



Matthew Jeynes

‘Sport will stay at the bottom of the agenda until funds are funnelled into the project’

In my experience, when I tell people that I study at York, various replies are offered. “That’s a good university, what grades did you need to get in there?”, people might say, or even “That’s a bit posh, isn’t it?”, to which I often retort “You should visit Durham”. However, one reply that I have never heard, and I doubt many others have, is: “Hey, that’s a great uni for sport!”

Don’t get me wrong, I am not criticising anyone who plays university sport, nor those who give up their time to organise the clubs. There are, though, many reasons why someone’s first reaction on hearing the words University of York is unlikely to focus on its sporting prowess, among which are the University’s lack of sporting reputation; the relatively small size of the University; the distinctly average sports facilities, and the seemingly low status that sport holds in the collective consciousness of York students. How, then, can this situation be remedied? Is there any way the future can be made to look a little brighter for sport at York?

At first glance, the situation looks distinctly murky. In this writer’s humble opinion, the standard of sport at university level will not be raised until the rampant apathy of the students is changed. Yet this indifference is not likely to



York’s sport teams will continue to struggle competitively until university facilities are improved

ease unless the standard of sport is raised. If I might venture a cliché, the situation is a vicious cycle. The one shining ray of hope, the welcome beacon in the fading gloom, comes in the form of the Heslington East expansion. The plans, which have been widely questioned by many at the

University, must be music to the ears of those who wish to see the profile of sport at York raised. Not only will the plans double the number of students, greatly increasing the pool of talent for the sports clubs to pick from, they will also include the construction of state-of-the-art sporting facilities. This

could even herald the coming of national teams to train at York, just universities such as Swansea or Loughborough.

Admittedly, many people would like to see the current facilities upgraded and refurbished, and it will be interesting to see what will happen to these once the

expansion is bought and paid for.

The solution would therefore seem to be to simple. We must dare to hope that these new facilities will inspire an influx of sport-minded students who, in turn, will spark a revolution of sport, or even just a minor resurrection – just to get the ball rolling, if I may throw in another pertinent cliché.

In the meantime, the sad fact is that sport will continue to languish at the lower end of the agenda for the University. It is probable that it will fade even further until the Heslington East campus is completed, as all of the University’s funds are funnelled towards that project.

What hope is there, then, for the more sportily-inclined among the current generation of students? Well, for any true sportsman, the lack of funds and standard of such things as the track or sports hall pales in comparison to the joy of actually playing their chosen sport. To get out there on the field, court, boat or even pole, and do what they love to do. Yes, the University suffers in comparison to others through average facilities and fewer participants, but the future of sport at York will continue to shine brightly as long as its students continue to play with passion and enjoyment. What happens then, or what happens after Hes East, is up to the money men.

AUTUMN TERM SPORT CALENDAR

Badminton:			
Trials:			
Both	Sunday		week 1
Men’s 1sts (BUSA 2B):			
17/10	Sunderland 1sts	h	
24/10	Teesside 1sts	a	
31/10	Durham 1sts	h	
Women’s 1sts (BUSA 2B):			
24/10	Bradford 1sts	h	
31/10	Teesside 1sts	a	
07/11	Sunderland 1sts	h	
Basketball:			
Men’s 1sts (BUSA 2B):			
17/10	Sheffield 1sts	a	
24/10	Hull 1sts	h	
31/10	Bradford 1sts	a	
Women’s 1sts (BUSA 3B):			
24/10	Leeds Trinity 1sts	a	
07/11	Sheffield H 2nds	h	
14/11	Hull 1sts	a	
Football:			
Trials:			
Men	Monday		week 1
	Tuesday		week 1
	Wednesday		week 1

	Friday		week 1
Women	Sunday		week 1
Men’s 1sts (BUSA 2B):			
17/10	Northumbria	a	
24/10	Leeds Trinity 1sts	h	
31/10	Bradford 1sts	a	
07/11	Leeds 2nds	a	
14/11	Durham 2nds	h	
Women’s 1sts (BUSA 3B):			
17/10	Durham 1sts	a	
24/10	Sheffield H 2nds	h	
31/10	Leeds Met 2nds	h	
Golf:			
Mixed (BUSA 2B):			
24/10	Leeds Trinity 1sts	h	
31/10	Leeds Met 2nds	h	
07/11	Hull	a	
Hockey:			
Trials:			
Both	Tuesday		week 1
Men’s 1sts (BUSA 2B):			
24/10	Leeds 2nds	h	
31/10	Northumbria	a	
07/11	Durham 2nds	h	
Women’s 1sts (BUSA 3B):			

17/10	Hull 1sts	a	
24/10	Teesside 1sts	h	
31/10	Newcastle 3rds	h	
Lacrosse:			
Trials:			
Women	Wednesday		week 1
Women’s 1sts (BUSA 2A):			
17/10	Sheffield H 1sts	a	
24/10	Northumbria	h	
31/10	Manchester Met	a	
Netball:			
Trials:			
Both	Sunday		week 1
	Monday		week 2
Women’s 1sts (BUSA 4B):			
17/10	St John 2nds	h	
24/10	York 2nds	a	
31/10	Newcastle 3rds	h	
Women’s 2nds (BUSA 4B):			
17/10	Newcastle 3rds	a	
24/10	York 1sts	h	
31/10	Huddersfield 1sts	a	
Rugby Union:			
Trials:			
Women	Sunday		week 1

Men’s 1sts (BUSA 2B):			
17/10	Huddersfield 1sts	a	
24/10	Bradford 1sts	h	
31/10	Newcastle 1sts	a	
07/11	Leeds 2nds	h	
14/11	St John 1sts	a	
Women’s 1sts (BUSA 2B):			
24/10	Teesside 1sts	a	
31/10	Teesside 2nds	h	
07/11	St John 1sts	h	
Squash:			
Trials:			
	Sunday		week 1
Men’s 1sts (BUSA 2B):			
17/10	Leeds 2nds	h	
24/10	Leeds Met 2nds	a	
31/10	Newcastle 1sts	h	
Women’s 1sts (BUSA 1A):			
17/10	Liverpool 1sts	h	
24/10	Newcastle 1sts	a	
31/10	Sheffield 1sts	a	
Table Tennis:			
Men’s 1sts (BUSA 1A):			
24/10	Teesside 1sts	a	
31/10	Northumbria 2	h	
07/10	Northumbria 1	a	

Tennis:			
Trials:			
Men	Tuesday		week 2
Women	Thursday		week 2
Men’s 1sts (BUSA 2B):			
24/10	Leeds Met 2nds	a	
31/10	Leeds 2nds	h	
07/11	Hull 1sts	a	
Women’s 1sts (BUSA 2B):			
17/10	Newcastle 2nds	h	
24/10	Leeds 2nds	a	
Volleyball:			
Trials:			
All	Monday		week 1
Adv	Thursday		week 1
Men’s 1sts (BUSA 1A):			
17/10	Sheffield H 1sts	a	
24/10	Manchester 1sts	h	
31/10	MMU Cheshire	h	
Women’s 1sts (BUSA 2B):			
17/10	Leeds 1sts	h	
24/10	Leeds Trinity 1sts	a	
31/10	St John 1sts	h	

For more information on this year’s sporting events, go to www.yusu.org/au