

# Glasgow University Sports Association

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



May 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

This year (19/20) saw many highlights from within GUSA with over 11000 members of Sport and over 5000 members of club sport. This is a 20% increase in club sport from last year.

- Men's and Women's Volleyball Club were merged into one club.
- Men's Football entered a semi-pro league.
- GUSA Council raised over £1970 for Scottish Disability Sport.
- Glasgow University Basketball Social Outreach Programme - run by both our women's and men's clubs - continues to thrive. This aims to bring together primary school children all linked to Govan High in learning how to play the sport.
- Jack (Publicity Convenor 19/20) alongside a videographer produced 2 videos throughout the year highlighting our Sports Clubs - available to watch here <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gb0p07gvwgkvd9k/AADutS270g0qxbAmNdSMY20Va?dl=0>
- Squash club started a new outreach programme teaching children from Balornock Primary School in Springburn how to play squash within the Stevenson.

More recently, Dame Katherine Grainger was appointed The next University of Glasgow Chancellor. She is the first woman to hold the post and as an Olympic athlete will be a huge benefit to advocating for sport in the University.

## KEY DATES

**1881 Dinner**  
7th November 2020



## NEW AFFILIATIONS

This year Charlie improved the affiliation process for new clubs, making it easier for clubs on their journey to affiliation. Our new club for 20/21 is Table Tennis.



## BUCS LEAGUE

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all BUCS sporting activity for the rest of the academic year 19-20 was suspended. This meant that position as of Wednesday 18th March is concluded to be the final position for this season.

I am delighted to let you know that University of Glasgow finished 26th!

# GUSA BALL AWARD WINNERS 2020

Massive congratulations to all those who won awards at this years GUSA Ball!

## GUSA TALKING STICK JENNY BEEDIE

*Outstanding Contribution to Sport*

Awarded by GUSA president to a non-student that has contributed to the success of sport in the past year.



## REBECCA COOKE AWARD NEAH EVANS

*Sportswoman of the Year*

Awarded to the most outstanding sports woman competing for The University of Glasgow.

A truly outstanding candidate performing at the highest level of her sport. She was only introduced to cycling in her undergrad in 2014, and went on to win 7 BUCS medals in one year alone. Since then, she's won 2 Commonwealth Games Medals, was selected onto the GB squad and achieved consistent results on road and track. In her place in the British team, she won her second consecutive European Title in the team pursuit, and achieving 4th place in the Elite World Championships Madison.

## JUSTIN LANGHAM MEMORIAL TROPHY JONATHAN MITCHELL

*Fresher of the Year*

Awarded to the most outstanding first year.

Jonathan returned to University in 2018 after undergoing extensive heart surgeries which looked to have ended his cycling career. Returned to racing at BUCS track in November 2018, going on to win 2 silver medals. Shortly after this, he won his 10th Scottish Championship with a New Scottish Record in the Team Sprint. These successes were recognised with selection to represent Great Britain in January 2019, where he managed to place 4th overall.



## PRESIDENT'S CUP JACK RAWLINSON

*Most Outstanding Contribution to GUSA*

Awarded by Honorary President for an outstanding contribution within GUSA Council.

## THE BOB WILSON MEMORIAL TROPHY KRISHAWN AIKEN

### *Sportsman of the Year*

Awarded to the most outstanding sports man competing for The University of Glasgow.

Producing a phenomenal performance at the British University Indoor Championships in February 2019, winning Gold by a considerable margin. Backed up by his win at the Scottish National Championships and England representation throughout the 2019 season. Balancing coaching, alongside his 4th year studies, his achievement of winning gold at BUCS in an incredibly talented field as well competing in England and in the British Championships are even more incredible.

## MILLENNIUM TEAM TROPHY WOMEN'S POWERLIFTING

### *Team of the Year*

Awarded to the most outstanding team affiliated to GUSA.

At the Scottish University Championships, the team collectively broke 4 Scottish records consecutively coming First place overall in April 2018 and 2019. The team also placed First in the World University Powerlifting cup in Pilsen 2018 and Second in the World University Powerlifting cup in Tallinn 2019. The outstanding record of this team mark them as Number 1 in the British University Ranking for 2018 and 2019.

## WILLIAM ROSS CUNNINGHAM MEMORIAL TROPHY SQUASH

### *Club of the Year*

Awarded to the most outstanding club affiliated to GUSA.

Over recent years the club has grown from a team-centric collection of around 50 people to an all-inclusive, welcoming community of 130. Coaching hours have more than doubled from 6 to 13, allowing new players to try something new. With advances in both coaches and sessions allowed the club to develop.

The club also set up an outreach programme teaching primary school pupils how to play squash. Setting up re-stringing within the club has allowed the club to provide a cost effective service for the members but also make the club money each re-string.

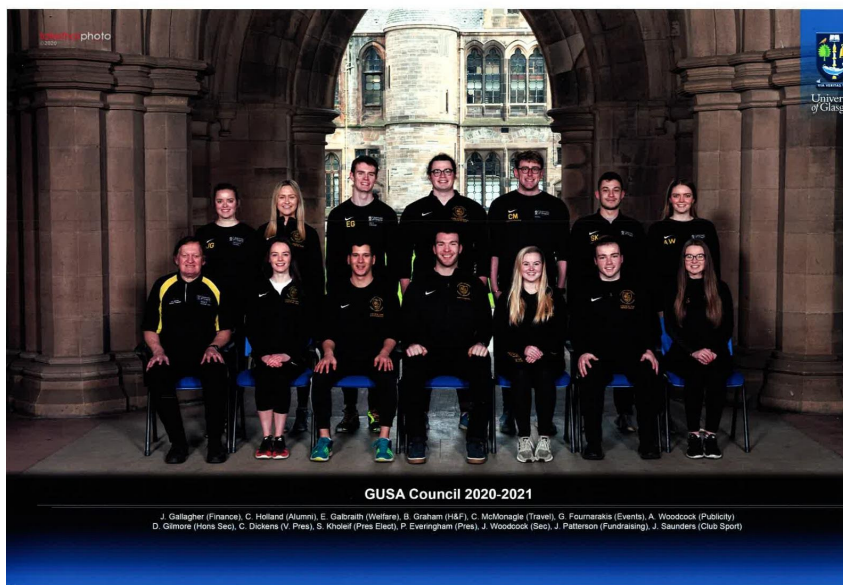
The club has produced many successes, one of their members was awarded Scottish Squash referee of the year. Additionally, one member winning the beginner event in the Scottish Student Sport squash championships who had never touched a squash racket before coming to university.



# GUSA COUNCIL 20/21

March 2020 saw GUSA's elections take place.

Another highly contested election highlights the growth of students wanting to get further involved GUSA. Below are the newly elected council and their plans for the year!



## SHEREIF

*President*

I would like to say hello to all of the GUSA alumni members and thank you for your continued support and engagement with us. I am very pleased to get the opportunity to work with you throughout the year in whatever capacity.

For those of you I have not met, my name is Shereif. I was the vice-president of GUSA in 2018 and now after completing my medical degree I have decided to take a year out as GUSA president before commencing my training as an FY1.

Along with supporting many of the projects from within the council, here are a few other things I would like to work on this year. One is providing an increased recognition for non-GUSA sports clubs i.e. CTS HEAR records. These clubs have now been disaffiliated by the SRC and as the representing sports union, I feel it is our duty to offer them some support. Other initiatives relative to these clubs would be the introduction of an intramural league and an end of year festival of sport as mentioned above.

I would also like to work on GUSA & sport's accessibility. Improving our accessibility to LGBTQ+ members in the form of LGBTQ+ swim, as well as improving access for our international, home and non-club sport members. There has been discussion around co-opting an engagement officer or new position on council to aid with accessibility and recreational sport. This is something I am keen to explore.

Finally, having secured a £7900 dual sponsorship for GUSA ball, I would like to aim higher for an annual GUSA-wide sponsor. My aim is to use this money to create more flexibility around the new Black and Gold fund or to create a pot of money which can be centred around either new teams support or act as an additional club buffer to be applied to throughout the year as clubs inevitably will have changes to their financial requirements throughout the year.

Many of these initiatives will ultimately depend on how current circumstances unfold but in all this uncertainty, it is wonderful to know that we have a network of alumni supporting us. Thank you!

# CHARLIE

## *Vice President*

I'm Charlie and I am going into Fourth Year studying Economics & History.

After a successful and enjoyable year as the Club Sport Convenor, I am so excited for the year ahead as GUSA Vice-President.

I will be planning the GUSA Ball 2021 as well as smaller campus events such as our GU-GUSA Dinner. Monthly meetings with Exec, my three conveners I oversee, student council, senior council and cross-campus executive from our other student bodies will ensure we can bring our ideas for GUSA this year to life.

With freshers week 2020 planning already well under way, I look forward for the rest of the year to begin when we return to university.

# CATHERINE

## *Alumni*

After an amazing year as Fundraising & Outreach Convener I am delighted to continue to grow and develop this year as Alumni.

This year alongside planning the 1881 dinner for GUAC/GUSA Council alumni, I am planning on enhancing and improving the current ways GUSA maintains it's alumni networks. This is by creating a better structure for the way GUAC/GUSA alumni are kept but also keeping record of more GUSA members. Using tools such as this newsletter will allow information about upcoming events and successes within sport to be shared.

In addition, I am looking to create a donation page which will make it much easier for alumni donations to both clubs and GUSA - which will additionally offer a rewards scheme so alumni can be rewarded for their generosity to help advance sport at the university.

# JESS

## *Secretary*

My name is Jessica Woodcock and I'm a 4th year Russian & Classics student going into my fifth and final year. I'm also proud to be this year's GUSA Secretary.

Throughout the year I will be overseeing the administration of GUSA, recording and distributing official meeting minutes. I will keep our valued members updated on all of our GUSA events, news, meetings and elections. I will also be overseeing the administration of one of our biggest weeks - Freshers Week. This always proved to be our most influential week within extending our sporting reach at the University and gaining more members, so I'm very excited to organise what will hopefully be another successful Freshers Week for GUSA.

This year I'm also organising a new Blues and Colours Event, separate to that of GUSA ball. Although COVID-19 unfortunately postponed what was meant to be the first event of this kind last year, I'm excited to organise and see the new event come to fruition and I hope to see it become a permanent calendar event for GUSA. I can't wait to work towards these aims and I'm very excited to do so in harmony with our new promising GUSA council.



# JAYNY

## Club Sport

My name is Jayny Saunders, I am a 2nd going 3rd year Technological Education student and this year's Club Sport Convenor.

Throughout the year I will be keeping all club CTS up to date with a monthly Club Sport Newsletter. I will also be making it easier to contact our clubs through creating a 'contact our clubs' highlight on our instagram. I will also be doing more in depth profiles on all of our clubs on our social media platforms, known as 'club of the week'. These club of the week profiles will aim to raise the profile of all of our clubs and grow interest.

Planning and running the sports fayre is another task I will take on this year. My hope is to try and boost the number of signups and give clubs seeking GUSA affiliation a spot if they wish, in order to create interest and raise numbers.

I plan to create a help document for our clubs to create a 5 year development plan so that ideas and goals do not get lost when a new committee takes over each year. Altering the GUSA constitution to ensure every club has a Welfare Officer, or at least one member with some Welfare training is another goal of mine.

# JULIA

## Finance

I'm Julia and I am going into my 5th year Maths masters. In the role of Finance I will be primarily focusing on the Chancellors and Representative funding. A goal I have for this year is to better publicise the chancellors funding by sharing past success stories.

I will also be working closely with the finance administrator and finance team to go through claims from different clubs. To develop a strong relationship with each club I will be created a Facebook page for the Treasurers and encouraging catch ups with myself where treasurers can go through any queries they have.



# GEORGE

## Events

In the first Semester, I am currently planning two completely new events for GUSA that will both promote sports to the wider university community and also bring in some light hearted inter club competition.

Fresh Festival of Sport- A full day event held across all the fields at Garscube where freshers will get the chance to participate in a "sports day" with 6 different GUSA sports going on, music and food trucks.

GUSA Dodgeball- A GUSA club only dodgeball tournament which will pit all of our clubs against each other for a day of Dodgeball fun ranging across the stevie and the GUU debates chamber for the finals.

Over the winter months I am currently looking into organising a conference/talks style event with three GB student athletes where they will each speak about a different topic that is relevant to both today's sports and especially student sports.

Festival of Sport- this will be the grand event at the end of the year which will pit each college or school against each other in a full day of 9 different sports going on all around the campus.





## JAMES

### *Fundraising & Outreach*

This coming year, I want to develop the great work done by the previous Fundraising and Outreach Convenor by building the outreach programme throughout GUSA clubs. With all the amazing facilities and performance students the University of Glasgow possess, it is only fitting that we encourage disadvantaged communities to get involved and try out some new sports and provide potentially new experiences. This is aided by the charity of the year focusing around encouraging sport in disadvantaged communities and gives the opportunity to work with the charity for not only fundraising, but also to enhance the outreach opportunities.

I would like to create a new event which clubs would take part in to see a direct benefit to the involved clubs. In this event, the clubs would compete against each other. This would develop the relationship between clubs and GUSA, incentivise clubs to get involved in an interclub competition with the prize reward that could potentially have a large impact for the club.

Regarding fundraising, I would like to maintain the GUSA quiz as this provides a great fundraising event for GUSA and the chosen charity of the year. I would also like to create a new event, the idea would be based around a Bongos Bingos concept.

## BERTIE

### *Health & Fitness*

I'm Bertie and I am going into my fourth year studying Maths.

I want to set up a network of volunteer coaches where students who are experienced in a certain aspect of training/sport can go and help a different club with that area. This could mean anything from planning and running a session - similar to the yoga club running stretching classes for swimming - or to just go along to the club's training to give tips.

I also want to organise an eating disorder awareness workshop aimed at the committee members of clubs to help them better look after their members.

## ANNA

### *Publicity*

I'm Anna, a second year geography and business student from Manchester and I play hockey for the GUWHC. I am the publicity convenor on this year's council; and I hope to continue the good work done by Jack and build on further ideas for the upcoming year.

Alongside all the usual publicity jobs, this year my main plans include wanting to create two videos highlighting sport at Glasgow and one celebrating GUSA. This includes a year in review - matches, cups and tournaments - and a video showing all the things that GUSA does throughout the year - different social and fundraising events.

As well as this I hope to create links with local newspapers like the Herald, so that we can have a monthly article about the sporting highlights from the previous month. This will be nice for the local community to get an insight into sport at GU and may even lead to sponsorships for certain athletes.

I'm really looking forward to the upcoming year, working with the other council members to develop GUSA, and I hope that I can put my graphic design and photography skills to some good use.

# CIARAN

## Travel

I'm Ciaran and I'm in the first year of a PhD in Public Health.

As travel convenor I'll be hoping to help make the portal which clubs use to book travel and drivers use to log trips as easy to use and well utilised as possible.

I'll also be working to make sure that our fleet of buses are well maintained by the clubs who use them!



# EWAN

## Welfare

This year my aim is to ensure that GUSA, both as council and within our clubs, continue to prioritise the physical and mental wellbeing of each of our students by focussing on supporting Club Welfare Officers and an increased promotion of initiatives and student run campaigns to open up the conversation surrounding mental health on campus. By advertising office hours to Welfare Officers alongside the introduction of new training surrounding Eating Disorder Awareness and Active Listening I hope to bring welfare to the forefront of club policy and reflect GUSA's commitment to supporting and safeguarding of our club members.

Additionally through collaboration with the cross-campus welfare forum and the other student-bodies, I hope to raise awareness of our established welfare initiatives such as Studio One Safe Space, LGBTQ+ History Month and our partnership with the Linda Tremble Foundation to actively promote a culture of sport at Glasgow that is both accessible and welcoming to all of our students.

By working closely with the Active Lifestyles team at UofG Sport I aim to be able to showcase the GUSA Buddy Gym System to all incoming students at Glasgow and offer our student volunteers the opportunity to receive peer support training and potentially work towards qualifications as an added benefit to their involvement in the initiative.

Furthermore I hope to approach student welfare holistically by inviting and bringing together students, coaches, captains and committees to receive training and share best practice as to how each individual club supports their athletes and help GUSA to identify the areas in which additional or brand new training is required to better equip our teams and committees.

