



University of Bath
Blues Awards
2021

Order of Virtual Awards

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday 4th May

Ribbons, Colours, Half Blues, Full Blues and
Gethin John Bevan Club Member of the Year

Wednesday 5th May

Honorary Colours, Honorary Blues and
The David Vandelinde Award

Thursday 6th May

The Tugendhat Trophy and
Club of the Year

Friday 7th May

Sports Personality 2021

Welcome



Professor
Keith Stokes

Warden of the Blues

BLUES AWARDS 2021

As we enter the final straight of the most unusual and challenging academic year, I hope that you are keeping safe and looking forward to a progressive return towards more normal life.

Under normal circumstances I would be welcoming you all to the University of Bath Blues Evening, but for obvious reasons that is not possible this year.

Although sport, as much of the rest of life, has been hugely disrupted over the past year, it is important that we highlight the outstanding contributions and successes made over this and previous years. Indeed, for many of our awardees it is the sustained commitment to sport at the University that we are celebrating. I thoroughly enjoyed reading nominations that covered contributions ranging from displays of excellence on the national and international stage to the development and support of 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 appropriately high and consistent standards of achievement. I would like to thank the Blues Committee for their dedication in maintaining these standards. That the bar is set so high makes it all the more important to celebrate the achievements of the all award winners, who 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

Many traditions have been put on hold during the past year but I am delighted that the 2021 Blues Awards are taking place this week as it is perhaps more important than ever that we celebrate student sport.

As the saying goes, “you don’t know what you have until it’s gone” and I know we have all greatly missed the buzz of BUCS Wednesdays over the past 13 months. It is particularly sad for the final-year students who have been denied the opportunity to proudly wear the Blue & Gold once again.

We all hoped that competitive student sport would be able to go ahead in some form this academic year but while that ultimately proved impossible, it has been inspiring to see so many SU Sports clubs, athletes and coaches continue their training – whether it was on campus during parts of Semester 1 or virtually during the post-Christmas lockdown.

Staying active, motivated and connected during such uncertain times is extremely challenging but the camaraderie, commitment and adaptability of our student-athletes and support staff has been wonderful

to see and I’m sure we will hear many stories of people going above and beyond during this week’s virtual awards ceremony.

While competitive sport has been limited, our students have certainly taken the chance to shine when the opportunity has arisen. One of them, Imy Bantick (Sport & Exercise Science), even managed to conquer the world from her own kitchen when she won gold at the 2021 World Rowing Indoor Championships, which were staged virtually.

Sophie Drakeford-Lewis (Integrated Mechanical & Electrical Engineering) excelled for England Netball against World Champions New Zealand and, along with fellow University of Bath sporting scholars Chartie Curtis (Economics) and Hannah Passmore (Criminology), has helped Team Bath Netball make an outstanding start to the 2021 Vitality Superleague season.

Six students have made their Premiership Rugby debuts in the past year – Orlando Bailey (International Development with Economics), Arthur Cordwell (Physics), Max Ojomoh (Business Administration) and



Ethan Staddon (Natural Sciences) for Bath Rugby; Jack Kenningham (Sports Performance) for Harlequins; and Beck Cutting (Sports Management & Coaching) for Worcester Warriors. Wales U20 international Gwilym Bradley (Economics) also made his first Guinness PRO14 start for Cardiff Blues.

Aspiring Tokyo Olympian Tom Dean (Mechanical Engineering) helped London Roar finish third at the 2020 International Swimming League and won medals at British Swimming Invitation Meetings in Manchester along with fellow students Jono Adam (Sports Performance), Leah Crisp (Economics & Mathematics), Jacob Greenow (Natural Sciences) and Luke Turley (Sports Performance).

Olivia Green (Sport & Exercise Science), one of 16 high-performing student-athletes awarded sporting scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year, claimed mixed relay gold at the first Modern Pentathlon World Cup of the year in Hungary.

It is not only individuals who have excelled, with the Team Bath Tennis student programme receiving national recognition when the University of Bath was named as LTA University of the Year.

We look forward to the next 12 months – which includes both the Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Games as well as, we fervently hope, a return of BUCS competitions – with a growing sense of optimism and excitement I am grateful to have this opportunity to congratulate everyone who has made a contribution to the University of Bath's sporting legacy during the most challenging of years.



Student Sport, Review of the Year

The Blues Awards ceremony encourages us to look back at all that has been achieved within student sport at Bath in the year. The 2020-21 year tested both, the Higher Education and sporting landscapes hugely, requiring a huge input for a seemingly small output, relative to previous years. In a year dominated by lockdowns and restrictions opportunities to compete, train and enjoy sport have been limited.

However, there is so much to be proud of. Many of our athletes have found innovative ways of developing and competing. Our community has worked tirelessly to find new ways to train, keep spirits high, connect people and have fun. Please join me as we look back with gratitude to all our staff, and student leaders have gone above and beyond for their communities in a time of need.

The year has taught us about the power sport has to keep people connected, even when times are tough. This Blues Awards, we do recognise the loss of opportunities to the pandemic, but celebrate those that have made Bath an exceptional sporting university in a year of adversity.

The start of the academic year was full of excitement anticipation, and paperwork... I've no doubt this year's committee members are happy to get away from varying NGB guidance, Risk Assessments and Normal Operating procedures! We held on to the limited session capacities and rigorous procedures that enabled training, learning, and connection in person. Outside of this, new styles of socials

from our clubs enabled our members to get to know each other off the field in a safe way. Although in-person sessions were allowed for most sports over October, many weren't able to join. Club-run virtual sessions ensured separation was not an issue, and allowed people to connect over their passions wherever they were.

In November, as a devastating second lockdown hit, a coordinated approach across the sporting landscape resulted in a huge output from the sporting community. Long term equipment rentals allowed members to train skills from home. Bolstered virtual opportunities allowed people to keep moving, socialising, and looking to the future with excitement. The 'Go The Extra Mile' competition got the Blue & Gold back into the competitive spirit, with members moving for their clubs. With an empty campus, it was the feeds and timelines that were full of facial hair this year, with the University sporting community getting involved with Movember.

A different set of December celebrations allowed us to say goodbye to first Semester with virtual parties and quizzes hosted by our clubs. Our facilities were also able to reopen, allowing people to get active outside of rooms and kitchens.

In the second Semester, the third lockdown saw hopes of most competitive seasons slip through our fingers, with further restrictions in place to stop the damage of the virus. But a taste of the future came with the route out of lockdown, and a well fought battle in which Elizabeth Stacey was elected as the next SU Sport Officer. A string of excellent Team Bath Netball



performances in the Vitality Superleague provided excellent respite during the late winter months.

As I write this, with April on the horizon, we are in the first few days of the return of outdoor sport. The facilities are open again, and so many are excitedly making the most of them. Moments that we've all been hoping for are now being realised, and normality feels like it's finally returning, bit by bit.

University usually provides excellent opportunities to meet people and feel a part of something. With heavy restrictions in place, this has been tested hugely. The power of connection through sport was fully realised this year. In a time that could have been incredibly lonely for members, so many of our clubs took hold of every opportunity to keep people motivated and interacting at a bleak time. Coffee mornings, quizzes, mixer sessions gave opportunities for this year's cohorts to chat, meet people and enjoy the company of others. Although attendances haven't always been high, the value of these interactions to those getting involved has been huge.

The inception of the exercise buddy scheme facilitated pairing of hundreds of people through the lockdown periods, allowing important in-person and virtual connection.

Bath will always find a way to win, even from a kitchen! News of Imy Bantick's World Rowing Indoor Championship win lifted moods hugely across the University, as did the virtual British Weightlifting Championship wins of Team Chalk duo Joey Harrison and Elle Clemens. Well done to all our athletes that have managed to compete over this period.

This year saw more, better quality mental health peer support training offered to welfare and inclusivity officers, captains and other committee members. The SU worked to further increase the availability of mental health peer support training as part of the Top Ten. Clubs collaborated with 'Be Well Week', nightline campaigns and many more wellbeing initiatives.

The new SU facility on Dartmouth Avenue became the new home to many of our combat sports and our cue sports clubs, with two excellent facilities that we are excited to use at the earliest possible opportunity.

This Blues, we continue to celebrate the dedication to sport of so many of our students over a number of years including this season, the one that could have been. Many athletes who had excitedly looked to 2020-21 as the season they would have earned their reward for wearing the Blue & Gold kit once again were unable to do so. Nonetheless, you have done our sporting community proud. Your dedication and hard work will be remembered, and your awards are entirely deserved.

I encourage you not to focus on what was lost, but what you have endured and achieved in a time of turmoil. The material achievements may not have been the same, but the discipline, resourcefulness, and tenacity needed in competition has been shown day to day over the past year. The Bath sporting community has been resilient, it has gone the extra mile, it has done so much in spite of the circumstances, and that very fact deserves celebration.

Tom Sawko 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.

Taekwondo

Charlotte Draper

Touch Rugby

Shane Monks

Alex Waldron

Colours

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

Association Football and Futsal

Abigail Hopkins

Sean Bird

Lucia Helene Garcia Lecuona Gonin

Jake Thompson

Edward Appleton

Anna Hekkink

Harvey Mitchell

Young Lu

Natalie Powell

Ewan Cranwell

Badminton

Imogen Fernandes

Cycling

Lucy Lee

Fencing

Ben Priestley

Gymnastics

Conor Moffatt

Hockey

Sam Whitefield

Mollie O'Flaherty

Oliver Brown

Thibault Quinn

Robert Way

Hannah Fallon

Lacrosse

Andrew Brooker

William Boyes

Emily O'Brien

Olivia Grumitt

Netball

Gemma Dawson

Rheanne Lee

Rebecca Holder

Rugby (Union and League)

Alex Burrage

Angus Hinton

James Fitzmaurice

Michael Parnaby

George Malone

Sailing

Merrick Stanley

Ultimate

Kate Mitrofanov

Volleyball

Darren Wong

Bianca Galimberti

Water polo

Keely Horne

Amy Weston

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.

Cheerleading

Courteney Rainey

Golf

Harriet Evans

Volleyball

Federica Arcidiaco

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

Tia Foreman

Athletics

Sandy Wilson

Badminton

Sam Lyle

Libby McMorrow

Cue Sports

Samuel Griffin

Hockey

Phoebe Charnley

Sailing

Esmé Shepherd

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.

Becci Curwen

Fencing

Becci has represented women's 1st Fencing team since she arrived at Bath to study Sports Performance. In her first year she was an integral part of a team that won their league without losing a match, often by at least a 60 point margin and narrowly missed out on the cup final by 3 points. She would have been an important asset to the team this year if BUCS had taken place. She placed in the last 16 at the BUCS Individual National Championships, losing to the eventual winner by 1 point.

Before the first lockdown she finished her season with 5 U20 GBR caps. She was on track to be selected for all the U20 World Cups this season with the potential to go to U20 World and European championships and the Fencing Junior Commonwealth Games.

As this season did not go ahead Becci's aims are, to move onto the senior GB squad, compete at U23 and senior international competitions and medal at the next BUCS Individual National Championships when fencing resumes.



Sophie Drakeford-Lewis

Netball



Since starting at the University of Bath, Sophie has combined studying Integrated Mechanical and Electrical Engineering whilst playing netball for the England Roses, the Team Bath Vitality Netball Superleague team and the University of Bath BUCS Netball 1st team.

After a busy start to 2017, studying for her A-Levels, whilst also playing her debut season in the Vitality Netball Superleague for Hertfordshire Mavericks and winning bronze with the England U21 squad at the Netball World Youth Cup in Botswana, Sophie joined the University in October and a week later had made her debut for the Vitality England Roses. She also began her first season in the Team Bath Netball Superleague team and competed regularly for the

BUCS Netball 1st team in a successful campaign, seeing them make the final of the Cup competition and narrowly missing out on the title.

In her second year, Sophie became the regular starting GA in the Team Bath Superleague Team, who came third in the VNSL 2019 season and was awarded the Vitality Netball Superleague Young Player of the Season. Off the back of a successful trial and her Superleague performances, she was selected to join the full-time Roses Programme for the following season.

After being selected to be a part of the full-time Roses Programme for the 2019/20 season, Sophie split her final year of study across two academic years, due to complete her degree in May 2021. This enabled her to train and compete with the England squad full time during the international season. She has been on a number of tours over the past two years most notably the tour to Cape Town to play in the International Test Series against South Africa in December 2019 and to Hamilton to play in the International Test Series against New Zealand in October 2020 and she currently has 5 senior England caps. She was recently part of the successful Vitality England Roses team, who beat the Superleague International All-Stars in a three-match Vitality Legends series in January 2021.

Without the support that Sophie has received at the University, from the Faculty of Engineering and through being awarded the Bill Whiteley Scholarship, she would not have been able to manage the large workload that comes with studying for a degree in engineering with her busy training and competing schedule. She is extremely grateful to those who have given her the opportunity to combine both academic study and elite sport.

Charlotte Curtis

Netball

Chartie's netball career started in 2015, representing England at U17 Netball Europe and winning gold. The year after she was named vice-captain of the U17 squad entering this tournament, and again the team came in first. From there she went on to represent Surrey Storm at U21, and Superleague level, winning the U21 league. She also represented England U19 in tours to Jamaica, New Zealand (as vice-captain) and to Australia (as captain). The tour to Australia was the highlight of her career so far as she captained the first U19 squad to beat Australia in an away series. She has also represented England at the U21 level, winning gold at the European Championships, held in Belfast in 2018.

At University, in her first year Chartie was a training partner with the Team Bath Superleague squad and gained a lot of knowledge and experience from being part of the environment, which enabled her to step into the full squad the year after. This year was one of her best Superleague seasons as she was able to gain experience through court time and the team went on to place third in the league, just missing out on the finals.

Unfortunately, at the end of the season she ruptured her ACL but went on to placement year in London, working in Asset Management, with a focus on Alternative Investments, whilst she was part of Surrey Storm Superleague, who were amazing throughout the rehab journey.



On coming back to Bath in her final year, Chartie re-joined Team Bath, and has been lucky enough to train and compete in the Superleague over this period. She has played in the first team for BUCS since her first year and was BUCS captain in her second year. In 2017/2018 the team reached the finals of the league, losing to Hertfordshire to come second. In the 2018/2019 season the team reached the semi-finals, playing Birmingham and taking third place in the competition.

Honorary Blue

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

John Laursen



During his four years at Bath John has made a massive contribution to the rowing club, both as an athlete and as Chair for the last two years. When he arrived he had already rowed internationally but he got stuck in to training with the senior squad which paid off when he won bronze at the European Universities Games in 2018 as part of a Bath University crew.

As club Chair since 2019 he has worked tirelessly to ensure that the club is catered for in the long term, through his work on the new boathouse project, with the local rowing club, Minerva Bath RC, and with Bath University Boat Club's large network of alumni. John's hard work on the boathouse project will see the club's long-term future on the MBRC site secured and the facilities offer for rowing at Bath significantly improved. Without John this project would not be where it is today, where it is currently seeking funding from the University of Bath.

Having had some difficult relations in the past John has worked hard with his counterpart at Minerva Bath RC to bring the two clubs together,

to a point where pre pandemic the club's would regularly train together on the water and operate with much more synergy than in years gone by.

As a notoriously expensive sport John has worked hard to ensure the rowing club can keep developing its fleet of boats and navigate financially through the hardships brought on by Brexit and Covid-19. In late 2020 John led a fundraising campaign to raise £13,000 for a new boat, which was a huge success. This is testament to John's work to develop the club's alumni network, who were the primary supporters of this project. He has also brought in two club sponsors who will invest over £20,000 in the rowing club over the next five years.

Despite doing all of this John has remained engaged in the day-to-day running of the club, always being on hand for his committee should they need support and giving up his time to coach crews on the water. He has also created a bank of resources for committee members particularly future chairs and treasurers covering topics across finance, events, alumni, and logistics.

Elizabeth Stacey

During her four years at Bath, Elizabeth has made a massive contribution to the sporting community. Not only has Elizabeth sat as Chair and Secretary for the weightlifting and powerlifting club, but also had a key involvement when the club was being founded. Elizabeth's dedication to the Weightlifting and Powerlifting club over the last three years has been unparalleled and has shown through the progress of the club.

Elizabeth has been essential to the running of the club, not only behind the scenes but also finding two coaches in her term on the committee, she has also assisted in coaching sessions herself, especially with the rapid growth in the clubs second year. To cater for members and aid members in gaining experience on the platform, Elizabeth took it upon herself to not only run a in-house competition for the powerlifting members but set up a lifting league for the weightlifting members, of which the first stage was held in the University gym and had competing members from over the South West, with much scope to grow in coming years.

As a final year student now, Elizabeth currently sits on the SU Sports Executive Committee as Sports Performance Officer. In this role she has coordinated with the sports department on Talent Identification and UKAD Clean Sport Week as well as showcasing the fantastic student sport we have here at Bath. Although Covid has altered the role slightly limiting what she is able to do, Elizabeth still ran a month-long lockdown challenge 'Go the Extra Mile' alongside another sport committee member, which saw individuals and clubs compete and participate for the most km walked and run in this time.

Elizabeth's volunteering did not stop there, alongside her Sports Performance degree, Elizabeth also found time to volunteer with the Bath Rugby Foundation for community events and was also requested to coach rugby and other sports and activities in primary and secondary schools working with underprivileged youth. Elizabeth's role at the foundation altered over time and she was often an ambassador to encourage women and girls to participate in sport and



in particular rugby. Elizabeth then used her experience she had gained at the foundation to coach rugby and teach in a primary school in Fiji with Think Pacific, an opportunity that came about through the university. Elizabeth lived in a traditional village and focussed on sport outreach with the Fijian community, something that the villagers embraced.

Alongside all of this volunteer work, Elizabeth has represented the University at a BUCS and national first team level in two sports, rowing and rugby, and also pushing her rugby performance higher, representing Bath Rugby Ladies at a championship level and winning the National Cup final within four months of starting to play.

Tomasz Sawko



After six years as a student, player, committee member, coach, virtual workout leader and sport officer, Tom is finally saying goodbye to the University. Tom has been happy to get stuck in, and has shifted the trajectory of Sport into a more positive direction in a particularly difficult 2-year term as sport officer.

Tom came to the University to study Physics, 2 years after finding volleyball. He quickly got involved in the Volleyball club, playing for the Men's 1st team and over his time at University held many coaching and committee positions. As chair and coach, Tom has restructured the club to sustain a much larger influx of recreational, developmental and competitive players, and upskill more coaches and officials.

Under his leadership, Tom saw the introduction of a sitting volleyball branch to the club and reintroduction of beach volleyball. Tom's year as chair saw a 54% increase in membership, an Inclusivity award gold on the back of work to reduce barriers to engagement for students with disabilities and LGBT+ students, and saw the volleyball club recognised as Club of the Year.

As a sport officer, Tom has worked to reduce barriers, increase capacity, and improve sustainability for sport at the University of Bath during an unprecedented time.

With loneliness in UK Higher education rising, there has been a huge need to reduce the emotional-barriers associated with university sport. Tom's work has focused on recreational and competitive pathways into sport, helping integrate students into communities outside of higher-pressure periods such as freshers week.

Tom has worked to more directly isolate and reduce access barriers within university, increasing the learning opportunities for committees through the inclusivity award, improving affordability of the sporting offer and increasing the accessibility for specific underrepresented groups across university sport.

An advocate of facility investment, Tom lobbied for the new development at Dartmouth Avenue to include Combat sports and Cue sports facilities, and made great progress with the development of floodlit 3G facilities.

Tom has shifted SU sport to greater sustainability. He has mobilised passionate people to the Active Travel Advisory group that feeds into University and BANES conversations, secured funding towards increasing the accessibility of active travel, and reducing kit wastage.

With $\frac{3}{4}$ of a term that was impacted hugely by Covid, Tom has worked incredibly hard to ensure the offer has been as enjoyable and high-value as it could be.

At the beginning of lockdown, Tom got stuck in, co-creating and coordinating the SU Bath Corona Community, leading a virtual varsity, and running daily workouts that has now seen 150 workouts over 3 lockdowns. Tom has spoken of the potential of the virtual offer in sport, for Higher education media outlets, the BBC and ITV, highlighting it as a means of increasing the accessibility of sport across all levels.

With an unpredictable year ahead in summer 2020, Tom worked to restructure the sport memberships to create the all-sport offer. This allowed a high-value, adaptive sports offering, compliant with changing government guidelines during Covid-19.

Tom worked hard on the provision of a comprehensive lockdown offering, allowing long-term equipment rental, creating the exercise buddy scheme, helping develop the Lockdown challenge and working with clubs to improve their own offers.

Tom has influenced the sporting landscape hugely during his time as part of the University of Bath community, combining a love for both hands-on and strategic-level thinking. He has been an invaluable asset, improving and reinventing the sporting offer in a time where leadership was needed and creating changes that will shape the way students engage with sport for years to come.

Special Awards

Gethin John Bevan Club Member of the Year

The Tugendhat Trophy for Sporting Endeavour

The David VandeLinde Prize

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.

Emil Galanides

Emil joined the fencing club as a complete beginner in 2017, but quickly became a regular to training sessions. At the time, the excellent coaching and running of the club earned fencing ‘Club of the Year’, which motivated Emil to become more involved with the club.

In his second year, he worked on club marketing – showcasing and giving lessons on the parade during the Sports Fair. He also attended novice sessions, assisting the professional coaches, refereeing and giving guidance to the new members.

At the same time, Emil also qualified for the Men’s 2nd BUCS team. They had a tough season, but that didn’t stop them from giving it their all. Emil was the assistant captain on the team – he was always keeping score, delivering the team sheets and stepped in to captain the team in the case of absences.

After getting a taste for coaching, Emil nominated himself to be Novice Coordinator for this club in his final year, and was duly elected. The context of a pandemic would prove difficult to execute this role, yet Emil was determined to ensure all new members felt that same sense of community, progress and fun that he felt joining the club.

Over Freshers’ week, Emil arranged many of the virtual and in-person marketing events for the club, alongside helping out at the back-end of the club by updating the website information and graphics, creating a standardised email system and discussing how the club would run their sessions safely.

Once restrictions began to tighten, and it became clear that clubs would need to alter their offer, Emil nominated himself to take on the role of Virtual Coordinator. Through this, he arranged for weekly sessions to take place – including a workout, games night and his own show – Fencing Theory with Emil.



In addition to this, Emil was keen to ensure all members had regular interaction with the club, so he regularly communicated with members both as a group and individually in both fencing and personal regards. Where allowed, Emil also would go up to campus weekly to give 1:1 training sessions.

Emil hopes that his progression through the club demonstrates how a complete beginner to a sport can go on to not only compete, but make important decisions in running the club.

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 started a sport as a fresher and has gone on to improve sufficiently to achieve a BUCS podium finish inside three years.

Billy Rawlins



Billy has made enormous progress since joining the lacrosse club back in 2017. Having never played the sport before joining the University, he fell head over heels in love with lacrosse, buying his first stick 5 days into Freshers' week! Billy quickly got hooked training 5+ times a week, eventually resulting in him being invited to the Men's 1st team training, as well as being named captain of the development squad.

Going into his second year, Billy was one of only 2 beginners securing a spot on the Men's 1st team, quickly having to adapt from beginners level lacrosse to playing in the southern premiership. Not only did he help the team secure a 2nd place finish in the premiership, he also ran the men's weekly fitness sessions throughout the year on top of assisting running of the development training. In January of his second year, Billy successfully trialled for the South West

England Universities team, making him the youngest Bath player to make the squad in recent memory. Following the subsequent England Universities trial match, Billy was selected as a reserve for the final squad despite obtaining a hamstring injury early into the trial.

The following year Billy travelled to Australia for his placement year, found a local club and ended up training alongside some individuals that have gone on to represent Australia on a national level!

Billy is now in his 4th year at the University and has captained the Men's 1st team throughout this difficult year. Despite the season ending before it could begin, Billy organised engaging pre-season training for both the Men's 1st and 2nd team, and worked hard to build a good culture within the squad despite the lack of social and game playing opportunities.

The David Vandelinde Prize

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

Madison Jones

Madison is both the chair of the Lacrosse club and the captain of the Women's 1st team during her final year of studies. Having represented the University in the first team since her first year, she vice-captained the team through their most successful season ever during the 2019/20 season whilst regularly giving up her free time to assist in coaching the development squad, organising social mixed matches, and assisting the club wherever she could. On top of this, she captained the Wales U19 team on multiple occasions, most notably the U19 world championship in 2019 where she scored the overtime goal to give Wales a 7th place finish. Following this, she was selected to play for the senior Wales national squad for the 2020 Home Internationals tournament and is currently training towards the 2022 lacrosse world championships.

This year she has chaired the club through one of the most difficult and unpredictable years in history, doing everything she could to keep morale and engagement as high as possible within the club. Although the season was cancelled due to Covid, she was also selected as the captain, requiring her to put in countless hours organising pre-season training, trials, and training sessions up until national lockdowns prevented further training.

Madi has also volunteered a significant amount of time to the Lacrosse club, initiating and organising ideas such as rainbow lace day, mixed tournaments, and the 'this girl



can' session. Additionally her officiating qualification in lacrosse has made her invaluable to the club stepping in to officiate BUCS games last minute both here on campus and at away games giving up chunks of her time to allow others the opportunity to compete as planned.

Not only has she made a massive contribution to sports at the University of Bath, but Madi has also excelled in her studies, obtaining a first-class grade in her second year, she has excelled through these difficult times bringing her 3rd-year average up to 78.5%, with hopes to maintain this standard as she approaches Semester 2 assessment period.

Following the completion of her degree here at Bath, Madi has accepted an offer to play division one lacrosse at the University of Albany in the US whilst working towards her postgraduate master's degree in communication.

Club of the Year

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

Sailing Club – 3rd Place

The University of Bath Sailing club performed well pre-covid times, competing in all aspects of the sport including match racing, team racing, yachting and fleet racing, as well as being a great social outlet.

Despite lockdown and all of our events being cancelled for the last year, our club has thrived. This year we have the highest membership known to date, increasing on last year's numbers by more than 40 members.

At the beginning of the academic year, we were able to return to sailing, with an efficient cleaning and social distancing routine implemented by our committee. We were able to get freshers and new members mixing with returning members so that we could meet as many people as possible within our restrictions before the restrictions tightened.

We have adapted to virtual socials well, with a steady turnout week on week and an aim to inspire. Primarily this includes Rail Talks: a series of talks that we have set up from a variety of speakers including a Turn to Starboard, a

charity who helps veterans rehabilitate through sailing and Will Carnegie, a motivational speaker who sailed around the world with a totally novice crew. We have also hosted virtual racing and fun virtual socials and theory sessions provided voluntarily.

The break from the water provided us with an opportunity to make changes to the club. Mental health awareness is important to us during normal times, but during the Covid-19 pandemic this has become even more essential. The primary change was the introduction of a family system. We created groups of 6 sailors (in accordance with the Covid-19 guidance at the time) which included a committee member, returning members and new members. This has allowed new members to integrate into the club better, removing the daunting feeling of joining a zoom call (or in person social in the future) It also means that we are regularly in touch with all our members and gives every member a friendly face to talk to if they are struggling. In addition, we hope to run Mind workshops with the SU so that all of our members have direct access to support and guidance not only for themselves, but so that we can all be better at supporting each other.

Club of the Year

This year we appointed a sustainability officer to join our committee after our success in winning the Green Blue bronze and silver sustainability awards last year. This has had a huge impact on our club, raising awareness of the devastating problems caused by a lack of sustainability in boating. This has been interactive for our members, calculating carbon footprints, committing to changing their unsustainable habits and signing a sustainability pledge that we have created for our club. As a result, this year we have been awarded the Gold award level from The Green Blue.

Mountaineering Club -2nd Place

At the start of Semester 1, the Mountaineering club was offering 3 in-person sessions per week for walking, climbing, and orienteering. Up to 30 people in groups of 6 were attending each session. Alongside this, we offered a virtual social and an S&C session for those who were not comfortable attending in-person activities. We also ran fortnightly talks hosted on Microsoft Teams that were presented by a range of people including committee, club members, and external speakers. In some weeks we were running 6 different activities.

Through lockdown, the club has continued to provide a weekly virtual social and an S&C session. A weekly walking route around Bath has been provided for members to complete in their own time with housemates as well as a selection of virtual orienteering courses around Bath.

The fortnightly talks have also continued with even more interesting speakers. Some upcoming talks include GB orienteer Cecilie Andersen and GB paraclimber Jesse Dufton.

As always, inclusivity is very important to the mountaineering club. This year we have had a strong dialogue with 'Colour Up Bristol', a grassroots social club for BAME climbers in and around Bristol. By promoting their events and raising awareness about racism and white privilege in the outdoors, we hope to make the mountaineering club more inclusive to people from all backgrounds. Another issue we have tackled this year is the large financial barrier to Mountaineering. By applying to the alumni fund, the Mountaineering club has been able to purchase 24 pairs of beginner climbing shoes which our members can borrow free of charge. Considering a pair of beginner shoes usually costs £50, we hope this will allow more people to get involved. This is particularly relevant as we consider our return to sport. It looks like most of our climbing will be outdoors where climbing shoes are a necessity, rather than indoors where they can be hired from the centres for a fee.

The club prides itself on offering a vibrant, relaxed social scene with no pressure to drink. This serves as a great opportunity to meet like-minded people and to plan your own adventures in the outdoors. Members also have the opportunity to train and represent the university in BUCS competitions as part of our orienteering or climbing teams.

Club of the Year

Netball Club – 1st Place

The Netball club have worked tirelessly this year to bolster the All-Sport membership and have currently engaged 368 members with new students still joining. From the beginning, all members of the club, especially the hard working committee, have fully ensured the club has been an essential priority regardless of what capacity it could run. Individuals have gone beyond their roles and were adaptable to circumstance, building our central committee with 2 additional volunteer Covid officers and 2 virtual coordinators.

In Semester 1 we were efficient in completing paperwork and adhering to guidelines, attending our sessions in groups of 6. Members of the committee worked constantly throughout September, organising bubbles of housemates, mixed ability and personality groups of 12 who also varied in positions. This ensured we had a weekly rotation for all 144 BUCS and development athletes to attend 3 sessions (fitness, matchplay and position specific), accommodating 3 hours of social netball slots on the weekends for social groups to book and attend at their convenience (yet safely).

Lots have said netball has been their only way to engage with the University community and have allowed them to make friends, especially in difficult accommodation situations. These bubbles have remained our structure throughout and have provided a mode of contacting and checking in on the wellbeing of all players throughout the pandemic.

Our virtual offer has remained engaging and we've incorporated socials and weekly 'bubble challenges' to create the sense of solidarity we've all missed from our sports.

We held a virtual awards evening for Semester 1 and are planning one for Semester 2 to celebrate the resilience of our members. This year we have focused on the wellbeing of everyone holding art socials, yoga, creating a link-up fitness system and coffee mornings to make sure members have had the chance to socialise in a safe space.

We've championed all core celebrations of diversity and inclusivity on our Instagram to display our support to the wider community including BLM and LGBTQ+. Whilst we were told we achieved Club of the Semester before Christmas, we truly feel that the continuity and longevity of club members' tireless work ethic to keep the club running for this long and to this standard, deserves year-round recognition.

Throughout Covid, the Netball club have united as a community through in-person (when possible) and virtual means. Ongoing sessions, socials, wellbeing check-ups and challenges have been constant across the year and leave members in good preparation, excited for the safe return to court.

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.



Elizabeth Stacey

Weightlifting and Powerlifting

During her four years at Bath, Elizabeth has made a massive contribution to the sporting community. Not only has Elizabeth sat as Chair and Secretary for the weightlifting and powerlifting club, but also had key involvement when the club was being founded. Elizabeth's dedication to the Weightlifting and Powerlifting club over the last three years has been unparalleled and has shown through the progress of the club.

Elizabeth has been essential to the running of the club, not only behind the scenes but also finding two coaches in her term on the committee, she has also assisted in coaching sessions herself, especially with the rapid growth in the clubs second year. To cater for members and aid members in gaining experience on the platform, Elizabeth took it upon herself to not only run a in-house competition for the powerlifting members but set up a lifting league for the weightlifting members, of which the first stage was held in the University gym and had competing members from over the South West, with much scope to grow in coming years.

As a final year student now, Elizabeth currently sits on the SU Sports Executive Committee as Sports Performance Officer. In this role she has coordinated with the sports department on Talent Identification' and 'UKAD Clean Sport Week as well as showcasing the fantastic student sport we have here at Bath. Although Covid has

altered the role slightly limiting what she is able to do, Elizabeth still ran a month-long lockdown challenge 'Go the Extra Mile' alongside another sport committee member, which saw individuals and clubs compete and participate for the most km walked and run in this time.

Elizabeth's volunteering did not stop there, alongside her Sports Performance degree, Elizabeth also found time to volunteer with the Bath Rugby Foundation for community events and was also requested to coach rugby and other sports and activities in primary and secondary schools working with underprivileged youth. Elizabeth's role at the foundation altered over time and she was often an ambassador to encourage women and girls to participate in sport and in particular rugby. Elizabeth then used her experience she had gained at the foundation to coach rugby and teach in a primary school in Fiji with Think Pacific, an opportunity that came about through the University. Elizabeth lived in a traditional village and focussed on sport outreach with the Fijian community, something that the villagers embraced.

Alongside all of this volunteer work, Elizabeth has represented the University at a BUCS and national first team level in two sports, rowing and rugby, and also pushing her rugby performance higher, representing Bath Rugby Ladies at a championship level and winning the National Cup final within four months of starting to play.

Sophie Drakeford-Lewis

Netball



Since starting at the University of Bath, Sophie has combined studying Integrated Mechanical and Electrical Engineering whilst playing netball for the England Roses, the Team Bath Vitality Netball Superleague team and the University of Bath BUCS Netball 1st team.

After a busy start to 2017, studying for her A-Levels, whilst also playing her debut season in the Vitality Netball Superleague for Hertfordshire Mavericks and winning bronze with the England U21 squad at the Netball World Youth Cup in Botswana, Sophie joined the University in October and a week later had made her debut for the Vitality England Roses. She also began her first season in the Team Bath Netball Superleague team and competed regularly for the BUCS Netball 1st team in a successful campaign, seeing the team make the final of the Cup competition and narrowly missing out on the title.

In her second year, Sophie became the regular starting GA in the Team Bath Superleague Team, who came third in the VNSL 2019 season and was awarded the Vitality Netball Superleague Young Player of the Season. Off the back of a successful trial and her Superleague performances, she was selected to join the full-time Roses Programme for the following season.

After being selected to be a part of the full-time Roses Programme for the 2019/20 season, Sophie split her final year of study across two academic years, due to complete her degree in May 2021. This enabled her to train and compete with the England squad full time during the international season. She has been on a number of tours over the past two years most notably the tour to Cape Town to play in the International Test Series against South Africa in December 2019 and to Hamilton to play in the International Test Series against New Zealand in October 2020 and she currently has 5 senior England caps. She was recently part of the successful Vitality England Roses team, who beat the Superleague International All-Stars in a three-match Vitality Legends series in January 2021.

Without the support that Sophie has received at the University, from the Faculty of Engineering and through being awarded the Bill Whiteley Scholarship, she would not have been able to manage the large workload that comes with studying for a degree in engineering with her busy training and competing schedule. She is extremely grateful to those who have given her the opportunity to combine both academic study and elite sport.



Ben Jones

Tennis

Ben joined the University of Bath in 2017 and has achieved a number of successes both on the professional world tennis tour, and for the university in BUCS competition during his time here. Since joining Bath, Ben has been the number one player on the BUCS Men's Tennis 1st team and has served as team captain for the past three years. He has been instrumental in helping Bath to 3rd, 4th and 3rd place finishes in the BUCS National League with his importance to the team illustrated by the fact that he has ended two of his three seasons as the overall BUCS tennis MVP, winning more matches than any other player in the National League in these years. Towards the end of his first year in Bath, Ben and his partner Tiarnan won the BUCS

National Doubles Championships, becoming Bath's first men's tennis national champions for 14 years. He capped off his successful debut season during the Summer on the professional tour, where he gained his professional singles world ranking by beating the number one junior player in the world in Belarus, before making his first professional doubles final at an event in Dublin.

In his second and third years at Bath, Ben was selected to represent Great Britain at the Master'U BNP Paribas event in Grenoble, France, where he helped the team to two successive silver medals, cementing Team GB's place as the second-best university team in the world. Ben was able to build on his successes in the Summer between his second and third years where he reached his first professional singles quarter final in Cancun, Mexico, before winning his first two professional doubles titles in Israel and London. During this Summer, Ben also made his debut at a Challenger-level event and made three other professional doubles finals to round off a successful season.

In addition to his on-court achievements, Ben has been a member of the Tennis club committee for the past two years, helping the club to achieve record membership and recreational participation, while also being involved in the club's first

ever wheelchair tennis session. He has also served on the BUCS Tennis Sport Advisory Group, working with a number of established coaches and professionals to improve the experience and level of the BUCS National League.

In the Summer of 2020, amidst the height of the first national lockdown, Ben became seriously ill and was ultimately diagnosed with two chronic illnesses – Ulcerative Colitis and Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC). Ulcerative Colitis is an inflammatory bowel disease which affects over 300,000 people in the UK, while PSC is an extremely rare degenerative liver disease. He was forced to take four months out from tennis while he was diagnosed and treated before commencing a gradual return to play programme when he returned to Bath in October. During his return to play block, Ben undertook a charity eating challenge in aid of Crohn's & Colitis UK where he raised over £1,000 for the charity, while also raising some much-needed awareness. With the help of his excellent coaching and support team at Bath, Ben has been able to make a full recovery since being told his diseases were in remission. He is determined not to let his conditions define him or his career and is setting his sights on a main draw Wimbledon appearance in the next few years.

John Laurenson

Rowing

During his four years at Bath John has made a massive contribution to the rowing club, both as an athlete and as Chair for the last two years. When he arrived he had already rowed internationally but he got stuck in to training with the senior squad which paid off when he won bronze at the European Universities Games in 2018 as part of a Bath University crew.

As club Chair since 2019 he has worked tirelessly to ensure that the club is catered for in the long term, through his work on the new boathouse project, with the local rowing club, Minerva Bath RC, and with Bath University Boat Club's large network of alumni. John's hard work on the boathouse project will see the club's long-term future on the MBRC site secured and the facilities offer for rowing at Bath significantly improved. Without John this project would not be where it is today, where it is currently seeking funding from the University of Bath.

Having had some difficult relations in the past John has worked hard with his counterpart at Minerva Bath RC to bring the two clubs together, to a point where pre pandemic the club's would regularly train together on the water and operate with much more synergy than in years gone by.

As a notoriously expensive sport John has worked hard to ensure the Rowing club can keep developing its fleet of boats and navigate financially through the hardships brought on by Brexit and Covid-19. In late 2020 John led a fundraising



campaign to raise £13,000 for a new boat, which was a huge success. This is testament to John's work to develop the club's alumni network, who were the primary supporters of this project. He has also brought in two club sponsors who will invest over £20,000 in the rowing club over the next five years.

Despite doing all of this John has remained engaged in the day-to-day running of the club, always being on hand for his committee should they need support and giving up his time to coach crews on the water. He has also created a bank of resources for committee members particularly future chairs and treasurers covering topics across finance, events, alumni, and logistics.



Harriet Evans
Golf

The summer before Harriet commenced her first year at the University of Bath, she was awarded 4 international caps at a junior level, whilst competing in the Home Internationals, one of the most prestigious competitions in UK Amateur golf. Since then, her golfing prowess has grown, receiving the R&A national golf scholarship for 4 consecutive years alongside 4 years of involvement with the Universities Dual Career Programme all while maintaining a high 2:1 in her Pharmacy degree studies.

During the past four years at Bath, Harriet has competed in R&A student events both in the UK and Portugal, in addition, attaining 4 county champion titles, 3 club championship titles and a 2nd place in the Welsh ladies' team championships. She has represented both Derbyshire and Mid Wales Ladies' 1st county sides alongside playing in the 1st and captaining the 2nd team here at Bath. She was part of the 2017-18 1st team that finished 3rd in the premier division and has overseen promotion and the victory of both the cup and the league for the 2nd team in her two years as Chairperson.

Harriet has, despite the strange year given Covid, managed to compete this season and secured a 3rd and two 4th place finishes in some of the events that were able to proceed. As the lowest handicapper in the club this year she would have been able to complete a 3rd season as a 1st team representative for the University if the league had been able to go ahead.

The final three years of her degree saw her take a seat on the club committee playing pivotal roles of Captain 2018-2019 and Chair 2019-2021. Harriet facilitated the golf societies move from Kingsdown Golf Club back to Bath Golf Club, a move that was challenging. Furthermore, she has developed a coaching and S&C regime that has meant University of Bath Golf club has produced some of its best performances to date with reference to BUCS points.

Harriet provided club members during the long months of Covid with the opportunity to still train and play in smaller sessions knowing what benefits this has to mental health. During her time on committee a sense of community was generated within the golf society. Coronavirus intensified the importance of this community and she worked hard engaging weekly with members on social media, teams and directly. She made available for all those who wanted quiz's, challenges and socially distanced golf.

During what has been a difficult final 2 years due to coronavirus she still managed a best season with a personal all time low handicap of +2, a 3rd place finish in BUCs and a provisional selection for the Welsh Ladies Home International side 2020 (adding a senior international cap to her portfolio) which was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19.

Harriet will be graduating from Bath this year to undertake her Pre-Registration Pharmacy year in Dorchester.

Thanks



Tom Sawko

Students' Union Sport Officer

This year more than ever, our committees, athletes, staff members and all those involved in the delivery of sport deserve our recognition. Thank you all for your contribution.

We have more than 400 student volunteers in club and executive committee positions. These students are driven by a passion for sport and love for their own community. It has filled me with pride working alongside engaged individuals as they develop skills, lead, lobby, support others, and contribute to a team during an unprecedented time. They have given so much this year to ensure regular opportunities to meet and train, and we will be forever grateful of their volunteering that has kept our communities afloat.

I would like to thank all of the staff involved in the delivery of sport at Bath. Many have endured through unsettling periods of lockdowns, working tirelessly throughout. Over a time of significant,

rapid change, staff across the SU and university have adapted offers, made our spaces safe, guided committees, found new facilities and so much more. Your hard work, and adaptability has enabled a great offer throughout this time.

If you are graduating this year, thank you for all you have done here. It hasn't been the year any of us expected, but I hope you've managed to make the most of this time. I hope you will take this opportunity to look back on your time here and celebrate your achievements. Please stick with sport, continue to contribute to positive change wherever you may end up and make use of any opportunities to come back!

I came into sport here with the sole aim of representing the University in volleyball, and getting my Physics degree. Instead, I found a community I loved, and made use of opportunities to shape that community. I am now leaving after the two craziest, pandemic-filled years as officer. It has been a pleasure to represent you, and I'll be looking back with great fondness of my time here.

If you are lucky enough to be returning to university next year, I am happy to leave you and the rest of our students in good hands, with Elizabeth Stacey who will be bringing her experience and passion to the SU Sport Officer role.

Lastly, a huge thank you to everyone that has made the Blues Awards possible this year. The panel and delivery teams are such a vital component in the celebration of our athletes, volunteers and staff. Congratulations to all that have been nominated, and have won awards. I hope you all have an excellent summer, filled with opportunities to get back into your sport. All the very best!

