

Fantastic Weekend for the Palatinates

Another wonderful day for women's hockey as they took on second in the table Buckingham. Going 1-0 down made little difference as they stormed back to win 4-1 and go six points clear at the top of the table, with a very impressive goal difference. There was also an excellent 2-1 away win for our women's second team against Doncaster firsts.

The men played on Sunday in National Division One North and will have been equally delighted with their 3-2 win over Birmingham University, scoring the winner in the last minute of the game. The Seconds went down 2-0 away against Leeds first team.

Also, in a National League our **volleyball** men secured an excellent 3-0 win away against Essex.

Indoor **cricket** featured heavily over the weekend. Durham women's firsts 88 for 6 – Edinburgh seconds 75 for 5, Durham seconds 136 for 3 – St Andrews firsts 79 for 3.

In the final match Durham seconds looked to be in serious trouble but somehow held firm, pulling victory from almost certain defeat: Durham 100 for 3 – Edinburgh seconds 97 for 6.

Beginning the defence of their national title, Durham Men's I beat Northumbria by 3 wickets, Leeds by 15 runs, Sunderland by 6 wickets and Durham II by 3 wickets. Men's II also beat Northumbria by one wicket.

The women's **football** season isn't going as well as we might like but **futsal** is a completely different story, with Durham teams dominating this round robin. Durham II 12 - Northumbria II 2, Durham III 4 - York I 3, Durham II 8 - Sunderland I 1.

The Palatinate **rugby** side beat Blythe 84-0. Men's football lost out in the cup 4-1. We fielded a fully changed side in order to rest our first team for BUCS Wednesday and for next Saturday's league encounter. Our aim this year is to secure BUCS and Wearside League titles.

Softball made its first appearance of the year. Our mixed team beat Manchester 35-17, York 27-23, drew with UCLAN II 18-18 but were well beaten by UCLAN I 35-13. I believe the latter are the dominate force in this sport. I watched us play one of these games and the standard of our side was extremely impressive.

Our **American Football** side had an excellent 30-20 win over Loughborough which suggests that we will be well placed in this new national league. It looks as though UWE are nowhere

near as strong as they were last year, having already lost to Nottingham 21-20.

GB rowing had their trials this weekend and 9 of our 13 athletes had personal bests on the ergo test. On the water on Sunday Zoe McCutcheon finished 29 overall, Anna Grace was 17 Under 23 and Daisy Jackson 22.

In the men's coxless pairs Charlie Warren and Will Morgan-Jones were the third Under 23 boat, Harry Wildridge and Bob Bryden 9, Will Garner and March Turnbull 17 with Arran Kirkaldy and Will Nicholson 18.

Finally, in the **Ultimate** regionals, Durham I won all eight games to take first place, Durham II had five wins for eleventh place and Durham III won three to finish fourteenth.

Focus on College Sport

The Durham colleges compete against each other in 20 different sports each year. With 90 men's and 29 women's teams playing across 11 leagues, football is by far the biggest sport. Based on all sides having a squad of fifteen that means 1,785 students play football at college level.

The college with the most teams is Collingwood with 16 men's and 3 women's teams. Incredibly, in the men's premier league of 13 teams, Collingwood have five sides, of which their 'E' team is currently top.

SPORT IN ACTION, ZAMBIA



Durham Sends Additional Students

Throughout our twenty years in Zambia, we have always worked alongside Sport in Action, in the sports of women's football, netball and men's and women's basketball!

However, In the early years of the project some universities sent out support in other areas. St Andrews - volleyball and literary support, Stirling - nurses, Northumbria - construction students, and Loughborough - rugby coaches.

Durham added a number of areas which included tennis, hockey and lacrosse. We also sent out music and drama students who worked in both Lusaka and Livingstone.

In Livingstone our music and drama students linked up to the Royal Livingstone Hotel and supported their outreach programmes in local schools, in local orphanages and old people's homes. The latter were nothing like the UK. The homes were in small compounds where each resident lived in a tiny hut that contained a bed and a small table. I will never forget our students singing and dancing with them and the tears of happiness and joy that followed!

In the evenings the students sang for two hours to the hotel guests. The contrast between day-time and night-time activities could not have been more marked but a lifechanging experience for all.

Durham also arranged for schools from the North of England, both primary and secondary, to spend time in Zambia volunteering on the Sport in Action sites. Finally, Durham focused very heavily on supporting the Fountain of Hope Orphanage in Lusaka.

A quote from one of our returning students last year:

"Volunteer Zambia was the most life changing experience I have ever had. I learnt so much about myself, and the world last summer, whilst making a lifelong group of friends."

Below: Durham students in Zambia (images: Sydney Davies)



Next Week: Working with Children from the Fountain of Hope Orphanage.

A Wednesday Full of Drama

Maybe the best place to start is women's **lacrosse**. Our first team played Nottingham in a repeat of last year's final! I left at half time to watch elsewhere with the Palatinates trailing 6-2. Never give up in sport is all I can say, as Durham came away with an amazing 8-7 win! The seconds, in a huge encounter against Nottingham, also came away with an 8-7 win! Durham III beat Liverpool II 14-6, Durham V beat Northumbria I 8-4 and Durham VI beat Leeds III 14-6. Only Durham IV came out the wrong side of a result, losing 23-11 to Leeds I.

In a hugely physical encounter, Durham Men's **water polo** beat MMU 16-14 to hold on to top spot in their premier league. Men's basketball upset the odds by beating Newcastle away 77-70 in an outstanding win. Women's **basketball** was much more straight forward as they dispatched MMU 126-52.

Men's **rugby** went with back-to-back away wins with a 39-26 win at Cardiff. Given that we were 19-7 down this was an impressive recovery from the Palatinates. An excellent result. Once again, the women's score did not do us any justice at all. 49-0 down at half time, we eventually lost 65-5 in a hugely competitive second half against a very strong Edinburgh.

In an interview before the game the men's **squash** captain said of Durham 1:

"The team is playing well and they are all important matches from here on in. A win today is super important for us if we are to finish top."

He need not have worried as the club recorded an amazing 6 out of 6 in their results. Men's squash won 4-0 against

Lancaster and our women recorded the same score against the same opposition. Elsewhere in the club men's II won away at Sheffield Hallam I, women's II won 4-0, women's IV won 3-1 against York II and men's V beat Northumbria II 3-0 away.

Volleyball men won 3-0 against Manchester but in the surprise result of the day our excellent women's team lost 3-2 away at Derby!

Men's **hockey** will have been disappointed to lose a very close encounter with Nottingham Trent 3-2, but our women will have been pleased to come away with 1-1 draw away against the same opposition.

There was an excellent 133-50 win for our women **fencers** against Liverpool to keep them more than safe in their league. Durham men's **table tennis** recorded another very impressive win, beating York 16-1.

If lacrosse and squash had good days, then so too did **badminton** returning a near perfect record for the day. The men's first team beat York 7-1, Durham II won 5-3 against York II whilst Durham III won 5-3 against Hull I. The only blemish in the day came when our firsts women beat our seconds 8-0 but there was not much even Durham could do about that. Durham women's III won against Leeds Beckett I 6-2.

Our men faced a massive challenge against St Andrews in the **golf**. Just back in the national league, Durham found this a bridge too far, losing 6-2. Men's lacrosse knew this was going to be a tough day and went down 10-3 to Nottingham. The two Nottingham sides are, as always, very impressive, and they will be our obvious challenge in the knock-out rounds later in the year. Women's **netball** lost a close encounter

with Loughborough II, going down 51-46.

Finally, in a very busy day for our first teams, women's **football** secured a 1-1 draw away at Nottingham Trent. This may not eventually be enough to bring survival in this league.

Big Wins for our Seconds

Our second teams were on great form almost everywhere: women's **volleyball** II winning 3-0 against Manchester I, women's **tennis** II winning 6 - 0 against Manchester I, Durham **golf** II defeated York I 4-2, women's **fencing** II won 129 - 125 against Leeds I and **netball** II won 69-21 against Bangor I.

All the above results were against opposition first teams and men's **rugby** II had a huge encounter against the powerful Nottingham Trent I. Palatinates raced into a big first half lead but had to face a constant barrage in the second half. With two late long range kicks Durham made the game safe, winning 49-39.

Finally, there were two other big encounters for second teams, with our women's **hockey** II beating the always powerful Birmingham II 2-1 and in a desperately close encounter, men's basketball II beat MMU II 65-64. When it is that close it is never good to lose.

Big results Down the Programme

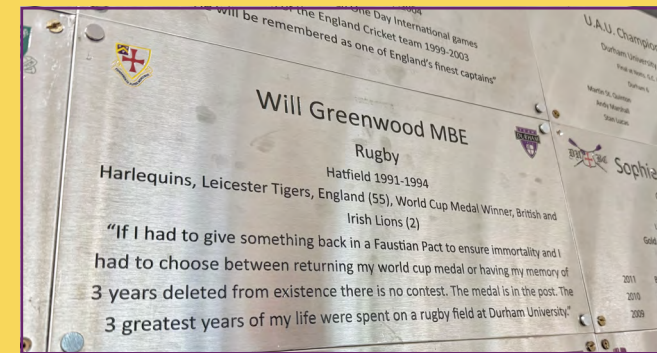
Some excellent results elsewhere, with **football** women's III winning 3-1 away against Sheffield II. Women's **hockey** V won 2-0 away against Sheffield Hallam II with **netball** V also beating Sheffield Hallam II 38-37.

Rugby III won 19-15 away against Liverpool I. **Table tennis** men's III beat Northumbria I 13-4. Finally, men's **tennis** VI beat Leeds III 6-0.

Memories From Our Plaque Wall

Those of you who've been into the new build at Maiden Castle may have seen the plaque wall in the cafe. Each plaque commemorates a sporting achievement, an individual or is a quote from one of our former students.

We thought you might like to see some of them in our weekly reports. The first is a great quote from Will Greenwood MBE, made some time after winning the rugby World Cup.



"If I had to give something back in a Faustian Pact to ensure immortality and I had to choose between returning my World Cup medal or having my memory of 3 years at Durham deleted from existence, there is no contest. The medal is in the post. The three greatest years of my life were spent on the rugby field at Durham University."

Thank you for your many replies to our last report, similar to those below, from two of our readers:

"Many thanks for the latest sport news – all much appreciated. I see that Durham is generally performing quite brilliantly on almost all fronts."

"Thanks again for the report, as always it's good to see how the numerous Durham teams get on. There are so many sports played nowadays compared to when we were students."

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

"Taking the Wednesday overall, the Palatinates won 48 and lost 30. We'll take that!"