



University of Birmingham Branch



# UBS Sport Scholarships Performance of the Month March 2011



## Performance of the Month

With March playing host to the 2011 BUCS Championships, it was always going to be a busy and exciting month, and as usual our scholars were out in force delivering the performances that count. After a flurry of medals and point winning results, the University of Birmingham finally moved ahead of Leeds Met on the overall BUCS rankings, leaving us 2nd to only Loughborough. However, with Championships still to be contested in various sports, its important that all our clubs, teams and indeed scholars stay on top of their game in order that we retain a firm grip on our current position. The next few months should prove to be very interesting!

Helping Birmingham climb up the rankings this month, were the ever successful Women's Hockey team, who dominated at the BUCS Hockey final, taking the crown emphatically for the second year running. UBS Scholar and team Captain, Sarah Page, led her team by example on the pitch, and was rewarded for her outstanding efforts when she received the prestigious 'Player of the Final' award. The second year Geography student played with passion from the midfield and despite struggling with injury throughout the year, lifted herself in time to lead her team to victory. For this inspirational performance, Sarah is the March winner of the UBS Performance of the month.



### Other Notable Achievements

#### Swimming

The first and second swimming teams put in unforgettable performances at the BUCS team championships in Loughborough when they finished second and first in their respective divisions - their highest achievement to date and best ever finishing positions.

Competition was fierce in the first division, but with both the men and the women swimming the meet in record time, they confirmed themselves as the fastest team in the history of the club, and deserved winners of the silver spotlight.

Both our swimming scholars had a great Championship with Phil Hodgson (1st year Sport Ex) breaking the long standing 200m Freestyle club record, and narrowly missing out on the 100m Butterfly and 100m IM records; while Alessandro Lazdins (Medical Sciences) swam personal bests in both the 200m and 100m Freestyle events.

#### Judo

A small Birmingham team headed to Sheffield for the BUCS Judo Championships, but this did not stop them from bringing home the goods. Out of a team of seven, 3 medals made their way back to Birmingham, 1 of each colour. Amongst the owners, was Political Science student, and UBS Scholar, Diego Scardone. Diego, who has contested Judo for seventeen years, exuded confidence from the beginning, and in his fourth appearance in a BUCS Judo final, walked away with the silver in the U66kg 1KYU.

#### Biathlon

The University Triathlon team made their annual trip to Oxford for the BUCS Biathlon Championships, providing their usual success story when they claimed individual gold in the men's event and silver and bronze in the men's and women's team categories respectively. The surprise performance of the day however, came from swimming scholar Phil Hodgson, who competing in his first Biathlon, produced a performance that would have won the team the gold medal had he been declared as an A team member at the beginning of the day.

#### Cross Country

At the 2011 Home Countries International, Antrim, first year Human Biology undergrad, Hannah Walker, romped her way to an English victory in the U20 Women's race, covering the difficult 5.4km course in an impressive 18minutes 54.

#### Athletics

Second year Business student, Dan Clorley, produced an impressive performance at the Senior South of England 12-Stage Road Relays. Competing for his home club, Luton AC, Dan ran the fastest short stage leg of the day, posting an outstanding 16minutes 11 over 5.5km.

#### Alumni Watch

Our very own Scholarship Manager, Luke Gunn, represented Great Britain at the 2011 IAAF World Cross Country Championships, in Punta Umbria, Spain this month. In his first ever outing at a World Championship cross country event, the current UK Steeplechase Champion, battled his way to 73rd, and third British counter, in an inevitably high quality field. The Sport and Material Sciences graduate was the 20th European home and said of the race, "In an ever African dominated event the pace was furious from the start, but I was able to dig deep and hold onto my position whilst passing some world class runners. I was completely spent at the end and couldn't have given anymore; it all bodes well for the summer track season."

In more cross country news, Sport Ex graduate, Jon Pepper, joined fresher Hannah Walker at the top of the podium at the Home Countries International in Northern Ireland. Jon, running for England, claimed the senior men's title, covering the 10.8km course in 34minutes 12.

With the Triathlon season now underway, UBS Alumni Graduate Scholar and UBS member of staff, Non Stanford started her year at the ITU Pan American Cup Sprint Triathlon, Florida. In a strong field that included a former World Champion, the 2010 Sport Ex graduate finished a very promising 5th. Non then followed this with victory at the National Elite Duathlon Championships at Loughborough. In the run-bike-run race, Stanford clinched the win by just 3 seconds, claiming her first Senior British title and selection for the 2011 European Elite Duathlon Championships.



Pictures from L-R: Diego Scardone, Phil Hodgson, Hannah Walker, Daniel Clorley, Luke Gunn

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