



REPORT BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT SPORT FOR UNION COUNCIL

MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2009

1. What has the AU done so far this year?
2. What does the rest of the year hold for Sport at HUU?
3. Where can we improve?

1. What have we done?

- **Fresher's Week** – Highest rated Bazaar following the welcome week survey for ease of sign up and quality, over 300 students through the bazaar on that day – Bernard Mendy from Hull City came to sign autographs, the Rugby League Challenge Cup was also on display.
- **'Give it a Go Week'** – ran after Fresher's week, open displays and taster sessions in anything from Basketball to Squash. Proved hugely successful, well received by teams and membership levels in the AU are testament to such participation events.
- **Membership** – 1800+ in Hull and 120+ in Scarborough, last year's membership was 1800 students, so the introduction of new sports plus participation programs in Hull and Scarborough have been hugely successful.
- **BUCS** – So far, 145 competitive matches have been played by teams based at the Hull campus.
Won – 62
Lost – 73
Drawn – 9
Walkovers Conceded – 1

Unbeaten teams –

1. Badminton Men's 1sts
2. Basketball Women's 1sts
3. Fencing 1sts
4. Netball 1sts
5. Squash Men's 1sts.

Improvement in turn out (key to participation programs) but performance continues to worsen as funds are cut further.

- **AU Ball** – Huge success, completely sold out several days before with 200 attending. (Never been achieved before). Night included fundraising for the AU and for Children in Need, £100 donated from the raffle plus bucket donations throughout the night.
- **Easter sport Tour to Salou** – Biggest AU event of the year. This year allowing societies also to participate. Deposits close on Friday (4th December) with 450 students already paid up. Currently taking 27 different clubs and societies, huge participation event and competitive 2 days of sport, spread across a week of fun in sunny Spain.
- **Women's Participation in Sport** – Addressed at BUCS conference.
 1. Women's participation at Hull Campus in AU teams – 35%
 2. Women's participation at Scarborough campus in AU teams – 31.5%

Survey has been written by one of the Councillor's for Scrutiny in the Sport Zone, Mary Cooksey in collaboration with HUU and NUS' women's committees. This survey is due on the Hullstudent website this week for two weeks to find out why female students at Hull and Scarborough do not participate.

Aim to run a female orientated participation program in second semester.

- **Athletic Union/Sport Centre relations** – Transition has been smooth and for the most part, in conjunction with the agreed policy in August 2009, relations are as good as they have always been. Weekly meetings with Dave Varley and monthly between DV, JK, SC and PT.
- **Scarborough** – Membership: 137 students

BUCS matches played – 31

Won – 9

Lost – 21

Drawn – 1

16 people from the Scarborough campus are attending Tour.

Participation events – 38 people in Intramural football, 20 people part of the Get Active scheme and 15 people attending Sports Day on the Beach.

2. What does the rest of the year hold for Sport in HUU?

- **Dodgeball** – Will be running soon after the end of January exams. Used as another mechanism for participation in Sport and also as an AU teambuilding exercise.
- **Women's 'Give it a Go'** – The idea behind this program is still vague though it is likely that a program similar to the give it a go week will be run, however, the priority will be on female and mixed sports.
- **Team Photos** – giving the student's an opportunity to remember how sport enhanced their student experience, with all team's given the opportunity to have their team picture taken throughout the day. This year, the photographer will also be covering teams across the Scarborough campus.
- **Tour to Salou** – the biggest participation event of the year for students who are part of the Athletic Union. 600 students representing HUU travel to Spain for a week of sport with other students and other activities for those whose sport is not catered for. The feedback every year about how this trip enhances the student experience is incredible.
- **End of BUCS divisional competitions** – all leagues wrap up by the middle of March apart from for the Cricket team and a few summer individual competitions so we should have an idea on our final league position by April.
- **Trophy Presentation** – this year is scheduled for Friday 23rd April. This is the highlight of the year for many as students' sporting endeavours are rewarded with a night of entertainment, trophies and good food. This is a great opportunity to explain our sporting work in the community, as the Lord Mayor is usually in attendance.

3. Where can we improve?

- **Direction** – Dave Varley and I have briefly assessed the University sport strategy and there simply is no concise direction of sport and the impact that the University of Hull wants sport to have on the student experience. As a matter of urgency, the place of sport in the life of students at the University of Hull needs to be addressed. Is sport to become an integral part of the University strategy? Is sport simply to impact on health and wellbeing? Are we to become a sporting institution?

HUU has both a 1 year and 3 year plan for sport with the focus largely on participation and student involvement, as the funding simply isn't there, even for the focus sports, to impact regionally as a sporting institution in the BUCS divisions and individual championships.

- **Funding** – Where do the extra resources need to go to impact performance and participation? The perception of most students is that sport is becoming too expensive for students to participate in both competitively and for recreational purposes. With this in mind, the funding would best impact on performance if we look to pump money into coaches for the top 9 sports as outlined in the HUU sport strategy. (RL, Football, Volleyball, Cricket, Riding, Clay Shooting, Basketball, Squash, Hockey).
Participation also has the flaw of the cost, with further cuts in sport; most students are unable to fund themselves to away matches or even home matches in some cases. Thus, other funding would be required to be pumped into transport provision to matches and training sites that are off campus.
- **Equipment** – Most clubs lack the quality equipment of our regional counterparts. Equipment is essential for good performance, participation levels and safety. So this is another area where extra funds would be required. We have a duty to students to ensure a better student experience along with a safe which covers all our sporting priorities, participation, performance and welfare.