze in some events, and some fantastic wins for the Bath Badminton players.



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We have also developed on our recreational sport offer. Re-introducing our free sporting offer, Bath Active and providing various opportunities throughout the year for students to be involved. It has been a priority to make sure all students feel comfortable to participate in sport, should they wish. This has not only been down to our fantastic student leaders but also our staff members, and Sports Department. Ensuring the SU and Sports Department are aligned on approaches for awareness events such as International Women's Day. This makes a massive difference to our students and ensures many have brought more awareness than they have in previous years.

At the beginning of Semester 2, we also hosted the first ever Sport Stash Sale, an opportunity for students to dig out old kit which they have in their wardrobe, give to charity, and get some money back in the process. This was fantastic to make sport more affordable for our students while also reducing the amount of Bath kit going to landfill.

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. Returning from a year break it was important that students got more than just Score in suits and as a result the Casino theme and reindeer bucking bronco were huge hits! We have had massive uptake in intramural and interdepartmental offers, with more appetite than ever before, with much more potential

growth in these offers in the future. After a two-year gap we welcomed Cardiff Met back for our 5th annual event with 17 matches across 10 sports and over 3000 spectators, Varsity proved to be as big as ever. It is a fantastic way for many of our students to end their year and showcase sport at Bath.

Finally, 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, Boathouse and 3G pitch have all been priorities, which will continue to develop for student use soon.

As I am sure you will agree, it has been a fantastic year for student sport despite the ongoing challenges of COVID-19 which have been presenting throughout the two years. There have been some unbelievable sporting performances, including Olympic and Paralympic successes, and some breakthrough moments for clubs and individuals on a university stage. I believe that a foundation has been set to develop sport much more over the next few years and I look forward to what's to come.

Elizabeth Stacey

Students' Union Sport Officer

Ribbons

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

Touch Rugby

Josh Henderson

Isabel Hurst

Eileen Russell

Colours

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

American Football

Gregory Kemp

Association Football and Futsal

Charlotte Greenlees

Matthew Talbot

Badminton

Emma Hooper

Timothy Scott

Basketball

Josh Davis

Ffion Platt

Cycling

Charlotte Williams

Hockey

Keir Ansell

Charlotte Crombie

Emma Ladd Gibbon

Katie Laffey

Chloe Lewis

Daniel Verity

Lacrosse

Phoebe James

Annabelle Stoney

Netball

Maya Meredith

Selina Radcliffe

Caitlin Rowley

Rugby (Union and League)

Edward Ashcroft

Rory Mead

Sailing

Emma Bennett

William Hopes

Swimming

Bruno Kempster

Table Tennis

Addi Duhan

Tennis

Oscar Glenister

Kate Horsburgh

Oliver Matthews

Ultimate

Olivia Carr

Constance Lynch

Volleyball

Jaime Elosua Feliciano

Water polo

Isaac Allen

Jade Bikard

Danielle Cooper

Rebecca Milne

Natalie Smith

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

Matthew Houghton
Charlotte Greenlees

Cheerleading
Monique Phillibert

Cycling

George Creasey

Rugby (Union and League)

Dan West
George Malone

Sailing

Athénaïs Mangin

Table Tennis

Addi Duhan

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.

Association Football and Futsal

Mia Blazey
Brooklyn Cheal-Ferris
Kate Walsh

Badminton

Molly Chapman

Lacrosse

Ramzi Nasr
William Rawlins
Oliver Walker

Taekwondo

Kamal Deris

Tennis

Freya Davies
Louis Newman

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.

Arnaud Masset Squash



Since arriving at the University of Bath in 2017, Arnaud has been ever present in the Men's first squash team. During his time at University, he has represented the club in the BUCS league and cup competitions, the local Avon league and at the BUCS Individual Championships. Whilst studying at Bath, he has also represented his native country of Luxembourg at both the 2018 and 2019 European Squash Team Championships.

Since 2021, Arnaud has held the role of Men's 1st team captain. During his time in this role, he guided the Men's 1st team to a first place finish in the BUCS Western Division 1. This qualified the team for a playoff competition which would determine promotion to the top division of Men's University squash in the UK. Unfortunately, promotion wasn't meant to be as the team battled and lost to a Nottingham team littered with professional players. However, this was by far the closest that the Men's team has come to reaching the top division in recent memory.

Since becoming a senior figure at the club, Arnaud has been instrumental in the development of squash at Bath. He has tirelessly worked with others at the club to ensure the development of both the team and recreational offer. Through this work and his role as Men's 1st team captain, the University of Bath Squash Club this year has achieved a first place finish for Men's Squash, and highs of 7th for Women's Squash and 3rd overall in the BUCS ranking table, despite not having a Premier Division side.

Honorary Blue

Awarded to any person who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of University Sport.

Imy Bantick



Crew Bath's Imy Bantick made national headlines when she won gold at the 2021 World Rowing Indoor Championships – all without leaving her student digs.

Imy, who studies Sport & Exercise Science, completed 2km on her home rowing machine in 7mins 22.3secs to claim victory in the U23 Lightweight Women's race ahead of competitors from Hong Kong, Tunisia, France, Canada and the United States.

Each competitor's rowing machine was connected to computers and the race streamed online to simulate side-by-side racing, with Imy – who qualified for the Worlds by winning the British Championships – setting her erg up in the kitchen.

Ben Proud



Ben Proud produced a stunning performance to win 50m freestyle gold at the FINA World Short-Course Championships in Abu Dhabi in December 2021.

The double Olympian, who joined Mark Skimming's University of Bath training group earlier in the year, was fastest out of the blocks in the final and touched the wall first in 20.45secs to add gold to the world butterfly and European freestyle titles he had previously won in a long-course pool.

Ben also twice smashed the British 50m freestyle in November to help Energy Standard win the 2021 International Swimming League title.

Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022 Honorary Blues

Qualifying to represent your country at an Olympic or Paralympic Games is the greatest representative honour within sport. The Blues Committee wishes to honour their achievements by awarding an Honorary Blue to each of the athletes who either used the University of Bath as their training base during the year/years prior to 2020 or 2022 games and/or are University alumni.

Tokyo 2020 Olympic Athletes

Athletics

Tom Gale
Levern Spencer

Judo

Prisca Awiti-Alcaraz
Megan Fletcher

Modern Pentathlon

Joanna Muir

Swimming

Freya Anderson
Kieran Bird
Tom Dean
James Guy
Calum Jarvis
Jacob Peters
Matthew Richards
Brodie Williams

Paralympic Athletes

Para-Triathlon

Michael Taylor

Wheelchair Fencing

Dimitri Coutya
Oliver Lam-Watson

Beijing 2022 Olympic Athletes

Skeleton

Brogan Crowley
Matt Weston
Marcus Wyatt

Special Awards

Gethin John Bevan Club Member of the Year

SU Sport Volunteer Coach of the Year

The David VandeLinde Prize

BUCS Team of the Year

Club of the Year

Sports Personality of the Year

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.

Monique Phillibert



Monique been an active member of Cheerleading Club since 2018. She was completely new to the sport when she joined Bath Jets Cheerleading. In her 2nd year she gained her level 2 coaching qualification, stepping into coach recreational sessions where needed. In her 3rd year she took on the administrative role of Club Secretary, assisting the Chair with the overall running of the Club, alongside studying for her integrated master's degree in chemical engineering.

On her placement in her 4th year, she joined an all-star team in London, before returning to the club as Chair in her final year.

Coming into the role of Chair was a challenge, with most of the club having little knowledge of how the club operated pre-Covid-19 and key committee positions not filled. However, Monique saw this as a chance to start a fresh and to make positive changes to the way the club operates. Spearheading the strategy to increase club membership this year, Monique introduced a new refreshers pom squad and integrated both stunting and dance for the Bath Jets Performance in the Freshers Arena on Launch Night. As a result, club membership has increased by over 12%, compared to pre-COVID-19 levels.

She was successful in her campaign to secure budget for a regular external coach both for stunting and tumbling, which saw the Bath Jets cheer squads place 1st at their first competition in December. To save on budget this year, Monique spent weeks learning and using specialist software to create the music tracks for the competition and varsity routines. She also organised an end of season Club dinner and a Christmas raffle, which raised £200 for the club.

She organised for the volunteer student coaches to acquire their level 2 cheerleading coaching qualifications and assumed a strong mentorship role, providing guidance and advice to the younger members on committee. Since the start of her final year, Monique has dedicated around 8 hours a week of her time towards the club. Split between training, coaching, helping other club or committee members and completing administrative tasks.

Putting a high value on member experience within the club, Monique conducted an end of semester Christmas survey to members which received over 80 responses. She has used the feedback to make improvements to the club for semester 2, including more joint socials, creating a brand-new performance squad for sports fixtures and varsity and a non-alcoholic social calendar.

She has shown a passion for her sport and for the development of Bath Jets Cheerleading Club and is excited to see how much the club progresses after she graduates from Bath in summer 2022.

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.

Olivia Rippon

During Olivia's final year of undergraduate study, she has independently coached 5 cheerleading dance teams, incorporating approximately 80 students. This involved choreographing their routines, editing the music, holding taster sessions and auditions, and organising and attending all training sessions.

Olivia is extremely dedicated to her role as dance coach, consistently receiving positive feedback from the other students that she coaches. Her sessions are a place that students can come and enjoy themselves, taking time away from the stress of university life and to show them there will always be support for them from cheer. Olivia's efforts include making sure that each individual student that she coaches has all the resources they need to progress in their abilities as much as possible.

Olivia has consistently tried to make sure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to be included in the dance teams. Furthermore, as far as records show for the first time in Bath Jets history, she created two non-audition large pom teams that attended a competition. The non-audition large pom teams are open to all abilities and are a way that anyone is able to try cheer



dance without any prior experience. Normally cheer have one large pom team, and the sign-ups are usually limited to cheer freshers, however, she recognised that due to COVID-19, the now 2nd years had not been given this equal opportunity. As a result, she created a fresher and refresher large pom team which involved 60 students.

Finally, regarding her achievements as dance coach here at the university, at Future Cheer Winter Wonderland, four of her teams won first place in their division and her other team won second place.

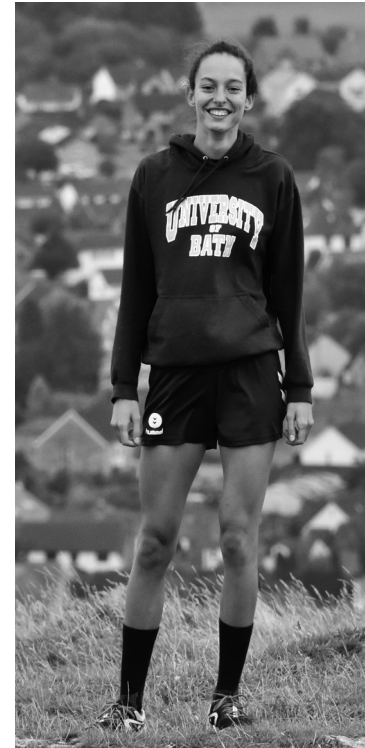
The David Vandelinde Prize

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

Maria Valderrabano

Maria has always greatly enjoyed sports and has taken part in multiple sports recreationally throughout her life, starting from tennis and dance, to swimming, golf and skiing, and later on started competing in sports. She joined her first competitive team at the age of 12, as a part of the Under 13 women's team at the Colomiers Basketball Club in France. She continued to develop in basketball as her main competitive sport, playing in the Inter-Regional league as an Under 17, and then at an Under 20 Pre-National League until the end of secondary school. Throughout all this time, she developed a love for competition, challenges and personal growth that is achieved through perseverance and effort and applied all of this not only to sport but also in school as she rigorously pursued to improve in her academic studies, achieving 40 points in the International Baccalaureate and competing in international maths competitions. It was also during this time that Maria developed a passion for volunteering, becoming a UNICEF Young Ambassador and striving to raise awareness in her local community. After arriving at the University of Bath to study Civil and Architectural Engineering,

Maria decided to continue playing basketball competitively, trialling and making it into the Women's 1 Basketball team, that competed in BUCS Western 1A. In addition to this, she decided to try new sports, joining the Volleyball Club as a recreational member, Wheelchair Basketball and Sitting Volleyball. She competed in Varsity in 2019 as a first year student in both Basketball and Wheelchair Basketball at the end of the year. Having enjoyed participating and competing in these sports in her first year of studies, she decided to take on volunteer roles within sport in her second and fourth years to enable other students to enjoy sport during their university experience, becoming Inclusion Officer on the Sport Executive Committee in her second year, and both Sport Exec Treasurer and Volunteer Recognition Officer in her fourth year. Alongside these leadership positions, she continued to compete in sport, winning the Basketball Western 2 Conference Cup in her second year, and currently 1st in the Volleyball Bristol League Women Division 1. During her time at the University of Bath, Maria has consistently achieved a First yearly average in her studies for her degree, and pursued further academic development outside of the university, winning the



Undergraduate Prize of the IStructE Young Structural Engineering International Design Competition 2020.

All of these volunteering roles, sporting competitions and academic efforts have formed a fundamental part of Maria's personal development, ingraining core values of striving for excellence, integrity and respect.



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.

Women's Football 1st Team

The women's section of the club consists of 3 different teams and aims to be as inclusive as possible whilst competing at the highest BUCS level. The first and second teams are both in competitive BUCS leagues and the development team provides more social playing opportunities.

UOBWFC tries its utmost best to create an inclusive atmosphere where people enjoy being part of the club and feel valued as part of a team.

The club prides itself on being very competitive. There are competitive trials at the beginning of the season. Commitment and performance within all teams is often rewarded with movement within squads. This year the women's 1st team were hugely successful finishing 2nd in the Premier South League and making the quarter finals in the National Championship. This all occurred after a difficult couple of years due to covid-19 where much of the sport was stopped due to restrictions. The team selected at the start of the year was very much a new team with lots of new faces and a new coach to boot. However, it didn't take them long to get off to their winning ways with a 7-0 against Hertfordshire in their first game. The season was hugely successful with the team scoring a total of 40 goals and only conceding 10.

Men's Lacrosse 1st Team

The last time the team had won the BUCS southern premiership was 6 years ago, since then the team has regularly finished in podium positions but have never won the league. The team has had many highly successful athletes represent the university on the international stage however, this still did not result in the team winning the southern premiership. This year the boys were successful with this challenge (and dream for many of the players) which is an incredible achievement. The boys also beat the highly successful rivals, the University of Bristol, in both home and away games which is something the team has never been able to do in its history, which is a testament to the team's hard work and sacrifice this season. The players also give back to the lacrosse club providing coaching and gameday support whenever they can to help improve the beginner players to the sport. In addition, many players in the Men's 1st team trialed for the English Universities South West lacrosse squad, where 8 players were successful with team selection and 1 player is in the reserves which is a massive achievement. This is the most players the university has ever had in this squad. The players will now go on to represent the South West in the universities bowl where they will play against the other regional squads for a place in the national university squad.

Club of the Year

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

Sailing Club

The University of Bath Sailing Club has offered this year never-reached-before levels of recreational and development sailing opportunities, in addition to its usual participation in team racing, match racing, fleet racing and yachting. The club as a whole reached its highest number of memberships, as well as its largest community of recreational sailors ever (over 50).

The aim of this year was to maintain the club on a sustainable and inclusive trajectory. Thanks to club-wide efforts, UBSC was rewarded with a Gold Award in the Green Blue Sustainability University Challenge, and constituted two women-only teams for a team racing competition in February (more than any other University). To this end, a conference on diversity in modern-day sailing, “Sailing into the 21st Century”, was also organised with speakers including current students, association leaders and Team GB athletes gathering to discuss women, LGBTQ+ and disabled people’s experiences within the sport of sailing. Welfare socials and groups of returners and freshers gathered as “Families”, for the second year running. Club members enjoyed non-drinking socials, which involved diverse activities, from cinema screening and ice skating to salt dough sculpting and rock climbing.

The Sailing Club organised for the first time ever its very own team racing event, namely the ‘Bath Robe’ hosted at the beloved Chew Valley Lake. From all over England and Wales, 19 teams of 6 gathered for two days of sailing and 2 nights of social activities under the organisation of the club’s committee and members. This played an important role in ensuring that Bath remains a frontline sailing club, and offered the opportunity to our recreational sailors to take part in a team racing event. The event was used to raise some much needed funds towards purchasing a flight of six new boats. It is planned that the ‘Bath Robe’ will become an annual feature on the club’s calendar, alongside the long-time established Alumni event.

Club of the Year

Cheerleading Club

Bath Jets Cheerleading Club have bounced back stronger than ever post-pandemic. Beginning the year off strongly with their annual performance in the Freshers Arena on launch night, for the first time ever the performance squad included both stunt and pom dance to their routine. This boosted integration between stunt and dance members in the club, which has been a big area for improvement for the club in previous years.

Consequently, the Club was heavily praised by members in our end of season survey.

This year the committee have worked exceptionally hard to rebuild the club. Aware that second year students missed out on an important year of in-person sport, they created a new Pom dance competition squad and consequently took a record number of 118 athletes to the Winter Wonderland Competition in December last year. After successfully securing funding for an external cheerleading stunt coach and holding try-outs a week earlier than normal, the two cheerleading squad routines were ready by early December and both placed 1st at the Competition.

Throughout Freshers and Refreshers week, the club has run Postgrad and LGBTQ+ tasters for LGBTQ History month, as well as a 'Bring a Boy to Cheer' fundraising Taster which raised over £60 for the charity Oddballs. The end of semester Christmas dinner was a big success, the Christmas raffle raised almost £200 for the club. Feedback from members in the Clubs first ever end of season survey praised the inclusivity, quality of coaching and welcoming atmosphere in the club. Before semester 2, the committee worked on a plan to action areas of improvement which were highlighted by members in the end of season survey. For example, a common criticism of the club was that there were "not enough sports performance opportunities" in semester 1. Consequently, the committee have since held trials for a new 'performance squad' who will perform a newly choreographed routine at Varsity and sports fixtures for the rest of the year. They have also introduced a non-alcoholic social calendar for members, which includes bowling, theatre trips and pottery painting.

The committee's continual commitment to improving member experience is without doubt what has led to Bath Jets increasing their membership by 14%, compared to pre-Covid-19 levels.

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.

Tom Dean

Swimming

When Tom arrived at the University of Bath in September 2018 to combine his swimming training with a Mechanical Engineering degree, he had just made his senior British Swimming debut and was considered as one to watch for the future.

Three years later he was a double Olympic Champion after producing outstanding performances at the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games to win 200m freestyle gold and help Team GB dominate the 4x200m freestyle relay.

Dean, from Maidenhead, had won relay gold on his senior debut at the Glasgow 2018 European Championships alongside James Guy, Calum Jarvis and Duncan Scott – all of whom were in the victorious squad at the Olympics.

A European Junior Champion in the 200m individual medley, Dean decided that the British Swimming National Centre at the University of Bath would be the best place to pursue both his sporting and academic ambitions.

Working with coach David McNulty and supported by a Bill Whiteley Sporting Scholarship, Dean began to hone his talent and set two new Championship Records at the 2019 BUCS Nationals before winning his first senior medal at the European Short-Course Championships later that year.



Covid meant he had to put his Olympic ambitions on hold for a year but, despite catching the disease twice, Dean used that additional 12 months to good effect. He set the second-fastest 200m freestyle time in the world to qualify for Tokyo, then won six medals at the 2021 European Championships before writing his name into the history books at the Olympic Games.

Athénaïs Mangin

Sailing



When Athénaïs arrived from France to the University in 2018, she struggled to understand British accents and had never stepped on a boat. She was immediately intrigued by sailing, a sport that requires high levels of determination and being dynamic, as well as team spirit, regardless of the weather; sun, rain or snow. She rapidly enjoyed sailing more than any other sport, learning to crew and avoid capsizes thanks to the qualified instructors in the club and lessons during the holidays. Athénaïs now separates her year into two periods: winter on a university Firefly in England, and summer on an Open 5.70 in France (and a yacht in Greece when on Tour).

The adjectives that come back the most when asking her friends to describe Athénaïs are: energetic, outgoing, easy to talk to, and energetic. Photography and being a scout chief are among her remaining hobbies, and she also has a past of competitive horse riding.

The Sailing Club has truly been for Athénaïs the way to find an English family in a new country, and she has been on committee for two years, as Tour and Kit Secretary and Vice-Commodore, in an effort to make other people feel the same way. When not on a boat, she can be found in the library, working for the final year of her Bachelor in Politics and International Relations, or in the University Radio Bath studio being the main host of the Friday Morning Glory show. This year, Athénaïs also plans on running her third Bath Half Marathon, before moving abroad for a Masters in International Development.

Charlotte Greenlees

Association Football and Futsal



Charlotte Greenlees is the 2021/22 Chair of the Association Football and Futsal Club. She is a BSc Social Sciences undergraduate student in the final year of her degree, looking to work in international development upon completion of her degree.

She began playing football aged 8 when she was introduced to the sport by her dad, and since then she has played for multiple teams, including Eastbourne Town WFC and Lewes LFC. She is a ball playing centre-back and has been a leader in every team she has played in. She also played football for Newham College, playing a key role in their football program.

After sustaining a knee injury before coming to the University of Bath, she was unable to play until the Christmas of her first semester of university. She was initially placed in the development squad, before immediately being moved up to the 2nd team, who achieved second place in the league that year. By the start of her second year, she had been named captain of the 1st team, leading her team to a respectable 3rd place finish in the Southern division of the country's topflight. She was also one of the club's Social Secretaries, organising all non-footballing aspects of UOBWFC's calendar.

For her placement year, she was involved in teaching Malaysian children English and worked alongside a group of Canadian researchers on a study involving indigenous peoples.

Now in her final year, she successfully runs both the men's and women's side of the Association Football and Futsal Club in her position as Chair. She gives up a significant portion of her free time in order to run the club, coordinating with the SU officers, who have nothing but praise for her, and every member of the club. She oversees all other committee members, ensuring they meet the demands of their roles and more. She facilitates the club's smooth running on a day-to-day basis, all alongside the constant pressures of her degree.

Arnaud Masset

Squash



Since arriving at the University of Bath in 2017, Arnaud has been ever present in the Men's first squash team. During his time at University, he has represented the club in the BUCS league and cup competitions, the local Avon league and at the BUCS Individual Championships. Whilst studying at Bath, he has also represented his native country of Luxembourg at both the 2018 and 2019 European Squash Team Championships.

Since 2021, Arnaud has held the role of Men's 1st team captain. During his time in this role, he guided the Men's 1st team to a first place finish in the BUCS Western Division 1. This qualified the team for a playoff competition which would determine promotion to the top division of Men's University squash in the UK. Unfortunately, promotion wasn't meant to be as the team battled and lost to a Nottingham team littered with professional players. However, this was by far the closest that the Men's team has come to reaching the top division in recent memory.

Since becoming a senior figure at the club, Arnaud has been instrumental in the development of squash at Bath. He has tirelessly worked with others at the club to ensure the development of both the team and recreational offer. Through this work and his role as Men's 1st team captain, the University of Bath Squash Club this year has achieved a first place finish for Men's Squash, and highs of 7th for Women's Squash and 3rd overall in the BUCS ranking table, despite not having a Premier Division side.

Thanks



Elizabeth Stacey

Students' Union Sport Officer

Sport at Bath has been a pleasure to develop, and I am very fortunate that I get to work with students and staff for another year as Sports Officer. I look back at all that has been achieved this year and how incredible our student leaders have been throughout the pandemic and recovery through the year. Student sport has suffered and offers have become more diverse but I do believe sport wouldn't be the same without that experience.

This year more than ever our incredible student leaders need recognition for the offers they are providing to their sports clubs. We have more than 400 volunteers within sport and the skills and experiences which are developed help continue to grow the sporting offer at Bath. Thank you for all your contribution throughout the year.

The offer for students wouldn't be possible without the incredibly patient and dedicated SU Staff. With all the uncertainty students were facing this year more support was needed to ensure the return to sport, at all levels. Adapting to new working conditions and communication methods to engage with students is just the start which is always developing to ensure we are creating the best offer for students. With this I would also like to thank the Sports Department staff who have been extremely flexible with facilities and what students require to adapt and guided committees and teams where necessary.

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the delivery of sport this year and to those who have worked to develop the student experience within sport. It has truly become a fantastic starting point for growth over the coming years.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved with the Blues Awards, and to those who have made it possible. This event is a staple in our calendar and one that does not disappoint. I would like to extend this thanks to the Blues Committee who appoint the awards and congratulate everyone who has been nominated and those who have won awards.

The Blues Awards celebrate all that we have to offer in sport during our time at university, and I look forward to another year of positive change and development for sport at Bath.

