

# THE VIRTUAL SPORTS AWARDS 2020

**EVENT BROCHURE**

27 April - 1 May

# BE THE DIFFERENCE



# Week of Celebration

## Contents Page

<b>Welcome from Stephen Stewart and Leah Allcock</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Highlights of the Year, Leah Allcock, Athletic Union President</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Overview of the week</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>The Judging Panel</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>The Awards in full</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Chapter 1</b> Blues, Half-Blues and Colours	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>Chapter 2</b> Excellence within Sport	<b>Page 15</b>
<b>Chapter 3</b> Engagement within Sport	<b>Page 24</b>
<b>Chapter 4</b> Experience within Sport	<b>Page 33</b>
<b>Chapter 5</b> Awards encompassing Excellence, Experience and Engagement	<b>Page 41</b>
<b>Excellence in the face of adversity</b>	<b>Page 53</b>
<b>Our thanks</b>	<b>Page 56</b>
<b>Save the Date</b>	<b>Page 58</b>

## Welcome from the Director of Sport and Athletic Union President

In these challenging circumstances, it's more important than ever that we stick together as a community and do all we can to help each other through. Given the current situation we find ourselves in and the impact this has had on our everyday life, we have moved our annual Sports Awards ceremony online for the first time.

For many of our sports teams and individuals, their season has been completed, for some it ended abruptly, and unfortunately for a few, it hadn't yet started. However, since the start of the 2019-2020 season, we have had many success stories, profound moments and reasons to celebrate. We feel it's more appropriate than ever to deliver this event in this difficult time but in an appropriate way.

The Sports Awards have always been a big occasion in the sporting year. An opportunity to come together and hear what our student athletes have been up to and to congratulate those who have had success whether that be through **engagement, experience** or **excellence**. We want the event to do the same this year, and more.

With us all staying safely at home, and as we work through this extraordinarily challenging situation, we ask you all to take some time to bring some positivity into your day as you listen to stories from across the student sport clubs highlighting their achievements this season. This year, the theme is 'Be The Difference' as we look to our student-athletes who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to, amongst other things, perform at the highest level, serve on committees, run their clubs or volunteer in the local community.

The plan for this year was always to move to digital formats as much as possible to reduce our environmental impact. The current circumstances allow us to adopt a no paper approach to the Sports Awards this year, for example, all certificates are being sent electronically. We will strive to ensure all our events are environmentally considerate in the future.

We hope that wherever you are in the world you can appreciate the dedication and efforts of our student-athletes this year, which was looking to be the most successful BUCS season in history. We are more excited than ever to welcome you home to St Andrews when the time is right so that we may continue these efforts further.

With warm wishes from our homes to yours,



Stephen Stewart  
Director of Sport & Exercise



Leah Allcock  
Athletic Union President



Welcome from Stephen Stewart

# Highlights of the Year, the Athletic Union Year Report 2019-2020

## Excellence

This has been an incredible year for Saints Sport despite the set-backs due to the early end of the season. We entered 84 teams into BUCS leagues and over 1/3 of these competed at a 1A or Premier League level! Alongside this numerous teams competed in local leagues, Scottish Student Sport (SSS), and other non-BUCS competition. Our Women's Football, Women's Squash, Women's Waterpolo, and Men's Fencing teams all won their 1A leagues and another Women's Waterpolo Team won Premier North for the 2nd year in a row. Although many of these teams will not be able to be involved in promotion play-offs due to the early end to the season, their achievements are outstanding and thoroughly deserving of praise.

At the BUCS 8-ball pool championship, our women's team won the gold and at the BUCS Judo Championship we scooped three gold medals. Several Saints teams have also performed admirably in lower down leagues and we have lots of promotions coming our way for the new season. At the SSS conference finals we had 6 teams compete across 5 sports and three of them went on to win their competition- Men's Football 1st Team, Netball 4th Team, and Men's Volleyball 1st Team. Saints Sport continues to perform at a high-level within Scotland and the rest of the UK and do ourselves proud.

## Experience

We have introduced a new constitution this year, which will help the framework for governance at Saints Sport. Within our excellence programme we had outstanding attendance from all clubs at the Club Committee Forum at the beginning of the year, as well as at the February Town Hall where we learned about Wellbeing Officers, the charity 'Here for Sport', and the Hockey Club's outstanding community outreach programme, as well as this the Saints Leaders programme produced 30 new graduates. There have been several brilliant AU and student campaigns for engagement including LGBT week, Nightline, and International Women's Day.

We had hundreds of nominations for Blues, Colours, and sports awards and have several fantastic finalists and winners of awards. Last year we saw several volunteers visit our programmes in Zambia and South Africa and got fantastic feedback about the coaching and leadership work they did. We have had over 300 student volunteers run our AU clubs and the portal has seen contributions of over 1300 hours so far. This year we have begun work on a new Volunteer Programme in Livingstone, which should have launched this summer. Although we won't be able to send volunteers this year, we hope to launch in 2021 and continue to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of young people.

## Engagement

The first Dundee Varsity series was hosted in September and 20 teams across 14 sports competed. The fixture culminated in a draw, but we'll be back next year to show our neighbours across the Tay what we're made of. Saints Sport memberships encompassed 62% of the student population and over 40% of these were members of an AU club, continuing to ensure that Saints Sport has some of the best involvement numbers across the University Sport sector. This year's Christmas present donation saw over 60 gifts delivered by our Events team to the Children's Ward at Ninewells. We collaborated with several societies to host Charity Sinners, and our own Sinners events raised over £7000. This year we will be splitting these funds across three charities. One of these is the International Volunteering Programme and the others are being decided via a poll to the whole student body.

The early end to the season left several graduating students having not played their final games so our publicity team took to social media to ensure we celebrate all their contributions! We also launched the 60 Seconds Saints videos earlier in the year, which gave clubs an opportunity to answer questions about all the incredible things they get up to throughout the year. We're in the process of collating information about all the fundraising clubs have done for their chosen charities, but so far, we have raised over £16,000 this year and we expect this figure to keep on rising.

**Leah Allcock**

**Athletic Union President 2019-2020**

# The Week of Celebration

Monday 27 April - Friday 1 May 2020

Saints Sport is proud to present a week of sporting celebrations. You can share in these achievements safely wherever you are and at a time that's right for you.

## Monday 27 April

### Opening Ceremony

To be awarded:

Full Blue, Half-Blue, Colours

## Tuesday 28 April

### Excellence within Sport

To be awarded:

Professor Sam Taylor Bejant(ine) Award

The Provost's Postgraduate Scholar/Bursar of the Year Award

Chancellor's Award for Sporting Excellence

The Continued Achievement Award

## Wednesday 29 April

### Engagement within Sport

To be awarded:

Martin Barkla Volunteer of the Year sponsored by Macron Store Dundee

Peter McKiernan Excellence in Service Award

Director of Sport Volunteering Award

Green Club of the Year

## Thursday 30 April

### Experience within Sport

To be awarded:

Saints Sport Volunteer Coach of the Year sponsored by Macron Store Dundee

Archie Strachan Award for Outstanding Sporting Experience

Saints Sport Staff Member of the Year

## Friday 1 May

### Closing ceremony: Awards encompassing Excellence, Experience, and Engagement

To be awarded:

Lord Campbell Athlete of the Year

Saints Sport Team of the Year

Wallace Prize for Most Improved Club of the Year

Saints Sport Club of the Year

Keep in touch with us through our social media channels for all the information as its released about our awards.



[www.st-andrews.ac.uk/sport](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/sport)



[twitter.com/SaintsSport](https://twitter.com/SaintsSport)



[www.youtube.com/user/saintssporttv](https://www.youtube.com/user/saintssporttv)



[www.facebook.com/SaintsSport](https://www.facebook.com/SaintsSport)



[www.instagram.com/gosaintssport](https://www.instagram.com/gosaintssport)

### Our thanks to the Judging Panel for the 2020 Sports Awards:

#### Leah Allcock

##### Athletic Union President



Leah is the current elected AU President. Within the sabbatical position, Leah represents the students' view in various forums: at the University and throughout Scottish Student Sport (SSS) and British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS). She is there to support all students who are involved in sports clubs and exercise at the University; whether that be on a club or individual basis. Responsibilities include chairing the Executive committee, leading developments in AU strategy and running AU operations. Working alongside University staff, she also aims to promote and progress student sport. Leah is the Chair of the Judging Panel for the 2020 Sports Awards.

#### Duncan Caithness

##### Assistant Director (Sports Development)



Duncan joined Saints Sport in October 2019 from Bowls Scotland where he has held the roles of National Development Manager and Head of Coach and Volunteer Development. He has previously lectured in sport and fitness at SRUC Elmwood College, whilst previously holding the role of an Active Schools Coordinator and Sport Development Officer with Fife Council. Duncan is responsible for providing leadership and guidance in the area of Sport Development and Club Development.

#### Ian Gaunt

##### Deputy Director of Sport



Ian assists the Director in managing Saints Sport, planning and monitoring sport activities for students, staff and the local community. Ian also manages the University's Performance Sport Programme and is responsible for the Scholarship Programme including the Scott Lang High Performance Award. Ian was previously a professional footballer at Walsall FC and a former Loughborough University student sport scholar. During his student years Ian won BUSA (now BUCS) gold twice and represented England Universities and British Students. He is now a keen golfer and a member of The St Andrews Golf Club. Ian is SSS Golf Chair and a member of the BUCS Sport Advisory Group for Golf.

## Fergus Knight

### Assistant Director (Commercial Operations)



Fergus oversees the delivery of all commercial operations and special projects at Saints Sport. His remit includes managing the marketing and publicity of sport at the University, working with Admissions and Corporate Communications to enhance the national and international standing of sport at St Andrews. Fergus also works closely with colleagues in Development to pursue various investment opportunities and engage with alumni, individuals and groups to encourage participation in sports fundraising. A double graduate from the University, Fergus joined the Saints Sport team in 2014 after four years as a Postdoc Research Fellow in the Department of Chemistry. During his time as a student he represented the University at both cricket and rugby, gaining a Half-Blue in his first year and a Full Blue a year later, representing Scottish Universities from 2001-2007.

## Sophie Tyler



Sophie is a 4th Year Geography student, President of the Trampoline & Gymnastics Club, and she is also one of their primary coaches. Sophie has been a member of the Student Sport Team for the past two years- as part of the Volunteering & Engagement Team and has been elected Athletic Union President for 2020/21.

# The Awards in Full

## Full Blue

Full Blues are awarded to athletes with senior international representation.

## Half-Blue

Half-Blues are awarded to athletes who have displayed exceptional sporting achievement that is not at the level of a Full Blue.

## Colours

Colours are awarded to students who have demonstrated extreme sporting excellence not at the standard of a Half-Blue, have enhanced student experience or have enhanced club engagement.

## 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.

## Martin Barkla Volunteer of the Year Award

The Volunteer of the Year Award shall highlight the voluntary work of a club member pushing forward experience and engagement within the club, Saints Sport and the wider community within one year. For further information, please see the volunteering and leadership panel of the Saints Sport website: [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/sport/volunteering](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/sport/volunteering).

## Peter McKiernan Excellence in Service Award

The Peter McKiernan excellence in service award shall be awarded to an individual who has given outstanding voluntary service to their sport, for their university club and/or in the community, during the course of their degree. Each club may submit one nomination for the award. This award was instituted in 2010 by Peter McKiernan, former Chair of the Athletic Union Governing Board.

### **Director of Sport Volunteering Award**

The Director of Sport Volunteering Award shall be awarded to a club who has given outstanding voluntary service to Saints Sport through activities such as outreach, charity contribution and community engagement. This award is judged by the Blues and Colours Committee in conjunction with the Director of Sport.

### **Green Club of the Year**

The Green Club of the Year Award recognises the club that has made a significant effort to reduce the environmental impact of either their own members, members of Saints Sport, or members of the University of St Andrews.

### **Saints Sport Volunteer Coach of the Year Award**

The Coach of the Year Award shall be awarded for outstanding service to Saints Sport. The award can be made to any individual striving to promote and develop excellence in performance and management of that club. There is no limit to the number of coaches that each club can nominate for this award.

### **Saints Sport Staff Member of the Year**

The Saints Sport Staff Member Award shall be awarded to a full or part-time member of staff involved with Saints Sport, who has had the greatest impact within a year. The award should reflect the achievements of an individual who has gone above and beyond the requirements of their work, to improve the experience of students at the University.

### **Archie Strachan Award for Outstanding Sporting Experience**

The Archie Strachan Award shall be awarded to the individual who has been of outstanding service to the Athletic Union or one of its clubs and who has helped move sport at St Andrews forward. Each club may submit one nomination for the award. This is the highest award conferrable from the Athletic Union for service. This award was instituted by the former Director of Physical Education (1955-1985) Archie Strachan who made a long and valued contribution to the promotion of student sport in St Andrews.

### **Wallace Prize for Most Improved Club**

The Most Improved Club Award shall be awarded to the club which has shown the greatest improvement in management and results over the academic year, specifically across the areas of excellence, experience and engagement. This award is accompanied by a monetary prize of £500 which may be used by the club for any legitimate club purposes.

### **Lord Campbell Athlete of the Year Award**

The Athlete of the Year Award shall be awarded to the sports person who has demonstrated outstanding athletic performance.

### **Team of the Year**

The Team of the Year Award shall be awarded to one of the Athletic Union's club teams for outstanding performance in competition.

### **Saints Sport Club of the Year**

The Club of the Year Award shall be awarded to a club which has shown the most outstanding commitment to achieving excellence, experience and engagement.