

New Performance Sport Awards

The Athletic Union's Blues and Colours Awards Ceremony was once again a fantastic celebration of sport at St Andrews, with more award winners than ever before, showing the continued outstanding achievement of our sportsmen and women.

Three new awards were introduced this year to honour the commitment and dedication of individuals helping to create the vision of sporting excellence outlined in the University's Strategy for Sport:

- **Coach of the Year:** For outstanding service to the DSE, AU or one of the AU's affiliated clubs
- **Scholar of the Year:** Recognising outstanding athletic performance and achievement, for making a significant contribution to an AU club and/or raising the profile of a sport and the University through sporting success and commitment
- **Volunteer of the Year:** For outstanding service to the promotion and development of sport at the University

Winners of these awards (pictured with Director of Sport and Exercise, Stephen Stewart) were as follows:



Scholar of the Year—Georgia Wade

Georgia has proved to be an outstanding role model in performance sport in academic year 2008-09. Her enthusiasm and positive attitude have been an inspiration to everyone. At national level she has travelled frequently to train and compete with the English lacrosse squad. Georgia has also demonstrated commitment to the AU Lacrosse Club by consistently turning out for Club sessions and serving on the Club's committee. Despite these pressures, Georgia has maintained an excellent academic record in her studies towards a degree in International Relations and Modern History.

Volunteer of the Year—Morag McPherson

Without Morag's dedication and motivation Ladies' Golf would not be what it is today. Morag is the outgoing Club Captain of the Ladies Golf Club and for the two years previous to this was the first team Captain. As well as investing considerable time in promoting the game locally and nationally, she has many golf achievements to her credit in 2008 – first position at the Scottish Universities Order of Merit, first in the Scottish Universities League and first place at the Ayrshire County Championships. Morag has been instrumental in helping organise several visits from international golf teams from around the world, including Stanford, Harvard and Sweden. She has also been working with golf schools across the UK to promote the opportunities St Andrews can bring for potential future students. In addition, Morag and her team have organised development days for local schoolchildren to help bring more females into the game.



Coach of the Year—Steve North

Steve, the Academies Director at Braemar Golf, has had an enormous input into the development and promotion of golf at the University over the last three years. His expertise and knowledge have been invaluable in taking the Men's and Ladies' Golf Clubs forward and the R & A Golf Bursary Scheme to a new level. He has provided a strong mentoring role for individual players and was instrumental in leading the Men's Golf Team to victory in the Scottish Universities Golf Tournament at Lossiemouth, beating Stirling by a considerable margin. Thanks to the generosity of Braemar Golf, Steve has travelled internationally with the team, including a visit to the US to compete in the Stanford Intercollegiate Golf Tournament. He has offered many hours of his own time to help drive golf forward for St Andrews to become one of the leading golf programmes in Europe.



Fundraising for Pre-Season Training —Progress So Far

- Morrisons bag packing £1000
- Saints Sixes football tournament £300
- Womens Lacrosse cake sale £280
- **Total raised to date £1,580**

A big thank you to everyone who has been involved in fundraising so far, including members of Fencing, Ladies' Golf, Lacrosse, Men's Rugby and Women's Rugby, who rolled up their sleeves and packed shoppers' bags at Morrisons on Saturday 2nd May. Thanks also to Lindsay Sharp, Gary Brankin and Alison Rintoul for their work in organising the successful sixes football tournament on 10th May, and to Women's Lacrosse for the proceeds from their recent cake stall.

We are still a long way off the £10,000 budget for pre-season training in 2008. With the introduction of Focus Sports, 15 teams will be taking part this year compared to only five last year, and the need to raise funds is correspondingly greater. Other fundraising ideas are most welcome—contact Debby Sargent, Performance Sport Manager, as soon as possible!

S Stanford Golf Report..... by Jon Corke

On Thursday 16th April, a team of five players from the University first team (captain Steve Pointon, Jon Corke, Cameron Gray, Will Wrisdale and Mike Gray) embarked on their inaugural trip to the U.S Intercollegiate Golf Tournament, held at the Stanford Golf Club in California. The team was accompanied by coach Steve North and the University's Director of Sport and Exercise, Stephen Stewart.

Upon arrival in Stanford, the team were allowed access to Stanford University's own 30-acre practice facility that was simply incredible. There are no comparable facilities in the U.K, let alone exclusively owned and run by one university! The following day the team practised on the Championship course itself. Everyone in the team enjoyed playing the picturesque course in bright warm sunshine, and attempting to adapt their games to suit the very different playing conditions, with the Californian bent grass and the rough that was several inches deep surrounding every green.

The tournament began on Saturday, with players competing against 16 Division A American colleges. It became immediately apparent that the standard of golf was extremely high, with six competitors inside the top 50 of golf's amateur world rankings. We were all astounded at the general standard of play and particularly our opponents' short game skills. After the first two rounds, the University of Washington led the competition with a very impressive team score of -23.

The final round of the tournament took place on the Sunday and was played in perfect weather conditions once more. Again there were some very impressive performances by the American college teams. St Andrews as a team had another disappointing day, and the gulf in class between the short games of the American players compared with our team became even more apparent. Washington held on to their lead to win the tournament on -36.

After the tournament our players were left to reflect on what had been an awe-inspiring trip. So much was learned just from watching and talking to other teams, including advice on practice regimes and simply the level of commitment that each of these athletes were putting in to improving their game. It must be mentioned that a number of factors worked against the St Andrews team, including jetlag and a major lack of experience playing on such a style of course. The trip proved to be an incredibly valuable experience for all the team and one that everyone would hope to see repeated in years to come.

The St Andrews individual scores were:

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Steve Pointon (Capt.)	83	77	80	240
Jon Corke	79	75	74	228
Cameron Gray	74	75	83	232
Mike Gray	76	75	83	234
Will Wrisdale	80	81	82	243



Getting to grips with the conditions on Stanford University's golf practice course



Performance Squad End of Year Results

Congratulations to the performance squads on their success in both Scottish and UK competitions:

Men's Fencing won the Scottish League. The team were unfortunately knocked out of the BUCS Championship in the quarter final, but defeated Loughborough in a playoff to gain promotion to the Premier League.

Women's Fencing won the Scottish League, but were defeated in the BUCS Championship at the quarter final stage.

Men's Golf are Scottish Universities team champions. In the BUCS Championships they were knocked out in the quarter finals.

Women's Golf - finished second in the SUS League. Two golfers, Jenny Linklater and Ashley Smith, finished in the top eight in the Scottish Order of Merit. In addition, Morag Macpherson and Alisa Theunis finished in the top 10 at the Scottish Universities Tournament held at Lossiemouth.

Women's Rugby (*pictured above left*) won the Scottish League. They lost their quarter final match in the BUCS Championship and narrowly lost in a Premier League playoff.

Women's Lacrosse (*left*) had a tough first season in the Premier League and have unfortunately been relegated. Not to be deterred, this has made the team even more determined to win the Scottish League and return to the Premier League.

