

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

BARBARIANS VISIT CROWNS 150 YEARS OF DURHAM RUGBY

A historic day of celebration and running rugby as alumni, students and legends gather for a once-in-a-generation event.

BASEBALL CHAMPS: DURHAM WOLVES ROAR TO NATIONAL TITLE

An extraordinary season sees the Wolves score 205 runs and concede just 21, sealing BUCS gold in dominant fashion.

FOUR DAYS, NINE MEDALS: DURHAM ROWERS DELIVER AGAIN

Championship golds, silvers and a top-three finish in the Victor Ludorum underline another stellar season on the water.

WOMEN'S FUTSAL: DOUBLE FINALISTS IN NATIONAL SHOWDOWN

Durham I and II will both contest national titles later this month after emphatic semi-final wins — a remarkable club achievement.

PODCAST: RUGBY REFLECTIONS

CRICKET: MIXED FORTUNES

PLAQUE WALL: TIM O'GORMAN

COLLEGE FOCUS: TEAM BUTLER

SQUASH SEASON REVIEW

READER FEEDBACK



DURHAM SPORT WEEKLY DIGEST

The Barbarians Come To Town

Five years in the making, we were rewarded with beautiful weather and some wonderful rugby on one of Durham sport's most historic days.

It all began on Friday evening, 2nd May, when 400, mainly alumni, descended on Ramside Hall for a memorable evening, celebrating 150 years of Durham rugby, which for many, continued long into the next morning. Huge congratulations and thanks to former student Mark Durden-Smith who managed to bring some sort of order to the proceedings.

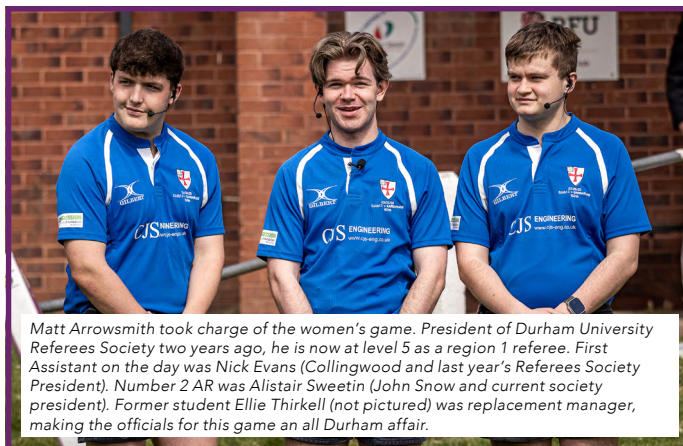
First match on the day itself was a Durham University Past and Present Women's XV taking on a Select XV from the North East. What a game it turned out to be! It took Durham a little time to get into the match and for a while it looked as though they would find it tough to stay with their opposition. Indeed, they went two tries down before fighting back to go into half time 17-10 down.

The second half was a very different affair as Durham spent long periods of time in the opposition half playing some delightful fast flowing rugby. However, try as they might they were unable to break the opposition line, and in fact, it was the North East who recorded the only score of the second half, winning the game 22-10.

A great occasion for all the players, with a very impressive standard of rugby from both sides.

Then came the men's game. The crowd built throughout the day, eventually totalling just over 2,200. Ramside Hall did a wonderful job, providing the drink and food outside while Durham City RFC, as always, did a great job inside, looking after the VIPs and the teams after the game. As the game kicked off at 3pm, there was a wonderful party atmosphere all around the ground.

This was always going to be tough going for Durham University RFC, given the impressive and experienced Barbarian side, led by our own former coach, Alex Keay. The Palatinate side found it tough to get a foothold in the game early on, conceding a number of hard running tries and going into half-time some way behind. At this stage there was a danger of the Durham side becoming totally overrun but whatever was said at half time clearly made a huge difference as Durham came out for the second half playing at a totally different tempo. Four well-worked tries were to follow as





Cover photo shows Archie Clarke (Collingwood) closing in on his second half try, while other second forty scorers were (left to right) Charlie Coe (Hatfield), Durham captain Marcus Rhodes (Collingwood) and Julius Turley (Grey)

Former student Fred Davies is pictured alongside the Barbarian coach for the day, Alex Keay. Fantastic to have both former students and our former coach representing the Barbarians on this occasion.



Durham got back to within one score of their opposition. However, a complete recovery was not to be as two late Barbarians tries secured a 52-33 win for the Barbarians.

In true Barbarian style this was a great game of running rugby from both sides, entirely fitting to mark and celebrate Durham University Rugby's 150th anniversary.

The podcast this week is directly linked to our rugby celebration as we interview Si Culley, our senior coach, together with our forwards coach, Rob Vickers, both former students of the Durham Sport degree. They talk about their time at Durham and their ambitions for the future of Durham University rugby. Enjoy!

Durham University would like to thank all the staff and students who worked so hard to make this a magical occasion. Our thanks also to all former students who helped make this event possible, particularly Alex Keay, James Kennedy, Chris Kelly and Jon Keating. Finally, thanks to the Barbarians for coming to Durham, to John Adamson and the staff of Ramside Hall, to Caroline and Durham City RFC and to our wonderful returning alumni.

Special Thanks from Sport in Action, Zambia to Durham University Rugby Club

This year **Team Durham** will be sponsoring sixteen children through their education in Zambia. Of these, ten will be sponsored by **Durham University Rugby Football Club**. The children whose lives they are helping to transform, come from some of the very poorest areas of capital city, Lusaka. In the next few editions of the **Durham Sport Digest** we will be telling the story of a child who we are supporting this year. I hope you enjoy reading about their backgrounds and their aspirations for the future. They are truly inspirational young people.

Abigail Mwale

Eighteen year old Abigail is enrolled in grade 12 of Chipata Open Community School. She plays basketball at the Chipata hub site and also for one of the senior teams in the Midlands Basketball Association. She is a young leader, who helps to coach basketball and facilitates 'Girls in Action' sessions at the site. She is also a wonderful role model in her community.

One of four children, Abigail lives with her mother in Chipata Overspill. Since her mother and father divorced, things have not been easy for the family. Previously supporting the family income Abigail's elder sister has sadly recently lost her job. Because the family was no longer able to support Abigail through her education, she was forced to withdraw from the school to add her support. She aspires to be a pharmacist in the future.

Due to her commitment and hard-work at Chipata hub site,

and because of her home situation, **Sport in Action** has selected her to be amongst those who can greatly benefit from school support. Thanks go to Durham University Rugby Football Club for making this possible. A happy 150th to you!

BUCS Cricket: Disappointing First Wednesday

Durham's women travelled to Loughborough, always by far the toughest opposition in women's university cricket. We were bowled out for 113, with **Petra Tweedy** (Hatfield) 28 and **Pip Lloyd Williams** (Grey) 26 with Loughborough winning by eight wickets.

Durham men's II were bowled out for 166 and were unable to pull the game back, with York I scoring the required runs for the loss of four wickets. Durham III took on Sheffield I and made a valiant attempt to chase down 255 but were bowled out for 208.

Good news came from Durham V who took on Teesside I. They bowled out the opposition for 181 and passed the target with four wickets in hand.

Second Wednesday - 4 From 6 - a better return!

Durham women's I bowled out Lancaster for 95 and knocked the runs off for the loss of four wickets in 12.2 overs. **Charlotte Pettigrew** (Collingwood) had an excellent day, top scoring with 28 and taking 3 for 10.

Durham women's II had an extraordinary match against Edinburgh II. Batting first, Durham scored a remarkable 334 for 2 in their allotted thirty overs, at a rate of eleven an over, before dismissing Edinburgh for 23. A slight mismatch maybe.

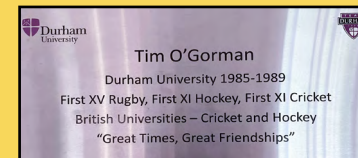
Durham men's II travelled to St Andrews to play their first team and scored a very respectable 232 for 8 before bowling out the Scottish University for 124 in 42 overs. There was also a win for Durham men's III who scored 234 all out before dismissing their opposition 226 in a desperately close game.

Our two defeats came at fourth and fifth team level. Durham IV were unable to chase down Leeds Beckett II 233 for 7, falling well short on 152. Leeds Beckett III scored 332 for 9 as

As you might have imagined, the second in our series of podcasts has rugby as its theme. Durham's Head of Sport, **Dave Coldwell** and **Peter Warburton** are joined by Head Rugby Coach **Si Culley** and his assistant, **Rob Vickers**. They speak about the 150 year celebrations and their longer term ambitions for rugby at Durham. To listen, just press the podcast logo above.

Plaque Wall Memories: Tim O'Gorman

After leaving Durham in 1989, Tim played for Derbyshire until 1996. Making 117 first class appearances, he scored 5,372 runs.



On finishing his cricketing career Tim continued to play a major role in the game, holding key positions. He served as Chairman of the Professional Cricketers Association for a number of years and held the role as chairman of the MCC Young Cricketers.

Tim has been chosen from the plaque wall to evidence how university sport has changed over the years. He turned out for the university at first team level in cricket, rugby and hockey – a quite remarkable success story. Today it would be almost unheard of for anyone to play in two first teams at Durham in these sports and the thought of three unthinkable.

Playing for British Universities in both cricket and hockey is once again a remarkable achievement unlikely to be repeated in university sport today.

Responses To Our Last Report

Apologies to anyone who was unable to open our first ever podcast. The updated link is [here](#).

"Thanks for the sport report. Loved the layout of the report and I enjoyed reading about the twentieth year celebrations of your work in Zambia. A lot of hard work by a lot of staff and students, well done to all of them. Here is to the next twenty years!"

"It's marvelous how the Sport Report has developed since you relaunched it. Congrats and many thanks."

A whole bunch of us from my era (c 20 of us from 1969 to 1975) are heading to Durham next week for the rugby dinner and the BaaBaa's match on Saturday. I'm golfing at Northumberland GC on Thursday and 6 of us are playing at Seaton Carew on Friday!"

From the editors: We look forward to welcoming you back to Durham and we hope you have a wonderful few days in The North East.

If you have any feedback, positive or otherwise, alumni news or suggestions for future additions to our plaque wall, please **[get in touch](#)**.

again Durham found the target too great, being bowled out for 166.

Taking Cambridge Down

Our men's I travelled to Cambridge for a fixture that couldn't have been closer. Cambridge scored 231, with **Angus Catto** (St Cuthbert's) being the pick of the Durham bowlers, taking 4 for 31. Durham will have been pleased to limit their opposition to this score. However, despite **Wilf La Fontaine Jackson** (Collingwood) again leading the chase with 86, Durham found themselves 160 for 6 with fifteen overs left. Thanks to some determined batting down the order, including a defiant 36 from **Angus Catto** (St Cuthbert's) Durham hit the winning runs with two balls to spare.

Fantastic Women's Futsal

Durham I, already in the Futsal Championship Final, will now be joined by Durham II as they will contest the Trophy Final on the same day. They travelled to Stirling and won impressively, 8-2. It is still baffling how our women found the eleven-a-side game so challenging this year while subsequently storming into both national futsal finals. Good luck to both of them when they play the final later this month.

Durham University: BUCS National Baseball Champions!

National titles have been hard to come by this year and so this was a wonderful achievement from this very strong outfit. The league stages during the year saw the Durham Wolves dominate with wins against Durham II 27-2, York I 26-2, Sheffield I 31-1, Newcastle I 18-3 and UCLan I 11-3.



Group stages in the finals were a formality for Durham as they overcame Swansea 21-5, Stirling 12-2 and Oxford 26-2, moving comfortably into the semi-final. Once again, they faced and dominated UCLan, winning 12-0.

Their surprise opposition in the final was the University of East Anglia who had finished third in their BUCS League. They

found the going unbelievable tough as the Durham Wolves really turned on the pressure. They went from 4-0 to 8-0 by scoring four runs in a row. The final score of Durham Wolves 21 UEL 1 perhaps tells its own story. Great performance from the Palatinates. Few teams in the history of BUCS will have dominated their opposition quite like this, with a season total of 205 runs scored and 21 conceded – remarkable!

Year's Biggest Rowing Weekend

Considered by many as the biggest and most important event in the university rowing calendar and Europe's largest student rowing event, the first four-day BUCS Regatta took place over the weekend.

Day One: This is mainly concerned with time trials although there were some big finals, and the Palatinates will have been delighted with some of their results.

The highlight came with championship gold for our women's coxed four – a magnificent win for them. Not far behind this, in the other championship final of the day, our men took silver in the coxless four, another outstanding row. Adding to the day's successes, our men's intermediate double won gold.

Day Two: Added success for the Palatinates as they chased yet more medals. The absolute highlight of the day was silver for our men's championship eight in arguably the showcase event of the regatta – a great result for Durham. Not to be out



done, our women's pairs took silver and bronze medals in their championship event. Durham women's championship quad took fifth place in their final. The intermediate events brought delight for Durham men's eight as they won bronze, while our women's pair went one better, taking silver in their event.

Day Three: A mixed set of results for the Palatinates but our best performance by far came in the men's championship quad, with Durham taking silver. A stacked women's championship VIII race saw Durham come home in fifth behind Newcastle, London, Oxford Brookes and Cambridge. In results elsewhere Durham women's intermediate scull came seventh, our women's intermediate eight came ninth while our men's intermediate quad came eighth.

Day Four: Another huge result for Durham as our women's championship coxless four won gold. This result was matched by a superb row from our women's intermediate coxed four who also won gold. There was also an outstanding championship silver for our men's pair.

Durham women's intermediate double finished fourth in the A final, while the men's intermediate pair also finished fourth in their A final.

Victor Ludorum Placings

Overall: Newcastle 829, Reading 814, Durham 744, Edinburgh 594, Queen's 484.

Men: Reading 436, Durham 396, Edinburgh 350, Queen's 349, Oxford Brookes 272

Women: Newcastle 562, Reading 387, Durham 348, Birmingham 290, Cambridge 278.

Great racing Durham!

Josephine Butler: A College Inspired!

Anyone who knows anything about me knows that my veins bleed Butler. My love for college sport is immense, and my passion for Team Butler is even greater. Even while sitting at home, 300 miles from Durham, writing this report in my Sports Officer quarter-zip, my brother asked me whether I was simply a walking Josephine Butler advertisement. And I think that is the sort of thing that sums me up as a person. But you are not here to read about me. You want to read about the magnificence that has been Team Butler these past few terms, and as ever, my college sport teams did not disappoint.

Michaelmas, which now feels like an eon ago, was fantastic.

We had an incredible start to the year. Highlights of the term were probably the football clubs, JBCFC, Movember campaign. The boys put in an enormous



effort and ended up raising over three and a half thousand pounds for men's mental health, a magnificent achievement. Not only were they so charitable, but they were entertaining to go along with it. Challenges included chopping pints of gravy, a backwards 10km and even a walk in chicken costumes to the Metrocentre.

All in all, it was a wonderful success story and did truly make me feel like a proud mum. However, they were not alone in their fundraising. Team Butler as a whole contributed to the charity drive. Joint 5-a-side football tournaments with Stevo were held, and there was even a JCR Presidents race between Stevo and Butler, with Hazel running in the mole suit. In short, November was the month of giving for Team Butler, and the combined college efforts for such a great cause was fantastic.

Josephine Butler Women's Football Club had a brilliant run in the floodlit this year. Coming into it as finalists from last year, we all had very high hopes. And our football girls did not disappoint. They dominated throughout their campaign. Van Mildert were beaten 6-1 in the first round. The next round saw an intense match against Castle, coming down to penalties, in which our girls were victorious. Next was Mary's, who were defeated 10-2, and Stevo, who were similarly annihilated 6-0. That meant we were into the final. After a nail-biting game, with Butler dominating the first half, the girls unfortunately lost to Collingwood, yet this does not take away from the glorious campaign they rampaged throughout the year.

Strange that only Butler squash were invited to York Varsity this year, yet they far from let the side down. With seemingly all of the college supporting from the sidelines, the mixed squash team led Butler to a 7-1 victory against James College.

Netball is arguably the sport closest to my heart, and while some may call me out for favouritism, I simply call it passion. BCNC had a brilliant season this year. The A-team had a rather successful trophy and league campaign, showing why they won it all last year, securing a fourth place finish. Following recent promotion to Division 1, the Bs also highlighted why they were such a strong side, being prime contenders for

league winners, despite having only just been promoted to this new league. The Cs did win their league, gaining them promotion for next season. Further, their plate run was brilliant to behold, ending in a semi-final finish, incredible for a team not yet in the top division of their competition. In addition, the mixed netball



team got up and running once again in Epiphany. Everyone in Butler loves a bit of mixed netball, and so there was always a throng of supporters on the sidelines, though I must say the beautiful weather we had in Epiphany may have contributed to that. What a perfect way to end the netball season, in sunglasses, sunbathing on the sidelines!

Butler lacrosse is often a team that flies under the radar, though they are too good to deserve this underdog reputation. Obtaining victories against Collingwood and Stevo, and finishing in the quarter final in the trophy, they had a brilliant season. No wonder they won most improved club at the sports awards last year! Finally, I would like to mention Butler volleyball. Despite the awful timings for their fixtures, they have had a marvellous season. The As are currently second in the premiership and with one game to go they could still win the league. Moreover, the squad have just returned from their week playing volleyball on the beaches in Portugal! I am forever jealous that they are granted the opportunity to take part in such a tournament, but at the same time so proud they get to experience it. Regardless of how the tournament ended up going (I must confess that I do not know), it seems like the most phenomenal way to end a fantastic season!

There we have it. I could not include all the clubs in my rundown, and I am so sorry if I missed out on your favourite. There is so much incredible sporting capability in Butler that this report would be pages long for me to truly capture the essence of life at Team Butler. My tenure as Sports Officer has now come to a close (almost). Funnily enough, at the time of writing, I have my formal handover tomorrow, so this may be one of my last pieces of work as Josephine Butler Sports Officer. Yet my love for Team Butler will never change, and I will still be as devoted to the club regardless. It has been a great year, and we are all so looking forward to the summer term with the sports formal, varsity and the festival of sport, amongst a plethora of other events I have planned up my sleeve to come for our term in the sunshine. I hope you have enjoyed this brief dive into college sport, and I hope you endeavour to keep updated in all we do.

Mya Downing

Durham University Squash: A Review

I am Hannah, and I've been President of the Durham University Squash Club for 2024-25. It's been an amazing year for squash in our Wednesday BUCS matches. Our men's first team was promoted to the Premier League following an undefeated season and our men's II and women's II have also been

promoted to North One after both teams triumphed in the Conference Cup finals in Manchester. Our men's III, IV, V also finished first, second and third respectively in their divisions, following some stellar performances from all players. The highlight of the BUCS year, the BUCS individual's tournament in Nottingham, was also a huge success for the club - 16 players showed off their skills against universities from across the country. We had three victories here: **Esme Clayton** (Women's C Grade), **Harry Morris** (Men's G Grade), and **Gleb Kachur** (Men's E Grade).

As well as this, many of our players participate in the Durham and Cleveland Squash League, competing with a number of teams from around the county. These matches are always a favourite in the club, both for the highly competitive games and for the meal shared between teams afterwards. Durham has had some great successes in local leagues, with our men's II and women's I both winning their leagues! For the first

time we entered a mixed team in the men's league as well, which has been a very popular addition and our men's III performed exceptionally well in their debut year. We had 11 players compete in the County Closed Tournament, in which **Gleb Kachur** (Men's B Grade) and **Leah Beglan** (Men's C Plate) both came away with victories. On the topic of tournaments, DU Squash also won the Roehampton University Cup in London, defending their title as champions for the third year in a row. Special mention to **Leah Beglan** who has been in the winning team every year!

College Squash has been as busy as ever, with **Hild Bede** still sitting top of the men's and women's Prem. Its men's A is closely followed by Collingwood A - I'm sure they will have an excellent match again during the Festival of Sport in June.

A fantastic season for squash in all areas, and I am incredibly proud of all of the players in the club and the colleges for their dedication and performances throughout the year.

