



Dear Aberystwyth University Council,

As students' representatives we often argue that we cannot put a monetary value on the students' experience and that we cannot easily attach its responsibility to a specific department or person within the University. However, over the weekend we competed at Varsity 2015 in Bangor University.

Here, it was clear that Bangor University values sport. They understand its importance to student recruitment and the students' experience. In 38 competitions from Hockey to Octopush, 500 of our members were in awe at the clear investment in resources, facilities and personnel. Varsity is not just a sporting event, but is, in one form, a University Open Day.

We acknowledge at the Students' Union that much can be improved from within our structures and funding allocations but Aberystwyth University must hasten its discussions around valuing sport at this institution.

As student representatives we call upon the University Council to implement a Sports and Exercise Strategic Task Group at its earliest convenience in order to hold serious discussions with Sports Captains and Sports Representatives, local sporting organizations and university staff around the vision and future of Sports at Aberystwyth University.

This week we celebrate the achievements of our Sporting Clubs at Aberystwyth University Students' Union Sports Dinner and we have had a great year but this letter proves that we can do more! Our NUS UK Delegates will also be at National Conference this week campaigning alongside the students' movement calling on the sector to implement a series of initiatives. The value of sport and of recreational activities will play a vocal part in the schedule.

The General Election is fast approaching but this is our 'manifesto' letter, and we urge the University to seriously consider its message.

Aberystwyth and its locality offers so much to the sporting package but a mixture of under investment and lack of vision within Aberystwyth University fails to capture completely its potential.

A recent feasibility study on improving the sports centre is welcomed and is a crucial piece of investment that is so desperately needed by students, staff and the community. We only see this as a fraction of the sporting students' experience that needs your attention. We must push the agenda in Freeing up Wednesday, securing additional funds for the Students' Union, aligning gym membership with tuition fees, improving functions and services for disabled students and much more. We know that sport holds a strategic importance to student recruitment, student retention and graduate employability.

We fully understand the university has many responsibilities and priorities – but in two years' time Varsity 2017 will be at our doorstep (not to mention many national, regional and local games and competitions that we will host next year) and we cannot accept business as usual and a stagnant approach to sport.

Join #TeamAber and support the vision, the future and the value of Sport in Aberystwyth.



Yours Sincerely,

Jacob Dafydd Ellis  
AUSU President

Harriet O'Shea  
AUSU Activities Officer

Carys Ann Thomas  
President, Aberystwyth  
University Women's Rugby  
(AUWR)

Tom Wolfe  
President, Aikido

James Vitaly Harding  
Captain, Men's Team  
Fencing

Tom Acton  
President, Men's Cricket

Niamh Murphy  
President, Women's  
Football

Charlotte Isaac  
Captain, Equestrian Team

Kayleigh Louise Baylis  
President, Aberystwyth  
University Archery Club  
(Aber Archers)

Clare Shepherd  
President, Cheerleading

Ben Morgan  
Captain, Men's Basketball

Lucy Purser  
President, Aberystwyth  
Netball Club

Ryan Link  
President, Men's Hockey

Charlotte Tucker  
Captain, Swimming &  
Waterpolo

Amelia Farmer  
President, Aberystwyth  
Women's Cricket

Leonie Mahon  
Captain, Women's Rugby  
Union

Tom Wallis  
Captain, Men's Hockey

Adam Runacres  
President, Harriers

Sophie Stainton  
Captain, Women's Netball 1<sup>st</sup>

Alex Stafford  
Captain, Women's Football

Santhosh Kannan  
President, Aberystwyth  
Dance Sport

Tom Penberthy  
Captain, Squash

Annabell Charlton  
Captain, Netball

Jack Hocking  
President, Tennis Club

Izzie Smith  
Captain, Women's Fencing

Lottie Vaughan  
Captain, Women's Tennis

Ciesca Ryder  
President, Women's Hockey

Ruby F Plant Milne  
President, Equestrian

Jake Foxford  
President, Ultimate Frisbee

Ciaran Campbell  
President, American  
Football (Tarannau)

Bryn Jones  
President, Rugby League

Luke Wylie  
President, Lacrosse

Toni James  
President, Karate

Imogen Coggins  
Captain, Women's Hockey

Dan Brookes  
President, Kickboxing

Jonathan Scattergood  
President, Rowing

Jake Baynham  
President, Fencing Club

Lewis Donnelly  
Captain, Rugby League

Xander Barnes  
Captain, Badminton