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### GUSA

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Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of our Sport & Recreation Alumni Network news review. This review aims to keep you up to date with the latest activities of Sport and Recreation including updates from our large range of events, facilities, sports clubs and the Sports Association (GUSA).

This year we have had a real focus on improving the physical and mental wellbeing of all students and staff across the University and this has been reflected by the efforts of all involved with Sport and Recreation in highlighting what we have to offer to everyone on campus.

With over 11,000 student members and among the highest satisfaction ratings in the UK we know we offer a service which really benefits the experience that students have at Glasgow and that’s definitely something to be proud of.

In this issue you will see the latest Alumni news and events and read about the progress in our four key programme areas of health and fitness, club sport, recreational sport and talented athlete support.

We really hope you enjoy catching up on all of the news and developments at Sport and Recreation and we thank you for your continued support of our Alumni Network.

Julie Ommer Director, Sport and Recreation Service

Leo Howes President, GUSA
Latest News
City of Glasgow Cup 2011

On a fantastic day for all those involved with sport, Glasgow University shrugged off competition from Glasgow Caledonian University and Strathclyde University to win the Brewin Dolphin City of Glasgow Cup at Scotstoun Leisure Centre. The competition was remarkably close with the margin of victory between Glasgow and second place Strathclyde a mere single point.

On a day that was fuelled by an absurdly high amount of free energy drinks provided by the cup’s partner Red Bull, the day had a great, enthusiastic atmosphere with eleven sports taking place, most of them at Scotstoun. The desire to win by all the teams involved was matched by the good nature of the event. The relatively “warm” weather, which reached a balmy eighty degrees at some stages, was a more than welcome addition to the day’s proceedings, especially compared to the previous day’s sleet, rain and snow.

Regardless of what the weather was like outside, there was no stopping Glasgow on the basketball court. The Men’s Basketball Team continued their excellent season, winning both matches by emphatic margins. Further successes indoor came from the Women’s Volleyball Team and the Badminton Club. It was a particularly successful day for GUFC’s male and female teams, both coming out on top in their tournaments. One of the day’s biggest successes belongs to the Tennis Club, hammering both universities 6-0.

The Women’s Hockey Team triumphed in an evenly matched group, winning both of their matches 1-0. Sarah Scholes, the captain of the Women’s Hockey Team first eleven, was proud of the performance of her team, with goals by Jill Symmington and Nicki Skratsin in the matches and solid defensive play from Nic Lowery, Alex Mercer and Ali Sinclair. Scholes, in her final year with the team, was happy Glasgow won the hockey trophy. “With it being my last ever Glasgow Cup, it was an absolute pleasure to lift the winning trophy on behalf of the squad as captain in my last year!”

President of GUSA, Leo Howes, was obviously delighted with the day’s events saying “I think that this year’s City of Glasgow Cup was bigger and better than ever before and it was great to see Glasgow win the cup for the first time in four years”. The success of Glasgow’s teams this year, Howes claims, is due to their professional approach towards the tournament and throughout the season, which he feels “is a credit to the University and really made the difference in winning the competition”. The success of the tournament overall this year provides hope that the City of Glasgow Cup can be bigger and better in 2012.

Slovakia Win World Cup!

We decided to run an end of year football tournament in June 2010 and make it a World Cup themed event for all our regular users. This full day 7-side competition saw 32 teams play through the standard World Cup format with Slovakia being crowned the eventual winners and took home the trophy.

Our staff worked tirelessly to make the event a great success and everyone who took part had a great day of fun and football. The event was so successful that we have decided to make it an annual event and ran a similarly successful 7-side Champions League competition on Saturday 04 June 2011.

KPMG Sponsorship

We were approached by KPMG who were interested in sponsoring sport at the University of Glasgow for 2010/2011. Following much discussion, proposals and presentation we managed to secure:

- £1000 sponsorship for recreational sport at the University
- £500 sponsorship for Glasgow University Tennis Club
- £1000 sponsorship for Glasgow University Ski and Snowboard Club
- £1250 sponsorship for Glasgow University Hares & Hounds Club
- £1250 sponsorship for Glasgow University Football Club

Following on from the success of this sponsorship we are looking to develop this relationship further for next year.
The Fitness Scotland Outreach Centre once again proved to be very successful. There was an extremely high number of applicants for the level 2 Gym Instructor Course and with only 10 spaces on offer the candidates had to really impress the selection panel with their CV & covering letter submission. To date 5 students have completed their practical exam and are now qualified Gym Instructors with the other 5 sitting their practical exam shortly. Gaining the level 2 Gym instructor qualification has proved vital for those students looking for careers in the sport and fitness industry and is something we hope to continue with in the future.

Sport & Recreation maintained a varied timetable for all ages and abilities and have seen a massive increase in the overall attendance across all classes, with many at full capacity. To meet the high demand, an additional Super Circuits class was added to the timetable and to accommodate the current fitness class of the moment, a number of “Zumba” (a latin inspired dance) classes were added to the timetable with immediate success and 170 people at one session alone!

Our timetable is under constant review and we look forward to delivering a diverse range of classes, suitable to all our members in the coming year.
Athlete Profile: Pamela Pretswell

Course of Study: Business and Management

Sporting achievements: British Ladies Amateur Open Strokeplay Champion 2010, Member of 2010 GB&I Curtis Cup Team, Swiss Ladies Amateur Open Champion 2008, Member of GB&I Vagliano Team 2009, Ranked 5th in European Ladies Amateur Rankings 2010, Member of winning Scotland Team at Home Internationals 2010, Bronze Medal with Scotland Team at European Team Championship, 4th at European Individuals 2009; 6th 2010

Favourite sporting moment: Birding the 18th to win my match and win the final point needed for Scotland to beat Ireland 5-4 and win the Ladies Home Internationals for the first time in 19 years.

Sporting hero: David Beckham

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World Champion Dentist

Joanne Eccles is not your average student attending lectures working hard and passing exams. She is the world champion in equestrian vaulting. So what’s equestrian vaulting I hear you ask? In short, it’s gymnastics on a horse and with Joanne’s amazing ability in the sport, sees her regularly compete for top honours in Europe. This year however, she went all the way winning the 2010 World Championships in Kentucky, USA. Equestrian vaulting requires all of the physical attributes gymnasts must have with the added ability to do it all whilst on horseback. It’s a truly phenomenal achievement and to see more of the performance itself click on the following link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAGlcXzt78s

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Glasgow: Student Sport City

The University of Glasgow, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow Caledonian University and Glasgow Life have come together in an exciting new initiative to highlight the depth of sporting talent and provision available in Glasgow. The universities and Glasgow Life currently allow talented athletes to access sports facilities across the city and it is hoped that further partnerships can be established in the run up to the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. Sport & Recreation’s Head of Service Development, Euan Smith, is the lead for the project and commented, “Glasgow is already a vibrant education and sporting hub with some truly world class research and sporting successes. We hope that the launch of the Glasgow: Student Sport City project will further enhance Glasgow’s international reputation and attract even more talented sporting and academic students to this exciting city”.

A dedicated website has recently been launched and can be seen at www.glasgowstudentsportcity.co.uk

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Commonwealth Games 2010

A number of current and past students took part in the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games. Hockey, badminton and 7-a-side rugby were just some of the sports with University of Glasgow representation, some of whom are currently training as full-time athletes in the hope they gain selection into the GB squad for the London 2012 Olympic Games. We wish them the very best of luck.
Recreational Sport
Superteams

2011 also saw the inaugural Superteams event take place. This was an event aimed at mixed teams to challenge speed, strength, endurance and skill through a range of indoor activities. All feedback received was excellent and we are already planning for 2012!

New Courses

As always, the courses run at Sport & Recreation were diverse in their nature, with the clearest example being the introduction of Eezee Trapeze. The circus based activities suitable for all physical abilities were well attended and future courses are planned for those looking to get involved.

On request from our members, we organised a 6 week beginner golf course at the World of Golf centre. The Crazy Fore Golf courses are led by PGA instructors, include free ball use and even a 7 iron to take away so you can practice in your own time as well as during organised sessions. The feedback was positive and already other courses have been organised with more planned in the future. Deals on 2 for 1 ball hire at the driving range and discounted rates for use of Trackman technology for more experienced golfers have also been secured for our members.

Run for Fun 2011

The annual Sport & Recreation charity event Run for Fun was a major success again this year. The popularity of this event has grown tremendously since its launch in 2007, were we had 50 participants and raised £500, to 2011 having almost 250 participants and raising thousands for The Beatson People Appeal and Japan Appeal. Following on from previous success, our expectations are that 2012 will continue to grow in numbers and raise even more money for charity.

Football Leagues

Whilst many see competition against other universities as the competitive focus of the week, don’t mention this to our teams competing in the weekly football leagues within the University. More time tends to be spent thinking of original team names than it does on the training pitch, but this is exactly the attraction to hundreds of players every week. Semester 1 and 2 had more than 80 teams involved, all hoping to be crowned champions of their respective leagues. More of the same is expected in the coming year.
American Football

The Tigers continued to perform impressively in the BUAFL (British University American Football League). The team recorded 7 regular season wins, including 3 shutouts against the Northumbria Mustangs and the UWS Pyros twice. The Tigers managed to secure the border conference championship with a come from behind victory over the Newcastle Raiders in Newcastle. The Tigers then defeated the Lancaster Bombers in their first round playoff game, before being knocked out by Hallam in the British quarter finals.

Many players gave impressive individual displays throughout the year. Quarterback Gregor Beattie threw for over 20 touchdowns and won the team’s Most Valuable Player award. Running back Lewis King continued to prove himself a vital part of the Tiger’s offence, breaking the Tiger’s single game rushing record, he was also impressively complimented by rookie running back Winston Ojei. The receiving corps impressed with Dave Mann having a particularly impressive season. The Offensive Line continued to be a dominant force with two rookies Jesse Kinnunen and Ali Ritchie adding to an already formidable unit. The Defense had another strong year with great performances by Middle Linebacker Rob Gilmore, Cornerback Patrick Murphy and Defensive Tackle Thierry Vidal.

Aikido

This year has been a mixed year for the Aikido club but club membership has remained strong with a large influx of new members who have all come willing to take part and have fun. Unfortunately, the end of this session sees most of our advanced students graduate, but times change and the club will also inevitably change, as sad as this loss is, it does mean that this coming session will be the perfect time for new members to come and take part while everyone else is at a similar level of training.

Men’s Basketball

This season has been an incredible one for the Men’s Basketball club. Last year was a spectacular year both on the court and off the court for all of our members. Our 1st team were Scottish Universities champions winning the league without losing a single game. This meant a trip to Newcastle to play Northumbria in the BUCS Knockouts which was a fierce game where we were just edged out in the 4th quarter.

Winning the Scottish Universities league meant that the 1st team made it into the play-offs for the British Premier league against Newcastle and Birmingham. Newcastle were treated to a fine show of Glasgow University basketball at the Kelvin Hall but Birmingham beat us by 13 points. Luckily, Newcastle then did us a favour and beat Birmingham meaning that our 1st team gained promotion to the Premier League! Our 2nd team has also had an excellent year in the BUCS league, winning 6 games and losing 2 on the way to winning the league and gaining the long awaited promotion! The club entered the Scottish National League for the first time this year- the highest amateur league in the Scotland. We put on a very impressive show and ended up finishing 4th in the league which gives us a great base to build on. After last year’s outstanding win in the Strathclyde League (SLBA – local league), the club decided to move the 2nd team up into the league to give them some more competition. We put up a strong fight but ended up finishing 3rd despite some great games.

The club also entered teams into a number of cups both locally and nationally. We made it to the quarters in the local Anderson Cup, the semi-finals of the national Senior Cup beating the current holders on the way, and also had a good run in the Chairman’s Cup. Off the court, the club was very proud to be awarded the William Ross Cunningham Memorial Trophy for the way the club has developed and progressed over the past season. The club has big plans for the upcoming season, with the addition of a 3rd team and a Chancellor’s Fund sponsored trip to Canada to face international opposition! It’s going to be another action packed season.”
On the competitive front we have had an extremely fruitful year with Colin McMorrin collecting a GUSA Blue for excelling in sprint and marathon paddling and Catriona Dykes collecting a half Blue for competing in canoe polo at a national level. In addition to this we’ve teams competing in Divisions two and three of the Scottish canoe polo league. In February, Glasgow University hosted the Scottish Universities Sports canoe polo championships, which saw over 25 teams from 10 universities descend upon Glasgow for a weekend of polo. Two polo teams from the club recently travelled to BUCS, a competitive tournament featuring teams from all over the UK. Aside from polo we’ve also competed in other competitions throughout the UK, namely BUCS whitewater racing, BUCS slalom and NSR - the national freestyle competition.

The club holds weekly pool sessions, where members work on their river skills both individually and in structured coaching sessions and members take part in training for canoe polo. We have also organised and taken part in various first aid and river safety courses.

**Cheerleading**

This past year has been one of the most successful for the Glasgow University Cheerleading Club. Membership has increased again this year and this meant we could enter two full competitive teams into the UK University Cheerleading Championships in Loughborough in February. Our dance team placed first in the Cheer Pom Dance category for the third year in a row, with our intermediate level 3 all girl cheer squad placing second in a very competitive category and our level 2 all girl squad placing fourth. Our competition success continued in April at the Edinburgh Cheerleading Nationals where we placed first in Senior Open Pom Dance, Senior Open Cheer Level 2 and Senior Open Group Stunt Level 5.

Socially we also had a great year with organised socials taking place once every two to three weeks. We also had several successful nights out with the Boxing club which next years’ committee hope to continue holding next season. Fundraising really took off this year and we managed to raise a substantial amount to help fund new kits through sponsorship from Viper and Ernst and Young, as well as a fundraising night at Viper.

**Canoe**

Last summer, members of Glasgow University Canoe Club spent two weeks in France paddling alpine white water. Following our return we began the academic year with a session at Bardowie Loch, giving newcomers to the university a chance to experience a little of what the club has to offer. This was followed up by several river trips to introduce our new members to white-water kayaking, including a weekend-long trip to Grantown-on-Spey. A trip to Machrihanish in November saw us surf kayaking on the sea and provided a memorable social weekend. In January, the more experienced paddlers in the club spent a weekend kayaking on the challenging white water rivers around Fort William, and this was followed by second weekend in Fort William in March for a weekend of paddling aimed at the intermediate members of the club, this was a first for the club. It was highly successful and is now set to be repeated annually. Throughout the year, day trips have been organised to rivers of varying difficulty around Scotland, allowing all our members to regularly paddle Britain’s best white-water.

We will end the year with a weekend trip to Glen

**Boxing**

The Glasgow University Amateur Boxing Club has had one of the most successful years to date. The club has increased memberships with a substantial number of new members joining and the number of female members in the club is at an all time high. Our recreational training has remained great and we have also had an increase in the number of members sparring and training to compete.

The GUABC held an exhibition which gave the opportunity for members to spar in a ring with a crowd watching, giving an experience of what it is like to compete. This year is also the first time in the 50 years the GUABC has been established that the club has had its own ring; this will make a big difference in training members looking to fight in the near future. The GUABC has also had a huge success outside the ring with Matthew Perkins being awarded colours, in recognition of his commitment towards the club and boxing at the University of Glasgow.

The club now has a new website designed by Sarah-Ann Lee, which has a gallery containing photos from training, fights and social nights out which have been a huge success as we joined forces with the cheerleaders for some socials. In the ring, the club had three members competing, Chris Millar, Mike Love and Nicolette Pearse, who all did a great job representing the GUABC in the fighters corners.
**Fencing**

The Fencing Club has just celebrated one of, if not the, most successful seasons in the club’s history. The club prides itself on the training offered to newcomers to the sport and their progressions becoming successful competitors. Our current teams are made up of about 80% of these grassroots fencers who have achieved phenomenal results pitted against more experienced teams.

Our Ladies Team, this year, narrowly missed out on a place in the BUCS Championship coming second to Aberdeen in the BUCS qualifiers by 6 hits, which in a match to 135 is nothing. Undeterred, the girls went into the Trophy as top seeds, managing to fight their way through four knock-out stages to reach the BUCS Trophy Final in Sheffield against Cardiff. Cardiff with a strong team fielded a couple of relatively experienced fencers in addition to their three fencers who had competed in the Commonwealth Fencing Championships this season. Considering this, our team of one Commonwealth athlete and three fencers who had all started in the sport just eighteen months prior, did extremely well to win two of the three weapons losing only 129-116 due to an early deficit from the epee match earning a well-deserved Silver medal. The end of this BUCS season means that our Ladies Sabre team has remained unbeaten for two consecutive seasons.

The Men’s team came second in the BUCS qualifiers – again, by a very small margin – which was enough to earn them a place in the BUCS Championship. Glasgow has not competed in this league in the recent history of the club, so although no medals were won. It is a testament to the growing success of the club. Once again, we performed well at the SUS Beginners Event: Laura Anderson - Gold in the Ladies Foil and Bronze in the Ladies Sabre, James Poole-Cowely – Silver in the Mens Foil and Bronze in the Mens Epee and new-comers Ellen Docherty – Bronze in the Ladies Epee and David Cochran-Yu – Bronze in the Mens Sabre.

At the other end of the competitive scale we had three students qualify for the Scotland teams in the Student Five Nations Championships in Dublin at the end of last season, one of whom (Louise Creechan) as Ladies Captain. This season we’ve surpassed ourselves and four students have been selected for the coming Championships in Glasgow, during which Louise will be continuing in her role as Scottish Student Fencing Ladies Captain. At the GUSA ball awards ceremony, the Glasgow University Fencing club was delighted to have two Half-Blues and a full Blue awarded to what was their undefeated Ladies Sabre Team for the previous season.

Laura Anderson and Siobhan Ramos received Half Blues for their selection for the Student Five Nations team. Louise Creechan received Full Blues for her successes as captain of the Scotland Student Ladies Sabre team, the Scotland Senior Five Nations Ladies Sabre team and the Scotland Commonwealth Ladies Sabre team. In addition to her Blues, she was also awarded the Justin Langham Memorial Trophy for Most Outstanding First Year Student. The Glasgow University Ladies Sabre Team was awarded the Millennium Trophy for Best Team. The season 2010/11 yielded some impressive results from all levels of the club, here’s to an even more successful 2011/12!

**Women’s Football**

Starting this season having lost a number of key players, it was essential that we had a successful intake of players this year. The Fresher’s Fair and Taster Session, provided GUWFC with a high number of talented and dedicated new recruits, which combined with the return of a number of key players from study abroad to give everyone involved in the club high hopes for the coming season. Training during the early part of the season was focused on developing fitness which set the whole club up with the best possible start for our entries in both the league and cup competition.

The beginning of our fixtures was slightly disjointed, with a number of disruptions caused by the weather and opposition teams pulling out of fixtures. Nevertheless, it was very clear from the outset that we had an extremely strong squad and winning some silverware over the course of the season was the major priority. The social side of GUWFC has always been a strong point of the club and this was very much continued this year. Members regularly participated in Wednesday night events as well as organising a number of club days out. Following the winter break we were unlucky in a number of our league fixtures which meant that the league title was no longer a realistic aim this season, and so our attentions became focused on winning the conference cup competition. Beating Queen Margaret University a convincing 12-0 in the quarter-finals, we travelled to Dundee to face league-leaders Abertay in the semi-finals. GUWFC performed brilliantly in the semi-finals, putting the experience of the previous meeting to good use and beating Abertay in a very tough game. Our opposition for the Conference Cup final was our Glasgow rivals Strathclyde University Women’s Football Club and we travelled to Dundee for the third time in the season to play the Glasgow Derby for the Conference Cup. In a nail-biting final which went to extra-time and penalties, GUWFC showed their skill, fitness and determination and deservedly won, beating Strathclyde 4-2 on penalties. We enter next season as Conference Cup champions, with the aim to keep hold of our title as well as adding another piece of silverware to the trophy cabinet and win the league title in 2011/2012.
Yet the 3rd XI have conducted themselves brilliantly this season. A shaky start in both leagues was stabilised when Gav McCowan took over the captaincy, which lead to a consolidation of their status in West Division 2. Despite finishing bottom of their BUCS group, they by no means embarrassed themselves and were unlucky not to pick up victories on their trips to Strathclyde and Aberdeen. Overall, taking the circumstances into consideration, it has been a decent season for the 3rd XI.

Indoor
Having experienced relegation last season, the Indoor team bounced back incredibly under new captain Neil Morton Lloyd. Glasgow University were crowned champions of National League 5, winning eight of their nine matches and scoring a staggering 77 goals. The team performed outstandingly over the winter months and have earned the right to prove themselves in a higher league next winter.

1st XI
Captained by Craig Sinclair, the 1st XI have had a successful season, being crowned National 3 Champions. They sealed their promotion to National 2 (their first time back since 2008) with an emphatic 8-1 victory over Stirling University in front of a healthy crowd at a rain-soaked Garscube. The performance that day embodied a season of attacking hockey (Glasgow scored 109 goals in just twenty-two matches, Ryan Bell and Rory McCann scoring an astonishing 65 goals between them) which has seen them deservedly crowned champions. This achievement is all the more remarkable when you consider that the club was harshly docked a point due to failing to provide an umpire for a National League fixture. All in all, a great campaign.

In BUCS, the 1st XI consolidated their position in Division 1A. Having gained promotion the season previously, a mid-table finish in Scotland’s top university division is more than respectable. Next season is an exciting time, with National 2 hockey and the chance to aim for the top of BUCS likely.

2nd XI
The statistics of the 2010-11 season, when looked back on, will not reflect kindly on the second team. Just the one win in the Saturday league at home to Watsonians has seen them relegated from Central 1 to Central 2. Yet the statistics alone do not tell the whole story. Having only finished 4th in Central 2 in the 2009-10, promotion to Central 1 was a giant step for the team. Central 1, which includes some of the best 2nd XIs in the country such as Kelburne and Western, was ultimately too strong a league. A number of positives however will be taken from the campaign; as a squad, the team is probably the strongest it has been for years. Had they had some more luck, wins over Edinburgh University, Carnegie and Grange which captain Murray MacOwan thought were deserved, could have been achieved. The higher competition of Central 1 reflected in stronger performances in their BUCS Division 3A, where a five-match winning run had put them into contention for promotion, but ultimately it proved not to be. Under Stuart Law next season, the team can only improve and look to build on the positives of the past season.

3rd XI
It was a tough season too for the 3rd XI on many accounts. Firstly, it was their first season playing against other universities in the BUCS League and also their first playing in West Division 2, a difficult district league which they gained promotion to the season before. On top of all this, there was a change in captain too due to work commitments. A lot to deal with, I’m sure you will agree.
Women’s Hockey

This year the hockey club experienced a huge influx of fresher’s, with over 100 newcomers attending the taster session held in freshers week. The quality as well as the quantity of the players was impressive and 6 were taken straight into the 1st XI squad.

The 1st XI had a new coach this year, who brought structure and discipline to training, with the team finishing fifth in a very strong and competitive National Division 3. We came third in BUCS Scottish Conference 1A and got a bye into second round where we went down to Manchester and played Manchester University 1st XI, loosing narrowly 3-1.

The 2nd XI also had a successful season, coming third in the West District 3 and also managing to reach the quarter finals of the West District Cup. In BUCS League 3A the 2nd XI came joint first and narrowly missed out on winning the league to Queen Margaret 1st XI on goal difference.

The 3rd XI have had a fantastic season and are undoubtedly our most successful team in the club. We came third in West District 3 and were runners up in the West District Cup after a tense 2-2 draw against Gargunnock and losing 3-1 on penalty flicks. The 3rd XI also won the BUCS League 5A after being undefeated all season.

The 4th XI were newly developed last year and they had a strong squad of around 30 girls. The commitment and enthusiasm from the girls has been brilliant and they have played numerous friendly fixtures against various teams in Glasgow. The 4ths are looking to develop further next year with the aim of becoming part of a West District League at some point in the future.

The hockey club have also enjoyed a busy social calendar which this year included a fundraiser to Shanghi Shuffle where we raised £240. This extra money was split equally between the four teams. GUWHC have had a brilliant season with the increase in freshers and the influence from our new coaches; we have high hopes for even more success next season.

Hares and Hounds

The 2010-11 season was largely successful for the Hares and Hounds, in both University and non-University competitions. The Hares and Hounds began by winning the McAndrew Relays in early October 2010, and then went on to dominate both the men’s and women’s events at the Scottish Universities Road Relay Championships as part of the Allan Scally Memorial Relays later that month. November saw the Hares and Hounds take a depleted team to Stirling for the Scottish Universities Cross-Country Championships. Despite this, the men’s team finished 2nd overall, and the women 3rd, although Glasgow student Elspeth Curran won the women’s race by a huge margin.

The New Year saw the Hares and Hounds with a new captain, and a 25-strong team of students headed to Birmingham in early February for the BUCS Cross-Country Championships. The men’s A Team finished in a respectable 18th place overall, but the women’s team enjoyed the best result of the weekend, coming 8th. Elspeth Curran again led the charge, finishing 9th overall. Later in February, the Hares and Hounds fielded one of its strongest teams in recent years at the Scottish National Cross-Country Championships. Although the Hares and Hounds themselves had an un-remarkable performance, Glasgow student Derek Hawkins came first in the senior men’s race, 30 seconds ahead of the 2nd place finisher. Elspeth Curran again had a strong run, finishing 2nd for senior women in Scotland. Following his fantastic success, Derek Hawkins went on to represent Team GB in Spain at the World Cross-Country Championships. He finished 90th, and 9th in the Great British team.
Judo

Following from last year’s success, the judo club has continued to attract large training numbers and good results in competitions throughout the UK with a large intake of new members in September. This year saw the return of the Scottish Universities Judo League where Glasgow Men finished 2nd to Edinburgh and Glasgow Women finished 1st, leaving us with 2nd to Edinburgh overall. This year we have taken part in a number of competitions throughout the UK winning a bronze at the Granite City Championships, joining with Edinburgh University to take 7th place at the University of Sheffield International Student Teams and winning gold and three bronzes at the Ultimate Open in Edinburgh.

We have also had players representing the club at the Scottish Open and English Open, which are international competitions and ranking events for the British Squad with one of our players gaining a 7th place at the English Open. Although entering both women’s and men’s teams, specifically heavyweights, ended our attempt early, however two of our players; Jamel Tahar Aissa and Chris Barry joined the Scotland Regional Men’s team to take the gold, winning all their fights by maximum points. Glasgow University Judo Club has again proved that we can compete with full time players and we hope to improve on this success next year.

The Scottish Universities 10K Championships took place in Grangemouth at the end of March, and Glasgow again had a very strong presence, with many new members getting their first experience at a 10K event. Despite fielding a very weak men’s team due to illness and injury, Glasgow’s men finished 2nd overall, with the women’s team winning the Scottish Universities competition.

In April, the Hares and Hounds held their 90th Anniversary celebrations in the Dining Room of the Glasgow University Union. The event was attended by former and current members, and was a fantastic event. The highlights of the night included speeches from past Captains from the last four decades, and awards for 40 years of committed service to the club to Honorary President Des Gilmore. The Des Gilmore Cup was also inaugurated, for the best performing male and female athlete over a series of 5 races, starting in the 2011-12 session.

Four Glasgow students took part in the BUCCS London Marathon in mid-April. The most remarkable performances were by Mike Deason and Avril Mason, who finished 2nd and 3rd in the men’s and women’s BUCCS races.

The Hares and Hounds held their annual Training Weekend in Aviemore, in October 2010. Some members also went to Fuertaventura in January 2011 with the Glasgow University Athletics Club. The club was sponsored this year by KPMG and also O’Couture Glasgow, as well as getting free food from Common Rooms, Byres Road on a Thursday after training.

The Balloch to Clydebank Half Marathon took place in mid-march, which was organised by our Treasurer and Ordinary Member, Phil Arthur and Shabir Ravji. The event was a great success, and managed to secure a large amount of funds for organising it. The strong turnout of club members to marshal along the route also brought in revenue for the club, and showed the strength and commitment that is starting to grow within the team. The race was won comfortably by Glasgow’s Mike Deason.

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Men’s Lacrosse

The 2010/2011 season was a tough one for the men’s team, who finished 4th out of 5 in the Lacrosse Scotland league and no wins in the BUCS league. Despite few wins, the team has developed well with some strength in depth beginning to show and a six players being selected to play for the Scotland Senior and U22 teams in the British National Championships. The team played in some really hard fought games this year, we showed a strong determination to fight to the end in every game and regularly outscored the opposition in the final half only to finish on the wrong side of a tight score line. We will look to improve the midfield defence early on in games next season.

Games of note were: the trip away to Aderdeen, where we put on a strong fight despite only having a team of ten and with one of the ten getting injured within the first five minutes. Also, the last game of the season away against Stirling, where we dominated the game from start to finish to earn a valuable win. Looking ahead to next season the team look forward to a some strong recruitment in freshers week and to carry on from the positives made this year.

Kendo

Throughout the 2010/11 season the Glasgow University Kendo Club has worked to promote the sport of kendo through the key areas of equal opportunities, personal development and club excellence. To this end, we are pleased to announce success in all three of these areas. With regards to equal opportunities, our belief has always been that kendo is a sport suitable for all. With this in mind, the club has seen the addition of 12 new members throughout the year, including a member of staff. Concerning the personal development of these and existing members, there has been success in gradings sanctioned by the British Kendo Association. This has resulted in three passes at 1st Dan level, two at 1st Kyu, two at 2nd Kyu, and one 4th Kyu pass. As well as this, GUKC has seen new levels of success in club competition, particularly at the University Championships in London, where we achieved the Gold medal in the Team Event, with a team comprised of Kasper Yearwood, Sakiko Niwa, Kyle Brogan, Anthony Leung and Si Jie Heng. Also, Sakiko won Gold in the women’s event, and 2 bronzes were gained by Kasper and Kyle in the Men’s Dan event. This has also resulted in GUKC volunteering, and being accepted to host the 2012 University Championships. Previous to this, we had success in the Northern Open tournament, where GUKC team C won bronze, as well as in Mumeishi 3’s where Kasper and Sakiko won silver in the team event.

A final note: in promoting awareness of kendo as a whole, our club website www.glasgowunikendo.webs.com/ has garnered 83 members from around the world. GUKC would like to dedicate these achievements to our club coaches, who continue to lend us their time and expertise, as well as our advisory board, who provided invaluable guidance throughout the year.

Women’s Lacrosse Team

This year, the Glasgow women’s lacrosse team enjoyed another very successful season. As a growing program, the team enjoyed some fantastic new additions as well as the return of veteran players.

This year saw the women’s team making serious headway as one of the top competitors in the league. Under the outstanding leadership of captain Melissa Virtue and Sophie Lucy Richardson, the team really came together and worked tremendously hard to continue to push the University of Glasgow lacrosse program one step further. Players showed commitment, dedication, and efficiency. This allowed some of the new players to reach the skill level of the more seasoned players at an incredible speed. With already three players playing for Scotland Lacrosse, the team is hoping to continue to grow and work on player and team development so that we can have an even greater Glasgow University presence on the Scotland Squad.

One of the highlights of the year was an intense battle against the University of Aberdeen. The Glasgow girls had already lost to Aberdeen in a previous match by three points. The second match was a very close game for the first half, with Aberdeen leading the way; but with an inspiring half-time pep talk from the captains, the Glasgow team made an outstanding comeback, with Glasgow winning the match by five points.

This was overall another wonderful year with some hard fought battles and the growth of team camaraderie. The team, as well as the lacrosse program, will hopefully continue to grow, playing an even greater role in the lacrosse community.
Unfortunately, these results proved to be a false dawn for this young GURFC side, as on a cold, wet, and windy Wednesday evening they were given a lesson in forward orientated rugby by a heavyweight, well organised Glasgow Caledonian pack. GURFC struggled to secure or retain possession all game and missed all-important tackles, being put to the sword by 49 points to 13.

This proved to be a much needed wakeup call for the side, and the whole squad began training with more focus and intensity than they had previously. Two narrow defeats to league leaders and overall favourites Dundee University masked the fact that GURFC was starting to play with more desire and aggression, and that this young group of players were beginning to play together more as a team.

The progression that had been made over the season so far was proved with a 19-12 victory in the return league fixture against Napier, followed the week after by a solid win over Edinburgh University 2nd’s in the quarter finals of the cup. Once again, however, just as things were beginning to look up, things took a downward turn. On a rainy afternoon away to Strathclyde, the same errors that had marred the side previously began to creep back in. Missed tackles, a lack of support, and a failure to play a game plan that suited the wet conditions handed the initiative to Strathclyde, who produced a dominant display of tactical kicking to run out 21-8 winners. This was followed the week after by a devastating loss to Glasgow Caledonian in the cup semi-finals.

As always, this year the mountaineering club has been run by a group far bigger than the committee. This year’s fresher’s are some of the keenest by any measure, with people going out and getting their first Munros, trad leads, and in a few cases, their first winter benightment.

Of course, having a fresher’s meet that was not only dry, but sunny too, probably had the largest impact in bringing so many back for subsequent trips. Listed are a few of our highlights:

This year in the GUMC, we had considerable success reaching out and becoming more sociable; both with locals on meets (Tom Smith’s attempts in the Lakes) and also in international relations (Frances’ new, terrifyingly enthusiastic, American friend in Wales). Equally impressive are the numbers of members, both old and new, that have built on our reputation in the eyes of mountain rescue teams across Scotland. Lastly, truly embracing the spirit of exploration, Steve Mullan took minibuses through parts of Wales and Sheffield that I’m sure no-one knew existed, (least of all Steve).

Men’s Rugby

It was GURFC’s first season back on the pitch. Putting the controversies of the past behind them they had a big point to prove this season. A strong turnout at the fresher’s trials, along with good retention of many of the players who played in the inaugural interfaculty league last year gave new coach Stewart Magorian and captain Matthew Moghadam, an extremely talented, albeit young and inexperienced pool of players from which to build a new team.

A confidence-boosting win over local side GHK, and a narrow loss to Premier 2 club Hillhead, gave the team good reason for optimism for the forthcoming BUCS campaign. Despite the promising pre-season the league began with a narrow 24-18 loss to Napier University, the individual skill and flair of GURFC coming up short to a well drilled and experienced Napier side coming off the back of two successive years of promotion in the leagues. Despite the early loss the season was put back on track with wins over both Aberdeen and Dundee Universities in the pool stages of the Scottish Conference Cup, the team also chalked up their first league victory with a narrow 11-10 win over Strathclyde University. It was obvious that the side was beginning to understand and develop a style of play that suited them, with a light, mobile pack offloading well in the tackle, and providing quick ball for a dangerous and speedy looking back line that
With the side knocked out of the cup and languishing towards the bottom of the league table, things were not looking good for GURFC. A huge effort was needed for in the last few weeks to remain safe in the league and to end the season on a high.

This effort came in the form of an emphatic 29-7 win over bogey side Glasgow Caledonian, with GURFC coming good and showing they were capable of producing high octane, attractive rugby when they really turned it on. This victory really showed what this side is capable of in the future, and with a final league position of 3rd, promotion seems a very realistic aim for next season.

In other areas of the club, the Development Squad had a strong season, finishing second in the SRU Student & U20’s Development League and reaching the final of the SRU Student Development Cup, whilst regularly producing high calibre players capable of challenging for places in the 1st XV. The 7s squad also performed relatively well on the circuit, reaching the quarter finals of the cup at Ma Bells, the semi finals at Helensburgh and agonisingly losing the plate final at Aberdeen with a 34-33 final score-line.

The interfaculty league, which was established last year to provide students with an option to play rugby at a recreational, more social level, had another successful year. With the gap between the already well established Veterinary and Medical teams, and the newer Engineering, Social Science, and Life Science teams far smaller than in the previous season. This meant for a far more competitive league, which I’m sure will go from strength to strength in the future.

Overall it has been a successful first season back for GURFC, we have a young 1st XV side with a huge amount of potential, the core of which will remain for the next few seasons at least, and will only grow stronger the more they play together. We have also put in place the systems to provide a good depth of players, producing a healthy competition for places, whilst also providing rugby playing opportunities for students who want to play the odd casual game at a more recreational level.

Player of the Season: Scott McKean
Club Man: Steven Kirk

Women’s Rugby

Last year about half of our team graduated from the university, leaving us with about a dozen members, so this year our main focus was to attract new players and fresh talent to the club. We certainly achieved that with now over forty registered members and several young players who have the talent to go very far with their rugby career. The team took a few games to get into their stride but since then we have had solid performances, which saw us reach the semi final of the plate where unfortunately we were out muscled by a much larger and more experienced Cartha side.

Along with our games in the UK we also played Barcelona University during our annual tour which was very much a walk over for us, in fact the referee lost count when score line was well over 50-0! As a club we have a history of producing international players and this year several of our players took their first step on that ladder when they were selected for the West of Scotland regional squad and with one of our younger players currently playing for Scotland under 20s we have high hopes for the future!

West of Scotland regional squad:
  • Karen Dunbar
  • Laura McTaggart
  • Elizabeth Tiller
  • Sindy Tsang
  • Jennifer Wallace

Scotland under 20s:
  • Megan Gaffney
Sub-Aqua

The last year has seen the club’s membership double, we now have over 70 members of which around 40% are actively diving more than once a month. Our new trainees enjoyed a weekend in Oban to complete their training, and subsequent trips have ensured higher-level training has been completed, with many recreational dives also being enjoyed. We have recently instated three new Expedition Officers for the coming year, who are currently looking at plans to go diving abroad, which we are all very excited about!

Already this year, an impressive 350 dives have been logged in the club, an increase from 179 in the previous year. Next year we are hoping to build on this year’s training success, qualifying more divers at higher levels to visit more adventurous sites and appreciate the wealth of marine life and maritime history that the Scotland has to offer.

Ski

The 2010/2011 season was yet another highly successful year for the club. We managed to maintain overall champion status at the Scottish Uni championships in Edinburgh for the 3rd year running, with numerous individual podiums and team successes. This included 4 gold medals for snowboarder Connor Brolly who is maintaining his title as the most successful athlete we have. Unfortunately, we very narrowly missed out on winning the overall title at the British Championships, but 2nd is still amazing given the standard of competition.

Unfortunately, we didn’t run many trips up north this year but we did manage to send our biggest trip ever to Avoriaz after the New Year, which was judged by all to be an incredible week and a resounding success. The success of the holiday goes to prove we are a club for all levels of athletes, which is something we always strive to achieve every year. Our taster session out with freshers week proved to be a big hit down at Bellahouston Park in Ibrox with over 150 members returning to the slopes for all levels of lessons in both terms.

Our most recent trip to BUSC this year lacked the usual numbers of other years, which also lead to a lack of competitors and consequent success. However, those who tackled the most challenging of courses from the giant downhill to the European X Games terrain park all managed to excel themselves.

Needless to say the 2010/2011 year has been yet another great year for the club with new and exciting aspects cropping up all the time.

Shinty

This season has been one of the most successful in Glasgow University Shinty Club’s recent history. The men’s team were undefeated in the league and finished second, pipped by just two points for the title. The girl’s team, in their first season in the league, put up a strong showing, a particular highlight being their resounding 6-1 victory over rivals Strathclyde. The men also made it to the final of the prestigious Littlejohn Cup Tournament, but unfortunately failed to lift the trophy. A number of Glasgow players were selected for the Scotland University Shinty squad who went on to beat the British University Hurling squad in a composite rules match.

The club also attracted many new members and enjoyed a number of successful social events, including a ceilidh where we teamed up with the Gaelic Society and great evening was had by all. This has been a very positive and successful season which gives the club a strong base on which to build for next season.

Surf

The surf club has been successful this year in attracting large numbers of first-year students and first-time surfers, meaning that the taster weekend saw 56 people taking part in two learners’ trips, including sessions with a professional surfing coach, almost twice as many as compared to last year. We’ve increased numbers of daytrips throughout the year, especially in second term which has traditionally been quieter as people have a lot of university commitments.

We also held three weekend trips to Machrihanish that have always been the highlights of the year, attracting on average 60 members to each of them. Thirty people travelled south to Newquay in Cornwall in October to attend the biggest student surfing event in the world, the BUCS Surf Championships.
Proving to be the most friendly surf club in the UK, we stormed the event with kilts and tartan hats and although struggling to compete with surfers from the English universities in the waves, we found no match on dry land. This Easter saw the club leaving the UK for the first time in its history for an annual Easter trip.

Twenty surfers left their thick wetsuits in rainy Glasgow and packed their board shorts and bikinis for a journey to the Canary Islands to get some great warm waves and pretty scary sunburn. In March, we jointly organised the Glasgow Universities Surf Championships which saw Glasgow’s Jen Wood become the women’s champion and Oli Dykes coming second in the men’s final.

With plans to restart windsurfing in the coming semester, it promises to be yet another amazing year ahead for the surf club.

**Tennis**

The Tennis Club experienced its most successful year ever in 2010/11. Increased support from GUSA for courts and coaching, along with the signing of two new sponsorship deals (with The Rock Pub and KPMG), have expanded the opportunities for our members to play and improve their tennis to the greatest ever extent.

The Club started the year with a taster session and BBQ at Hillhead Tennis Club attended by 150 people, after 400 Freshers sign ups, and a successful ‘I love Tennis’ campaign. Many freshers would join the friendly GUT community - a sure fire way of having a great time at University, helping membership numbers push up to 135 by the end of the academic year (33% more than 2009/10 - itself a record breaking year)

Coached Sunday sessions and extra courts have ensured the club has made the most of its greatest asset, with attendance always above 25 and regularly around 40-50. An assistant coach for Wednesday Dowanhill sessions has helped the club retain more beginners and kept attendance high (30-50 each week) by more players feeling that they have improved.

2010/11 was the first time Tennis has been involved in GUSA’s Inter-Faculty Cup, extending the chance to play across the University. A Club Ladder allowed club members to regularly challenge each other to a game, while this year’s end of year Club Championships are in full swing. Next year the Club hopes to build on this successful expansion of competitive opportunities by setting up a third Men’s Team, as while membership has dramatically expanded, a declining percentage of members have been playing competitively for the teams.

Speaking of the teams, the Men’s 1sts reached the Semi-Finals of the BUCS Cup this year. The Club’s strongest performance in memory, the 1sts battled bravely, but in the end went down to a strong Loughborough side (the European Champions, endowed with the most fantastic facilities). The Ladies 1sts went out to the first seeds - Oxford, in their BUCS Cup match: losing only in a ‘shoot out’ after a 6-6 draw. The Club easily beat Glasgow rivals Caledonian and Strathclyde to help Glasgow win the City of Glasgow Cup. Strong league performances from all four teams, the Men’s and Ladies 1st teams continue to be competitive in Scotland’s top leagues.

Socially the club has had a fantastic year, with social trips to Edinburgh in October and Aberdeen in March, allowing members not playing in the teams to meet and play tennis with members of those university clubs. At the end of May, GUT took its ‘show on the road’, going abroad for the first time since a Hungary trip in 2008. Twenty two club members travelled to Barcelona and Salou in Spain, with matches played with the University of Barcelona and ESEI Business School.

Closer to home, the Club was the second largest club at the GUSA Ball with 41 attendees, and over 60 people participated in the Subcrawl, Pub Golf and ‘Cheese and Wine’ events.

A very successful year leaving the Club in a great position for the year to come.

**Trampoline**

This year has been an outstanding year for the trampoline club. In all 4 SUS league competitions Ben Searle won the elite men, and was crowned champion, and in the SUS open, Glasgow won 1st and 3rd places on the podium for elite men. In December at our first open competition held in Manchester we braved the snow to join competitors from all around the UK and Ireland. There Jon Orton won Gold in novice men and Ben Calderhead and Ben Searle won Silver and Bronze in Elite Men respectively. At our second international competition in Dublin, Glasgow showed great involvement by running two of the judge’s panels and, despite not taking home any medals, we showed that we are indeed a club to watch.

At BUCS, undoubtedly the most important competition of the year performance wise, we showed our consistency across elite men where Ben narrowly missed out on bronze, but our men’s team of Ben Searle, Stuart Campbell and Michael Fenton took home Gold. In total we scored 24 BUCS points, making us the highest BUCS points scoring trampoline club in the UK, a title that really shows the outstanding coaching and performance levels our club has to offer.
Notably, Frances Murphy, one of our alumni coaches, passed her High Performance coaching qualification; a standard of coaching that only a handful of people achieve, even across non-university clubs.

As well as the great performance of the club we have put another 3 members through coaching courses and 5 through judging. We have also held a number of hugely successful social events and maintained the tone of the club as completely inclusive towards both recreational and competitive bouncers.

Ultimate Frisbee

This has been another very successful year for the Ultimate Frisbee Club. As a relatively new and upcoming competitive sport which is still finding its place in the UK, we have seen a noticeable increase in our club’s membership this year. Our club has continued to grow both on and off the pitch, striking a balance between promoting Ultimate Frisbee to those who have never seen or heard of it before, to competing competitively against other university teams both in Scotland and throughout the UK.

The open team put out another astonishing effort at this year’s Scottish Indoor Regional’s in Edinburgh and managed to qualify for the Division 2 Nationals, once again just narrowly missing out on Division 1 to a crucial qualifying game with St. Andrews, which went to sudden death. Determined to redeem themselves, the team travelled down to Wolverhampton and after two days of hard competitive play managed to claim their hands on the Division 2 Plate after a tightly contested final against Sheffield University.

Women’s Volleyball

The 2010/2011 season has been a great success for Glasgow University’s Women’s Volleyball Club. After getting relegated to the second division in the Scottish Universities League the previous season, our priority for this year was to finish top of the division and gain promotion back to the first division.

There was a great turn out at our first training session of the year, getting so many new players in that we had to run tryouts for the first time in recent years. We also welcomed our great new coach Elaine McCulloch, who has become a crucial part of the team, both on and off court. We successfully finished top of the league, and also made it to the Scottish Conference Cup final day in Dundee, where we beat Stirling University to finish in first place. As well as our successes on the court, we also had some great social events with a great turnout. Plans are already being made to expand the club for next year and to prepare for entering back into the first division.
Nearly 600 students, staff and alumni attended this year’s Blues Reception and GUSA Ball, once again making it one of the largest sports balls in the country. It was a wonderful celebration of our clubs, volunteers and talented athletes and a great indicator of the strength of sport at the University of Glasgow.
Since its humble beginnings in 2009, the Interschool’s Cup (formerly known as the Interfaculty Cup) has gone from strength to strength. As a fairly new sporting initiative offered to the University’s student body, the annual event promotes friendly competitiveness whilst allowing for old rivalries to be settled through athletic prowess.

In line with the revised University schooling structure, teams where sourced from the twenty something schools, housed by the campus’s four colleges. Over 300 students from across the academic board competed in 6 sports over a two day period on the weekend of the 11th – 13th March. The Friday evening saw teams take to the courts of Kelvinhall Sport Arena, to pit it out in Netball, Basketball and Volleyball. The Women’s Netball was a fierce competition between the Medic’s and Dentist’s, with the Dentist’s narrowly claiming triumph with a mere one point edge on their rivals. The Life Science ladies put up a good fight, finishing not far behind the two finalists, to claim third place.

At the same time, Men’s Basketball was in full flow on court number two. High scoring games all round with some of the University’s top players showing off their basket nailing skills. The Critical Studies contenders triumph overall, seeing off all other opposition in stellar fashion. The mixed volleyball saw a healthy turnout in its second year of presence in the tournament with the

The other outdoor sports, Mixed Hockey and Men’s Football got off the ground running, thanks to the tireless work of the grounds men and a little bit of kindness from Mother Nature. The hockey saw teams from the prominent schools man their sticks and go for goals in the 6 a side play offs. The games where evenly matched with a one for one scoring of goals between the Vets and the Medics. In the end it was our Lawyer’s that beat the Medic’s to claim victory.

The Men’s Football boosted our biggest turn out, with 18 teams vying for the chance to lift the trophy at the end of the day. Memorable performances and tense games came as expected from the Dentists and the Engineers. Though the underdogs, the Life Science team secured healthy victories over opposition they faced to be crowned the victors of the tournament.

The awards ceremony was held in the Glasgow University Union on the Sunday evening. Although turnout was smaller than hoped, it did little to deter from the jubilation of the Life Science team in their first win of the Interschool’s Cup, breaking for the tradition of the Medic’s and Engineers reigning supreme in previous years.

Thanks to all those who participated and supported the event, we hope that in subsequent years it continues to grow in terms participation and the sport provided.

In November 2010, GUSA held a highly successful Fashion Show in the Debates Chamber of the Glasgow University Union, raising funds for the charity ‘Right to Play’. Models from a variety of student groups, including both Union Boards, entertained the audience of several hundred with clothing ranges from the likes of Fat Face, Just For You and Macgregor and MacDuff. Performances from the University Cheerleading Club and Bacardi Bar Flairing also added to the atmosphere of the evening and through ticket sales, donations and a raffle sale, over £1000 was raised for charity. Special thanks go to Bex and Chris for all their hard work, time and effort in making the event such a success.