HANDBALL CLUB 2016/2017

We began this year in an incredibly strong fashion. Through give-it-a-go sessions and regular social events we managed to recruit the majority of the interested attendees. Our membership number grew by roughly 20, compared to the beginning of the second semester academic year 2015/2016. We arranged regular games with other university teams in Scotland throughout the year, and established clear goals for both teams in relation to the games. The men’s team had more games to play than the women’s team due to other universities lacking players to field women's teams. However, we successfully fielded a women's team, with subs, in several games. This marks an important milestone for the club and a large improvement from previous years. An important remark to make is how significant the transport budget we were offered at the beginning of the year was. Without this, we would not have been able to compete in all of the games we participated in over the year.
With the arrival of proper handball goals after the winter break, training conditions improved significantly in relation to the beginning of this academic year; when we still used temporary goals of rather poor quality. The temporary lines that were put down with the help of the AU and some club members proved adequate to host our first home game. We were thrilled to be able to play a game at home. The first game was attended by an estimated 30 visitors, who saw a win for our men’s team against Glasgow, and a loss for the women’s team against Glasgow. For the future, we will continue to enquire about legitimate handball lines being included on the court.

Furthermore, we seek to practice on full court occasionally to get a chance to practice in a proper game setting, and help new players get used to the dimensions of the court. Finally, we wish to search for a coach to come train with the club occasionally as this may enable us to supplement the knowledge of our student captains with a professional’s.
After electing our first Social Secretary the last academic year, we successfully expanded our offering of social events, hosting events such as end of semester dinners and regular socials. Our Christmas dinner was attended by roughly 30 members, which is a significant proportion of our total members. The socials have received positive feedback throughout the year and many members appreciate the atmosphere that we try to foster between members.

In April, we hosted another beach handball tournament on West Sands, for which we used our own equipment that we were able to purchase after receiving funding from a grant. Five teams in total competed in the tournament and we received positive feedback from the players. We aim to continue with this next year, officially making it a tradition.

Greatest Accomplishment of the Year:
This year we managed to field a woman’s team and have them compete in several games during both semesters. In doing this, we accomplished one of our previous goals, and we aim to develop the team further to make it a strong competitor to the other women’s teams in Scotland.

The men’s team took the silver medal in the Scottish league, hosted by the Scottish Handball Association. These are big accomplishments considering the difficulty to field full teams with subs in previous years. A result of the committee’s efforts and its cooperation with the AU was hosting our first games at home. On the day of the first game at home our members were proud and excited to see what the future holds.

Future Goals:
As we had many 1-year students as members this year, we will try to adapt appropriate marketing techniques to make up for the loss in members we will suffer over the summer. To do this, we will utilise surveys to get an understanding of our members’ perspectives around how they found the club and what made them stay.

We will continue to develop our women’s team and make sure we can field a team for upcoming fixtures. It would be ideal to see them win roughly half of their matches next year. For the men’s team, we will continue in the same fashion and it starts with electing two new captains at the beginning of the next academic year who can lead the team in a positive direction.