

*The MUA
Dinner
2020*

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Domino's

Introduction



Welcome to the first, and hopefully last, Virtual Athletic Union awards night. While we may not be able to share this annual event in person, we hope that you join us from the comfort of your homes as we look back at the year just gone, reflecting on achievements both on and off the pitch. Tonight, is about celebrating the outstanding contributions from clubs as well as individuals over the last year.

For the past 12 years, Bucks Students' Union and the Athletic Union has given all students the opportunity to participate in sport for free. Thanks to the Big Deal, students have the chance to save £100s on membership, travel, kit, coaching and facilities. As a result, our students can enjoy their favourite sport or try a new one, all while breaking down the barrier to participation. Of course, all of this is made possible thanks to the hard work of Catherine Lymer, Fergus Adams, Daniel Lawrence and Jade Collis. From ensuring that all officials, facilities and travel are booked, to arranging a wide range of volunteering opportunities; the dedication of our Student Activities Team is one that does not go unnoticed. Whether it's committee training, BUCS Wednesdays or hosting RAG fundraisers, their ongoing support helps our students develop both as athletes and as outstanding individuals of the wider community.

There is no doubt that they would have delivered yet another successful Varsity, but even if we didn't get to Defend the Cup on pitch, everyone had the chance to come together and honour the day. Virtual Varsity saw an amazing engagement of 165 members and Bucks managed to uphold the title (and the trophy) after partaking in a series of online activities against Roehampton. Nothing will ever compare to the blood, sweat and tears that are shed on the pitch, but it was heartwarming to know that the Bucks Spirit was strong, even during lockdown.

Despite the academic year coming to an unexpected halt, the Athletic Union still has a range of achievements worth recognising. Bucks FC's 1st team had an outstanding year, winning both the Cup and the League. Our Women's Basketball team came second in their league and remain the highest-ranking team. Individual sport also had a fantastic season, with four of our students competing at the BUCS Nationals, where fencer Sophia Potter secured 3rd place in the Women's Sabre category.

With this event, my time at Bucks has officially come to an end and it has been a pleasure to have concluded my journey as your VPSI. I am truly grateful for all the support you have shown this year and I can honestly say that I will be carrying some unforgettable memories with me for life. I am extremely proud of all of your achievements and am especially excited to see all the successes that Tom will bring in his time in office.

Congratulations and best of luck to all of our shortlisted nominees! You are all deserving winners and should be proud of yourselves, because we most certainly are.



Running Order



Welcome from Christina Demetriou

AU Video

Christina Demetriou's address

RAG Contributor of the Year

Most Improved Player of the Year

Fresher of the Year

Coach of the Year

Team of the Year

Players' Player

Captain of the Year

Committee Member of the Year

Club of the Year

Sportswoman of the Year

Sportsman of the Year

Outstanding Contribution to Sport

Thank you and close

Rag Contributor of the Year

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The RAG Contributor of the Year is an award to recognise the club/individual who has gone above and beyond and has involved all their members in fundraising for our two RAG charities.

Raise and Give (RAG) is the area of the Union that raises money for charity. Each year we focus on two local charities which our members pick.

RAG cannot succeed without the commitment of its volunteers and a team of students is needed every year to manage our fundraising events.

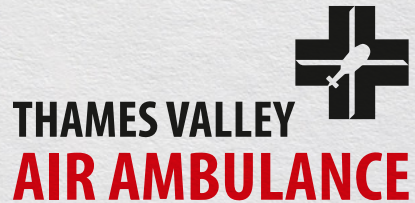


HACS are the leading Charity in Hillingdon providing autism support to autistic people, families and professionals. We help autistic people, whether they are 5 or 85, to discover their hidden skills and talents, be an active member of their community and give life a purpose.

Nominees:

BNU Dance

Netball



Thames Valley Air Ambulance are a charity providing emergency medical services by air and land to patients within the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

Rugby

Bucks FC

Most Improved Player of the Year

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An award to celebrate an individual's notable improvement throughout the year, attendance and attitude for all training and matches will be taken into account. Going the extra mile outside of compulsory training to improve themselves as much as possible.

Keenan Lamb - Rugby

Keenan has dedicated himself to improving as a rugby player this season and it has shown in how he represents himself within the club. He has improved his fitness, losing a remarkable 7kg and attended most training sessions despite being injured, which is a credit to his commitment. Not only has he improved physically, he has developed well technically as a prop in his ball carrying and in contact. He became a leader and senior member of the squad during the year which is a credit to his attitude and his application.

Kyra Harding - Netball

Kyra has come a long way during her first year at university and has really blossomed with confidence and has come so far as a person since playing for netball 2nds. She has improved on all aspects of her game through training and extra activities which are available to become a huge asset to the team. Kyra makes a substantial difference when she is on the court and has become one of those players that raises everyone's level of performance. The level of dedication shown by Kyra is something which everyone can aspire to.

Charlie Batterbee - Badminton

Charlie has developed as an individual for Badminton showing tremendous progress on her development throughout the year. Starting off as a casual player attending Sport for Fun sessions during the last couple of years, Charlie has worked hard to improve her game to become a regular competitor in the game day squad this year. Has stepped up her involvement this year and is one of the most committed players, but is always on hand to help others at training.

Sasha Bonewell - BNU Dance

Sasha has had an incredible journey in her 3 years at Bucks, starting off with not being on any teams in first year to being on numerous teams in her third year. She has worked tirelessly to improve as a dancer and was part of the successful Latin, Advanced Tap, Novice Contemporary, Ballet and Advanced Jazz teams during the last two years and choreographing the Advanced Contemporary routine this year. Sasha became an important member of BNU Dance and was a part of the committee this year as Treasurer.

Fresher of the Year



Recognition of outstanding achievement or performance by a Fresher in their first year at university.

Charlie Hickey - Bucks FC

Charlie has been an exceptional addition to Bucks FC and has established himself as a key member of the club. Having started off in the 2nd team it wasn't long before his skill was noticed and he moved into the 1's. Despite being injured, he was still front and centre to support all teams from the side-lines, whilst off the pitch, Charlie showed dedication to getting involved in any volunteering opportunities and participating in RAG events.

Amy Lawrence - BNU Swans

Amy has been a very dedicated member of BNU Swans in her first year being part of main cheer, jazz and pom. She gets her head down and cracks on with whatever is thrown her way, such as being asked to step into flying stunts at the last minute, or being moved into various positions for main cheer. Her commitment to attend numerous training sessions per week and also getting involved in extra activities has contributed massively to cheer's success.

Jethro Odumosu - Bucks FC

Jethro has been an integral part of the success of Bucks FC 1's. He has had an incredible first year at university, helping the team win both the league and cup, contributing to the team by being one of the top goal scorers. A player the team would be lost without, he has settled into the university very well and is well liked amongst the rest of the club.

Sophia Potter - Fencing and Women's Hockey

Sophia was the only student to win BUCS points this year, which she did in the Sabre category at the Nationals by placing third. The following month Sophia attended the European Championships and was in preparation for the Junior Worlds before it was cancelled due to Covid - 19. An incredible athlete, who despite spending numerous hours training in fencing was a regular for the women's hockey team.

Coach of the Year



Awarding recognition to a coach who has made an outstanding contribution to the team both on and off the field.

Russel Hunter - Rugby

Russel has been a new addition to the Rugby squad this year, having only joined them in term 2. However, he has taken to the role like a duck to water and bonded extremely quickly with the club gaining both the respect and trust of the team straight away. Russel has shown dedication to the team by travelling to home games as well as attending all training sessions, this has allowed the team to gel and develop each week.

Louise Exton - Netball

Joining the Netball club early on in first term Louise was able to cultivate excellent relationships with both team captains, this led to effective and well thought out training sessions for the teams. The reputation of the excellent training sessions provided by Louise was followed quickly by an influx of new netball players, leading to the creation of a recreational third team which is a testament to the hard work put in by Louise.

Prev Phillips - Badminton

Prev joined the badminton club in the second term and rejuvenated the team, taking the strain off the captains, he was able to focus solely on developing the players technique and analyse the faults in their game. Prev has been an excellent addition to the Badminton club and has provided them focus during the remainder of the season. The players have had nothing but praise for Prev and we look forward to seeing what he can achieve with a whole season.

Jess Henry - Cheer

Our longest running coach on the shortlist, Jess has coached the Cheer club for the entire season and cultivated excellent relationships throughout the club. A highly liked coach, not only has Jess provided excellently planned sessions and video analysis when she could not attend training, but she has carried all of this out during her third trimester of pregnancy, illustrating amazing dedication to the role.

Team of the Year



This award recognises the most successful team of the year in their field of play and league achievements.

Bucks FC 1st

Bucks FC 1st team have had an incredible year, since losing their game on the opening day of the season they have gone on to be undefeated winning all their games but one, which was a draw. This string of wins has meant that they claimed both the league and cup double this season, winning the cup final at Surrey Sports Park in front of many travelling fans. They are the only team to have won anything this year.

Women's Volleyball

The Women's Volleyball team are in Tier 2 for the South East region. Therefore, they are playing at a very high standard, so to say they went on a seven game win streak at the start of the season is extremely impressive. They were narrowly beaten in the cup by a side a division above them, and have only lost 2 games which was to the undefeated champions of the league Brunel. Finishing second in the league this year comfortably above the rest.

Women's Basketball

It was another impressive year for our highest ranked team in BUCS competitions, the Women's Basketball team finished the season in second place in the Women's South Eastern Tier 1 league. Considering their injuries, this was a tough year so to finish second is a testament to their skills and passion. As well as playing they helped the boys team most weeks by helping to organise their kit and officiate. I know next year the team will be looking to clinch victory and take a big step towards the Premier tier.

Novice Ballet

Still a relatively new team within Dance the novice ballet team have faced a fair few injury challenges throughout the year, however, this has not stopped them from placing first in all three competitions they have competed in this year. The team that was choreographed by Claire Barrett was the only team in the dance club to come first in all of their entries this year, which is outstanding.

Captain of the Year



This award is for the captain who has performed their duties at an exceptional level all year, showing dedication and a commitment to their team.

Joe Hampton - Bucks FC 1st

Joe has captained our Men's football 1st team to both league and cup glory, since taking over as captain at the beginning of the season the 1st team have gone unbeaten. He has shown his dedication both on and off the pitch through great results and being committed to driving to and from training and games throughout the season.

Jack Harding - Rugby

The men's rugby team has been faced with its fair share of adversity this season through injuries, however, this never dampened Jack's enthusiasm or dedication to the team. He was always first to training and last to leave, making sure all of the team were working. Jack has been an excellent leader this year and always gave his all for the team.

Jade Mather - Netball

Described as an incredible captain by her peers, one who turns up every week with the correct attitude and is always there to engage with and motivate the team. Her organisation and communicative prowess have meant that the Netball second team have become a well drilled and organised team throughout the season.

Jordan Penning - Badminton

For part of the season Jordan has played both the role of captain and coach, when not playing he was watching and encouraging his team mates as well as making notes on which areas of their performance needed improvement.. He has always been dedicated and this has been epitomised by the intake in badminton this year, from beginning the year with no other teammates to ending it with reserve players.

Committee Member of the Year

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The committee member who has gone above and beyond their duties to the club - impacting and developing their club over the year.

Danny Pearson - Rugby

Danny has played a massive part in the resurgence of the rugby club this year. In the first term they were all at sea, however Danny has ensured that they got back on track in order to complete accreditation. Despite only being Fundraiser for the club, he encouraged everyone from the club to get involved in all aspects of the Students' Union stepping up to take a leading role in the committee. His work is not limited to off the pitch, on the pitch he has shown great leadership in the team helping the forwards out and maintaining a great attitude amongst the group

Millie Richmond - BNU Dance

Millie is the perfect example of going above and beyond her responsibilities as a committee member. She has not only had to carry out her own responsibilities, she was an excellent chair, showing great leadership to assist others in their roles. Her outstanding dedication and hard work was especially clear leading up to and during the day of Bucks Comp, whilst also competing she ensured she was there to resolve any issues which may have occurred. Millie has not only shown commitment to Dance, she has supported other clubs by driving teams to fixtures.

Bea Barefield - Netball

Being a secretary involves having very good organisational skills and Bea is someone who no doubt displays these qualities. She has been a key member in the success of Netball this year making sure that all paperwork was completed and played a major part in the success of their RAG fundraising throughout the year. Bea is a very committed individual and is always at training ensuring that everyone is enjoying themselves. Bea will take on the role of chair of Bucks Netball next year and will undeniably do a great job to continue the success of Netball.

Tom Featherstone - Rugby

Tom, alongside Danny got the Rugby club back on track during the year. During the second term, Tom stepped up to help Bucks Men's Rugby gain outstanding in the club accreditation scheme. He has got involved with a multitude of activities during his time at Bucks and this year filmed the annual varsity hype video. As a committee member, one of his big successes was organising a tuck shop, held on numerous nights in the Students' Union, whilst he was also a regular participant in Movember.

Club of the Year

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An award to recognise an entire club based on their overall success, achievements and conduct throughout the year.



BNU Dance

The dance club have been involved with a great deal of our RAG and volunteering events this year, as well as organising their annual Dance Comp which saw eight other Universities compete in, raising £1,700 for RAG. They have also had an extremely successful season in terms of trophies, collecting 22 across multiple competitions. One of the bigger clubs within the AU, Dance have been very well organised and a pleasure to work with.

Rugby

Rugby is a Club that had a bit of a rough start this year but has grown through the challenges and proven that there is a lot more to a Club than being perfect from start to finish. Low recruitment numbers did not put a stop to them creating a welcoming social environment for everyone, as proven by their social turnouts. The club were one of the more enthusiastic and dedicated in getting involved with volunteering opportunities, even creating their own, their cross - club/society interaction was second to none.

Netball

Netball's commitment to being more than just a club that plays their sport every Wednesday afternoon is commendable, driven by the dedication of their committee to cultivate a friendly and well bonded squad, they have partaken in a vast array of RAG events. As well as organising three of their own; a raffle, a takeover and their own tournament. The cohesion of the club is evident through the numbers of players seen each week at training, they have had some much success in that field that they have created a third team this year.

BNU Swans

Cheer have worked incredibly hard throughout this year, one of very few clubs this year to become fully accredited prior to Covid-19. They have been involved with many RAG events across the year, as well as competing in competitions throughout the year that they were extremely successful in. A club always quick to praise and highlight their members successes, this has been a valuable tool in recruitment and retention.

Sportswoman of the Year



Honouring the year's best female whose performance most embodies the spirit of sportsmanship and achievement. We recognise individuals whose dedication and commitment to their club/sport has been exceptional.

Sophia Potter - Fencing and Women's Hockey

Sophia came to university as an established fencer but despite only being able to compete once this year for Bucks, she made the most of it. At the BUCS Nationals, Sophia competed in the Women's Sabre category eventually coming away with a bronze medal, finishing third overall. This is an incredible accomplishment for one of our students. When not competing in Fencing, she was a regular for the women's hockey team throughout the year.

Mafalda Simoes - Women's Volleyball

Mafalda is a fantastic leader of the women's volleyball team, who after being promoted last year, only just missed out on promotion again this year. They went on a 7 game winning streak at the beginning of the year and the only games they lost were to eventual league winners Brunel. Her leadership, skills and ability on the court was an integral part of the team's success.

Nikkita Miller - Taekwondo

Nikkita is an incredible athlete and has had a very successful year in Taekwondo. Away from Bucks she has competed in a number of tournaments, winning a total of 5 medals including Gold at the British championships and 2 silvers at the International championships. She wanted to share her love of Taekwondo with Bucks so set up a society for others to give it a go. Nikkita also showed a willingness to help out any sport, competing for Netball, Hockey and Volleyball throughout the year.

Georgia Miller - Netball

Georgia has a real passion and desire to win and is someone who plays with her heart and soul. Her leadership and motivation towards the team pushes them to play the best they can, a sign of a great captain. This resulted in Netball 1's winning for the first time in a number of years, Georgia's very first win as a Bucks Netball player. Despite being injured for much of the year, Georgia is a team player and has been at every game motivating the team.

Sportsman of the Year

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Honouring the year's best male whose performance most embodies the spirit of sportsmanship and achievement. We recognise individuals whose dedication and commitment to their club/sport has been exceptional.



James Baxter - Swimming

James has represented Bucks in Swimming for the past two years. This year, he competed at BUCS nationals finishing in an impressive 10th in the 100m Butterfly and 6th in the 200m Butterfly, a brilliant achievement. In addition, despite having limited time due to external training, James stepped forward as Chair of the club ensuring all things required of them were completed. Always happy to help when asked James is the only reason the club still exists.

Mackenzie Hoey - Bucks FC

Mackenzie this year has shown he is more than just a captain. He takes it upon himself to push harder in training and attend extra sessions to help increase his fitness and technique for match days. His attitude to the sport and club is exemplary and he has become a true leader and role model for many encouraging everyone despite the result. Off the pitch, he has involved himself in numerous Students' Union activities.

Nathan Edwards - Men's Hockey

Nathan is an integral part of Men's Hockey both off and on the pitch, being the stand out player in the team over all 3 years at Bucks. He is the glue that holds the defence together and yet inspires others to play better no matter where they are positioned. A committed member, he took to the role of chair this year with ease showing great leadership. He ensured that everyone within the club felt comfortable and encouraged many others to take up the sport.

Callum Mapley - Bucks FC

Callum's quality is easily recognisable on the pitch and is one of the stand out players in the 1st team. Despite playing semi-pro for Thame United he still finds the time to commit to training and Wednesday matches, always being one of the first names on the team sheet. He is a rock at centre back and is one of the main reasons Bucks FC 1's have had such a successful season. Chipping in with the odd goal, which shows what a spectacular player he is.

Outstanding Contribution to Sport



Recognition of a person or people who have gone above and beyond the call of duty over a prolonged period of time. It also measures how their actions and contributions have had a positive impact on sport at Bucks. This could be someone who has achieved ultimate success impacting on their club/sport or enhancing the University's sporting prowess.



Vic Mackenzie



Charlie Cotton

2019 Winners

Vic Mackenzie

Vic had an immediate impact on hockey helping them finish second in the league. In her second year she became chair and was crucial in getting the club accredited and winning the league. Vic also played rugby and proved to be dexterous at both. Playing both at Varsity during her 3 years and winning the first ever point for both in her second year. In her third year she took on committee roles in two societies whilst continuing as Chair of the club. Accruing over 521 volunteer hours and stepping into play for any other team when short, Vic is everything that a female athlete at Bucks should be - independent, supportive, passionate and proud to play for Bucks.

Charlie Cotton

Charlie was a committed player and helped the Rugby 1's secure third place in the league in his first year. Stepping up in his second year he helped navigate what was a tough season on and off the field. In his third year Charlie was Chair, Captain and occasionally the coach, and also became AU Chair and Varsity Captain. At the Union Awards he won the Student Leadership Award, and was a platinum volunteer. He went on to win Sportsman of the Year at the AU Dinner and led the club to Club of the year. As VPSI he helped when needed and in his last game captained the side to Victory against Roehampton, in a memorable game, that led us to winning Varsity.

Hall of Fame



In 2014, to mark the 25th Athletic Union Awards Dinner, Bucks New University's Hall of Fame was introduced.

The Hall of Fame is reserved for individuals who truly excel on the field. The system, that is built on the American model of 'retiring shirts', sees us frame the playing shirt of each recipient and hang it, along with a short biography, in the Gateway building.

This award is not necessarily handed out each year but is special recognition of someone who has contributed greatly to University sport and represented the University whilst competing at a high level.



Previous Hall of Fame inductees:

Dan Reilly - Rugby

Jack Bowen - Golf

Calvin Sherwood - Golf

Matt Gilbert - Rugby

Andrea Gomez - Basketball

Moving Forward Together



It is the very much anticipated AU Awards once again, despite being just over 2 months later than scheduled and in a completely different format, we have a great evening ahead. Looking back and celebrating the success of all our members both on the pitch and off.

Looking back on the 2019/20, this has been a year where clubs have excelled in creating a close knit and diverse community. From joint training sessions to collaborative take overs there has been something for everyone, whilst also raising thousands of pounds for our RAG charities in unique and different ways. Mentions to Netball for running and very successful raffle once again to dance's kissing booth. All successful in their own right.

Despite not being able to hold Varsity this year, there were many successes, Bucks FC 1st winning the league and cup, Novice Ballet coming 1st in all competitions and Bucks Men's Rugby beating Roehampton twice in the league. Alongside a win in the Virtual Varsity it has made to be a different but successful year.

As we enter into a new academic year, I would like to express how grateful and proud I am to be representing you as your new Vice President Student Involvement. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Christina Demetriou for her hard work and impact that she has made as current VPSI. I look forward to working with the Union and students alike to make the next year the biggest and best year we can have, filled with even more success and more chances to beat Roehampton.

Tom Featherstone

Vice President Student Involvement (Elect)



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