



University of Bath
Blues Awards
2023

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

Guest Speaker

Duncan Rolley
Elite Training Environments Lead at UK Sport

Review of the Year

Elizabeth Stacey, Students' Union Sport Officer

Full Blue and Honorary Blues

Presented by
Stephen Baddeley, Director of Sport

Director of Sport Speech

Stephen Baddeley

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

Blues Awards 2023



**Professor
Keith Stokes**
Warden of the Blues

In a year that has largely seen sport return to normal, the work that has been done to rebuild the communities that sports activities and clubs provide has continued apace. The University of Bath has a tremendous reputation in sport and I am sure we are all immensely grateful to the many people who have contributed so much time and effort to make sure that University sport at all levels continues to thrive.

The Blues Awards give us a chance to celebrate sport at the University of Bath and to congratulate many of the people who have made an important contribution to our sporting heritage. I was delighted to see a large number of nominations this year and I was enormously impressed by the contributions made by, and successes of, so many people. The nominations described examples of consistent dedication and performance in University

teams, the development and support of inclusive recreational sporting opportunities, and displays of excellence on the national and international stage. Once again, as I read 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 high and consistent standards of achievement of previous years. I would like to thank the Blues Committee, whose dedication to maintaining these high standards ensures that all of the award winners are thoroughly deserving of recognition.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed so much to sport at the University of Bath this year and to congratulate all of the award winners.



Stephen Baddeley
Director of Sport

The Blues Awards is always one of my highlights of the sporting year – a chance to gather across sports and with students, colleagues and partners to reflect on the many outstanding achievements of our University of Bath students, coaches and staff.

Tonight we are celebrating a particularly successful 12 months for our always-inspirational student-athletes, both in BUCS competitions and on the international stage.

Leading the way has been the tennis squad, coached by Craig Procter, whose magnificent season was capped last month by two triumphs on BUCS Big Wednesday – the National Championship title for the women's 1st team and National Trophy success for the men's 2nds.

The men's 1sts reached the Championship final and, like their female team-mates, won their league title with a perfect record. Other Bath teams were crowned as BUCS Premier South champions in men's and women's badminton, men's football, men's lacrosse and netball.

The men's badminton team also reached the National Championship final, while an excellent netball season saw the 1sts and 2nds finish runners-up in the Championship and Trophy competitions respectively. Jayda Pechova – one of five student-athletes to be awarded sporting scholarships this academic year – was part of that netball success and also made her senior England debut in November, shortly after joining Team Bath's Super League squad.

BUCS Nationals saw the University's swimming squad win 10 medals, including gold for Leah Crisp, and there was badminton bronze for Katie Scott. The judo squad won seven titles at their BUCS Championships too.

An exciting BUCS Super Rugby season saw the men's 1st XV secure fourth place, their second-highest league finish, with the highlight being a 40-13 victory over Durham in front of nearly 6,000 spectators at The Rec during a successful return of the Rengen-sponsored Anniversary Game.

Team Bath quartet Sam Harris, Josh Dingley (both England), Eddie Erskine (Scotland) and Louie Hennessey (Wales) were all selected for the U20 Six Nations, while sporting scholar Orlando Bailey made his first senior England Rugby appearance against Barbarians last summer.

Grace Crompton represented England's women at the Rugby World Cup Sevens in South Africa and was one of seven Bath students to compete at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. They included scholar Tom Dean, who became Team England's most decorated athlete at a single Games when he won one gold and six silver medals in the swimming pool.

In total athletes who train, study or studied at the University won a fantastic 33 medals between them in Birmingham – seven gold, 17 silver and nine bronze – across swimming, athletics and judo.

There was also historic World Championships success for Bath-based athletes in bobsleigh and skeleton, while graduate Joe Choong added the global modern pentathlon title to his Olympic crown. Student Olivia Green took the women's team title with alumnae Jess Varley and Charlie Follett, all of whom will be hoping to compete on home soil when the 2023 World Championships – a Paris 2024 Olympic Games qualifier – are staged at the Sports Training Village this August.

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 had over 5,800 student members of SU (Students Union) sport, with over 7,500 total club affiliations, and our largest club being Football and Futsal with over 540 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 coming forward.

This year there has been a large focus on addressing the knowledge gap of our committee members following the pandemic and working with committees to ensure longevity of what they are offering. Many of our sports clubs have found confidence to develop and identify gaps where potential new initiatives could be offered, including Bath Active Golf sessions, Netball and Hockey new development leagues, Sailing earning a national platinum sustainability award, Football and Rugby looking at more inclusivity of women through recreational teams, and Cheer increasing their male and LGBTQ+ representation. These examples are just a snapshot of what has been going on within clubs and is

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

This year Bath had one of the most successful BUCS seasons to date, with seven teams qualifying for BUCS Big Wednesday at University of Nottingham, coming away with 2 gold medals and 5 silver; the most successful BUCS Big Wednesday for Bath in over 15 years.

Furthering on from these an additional six teams were sent to Conference cup finals at University of South Wales. 14 teams were unbeaten in their leagues including teams from American Football, Badminton, Hockey, Lacrosse, Netball, Rugby, Tennis, 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 podium finishes across Badminton, Judo, Rowing, Snowsports, Swimming, Tennis, Touch Rugby, and Ultimate Frisbee, just to name a few.

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. We have also had student groups participating in external leagues and tournaments, with students excelling in these opportunities.

Recreational sport at Bath has been developed following covid, with over 1,200 students participating in our free



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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 new sports were introduced including golf and gymnastics, and events such as Freshers' Week cycle cinema and inter-halls tournaments were fantastic to see engagement. 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.

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. Students also have been running their own initiatives, such as lacrosse creating their own module on consent, in partnership with the University student support team, to help students feel safer whilst enjoying their time at Bath.

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. After a three-year break, Rugby at the Rec returned this year with a crowd of around 6,000 and an amazing atmosphere saw a 40-13 win over Durham. What a way to re-launch this amazing event. Varsity also returned for its sixth year,

this time away at Cardiff Metropolitan University with 24 matches, resulting in a massive 41-79 win for Bath, extending the unbeaten record.

This year also saw the introduction of a new kit contract, seeing the blue and gold return to campus, with fantastic new playing jerseys and a collaborative approach from Surridge and our students. Our new mascot, Duck Norris, also got on board with his own personalised shirt which is worn with pride.

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 and 3G pitch have all been priorities, developing further than ever before.

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.

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.

Handball

Antoinette Marchant

Colours

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

American Football

Max McManus

Association Football and Futsal

Chiara Andreotti

Emily Arrell

Lily Aungier

Maddy Brown

Priya Dhatt

Anna Kanz

Maddie Robertson

Serafina Rowden

Kate Walsh

Eleri Webber

Anya Welch

Badminton

Christopher Liu

Emma Ford

Caitlin Illingworth

David Phillips

Rochit Shelkikar

Basketball

Arnau Ayerbe Garcia
Carlos Becker
Philip Bird
Hannah Brown
Lewis Cox
Josh Davis
Damon de Cardoso
Angus Edkins
Benedek Goldmann
Rebecca Miller
Martin Moreno Delgado
Maria Valderrabano

Fencing

Catriona Gilmour
Katie Little

Hockey

Lauren Bond
Jac Cleaver
Will Cook
Sophie Dixon
Colin Dudrey-Harvey
Teona Goodge
Will Gray
Toby Hill
Bryn Jones
Jonny Kerr
Sam Leigh
Antoinette Marchant
Benjamin McElroy
Jacob Melville-Smith

Jennifer Metcalf
Lukas Moment
Ollie Nedderman
Lucy Prest
Charlotte Satchwell
Ben Scriven
Fraser Smellie
Jack Smith
James Smith
Jacob Staig
Alice Steel
Rosie Usher
Lydia Woodcock

Lacrosse

Matthew Bowen
Ben Lawson
Eleanor Brzeskwinski
Max Diamond
Maya Frost
Agatha Greenway
Sophie Hounsell
Koray Ibrahim
Phoebe James
Sarah Lowe
Ellie Mason
Claudia Shehadeh
Amy Tapper

Netball

Jemma Nightingale
Jasmine Nightingale

Riding

Bella Balian
Danielle Price

Rugby (Union and League)

Sam Bridges
Anna Newell
Tabitha Reynolds
Tom Williams

Swimming

Jessica Westlake

Table Tennis

Tim Walters
Aimee Wong

Taekwondo

Paul Petan

Tennis

Matthew Doe

Triathlon

Bryce Jersing

Volleyball

Stella Jukic
Kin Lo
Helin Özer
Chara Sofocleous
Andrea Spalova
Scott Williams

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.

American Football

Max McManus

Association Football and Futsal

Kate Walsh

Lily Aungier

Cheerleading

Dayane Celi

Lacrosse

Liv Best

Netball

Emma Hill

Emma Payne

Triathlon

Bryce Jersing

Volleyball

Maria Valderrabano

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

Joseph O'Loughlin

Badminton

Katie Scott

Alicia Chu

Emma Hooper

Fencing

Catherine Bishop

Lacrosse

Oluwatoke Akinseye

Alexander Bird

Alexander Blackwell

Sebastian Di Siena

James Goldsmith

Jack O'Mahoney

Netball

Isabel Highsted

Emma Payne

Taekwondo

Ismail Hussain

Mi-Ha Snapes

Tennis

Emily Devey Smith

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.

Victoria McCabe

Hockey



Sport has always been a central part of Victoria's life. From her first ever hockey match at the age of seven right up to winning bronze for England at the U21 Hockey World Cup.

Her early years were spent playing every sport she could find time for, when she was eleven she was competing in the IAPS National Trampoline Championships at Millfield School, whilst her school team

was also playing a rounders match at the same time. Victoria participated in both, leaving the rounders pitch to run in and perform her two routines before returning to play rounders. She lost the rounders match but won gold in the trampolining championships.

Hockey and athletics were her main focus as she moved to secondary school competing in many national championships in both disciplines. In Athletics, she was ranked in the top 10 in the country for long jump and won bronze at the Schools National Athletics Championships. She has set championship records at county level for combined events and regional championship records in long jump.

At fourteen, Victoria was selected to play for England Hockey U16. With the demands of training and playing at this elite level, she decided to make hockey her main sporting focus. At sixteen she made her debut for Clifton Robinsons playing in the Premiership League and won the England Hockey Club Championship

Cup in 2019. She currently plays her club hockey with Club an der Alster in the German Bundesliga based in Hamburg where the season calendar allows for her to play in the Summer and Spring and attend the University of Bath in between.

Victoria has earned over 80 junior international Hockey caps for England at U16, U18 and U21, she has played all around the world in a number of championships, most notably winning bronze at the European Championships in 2018 and bronze in the Junior World Cup in South Africa in 2022. As well as achieving personal success in 2022, when she played at the European championships in Ghent (Belgium) and was the top goal scorer within the England team.

Her time at the University of Bath has kept her busy, playing in the BUCS league and securing promotion last year to the top BUCS division. She continues to play and support the University team in her final year, and has helped secure another year in the top league for next season.

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.



Luke Turley

Distance swimmer Luke enjoyed a memorable first appearance at a senior international meet when he won 1,500m freestyle bronze for Team England at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Luke has been training at the University of Bath since 2018, initially with Mark Skimming's student squad while studying Sports Performance. Supported by Goldsmith and Santander Sports Scholarships, he won multiple medals for Bath at BUCS competitions. After graduating in 2021 Luke joined the British Swimming Performance Centre squad where he is coached by Jamie Main.

Honorary Blue



Ed Mildred

Triple European Junior Championships medallist Ed has made a successful step up to senior ranks since joining David McNulty's elite British Swimming Performance Centre Bath squad in September 2021 following the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics. He played a key role in relay heat swims at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games to help Team England win two silver and a bronze. Two more relay medals followed at the 2022 European Championships in Rome where Ed anchored a youthful British 4x100m freestyle relay squad to bronze in his first senior international final.

Honorary Blue

Arran Gulliver

Arran Gulliver has enjoyed a meteoric rise since joining the University of Bath-based British Bobsleigh programme in the summer of 2022. He applied to attend summer trials in Bath after seeing an advert on Instagram and was immediately identified as having the potential to make a significant impact in the sport. He excelled in training on the University's push-start track and was selected in Brad Hall's GB1 crew, winning gold in his first four-man race. He went on to help British Bobsleigh win their first European Championships title, end an 84-year wait for a World Championships medal by securing silver in February and claim a first men's bobsleigh overall World Cup medal since 1995.



Honorary Blue

Craig Thompson

Former footballer Craig switched to skeleton through the Power2Podium programme at the end of 2014 and has gone on to win medals on all the international circuits, including bronze on the World Cup circuit in January 2021. He narrowly missed out on qualification for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games but put that disappointment behind him with some excellent performances during the 2022-23 season, capped by winning mixed team bronze with Brogan Crowley at the World Championships having missed out on an individual medal by just one-hundredth of a second.



Honorary Blue



Jess Varley,
Olivia Green and
Charlie Follett

Sport and Exercise Science student Olivia, supported by an Alumni Fund Scholarship, finished an impressive fifth in the women's final at the 2022 Modern Pentathlon World Championships in Turkey while University of Bath alumnae Jess and Charlie were seventh and 10th respectively, meaning the trio won the women's team title for Pentathlon GB. Jess then teamed up with men's champion Joe Choong to win mixed relay silver.

Special Awards

Gethin John Bevan Club Member of the Year

SU Sport Volunteer Coach of the Year

The David VandeLinde Prize

The Tugendhat Trophy for Sporting Endeavour

The Ivor Powell Award for Excellence in Coaching

BUCS Team of the Year

Club of the Year

Sports Personality of the Year

Gethin John Bevan

Club Member of the Year

Liv Best



Liv, like many other current students across the UK began her university experience in the midst of the pandemic. This influenced almost all her university life all though her first year and part of her second. It resulted in a lack of opportunity for her to meet her peers. As soon as she was able Liv joined the lacrosse club, however alongside playing the sport Liv also found her love of the administrative side of the club. After coming back from injury, the previous year, Liv trialled for the second team and loved every second of it and also became captain. Despite being a

challenging yet incredibly rewarding role, being the 2nd team lacrosse captain was the driving force behind Liv applying for her second committee position in her final year. In her role as captain her teammates confided in her about personal issues and mental health stresses they were having; this motivated Liv to run for Welfare and Inclusivity officer to ensure consistency within the welfare of the club and acting as a friendly face for all of the members to approach if and whenever necessary whilst doing her best to mitigate and lessen mental health stigma within the club.

Being a mixed-gender club with around 300 Members of both BUCS players and social members, ensuring the clubs welfare was imperative to keeping everyone safe and happy and this is what Liv and her welfare team strived to do day in day out. Seeing the harsh reality that mental health causes within the club she is a part of Liv spent her time further enhancing her knowledge

and ability to help individuals improve their mental health and find the support they need by carrying out a mental health first aid qualification.

Liv's commitment to her club and her advocacy for change has been an inspiration to her peers. Through her dedication and hard work, she was able to implement a real difference in the wellbeing and enjoyment of the lacrosse players and other students in her university. She has worked hard to ensure that all members of the club were safe and had access to the resources they needed to maintain their mental health. She was also instrumental in raising and creating policies and initiatives that would increase awareness and education about sexual harassment and consent, making sure that everyone was aware of the risks and how to act if necessary. Liv's efforts have improved the safety and wellbeing of countless students and has made a lasting impact on her university community.

Max McManus

Max, despite being completely new to American football in 2018/19, quickly rose to become a key player and leader in the Bath Killer Bees team. Over the years, he has taken on various committee roles such as Chairman and Kit Manager, serving as Team Captain for a squad of over 60 players across his last 2 years.

Upon returning to Bath after his placement year, Max was voted as Chairman of the Bath Killer Bees, and despite major difficulties with training facilities and key committee positions not being filled after a year heavily affected by Covid-19, he remained determined to improve the team's performance.

Max's unwavering commitment to the team was exemplified by his decision to pursue a BAFA Level 1 Coaching qualification to lead training sessions and collaborate with experienced players and coaches. His coaching qualification enabled the team to train during the day, which due to coach availability hadn't been an option previously. This allowed the club to make full use of the 3G facility allowing for contact training throughout the year whilst providing an average increase in club membership by 15% compared to pre-Covid-19 years. Under his leadership, the team was able to train throughout the year and went on to become league champions, with an undefeated season.



In his final year, Max took on the role of Kit Manager and focused on improving the club's kit situation, which is essential in a sport that requires a large amount of expensive equipment. This year alone there were 11 new helmets bought which are safe for use for the next 10 years. This ensures that players are provided with safe equipment that is essential in a high contact sport.

Max's determination and outstanding contributions to a game that he is so passionate about have been invaluable to the Bath Killer Bees. He is excited for the future of the team and has expressed a keen desire to return in a voluntary coaching role.

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.

Howard Richards



Howard undertook the role of volunteer coach for the Bath Women's 4th Hockey team for the 2022-23 season. His commitment to the team on top of his own playing career has gone above and beyond what they could have expected and have experienced in previous years. Howard is always available to help captains with selection issues and has been receptive to the feedback of the captains and players alike for training suggestions. Howard wanted the team to get the best out of their training with him and created a fun, competitive atmosphere for the hockey season.

When unavailable to coach matches due to having clashes with his own playing commitments, Howard has supported games from afar, including being in constant communication with those on the side line, helping them to coach when he was travelling back from away matches.

Howard arranged for other coaches to help the team when he was unavailable, and even waited over 3 hours after his away match to stay with the team and coach them despite the team being the last match of the day. He gives up much of his time to help and coach the team despite having his own training and being busy with his PhD.

Howard has helped the Bath Women's 4th team have their best season in many years, winning the Women's Western Tier 3 and getting to the Quarter Final of the ICG Women's Western Conference Cup, the furthest the 4th team have progressed in the Cup in over 5 years.

Howard has exceeded what is expected of a volunteer coach and deserves this award to recognise his integral contribution to the success of the Women's 4th hockey team this season.

The David Vandelinde Prize

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

Tom Williams



As the captain of the 1st XV men's rugby team, Tom has not only demonstrated a remarkable commitment to the sport, but also to making a positive difference in the community.

As a volunteer and coordinator for the rugby club, Tom helps to organise weekly lunches for homeless people with a local charity, Genesis Trust, to provide support and assistance to those in need. Additionally, Tom has organised litter-picking events for the team around Bath, doing his part to make a positive impact in the community.

Tom is on track to reach over 40 games played in BUCS Super Rugby by the end of the season, making him one of the highest capped players in the competition and in the history of UBRFC.

Tom's hard work and commitment has paid off as he has developed as a player over the years, starting in the freshers' team in his first year and eventually playing in all five BUCS teams before making his 1st XV debut in his second year. Under his leadership, the team is on course to achieve its highest league finish on record this season

and a positive change of culture has been observed within the squad.

Despite the rigorous demands of his sport, Tom has maintained an excellent academic record while pursuing an integrated Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering. He is currently predicted to achieve first class honours, demonstrating his academic aptitude and focus. Tom has also gained valuable experience as part of the Bath Rocket Team, where he played a significant role in designing the nozzle and combustion chamber for the hybrid motor subsystem that will propel the rocket at the 2023 Spaceport America Cup.

Moreover, as part of his ongoing Master's research project, Tom is working with Swedish company Scandinavian Realheart to assist in the design of a Total Artificial Heart. The project involves creating a computational fluid dynamics model to accurately predict thrombus formation in the Realheart and other blood pumping devices. This level of academic rigour is a testament to his focus and dedication, and he is contributing to this important field alongside his athletic pursuits.

The Tugendhat Trophy for Sporting Endeavour

This award recognises the successes achieved by student athletes in new areas, unfamiliar to them before their arrival at University. The prize will be awarded to a student who has started a sport as a fresher and gone on to improve sufficiently to achieve a BUCS podium finish inside three years.

Sebastian Di Siena



Seb came to university and attended taster sessions as a fresher and fell in love with the sport of Lacrosse. After only 2 months from picking up a Lacrosse stick, Seb was selected to play for the Men's 1st team. Over the next 2 years Seb was strongly involved in the club, as the club's first Mixed Coordinator on the committee, whilst also representing the Men's 1st team regularly in fixtures.

Following the conclusion of his placement year, Seb co-captained and co-coached the Men's 1st team in their most successful season in 6 years, winning the BUCS Southern Premiership and subsequently winning the Team of the Year at the Blues Awards 2021-22 in recognition of the team's success. That summer Seb also achieved a

spot on the South England Men's Squad to play at the British Nationals where the squad achieved a 3rd place.

In his final year, Seb has undertaken the chairman committee role for the lacrosse club, whilst also representing the Men's 1st team in their first ever unbeaten league season. At the start of the academic year Seb also travelled to Venice to trial for the Italian National Men's team, in which he was successful in achieving a spot on the training squad. This February he will be representing Italy against the Austrian, Polish and Czech national teams to prepare for the World Championships this summer, where Seb hopes to obtain a position on the final squad going to the worlds.

The Ivor Powell Award for Excellence in Coaching

The Ivor Powell Award recognises the significant impact to sport made by coaches based at the University campus. An exceptionally high calibre of winners is maintained as the award is only presented when suitable candidates are available. The Ivor Powell Award is intended to recognise qualities of excellence in a coach epitomised by Ivor Powell himself, who represented passion, integrity, and total commitment to University sport.

Antonio Wilburn

Antonio Wilburn is not just a coach, but a mentor and role model for the basketball team. His wealth of experience as a former professional basketball player in Europe and as a successful collegiate player in NCAA III and NAIA II in New York City and Vermont has been invaluable in shaping the team's culture and development.

Despite the challenges of competing with universities that have professional and scholarship players, Antonio has consistently led the Men's 1st team to compete for top position in Western 1A, with the men's 1st team reaching the playoffs for promotion to the premier division in the 2021-22 season. This is a testament to his ability to develop and bring out the best in his

players, who have grown in skill and confidence under his leadership.

Antonio goes above and beyond what is required of him as a coach, investing a considerable amount of time and effort into scouting opponents and identifying potential players for recruitment. This dedication has been a key factor in the team's success and has created a fluid pathway through development basketball up into the BUCS teams, allowing players to progress as they improve.

Furthermore, Antonio has played an instrumental role in upskilling and training other coaches within the club.

His mentorship and guidance have been invaluable in developing the current Women's 1st team coach and the Men's Development Team coach, among others.



In short, Antonio's contributions to the University's basketball club has been immeasurable. He has consistently demonstrated his ability to develop and bring out the best in his players. Antonio's dedication and passion for the sport have not only contributed to the team's current success but also to its future growth and development making him a true asset and a deserving winner of this award.



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

After a successful 2021-22 season finishing 2nd in the league the team lost 10 starting players last year and repeating the same success this year was deemed unlikely. Extraordinarily, the team has defied all expectations winning the league after 9 games and finishing with a record of 8 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss. The social media of the team has grown and grown with their success and all around the university have really enjoyed watching their superb performances. They have the top scorer in BUCS (Joe O'Loughlin with 10 Goals) and the second top scorer (Sam Meakes with 9 goals) and have the best record in both the south and north BUCS Premier Leagues. Furthermore, 3 of the first team players have just been selected for the England University South team and will play the North team to try and earn their place in the Home Nation squad.

Men's football at the University is mostly known due to their success as Team Bath FC and the famous FA Cup runs they embarked on, however, little is known about the University of Bath 1st team successes in BUCS. University of Bath football has won the BUCS Premier South once in the 2005-06 season and has won the National Championship once in the 2011-12 season however since then success has been limited. In January 2015 Che Wilson joined Team Bath as First Team coach and has been steadily building a programme to take the Men's 1st team back to the top. With assistant coach Billy Clark and the help of all the extra staff the consistency of training and top-level coaching has established the foundations to create a league winning team. Over the last 4 years, Bath have been led on the pitch by 1st Team Captain Joe O'Loughlin and the continuity of the coaches and captains' leadership has led to the success of this season. The team finished with the most points ever for a Bath side in the BUCS Premier South and won the league for the first time in 17 years.



Team of the Year

Men's Lacrosse 1st Team

While last year's Men's 1st team had seen huge levels of success, this year's team consisted of an almost entirely new roster of players with big boots to fill. The players returning from placement and the quickly improving second-years had their sights not only on the league title, but also on going undefeated and showing complete dominance in the Southern Premiership. Both these goals were achieved in style as the team saw both comfortable wins vs Cardiff, Marjon and Exeter, as well as nail-biting finishes vs a formidable Bristol team. This game saw the players come back from 3-5 down to win 9-8 in the final minute and is a testament to the team's attitude throughout the season and for each game: an unwavering perseverance for the win.

While the team consists of plenty of strong individual talent, with a record-breaking 9 players making the South West English Universities lacrosse team (and 2 in the reserves), their success can only be attributed to the incredible teamwork and demeanour showed throughout the entirety of the season. Not once did the players become complacent and instead strove for constant improvement.

This record-breaking and entirely dominant season for the M1s will set a new standard for University of Bath Lacrosse.

Women's Tennis 1st Team

Winning the National BUCS league for the first time since 2015 this year, going undefeated all season whilst competing amongst the top 6 tennis universities in the country.

Placed as number 1 seeds in the BUCS national cup, the Women's 1st completed the double later in the semester for the first time in almost 10 years, as well as no.1 and 2 players Freya Davies and Orla Cooper competing as top seeds in the BUCS singles individual championships.

4 out of 6 of the team also medalled at BUCS individuals this year (Freya Davies and Orla Cooper winning silver and Millie Devey Smith and Daniella Bellini winning bronze), showing the strength in depth of the team. These achievements were made possible through incredible team spirit, led by head coach Craig Proctor, who has dedicated uncountable hours to support and develop the players' tennis.

Club of the Year

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

Golf Club

The University of Bath Golf Club has offered new thriving recreational and development golfing opportunities. The club has grown, and is currently at its largest membership, surpassing their membership target by 32%. This has been complemented by a much-improved retention amongst recreational golfers and an increased number of female golfers.

The club has worked tirelessly to reduce the gap between recreational and BUCS golfers, launching the first ever golf 3rd team.

The club has been committed to making golf more affordable and inclusive. The committee negotiated a student green fee deal, which has been used over 150 times. They also bought a set of society golf clubs and paired with Bath Active to hold free fortnightly golf sessions. The sessions have been a great success, encouraging students who've never picked up a club before to have a go.

In addition, this season's aim was to increase recreational opportunities. The committee liaised with Bath Golf Club to hold weekly Wednesday roll-ups. This meant members could turn up and have a game with others, providing a great way for new members to integrate.

Their largest roll-up had over 60 players. The club also hosted a series of recreational golf competitions throughout the season.

In April, the club put on their running shoes for a charity speed golf event to fundraise for the NSPCC at Bath Golf Club, where they were joined by the University of Bristol and the University of West England. The event is what it says on the tin: a variant of golf that scores both on strokes played and the time taken to complete the event.

The success of the club in BUCS has been incredible. The first team finished 2nd in the Southern Premiership, which is their best finish to date. Having only lost one league game all season. The 1st team qualified for the National Championship team finals.

The University of Bath Golf Society is an inclusive club situated at Bath Golf Club which borders the university campus, perfect for lessons, performance training for the BUCS squad and social matches and competitions. Outside of team golf, the society is proactive in organising social competitions and lessons for all abilities at extremely competitive prices. This inclusion within the sport is reflected in social events, which are regular and inclusive throughout the year. The society has grown rapidly over the past few years, allowing future opportunities such as non-BUCS teams and inter-society knockout competitions.

Club of the Year

Hockey Club

The club has had a great season, most of the teams in the club were fighting for promotion in their respective BUCS leagues. Notably, the Men's 2s gained promotion to Western Tier 1 and the Women's 4s and Men's 3s finished unbeaten in their leagues. League success has also been combined with cup success. Women's 2 won the western conference cup final and the Women's 1 finished runners up in the national vase final. The recreational teams in the club (Women's 5s, Women's 6s and Men's 6s) have also seen a record number of fixtures being organised and played.

Making sure everyone feels included has been key to their event planning and organisation. The social secretaries have successfully organised weekly activities, pairing each team up at least twice together to make sure everyone has the opportunity to meet everyone. Their committee realised how daunting starting university can be, so organising fresher-only socials to allow people to better integrate into the club was a top priority.

Following a successful preseason, including more teams in the club than ever before, the hockey club saw one of its largest intakes of new players at Fresher Trials. Dealing with this large number of new players was handled smoothly and efficiently, allocating them to their appropriate training sessions. This would not be possible without all their volunteer coaches. They regularly take time out of their week to make sure all teams can train to their highest standard and are a huge part of the reason so many of their teams had strong seasons and made cup progress.

With well over 300 members The University of Bath Hockey Club (UoBHC), a.k.a The Bath Rangers, is the biggest mixed-gender sports club at the University of Bath and one of the biggest University Hockey Clubs in the country.

Club of the Year

Lacrosse Club

The welfare and inclusivity team within the University of Bath Lacrosse club, delivered a talk to all club members, educating about sexual assault and consent, and the importance of learning the 'correct' behaviour in approaching social situations to ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing. Following this they communicated with senior members of the university to both enquire and suggest about how this approach could be used to better educate more students around consent further. Whilst Lacrosse is only one sports society, the club wants to push for universal education around consent and sexual assault to improve every student's experience at university, with the hope of better education in this area around the country.

When they first delivered this talk 4 months ago, it saw them delivering it to over 200 lacrosse club members. Since then, they have had positive meetings with senior members of the university and resulted in them developing and expanding this talk to all other societies at university; again, trying to introduce universal levels of education surrounding what is consent. They want their Club to be spearheading change within the university, thus hopefully having a positive ripple effect across the wider community.

Being a mixed gender club with around 200 members, both BUCS players and social members, ensuring the clubs welfare is imperative to keeping everyone safe and happy and this is what their welfare team strived to do day to day.

The lacrosse club has gone above and beyond in creating an environment of respect and understanding. Organising the presentation covered more than the basics of what consent is, but also dived into the nuances of consent in a way that is understandable and accessible to all members of the club. The presentation has been incredibly successful, as members have reported increased awareness of the topic and an improved understanding of the importance of consent.

In addition to this, the club has seen success on the field with the Men's 1st team retaining the BUCS southern premiership with a dominant unbeaten season and the Women's 2nd Team also winning their league with an unbeaten league season.

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.

Josh Davis

Basketball



When Josh joined the university in 2019, he was selected for the Men's Basketball 2nd team. Throughout that year he progressed, earning a starting role before the season was cut short by the pandemic. The following year Josh took on the role of treasurer for the basketball club during the Covid-19 pandemic, helping to manage the team's finances during a challenging time.

The following year, Josh was appointed as the Men's First Team captain. This was the culmination of a lot of hard work and commitment to the development of the club and the players. Under Josh's leadership, the team made it to the premier playoffs in 2022, and he continued to serve as captain in the 2022/23 season while pursuing his Master's degree. He became the club's first returning M1 captain, and his leadership and commitment helped guide the team to another successful season. His positive attitude and willingness to lead by example earned him the respect and admiration of his teammates, and his ability to communicate effectively helped to build a strong sense of teamwork and camaraderie within the squad.

Beyond his contributions on the court, Josh played a crucial role in supporting the team off the court as well. He implemented several initiatives to improve the team's visibility and engagement, including live streaming all home games which allowed friends, family, and supporters who could not attend in person to follow the team's progress in real-time. Along with this Josh led the revamp of the clubs' social media presence to increase the club's visibility and attract more fans to games. He also worked to fill volunteer roles for a development team coach and student physiotherapist, allowing more members of the club to receive coaching and the BUCS players to benefit from a performance environment, whilst also providing experience for these volunteers.

Recently, Josh's hard work and dedication were recognized when he was selected for the Wales U23 National team. This is a tremendous honour that speaks to his achievements in the sport, and he hopes to continue improving his skills and ultimately earn a spot on the senior squad.

Victoria McCabe

Hockey



Sport has always been a central part of Victoria's life. From her first ever hockey match at the age of seven right up to winning bronze for England at the U21 Hockey World Cup. Her early years were spent playing every sport she could find time for, when she was eleven, she was competing in the IAPS National Trampolining Championships at Millfield School, whilst her school team was also playing a rounders match at the same time. Victoria participated in both, leaving the rounders pitch to run in and perform her two routines before returning to play rounders. She lost the rounders match but won gold in the trampolining championships.

Hockey and athletics were her main focus as she moved to secondary school competing in many national championships in both disciplines. In Athletics, she was ranked in the top 10 in the country for long jump and won bronze at the Schools National Athletics Championships. She has set championship records at county level for combined events and regional championship records in long jump.

At fourteen, Victoria was selected to play for England Hockey U16. With the demands of training and playing at this elite level, she decided to make hockey her main sporting focus. At sixteen she made her debut for Clifton Robinsons playing in the Premiership League and won the England Hockey Club Championship Cup in 2019. She currently plays her club hockey with Club an der Alster in the German Bundesliga based in Hamburg where the season calendar allows for her to play in the Summer and Spring and attend the University of Bath in between. Victoria has earned over 80 junior international Hockey caps for England at U16, U18 and U21, she has played all around the world in several championships, most notably winning bronze at the European Championships in 2018 and bronze in the Junior World Cup in South Africa in 2022. As well as achieving personal success in 2022, when she played at the European championships in Ghent (Belgium) and was the top goal scorer within the England team.

Her time at the University of Bath has kept her busy, playing in the BUCS league and securing promotion last year to the top BUCS division. She continues to play and support the University team in her final year and has helped secure another year in the top league for next season.

Liv Best

Lacrosse



Liv, like many other current students across the UK began her university experience in the midst of the pandemic. This influenced almost all her university life all though her first year and part of her second. It resulted in a lack of opportunity for her to meet her peers. As soon as she was able Liv joined the lacrosse club, however alongside playing the sport Liv also found her love of the administrative side of the club. After coming back from injury, the previous year, Liv trialled for the second team and loved every second of it and also became captain. Despite being a challenging yet incredibly rewarding role being the 2nd team lacrosse captain was the driving force behind Liv applying for her second committee position in her final year. In her role as captain her teammates confided in her about personal issues and mental health stresses they were having; this motivated Liv to run for Welfare and Inclusivity officer to ensure consistency within the welfare of the club and acting as a friendly face for all of the members to approach if and whenever necessary whilst doing her best to mitigate and lessen mental health stigma within the club.

Being a mixed-gender club with around 300 Members of both BUCS players and social members, ensuring the clubs welfare was imperative to keeping everyone safe and happy and this is what Liv and her welfare team strived to do day in day out. Seeing the harsh reality that mental health causes within the club she is a part of Liv spent her time further enhancing her knowledge and ability to help individuals improve their mental health and find the support they need by carrying out a mental health first aid qualification.

Liv's commitment to her club and her advocacy for change has been an inspiration to her peers. Through her dedication and hard work, she was able to implement a real difference in the wellbeing and enjoyment of the lacrosse players and other students in her university. She has worked hard to ensure that all members of the club were safe and had access to the resources they needed to maintain their mental health. She was also instrumental in raising and creating policies and initiatives that would increase awareness and education about sexual harassment and consent, making sure that everyone was aware of the risks and how to act if necessary. Liv's efforts have improved the safety and wellbeing of countless students and has made a lasting impact on her university community.

Emma Payne

Netball



Emma has been a dedicated member of the University of Bath Netball Club since her arrival at the University. She has been selected for the Women's 1st team in all three years of study thus far, additionally being a member of the High Performance programme and the Dual Career athlete programme. Emma has also represented Team Bath Super League Academy by playing in the U21 squad in the National Performance League. During her second year Covid-19 hit and she took on the role of "PT" for the club, running online fitness sessions every week on Zoom from October to March to over 100 members. Following her placement year, she has returned to University as Chair of the club, introducing, and improving many elements. One area she enhanced was to bring in external selectors and umpires to improve the trial process. She has also introduced a new umpire development scheme using the sponsorship with BBS, with the aim of developing the standard of match play in the Development netball league and supporting aspiring umpires by receiving more practice and giving opportunities for qualifications. The club have had the biggest growth in their social media presence, which Emma has actively been involved in, including hosting a showcase match for a 1st team game.

Simultaneously to her University responsibilities, she has been regularly playing externally for her club team, which she was involved in the promotion to the National Club Premier league last year.

Emma also volunteers for the Team Bath Super League, helping at home games with the running of the event and marshalling of people. On top of all of this, Emma has additionally been coaching the first proper season of the Men's/Mixed netball. Providing weekly sessions and opportunities for match play against other universities and clubs, which have been a real success.

Alongside all of this, Emma is very focussed on her academics striving to maintain high standards alongside her netball career. She completed a year's placement at the prestigious Porsche Experience Centre in Silverstone, a highly competitive placement linked to the University of Bath. Here she combined her knowledge as an athlete and a student to deliver training and nutritional programmes and education to motorsport athletes, endurance athletes and customers of the centre. Emma has also spent time supporting her university department too, volunteering as a Lead Peer Mentor and regularly attending placement events to give advice to younger students in her fourth year.

Thanks

Sport at Bath has been a pleasure to develop, and I am extremely fortunate that I was able to work with amazing students and fantastic colleagues for two years. I look back at all that has been achieved this year and how incredible our student leaders have been throughout. The new, creative ideas they have had and the performances our competitors have put in, has just made the year so much more spectacular.

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. Volunteering roles can be tricky at times and students have taken it all in their stride. Thank you for all your contribution throughout the year.

The offer for students would not be possible without the incredibly patient and dedicated SU Staff. With challenges still lingering from Covid-19 and added cost of living challenges, staff have had to adapt to keeping costs low but maintaining the best offer for students. With this I would also like to thank the Sports Department staff who have been brilliant in helping facilitate new opportunities.

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. These two years have created a fantastic platform to build on for future 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 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 Sport Officer elect, Abbie Watkin, the best of luck for her year ahead.

Elizabeth Stacey
Students' Union Sport Officer



Mervyn Clingan

**16th February 1953
to 2nd January 2023**

In January Mervyn Clingan sadly passed away. Merv was a huge supporter of student sport and had been taking photos for SU sport since 2012. He would attend BUCS matches in the pouring rain, capture the atmosphere at Varsity and be just in the right spot during our annual Rugby at the Rec match. He also loved attending Blues and photographing the success stories and achievements of all of the awardees. Thank you, Merv, for embracing student sport.

