

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

PLUS:

WOMEN'S HOCKEY WIN TITLE WITH LAST-MINUTE GOAL

Scarlett Spavin's final-second strike clinches 4–3 win and secures Durham's first-ever promotion to the National Premier League.

BADMINTON BAGS PROMOTIONS AND CUP GLORY

Three teams promoted, a cup final win for women's I, and men's I chasing Premiership status - Durham badminton at its best.

HISTORIC GOLF FINISH FOR MAX CARTER SHIRVELL

Three rounds under par in Scotland earns Max a top-ten BUCS finish - best ever by a Durham student.

WEEKEND SUCCESSES AND CRICKET RETURNS

PLAQUE MEMORIES: STEVE & PADDY HARMAN

READER FEEDBACK

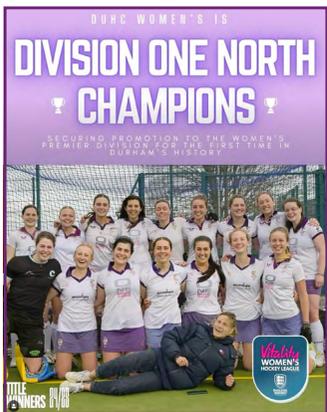
HOW DID THEY DO? ALL SPORT REVIEW

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU



Proud to be Palatinate - Wonderful Weekend for Hockey First Teams

Our women's first team travelled to Gloucester for the final game of the season last weekend. They needed a good result to secure the league title and promotion to the National League. A strong side with a serious goalscoring threat, Gloucester have lost only one game since Christmas.



The home side went ahead first through open play, which spurred the Durham girls into action, with **Elena Baggett** scoring to equalise two minutes later. Soon after, Gloucester scored from a short corner, but Durham once again hit straight back, themselves scoring from a short corner. **Lizzy Pocknell** finally gave Durham the lead with twenty minutes to play through an impressive strike from the top of the D.

With two minutes left on the clock and the tension level at breaking point, Gloucester equalised. While a draw would have secured the league title, Durham once again turned the tables, with captain **Scarlett Spavin** scoring the winning goal in the final minute of the game off a fantastic through ball from **Ava Wadsworth**.

The game ended 4-3 to Durham, meaning the girls won the league by 3 points to secure their place in the National Premier League for next season, a first for DUHC women. This



was a magnificent achievement for a team from the North East of England. They will join Loughborough, Brimingham and Nottingham Universities, alongside a host of teams from the south of England, many, of course, based in London.

So, what of our men on this auspicious day for Durham hockey? They had the unenviable task of travelling to Loughborough with an injury hit squad, further depleted through lack of availability. The task for Loughborough was simple: win the game and be promoted back to the Premier League of England hockey. I think they would have fancied, this having beaten us a number of times already this year. Going into the final minute, Durham trailed 3-2 but a very late strike from the Palatinates completely spoilt the party for Loughborough in this highly charged atmosphere. This hard-earned Durham draw meant no promotion for Loughborough.

Defeats on the day for women's II who lost 4-2 away at Alderley Edge and men's II who lost 1-0 away at Oxtou. Thankfully, National League status had already been secured for next year.

Weekend Scores Elsewhere

The Durham Palatinate **rugby** side were gifted the league title as they were given a walkover and with it promotion to Northumberland and Durham Division One. A long season but a great effort from the players. Well done to them all.

Durham Wildcats went down to Nottingham Wildcats 89-64 but thankfully remain in a play-off sport.

Durham men's **football** suffered a surprise 2-1 defeat away at Gateshead Leam Rangers but for them it is about seeing out the season as they have already secured the league title and promotion.

Durham women's **football**, in the Championship, had a real day out as they put six past Portsmouth to hold onto fourth place in the league with a game in hand over third.

County Cricket Against Northampton

Durham men's **cricket** took on Northampton in another three-day county game. Northampton scored 351 for eight in

the first innings with **Jamie Cairns** (Collingwood) taking 3 for 89. Durham in reply were bowled out for 230. This was a solid batting performance as six players got to twenty and beyond, but no one was able to go on to build a substantial score.

Northampton scored 249 for 9 in their second innings. Another excellent performance from the Durham bowlers as **Jamie Cairns** again took wickets with 3 for 60 and was joined by **Oliver Armstrong** (University College) who took 3 for 43. Durham's reply started strongly, reaching 100 for the loss of two wickets. From there they began to lose their way.

Arush Buchake (Van Mildert College) will have been delighted with his 71 before running himself out.

The run target on the last day was always going to be out of reach but despite losing some quick wickets mid-innings huge congratulations should go to **Angus Catto** (St Cuthberts) and **George Kemkers** (St Cuthbert's), in at nine and ten, who faced 110 balls between them, scoring 32 and 16 respectively. This saw Durham through to 278 for 9 and a well-earned draw.

Durham University cricket can take a great deal from their first two games against Durham and Northampton county sides. Their batting has stood up well, scoring over 500 in both matches. Wickets have been shared around, and the bowling attack did well to restrict their opposition to manageable scores. In short, a very impressive start to the season.



BUCS Play Offs

Durham women lost the coin toss in the **tennis** and were consequently faced with a journey to Imperial for the play-off to decide who would play in the National League next year. As it happened, Imperial pulled out of the game, gifting Durham their final promotion.

Despite these circumstances, the Durham women absolutely deserved this triumph, having performed outstandingly throughout the year.

In contrast to the tennis, our badminton could not have found it more difficult away in Glasgow. This was an unbelievably close encounter, with the scores level at four rubbers each, resulting in a crucial countback. Durham's athletes will have been thrilled to scrape home 10 games to 9 and gain a place back in the North Premiership for the first time in some five years. Well done to them!

BUCS Golfing Success

The BUCS individuals take place over a number of courses throughout the year and culminate in a final three rounds in Scotland at the R&A Tour Final.

Max Carter Shirvell (Josephine Butler College) is one of the few Durham golfers to make it to the Tour Final and the final thirty golfers. He recorded the amazing scores in two rounds at the Jubilee Course of 71 and 71 to go two under par and matched this on the final day with a superb 71, again one under par, at the Old Course at St Andrews.

He was rewarded with a top ten individual finish in University Golf, almost certainly the highest ever finish for a Durham student. A magnificent achievement.

Badminton's Outstanding Season

Hi, I'm Jack, the Durham University Badminton Club President for the 2024/25 season. The DU Badminton Club has a long-standing history and continues to grow and improve every year. This is alongside the growth of the sport itself, which is steadily increasing in popularity across the UK.

We kicked off the year with excellent trials, where we saw record numbers of people trying out for the second year running. We were delighted to welcome a promising batch of fresh players to the squad, many of whom went straight to playing for our BUCS teams.

The results of our three men's and three women's teams this season have been some of the best we've seen in recent years.

We saw fantastic finishes in the BUCS leagues, which all came to a close in mid-March. Our women's II had a brilliant season, finishing second

only to our women's I, who dominated North Two and earned themselves promotion for next season. Not to be left behind, the women's III won North Three, securing promotion to play in North Two alongside the Women's II next year. Our Men's II and Men's III fought valiantly to finish second in North Two and third in North Three respectively. This was particularly impressive for the men's II who were in danger of relegation back at Christmas but managed to win every game since to claw their way into second place. The Men's I went undefeated in North One and will soon be facing Glasgow in a playoff for promotion to the Premiership.

Thanks to **Team Durham** and **Joymo** - all of our home matches this season were able to be streamed for the first time and can be watched back on Team Durham TV if you're curious.

Our teams also enter knock out cups each season. This year the men fell in the early rounds to strong opponents, but our women found success and we had all three women's teams in the Conference Cup quarter finals. Ultimately the Women's III lost in their quarter-finals and the women's II in the semis. Our Women's I though, made their second straight appearance in the Conference Cup final, this time going all the way to win it and bring home some big, shiny, gold medals.

Our final competitive event of the year is BUCS individuals where we had three entries in each event, amassing a total of 23 wins to beat last year's total of 21. We also had two women's doubles pairs make it through qualification to the main draw to take on the best in the country. They put up strong performances but sadly fell short against the first and sixth seeds.

Outside of our competitions, we continue to run our development squad with consistently high attendance every Sunday, where we offer pay-as-you-go coaching to anyone at the University.

We also ran a number of events and socials for our players including themed bar crawls, scavenger hunts, quiz nights and our yearly black tie Christmas dinner.

To keep up with the club, simply follow our **Instagram** and feel free to **message me directly** with any enquiries or burning questions.

Thanks for reading and happy badminton, Jack Moylan.



Plaque Wall Memories: Steve & Paddy Harman

It is not unusual in the States to find generations of one family attending the same University and this can often be as a direct result of their sport programmes. The crowds at university games can be huge and children, from a very young age, are often taken to watch what becomes their number one loyalty, which eventually grows into a lifetime commitment.

Steve Harman (1974-77)

1st Team Captain—Durham University Golf Club

Paddy Harman (2008-11)

1st Team Captain—Durham University Hockey Club

Sport in UK universities is important, but it does not bring with it that kind of loyalty. Whilst clearly there is plenty of evidence that families follow on in the UK it does not match the USA.

With that in mind our plaque this week features a father and son duo, both of whom made a significant impact on Durham sport. Steve Harman captained the University golf team in the mid-seventies when we had a habit, at the time, of producing some very strong golf teams. On leaving Durham Steve stayed in touch with the University supporting sport in many different ways. He was an original member of our first ever Sport Advisory Board before leaving the Board to serve on University Council.

Paddy, his son, was undoubtedly one of the most outstanding men's first team hockey captains the University has ever had. He joined the University at the time that Durham hockey was a real force in the land. Paddy led by example on the field and on the many occasions I saw him play I often reflected on the fact that it was good to have him on our side!

Celebrating Ten Years of Working with North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Trust

A Thank you: I was at our men's first team rugby quarter-final at Maiden Castle, an unfortunate defeat to rivals Exeter marking the end an excellent 24/25 XV's season.

In the early stages of the second half, one of our students (Boris) collided with an opposition player while challenging for a ball in the air and was left unconscious for several minutes on the floor. Jakki, lead physio for the Trust partnership, jumped into action and remaining very calm and collected, supported Boris through a concerning few moments, before moving him on to a spinal board (with support from the opposition medical team), and off the pitch as we waited the arrival of the ambulance.

The game continued, and thankfully Boris was fit enough to walk into the ambulance an hour after the initial incident. I know this is just one of many incidents that your team of brilliant physio's have supported over the years, on top of the thousands of hours of physio clinics and rehab sessions that have taken place. In the busy day-to-day of working life, it is often very easy to take for granted the incredible partnerships we are fortunate enough to have in place that contributes to Durham University's ongoing sporting success. Our partnership with North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust is one close to my heart, having been involved since the very beginning. Your team of physios have been a pleasure to work with from day one, and I have always felt incredibly reassured putting the health and wellbeing of our sports students in your hands.

Last night's incident, and watching Jakki manage a difficult situation so calmly and effectively, got me thinking about our partnership. I did also reflect on the length of time in which we have worked together, which led to me searching for the



original contract this morning. I'm glad I did as it turns out that Tuesday, 1st April marks the 10-year anniversary of the partnership. I felt, given the timing, it was worth this quick note to say thank you to you both for all you have put into the partnership over the last decade, and a thank you to all current and past members of your team who have provided such an outstanding service to our students. I for one am incredibly grateful, and I know this gratitude is echoed by colleagues and the thousands of students who have accessed the service.

Thanks again ... and here's to the next 10 years!

Richard Warburton, Head of Sport Performance Support Services

A Tree in Bloom



The Principal of Teikyo returns to Durham this summer and will be visiting the memorial tree at Maiden Castle. The tree was planted to mark the game between Teikyo University and Durham University some nine years ago. It also marked the long-standing partnership between the two. If I remember correctly a number of the players facing us that day were on the international rugby pathway in Japan and we found the going tough. It is good to see that the partnership and the tree continue to blossom!

COMING SOON!

WATCH THIS SPACE



Responses To Our Last Report

"I can't remember if you recently asked where it all began, in terms of the Friends Steering Group, but I've just found a document entitled: Inaugural meeting of the Friends of Durham Steering Group."

The meeting was held on the 21st November 2002, at the Cancer Research UK offices by Regents Park."

A note from the editors: Many thanks for recalling this first meeting. Many will remember these Friends Group meetings as they lasted for nearly fifteen years involving roughly fifteen of our sports. Venues changed but for much of the time we were entertained at the magnificent Clifford Chance offices. Each Friends Group sent two alumni and together the group worked to try to improve sport at Durham. Out of the Friends Group came the annual London Reunion Sports Weekend.

Sadly, these groups no longer exist but sports such as rowing and rugby have gone on to dramatically strengthen their alumni base. With the recent re-introduction of the Sport Advisory Board, instigated by our new Head of Sport, Dave Coldwell, it might be hoped that we see a resurgence of the Friends' Groups, or at least something equivalent, in the years ahead.

"Thank you for this week's edition! It was lovely to read the rowing edit especially - I was down in London watching the racing and it was most exciting seeing so many Durham crews."

I also wanted to email you to say a thank you for the mention of thanks to those who ensure the boats get there and back - that is my role! I am the Secretary for Durham College Rowing as well as being Castle Sport Officer, so I am the one who organises the logistics of getting all the college boats trailered down to and from London and sort their boating permits so they can row on the Thames. It made me smile seeing the acknowledgment so thank you. All logistics went well, and we even had a few colleges collect boats they had bought in London!"

Note from the editors: Great to read this additional information and thanks for sharing, Georgina. The leadership and organisational skills of so many of our students are what makes the Durham Sport programme actually work. Well done to them all!

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



How Did They Do? An All-Sport Review

This week we look at the sports of fencing and football. Way back in 1996 we secured a deal with regional fencing to appoint Laszlo to be both the North East Regional Coach and the University Coach. Twenty-nine years on and many international fencers and national BUCS titles later, Laszlo is still with us as our Head Coach despite being years beyond retirement age. Our longest serving coach and what a star he is. So how did our fencers fair in 2024/25?

Fencing

League: Women's thirds hold on to North One status

Cup: Men's and women's first teams in Champ finals

This has been another hugely impressive year for Durham fencing, the highlight being that both the men and women made it, yet again, into the final of the Championship. Whilst they both lost, women's fencing's attempt to steal victory from the jaws of defeat was extraordinary, winning their final sabre weapon 45-13. They finished third in the Premiership but in their three matches against Edinburgh, who won the North Prem, the points score was 314-309 to Edinburgh. I doubt there has ever been an overall contest this tight in the history of BUCS fencing. The women's thirds fencing will have been delighted to hold on to their league status in North One, firing well above their status.

The men's first team finished second in the Northern Premiership. The only disappointing aspect of this year's fencing was that we lost our men's seconds from North One. No doubt they will work hard next year to bounce straight back. Congratulations to the men's thirds who made it to the semi-final of the Conference Cup.

Football

League: Men's seconds promoted to North Two.

Cup: Women's seconds make it to Conference Cup final.

In so many ways this was a good year for football as a whole, but there were some disappointments along the way. The men's football led their BUCS North One league all season until the very last game where they just failed to make it back into the Premiership.

Our women's first team found this a difficult year and were themselves sadly relegated from Premier North for the first time since such leagues were introduced.

Our men's seconds dominated their league and won promotion to North Two, well done to them, whilst the men's thirds stay in North Three. Our women's seconds finished third in North Two but had an amazing run in the Conference Cup eventually losing 1-0 in the final to Northumbria III. It is a long journey to get to a Conference Cup final and along the way they beat Teesside I, Lancaster I, Manchester Met I, Manchester II and Leeds II – well done to them. The women's III finished fourth in North Three and maintained their status.