

Lap 1

June 2013

Hello and welcome to The University of Bristol Sporting Club

The University of Bristol Sporting Club is a joint initiative between the University's Campaigns & Alumni Relations Office and Sport, Exercise & Health.

The Club aims to provide a vibrant, active social-networking club for current students and Bristol graduates, keeping them informed and engaged with sport at Bristol. This will be achieved through an annual programme of events and activities, encouraging participation, friendships and support for Bristol Sport.

The Club will also work closely with existing Alumni sports groups and will help establish others for those members that have an affinity with a particular sport. A number of the first members - those that attended the Inaugural Anniversary Dinner in November and recipients of the first Honorary Sporting Red's have offered their services to support the groups.

Professor Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004), Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol states: "Bristol has had a long history of outstanding achievement and it has been able to support, produce and celebrate students that have achieved consistently high academic and sporting success. I express my appreciation to all the alumni who have agreed to be part of the sports specific groups in this new initiative."



Reds Dinner

The 25th anniversary Reds dinner was a night that suitably celebrated Olympic success and toasted our current High Performance squad whilst welcoming back Reds winners from as far back as 1979. Over 150 (current students and Alumni) attended the dinner to mark the introduction of the University's High Performance Sports Squad in 1987.

Guests included four of our nine Olympians including three from London. Master of ceremonies, John Inverdale, - BBC Sport, interviewed them in an entertaining introduction to the evening - silver medalist sailor Hannah Mills (BEng Mechanical Engineering 2006 - 2013), women's hockey bronze medalist Georgie Twigg (BA 2013) and fourth place hurdler Lawrence Clarke (BA 2011).



The night also saw the launch of the University of Bristol Sporting Club and four recipients were made Honorary Reds.

"We have received many letters of support since we launched our plans for the Club in November and I personally look forward to working closely with our current student members and graduates to provide a vibrant and active club. It is essential that we stay in touch with our students as they graduate and ask that our graduates help provide mentoring, social networking and other support to them ahead of and during the transition from university into work.

"We are in contact with a reasonable number of graduates but in a small number of sports and want to significantly widen our reach to be as inclusive as possible.

There have already been a number of graduates who have indicated that they would like to hear more and get involved - some to return to play in our Alumni sporting weekend, or to visit our list of Varsity matches and others that have agreed to host events. All of these examples will help bring current students into direct contact with our Alumni, which is our key aim".

Simon Hinks, Director of Sport, Exercise & Health

Honorary Reds



Bob Reeves, MEd 1982

One of the things that binds Bristol graduates together is the sporting experience they shared, usually over a period of three or four years. My own experience has been with a large number of people over more than 40 years, so it perhaps binds me even more with the place and the people who have "passed through". There are those who have played sport for fun and friendship - a social thing. Then there are those who, while still seeking the social benefits, have aspired to excel. Bristol attracts students who not only excel academically, but in other areas also. It is a place which attracts talent.



A great pleasure for me has been witnessing the flourishing of sporting talent in, let's face it, a University that has never seen sport as a core function of the Institution. To help such students in any small way is a great joy, and many of the inductees into the Bristol Sporting Club will be those with whom I have spent some time over the years.

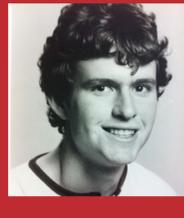
Establishing the 'Advanced Sports Squad', as it was then, over 25 years ago, was a major step. We were able to help and advise talented sportsmen and women in other areas than they had been used to, such as coaching. We dealt with time management, sports psychology and healthy lifestyles. It was original, and it was great to work with some of those students who were themselves the pioneers in this type of programme. In the first year, among others, we had Dorothea Brown (BDS 1988), a double International (judo and netball), Matthew Hunt (Geography 1989) (GB Fencing team) and Jonathan Webb (MB ChB 1987) (a medical student, who played for England at rugby before he finally qualified as a doctor). Of course, many such people, being the multi-talented people they are, go on to great things in their chosen walk of life. Jayne Pearce (BA 1986), University netball captain, Athletic Union Chair, and a member of the first Advanced Sports Squad, went on to have an outstanding career in sport, most notably becoming the Media Chief for the London Olympic Games.

Over the years, many outstanding athletes have been members of the High Performance programme, among them world champions, such as Kyran Bracken (LLB 1993) and Josh Lewsey (BSc 1998, Hon LLD 2009) - rugby, and Olympic medalists like Iain Percy (BSc 1998) (sailing) and Georgie Twigg (hockey). The latter two, along with Lawrence Clarke (4th in the High Hurdles final) were members of the GB team at the 2012 Olympics. As an aside, it might be worth noting that some of the 'stars' had to overcome significant disadvantage in order to achieve what they did. Nick Nieland (BSc 1994, PhD 1999) (8 years a student at Bristol, as he went from undergraduate to PhD) was a Commonwealth Games gold medalist and three times Olympic finalist in the javelin, notwithstanding the fact that there was not a decent track and field facility in Bristol. He also played rugby for the University. That all took some doing. I like to think that the Advanced Sports Squad might have helped him a bit on the way.



Chris Hartley, BSc 1983

"There was less of me to love in 1983 when I was awarded the first Bristol Red given for rowing. We had taken a Bristol VIII back to Henley Royal Regatta after a gap of many decades and then across to the US to race Harvard and Yale. I thought I could make a GB lightweight squad when I left but that wasn't to be and so it wasn't until 2005 that I returned to competitive rowing. Entering Henley Royal Regatta in the first Tasmanian VIII to race there involved a warm up duel with the then Bristol VIII, another scalp on the way to being beaten by a crew containing USA Athens Olympic gold medalists. Focusing on chairing the Boat Club Alumni, I was proud to have raised tens of thousands of pounds towards the new boathouse and so a dinner to celebrate Bristol Olympians successes seemed a pleasant end to the year. I was rather put off my mood by seeing a long forgotten photo of a less solid me on the screen. And then someone asked me to come up on stage. An Honorary Red! What a surprise! Worth coming to dinner from Australia for. An amazing acknowledgement, not only of my efforts, but also those of the Boat Club Alumni. And the biggest question in the room? Boat Club members in their Regatta blazers, of course. Go UBBC."



Nigel Wray, BSc 1970

"Firstly, I must say that to be inducted as a now rather old, now non sporting "BRISTOL RED", was (a) highly unexpected as I had just come down for a dinner with Bob Reeves, and (b) upon reflection a great honour. I always enjoyed my time at the university and have equally enjoyed keeping in touch over the last couple of decades both with Bob Reeves and now with Gordon Trevett and Simon Hinks, all of whom do a wonderful job for Bristol and Bristol Sport.

There are a lot of world class athletes in a variety of sports who are Bristol Reds so for someone like me it's a great honour to be associated with them in some small way but also to have had the opportunity of helping in a small way."



Moger Woolley, BSc 1959, Hon LLD 2005

"I was delighted and surprised to be invited to the first "BRISTOL RED", and had no idea that I was to become the first Honorary Red. I feel extremely privileged and pleased to be so honoured. I have been the University's representative on the Coombe Dingle Sport's Trust for the last 10 years. During my time as a student I captained both the Cricket and Hockey sides in my final year - and had played for the UAU (Combined Universities) every year as a student. At that time Reds were only awarded to full Internationals! There weren't many!! The evening was an enormous success and extremely well organised and it gave me great pleasure to be surrounded by so much young talent."



The Joanna Brown Trust

Our chosen charity for the evening was The Joanna Brown Trust.

Joanna Brown (LLB 2000), a former Bristol University student won her Red in 1998 for Netball.

Jo sadly died in August 2008 when travelling back from Beijing, where she had been to watch the Olympics. In her memory her brother, Richard Brown set up The Joanna Brown Trust (www.TheJoannaBrownTrust.org) and since then the trust has raised over £100,000 which goes directly to the cause of encouraging involvement in sport. The Trust supports sporting projects and talented young athletes both in the UK and overseas.

We were delighted to raise £600 for the cause and hope to work with the Trust in the future.

UOB High Performance Squad 2012-13

The HP squad this year contains athletes from 14 different sports including Rugby, Sailing and Ultimate Frisbee. The squad began the year with screening days followed by a team building camp in the South of France to integrate all the new students with current members and to establish the seasons goals.

The squad had a table at the 25th dinner in November and enjoyed seeing sporting heroes past and present collect awards and talk of their Bristol experiences. It proved a very interesting evening for all concerned, there have been some fantastic performances this year including Joie Leigh (MSci in Geography 2011 -) who not only won Bronze at the Youth Olympics with fellow squad member Steph Addison (BA in Philosophy and Spanish 2012 -), but also represented GB Senior Ladies in South Africa at the Investec Cup, winning bronze again.

In the picture below is Joie and former HP squad member Dilly Newson (BSc 2010), who was also part of the squad in South Africa in January 2013. The end to the BUCS season is upon us with competition for the HP athlete places coming in thick and fast. We will keep you updated in forthcoming issues of this newsletter of these and other student successes.



Coming Soon

Annual Reds review and pictures.

The launch of our new Bristol Sporting Club website, how to join and all forms of social media so you can keep up to date with upcoming events and all things sporting club!

Your club, your memories

We would love to receive your stories, memories and archives for our future newsletters and website, which will help to reconnect you with long lost team mates.

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