CHAPTER 2

EXCELLENCE WITHIN SPORT

Tuesday 28 April
Excellence within Sport

Being the Difference through Excellence in Sport

Professor Sam Taylor Bejant(ine) Award
The Professor Sam Taylor Bejant(ine) Award is awarded to a matriculated first year student who has shown outstanding sporting ability during their first year at university. This award was instituted by Professor Sam Taylor who has made a long and valued contribution to the committees of the Athletic Union.

Provost’s Postgraduate Scholar/Bursar of the Year Award
The Provost’s Scholar/Bursar of the Year Award shall be awarded to a supported athlete for outstanding athletic performance and achievement. The award will be given to a student that has made a significant contribution to the AU club and/or has raised the profile of the sport and the University through their sporting success and commitment. This award is judged by the Provost, using a shortlist provided by the Blues and Colours Committee.

Chancellor’s Award for Sporting Excellence
This award is aimed at sporting excellence which is at the pinnacle of sport. This is the highest award conferrable by the Athletic Union for excellence in sport. This award is judged by the Blues and Colours Committee in conjunction with the Chancellor.

The Continued Achievement Award – Final Year Students Only
The Continued Achievement Award shall be awarded to a final year student who has achieved significant recognition (usually a Blue) in their first or second year and sustained this contribution at the same standard throughout their university career.
Isabella Rosalina
Football
Winner

1st Year – English, Film Studies, Spanish

In her first year, Isabella made an outstanding contribution to her team, scoring 31 goals in 14 games and assisting a further 15. Her efforts helped her team progress to the Scottish Student Sport Cup Final and win Scottish Tier 1 for the first time. She consistently had a positive impact on her teammates and her hunger to learn on and off the pitch has made her a great role model for the younger girls in the local football club. She dedicated time to assist training sessions for the local club and her form also led to an invitation to sign for the Dundee United Women’s Football Club.
Nakia Graham
Football
Winner
Postgraduate – Management MLitt

Nakia had a huge impact on the 1st Team success this season. She started 13 of 14 competitive games that returned 13 wins. Her quality and talent on the ball helped the team dictate a number of games, with her scoring 9 goals and assisting 5. Her fantastic attitude, work rate and desire to defend for the team made her a great role model for team mates to learn from and her form saw an invitation to play with Dundee United Women's Football Club for the current season.
Chancellor’s Award for Sporting Excellence

Emily Dark
Hockey
Winner

2nd Year – Physics

This year, Saints Hockey’s 1st Team player Emily has continued to have great success on the international hockey scene, retaining her position in the GB Elite Development Programme. As a Scottish Institute Supported Athlete, she won Gold and U21 Player of the Tournament at the European Championship II Division for Scotland. In January, she also won a bronze medal and the Indoor European Championship II Division in Croatia and she has continued to captain the Dundee Wanderers Ladies 1st Team. Emily has been selected to represent Scotland vs New Zealand and USA, and to play for Great Britain EDP vs Belgium in the upcoming months. An exemplary role model within the hockey club, managing these commitments whilst undertaking her degree is only possible through hard work and dedication to achieve her goals.
Continued Achievement Award

Kirstin Giddy
Boat Winner
4th Year – History

Kirstin served two years on the Boat Club Committee as Women’s Captain and two years on the Saints Regatta Committee as Regatta Services Officer. She happily took on extra duties as Women’s Captain in the absence of a Director of Rowing and led the Senior Women’s Team to multiple club ‘firsts’ including a top-50 finish at Women’s Eights Head of the River Race in 2018. She reached the third assessment of GB trials U23 selection with a 7:10 minutes 2km qualifying time. She has represented Scotland for two years, winning two gold medals at the Home International Regatta in W8+ and W4- in 2019. Amongst a series of medals she has won with the Boat Club, she won a gold medal in WC2- at Scottish University Championships 2019 and was awarded the University Shield in W4- at British Rowing Senior Championships 2018.

Benjamin Kempley
Cricket Winner
4th Year – History

Benjamin has been a top-order batsman for the 1st XI since joining the University, putting in a number of match-winning performances and he holds numerous club records for his batting and fielding performances. After joining St Andrews in 2015, he became 1XI Vice Captain 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, through which he organised an incredibly successful 2-week tour to South Africa. He became 1XI Captain for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 seasons and pioneered the T20 Scottish Varsity Fixture. He has also had great success with Scottish Student Sport (SSS), being a member of the SSS side for 5 years and spending 2 years as their captain. In December 2019 he was also awarded the Martin Flynn Scottish Student Cricket Player of the Year award for his performances throughout the student cricket season. Benjamin has been invited to play for the prestigious Marylebone Cricket Club (M.C.C.) this season.
Henry Portman
Cricket
Winner
4th Year – Arabic Farsi & Middle Eastern Studies

Henry has played for the 1st XI throughout his university career and has been the leading wicket taker for St Andrews in every full season he has played. In his first year he was voted St Andrews Player of the Tour in South Africa 2017, a title which he won for a second time in Barbados 2019. His success led to an invitation from Cricket Scotland to train with Afghanistan and Sri Lanka before the World Cup. He has successfully represented Scottish Student Sport for the last 3 years and was the leading wicket taker for Scottish Universities in 2019.

Alex Upshaw
Dance
Winner
4th Year – Modern History & Film Studies

Alex has competed with Blue Angels for all 4 years at St Andrews. She has been a part of advanced teams for ballet, contemporary and jazz, choreographing award-winning pieces for her team for the last 3 years. She was awarded a Half-Blue for her success in her second year. At the most recent competition, she placed in the top 5 in improvisation. She has been a member of the club’s committee for the last 3 years, carrying out two Blue Angels captaincies and the role of tour convenor. She has taught 2 highly successful dance classes for jazz and ballet, and she is a role model for her teammates due to her exceptional technique and skill level. Alex has remained approachable and has always brought high energy and encouragement to her team.
Continued Achievement Award

Sebastiaan van Gilst
Fencing
Winner
4th Year – Maths

After 4 years on the 1st Team, Sebastiaan has enjoyed great success for Saints Fencing. In the BUCS Individual Championships, he came 2nd in 2018, made the final 32 in 2019 and placed 10th this year. He has also had personal success, winning 1st place in the SSS Individual Championships (Epee) in 2018 and 2019 and gaining 3 gold medals in the Student 4 Nationals Individual Championship (Epee) and Team Championship (Foil and Epee).

Caitlin Evans
Netball
Winner
4th Year – Zoology

Caitlin has been a member of the Saints Netball 1st Team for 4 years. Her impressive shooting stats have ensured some great victories for the team and consistent top 3 finishes in Scottish 1A. Caitlin was a member of the Scottish Student Sport National Squad, representing Scottish Universities in the Home Nations in 2019. In her first year she played in the Scottish Performance League Squad for Team Grainger. Caitlin was President of the Netball Club in the 2019/2020 season which was Saints Netballs biggest season yet with 6 competitive BUCS teams and a social netball programme of over 77 girls. She has previously been awarded Colours and Half-Blues.
Sally Sandison
Netball
Winner
4th Year – International Relations

Since joining the Netball Club, Sally has been a member of the 1st Team. Sally has been Club Captain for the last two years which has seen her introduce a number of new initiatives and ways of working into the club as well as working with the Director of Netball to ensure the effectiveness of the on-court programme. She also captained the 1st Team this year as they led a successful BUCS campaign as well as captaining the Performance Squad in the inaugural Netball Sixes Performance League. Sally was a Scottish Student Sport National Squad member from 2017-2019, representing Scottish Universities in the Home Nations in 2019. She is a qualified C Award Umpire and Level 2 Netball Coach. As well as coaching within Saints Netball and local schools, Sally went to South Africa as part of the International Volunteering programme in 2018. She has previously been awarded Colours and Half-Blues.