



## Manifestos For VP Sport

The following are the manifestos for the candidates running to be one of your full-time officers for the year 21/22. These officers will represent yourselves to the university and lead on campaigns to make student life better.

This officer role will champion the following areas of work but not limited to:

- Act as the primary student representative for sporting activity and clubs.
- Promote to the membership engagement in sport and the Union's sporting activity.
- Promote the benefits of participation in sports and healthy living to students.
- Ensure that there is successful organisation of Roses and that home and away events are appropriately planned and resourced.
- Represent student opinion and expectation to the University, in liaison with the SU President, regarding competitive/elite, college and recreational sport.

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

## Holly Foster

Hello! I'm Holly (she/her), a final year marketing student from Lonsdale college. I'm running to be your next VP sport because it's no secret that I love sport, it's made my time at University so amazing and has helped my confidence grow. One of the aspects about sport here at Lancaster that I love is that those who may not have previously had the experience at playing in the top level of their sport can still play for competitive teams. Throughout my time in Lancaster I have been a part of some great clubs, I am currently Lonsdale college netball Club Captain, in my second year I was the General Secretary and B team captain. Additionally, I am also part of the Women's and mixed Lacrosse exec as the publicity officer. In addition to College Netball and Lacrosse I also represented the Uni in Tennis and women's cricket and I'm part of this years sports committee, along with playing in the college bar sports league. I've been a student this year and I share frustrations and disappointments that we've been unable to have much activity on campus, so whilst I can't make up for the lost year I want the opportunity to make the next year great and get as much sport happening as possible.

The main point to take away is that I want sport to work for everyone.

1. After what has been such a difficult year for everyone I believe it is important to give as much support to club exec's as possible. It is a very real possibility that exec's will have members who have only been to a few trainings, so I will guide them and make sure they have any resources they need available to them. As part of this I would give more support and training for college and recreational execs, as currently the college sport exec's receive no training. Additionally, I would like for there to be some formal welfare and inclusion training for all exec's.

2. We need to reassess the way that funding is distributed. I believe that every competitive sports team should have access to strength and conditioning sessions. Another aspect where I think funding is extremely important is coaching. For sports where many of the players join as beginners or have limited experience this is especially important, it shouldn't be left down to the exec's of a club to be teaching all basic skills when they may have only been playing for a few years. This will also help to increase our standings in BUCS for the majority of sports as they will now have better fundamental skills and technique. As a University we will never be able to compete at the top level with Universities who recruit so I believe that there should be a greater focus on giving more clubs more money to benefit the most people.
3. The financial barriers to sports can be too high for some people, pricing them out of the clubs. As a way to tackle this I would want to have conversations with the sports centre about the Sport Lancaster memberships and if anything can be done to decrease costs or spread them out more evenly throughout the terms instead of having to pay a big payment at the beginning of term.
4. I want there to be more minority participation in sports, and for sports clubs to become more diverse. The way I will approach this is by have conversations with international societies and Ethnic Minority student groups to investigate if there are any reasons that they may be choosing not to participate in sports and then see what we can do to make sports clubs more accessible to these members. Furthermore, I also want to ensure that sports clubs are a welcoming environment for those who are a part of the LGBTQ+ community.
5. Finally, we don't know what the future holds but I will make sure that we have the best roses we possibly can. I share the disappointment that current students feel knowing that they've missed out on so much playing time so, I would push to make roses the biggest it can be and include as many events as we can so that as many students get the opportunity to play as possible.

Thanks so much for taking the time to read my manifesto, I would really appreciate your votes. I know given the opportunity I would be able to make some real changes to benefit the student population.

## Ivo Mladenov

Our Student Union does some undeniably fantastic work. However, at some point along the way it managed to forget the word; 'Union'. The first and foremost purpose of a Union is to protect its members, yet I can safely bet that every single person reading my manifesto knows a fellow student who is being exploited by their employer, fleeced or ignored by their landlord, or who has faced verbal or physical abuse for their sex, race, religion or sexual orientation. Our Students Union must return to its core principle; protecting its members.

I believe that I am the right person to put it back on track

### **Employment –**

At our university, too many students feel as if they must choose between the demands of their job – long shifts, poor pay, unsociable hours; and the demands of their course.

I intend to use kind and reasoned negotiation with student employers to deliver the workers' rights that our students deserve, to ensure all students don't have to decide between academia and being able to afford to live.

If negotiation is unsuccessful I am not afraid to deploy direct action, as an absolute last resort.

### **Accommodation-**

As individual students, we have precious little sway when talking to our landlords and letting agents.

If we put the collective voice of the student body and SU, behind tackling extortionately high rents, hidden charges and poor quality houses, we can make the progress that we as students and consumers deserve.

This includes University halls of residence, where conditions could be drastically improved.

### **Stronger Links between Sports Teams & Students' Union**

Throughout my time at University there has been an inconsistency in the amount of communication between LU Sports Teams and the LU itself. If there is not a strong relationship between the two; the development and progression of teams is being hindered and opportunities for partnerships to be built are being withheld.

1. **Improved access to sporting equipment and facilities.** Examples of this will include:
  - Progress towards an online booking system for our sporting facilities through communication with the Sports Centre and the University.
  - To provide equipment for every sport for recreational use.
  - To work towards an increase in access to sporting facilities through building partnerships with local sports centres.
1. **To build, develop and further relationships with local community sport actors.** Examples of this will include:
  - The establishment of formal links with local sports teams to increase volunteering and coaching opportunities.
  - To work alongside the Student's Union President in building relationships with local government officials to improve Lancaster university involvement in local community sport.

#### Experience for the position:

In my time both inside and outside of University I have been involved in many political and campaigning organisations. Most notably my time as member of the Politics & Debating society. Being involved with this society has massively improved my skills in formal communication but most importantly in compromise, effective negotiation, and leadership. I am also a 2 gold medal national MMA champion and I have spent my free time in training and working with the next generation of athletes.

## Paul McCarthy

### LUSU Manifesto 2.0

Hi I'm Paul, I've been VP Sport for the last year and one year of LUSU just wasn't enough so I'm running for another term! In a pre Covid world I've been on the Uni Cricket exec, Lonsdale JCR Sports Rep and an exec member of the Lonnie football and Bar Sports teams, so I'm experienced in all parts of sporting life at Lancaster.

This year has naturally been a massive challenge, but I've had some great success in areas such as improving communications between the VP Sport and Sports Presidents, keeping activity going in lockdowns through virtual challenges and events, and helping clubs set up welfare initiatives. I'm also halfway through reforming the union and university's sporting arrangement, a project we've been attempting to complete for years, and seeing everything through til the end is a massive motivator for me – that and doing the role when actual activity can happen this time around!

I'll quickly outline my priorities for the next year here, but for more details please just message my various campaign social media pages and I'll be happy to chat whenever!

#### Priorities:

1. Finish and implement reforming our sporting model.

Why? Currently the union cannot put funding towards sport in the next academic year. That's blunt but it's true, funding comes out of reserves and due to block grant cuts and commercial services such as sugar being unable to open these reserves can't support sport for another year. This arrangement has hit students in the past, it's why the rec leagues were going to be scrapped – a decision I'd managed to reverse at the start of this year until Covid

stopped them happening anyway. Therefore changing our model and arrangement with the university has to be number one priority to make sure the sport we love is sustainable.

How would I do this? I've already begun. I have made this case to the Vice Chancellor, and am in discussions with university staff about getting changes for the start of next year. One option is for the Union to deliver college and rec sport (with aims for added college leagues such as womens football, basketball and badminton), whilst the uni leads on delivering BUCS Sport, obviously with student consultation and union input every step of the way. This is financially doable and crucially would protect student sport, and there's nothing bigger I could achieve in my next term.

## 2. Recruitment.

Why? Come October there will be two years worth of recruitment to make up for and an almost completely fresh sporting cohort. It's crucial for a lot of clubs' survival to attract as many first and second years as possible, and that everyone who missed out on joining teams this year sees the opportunities available.

How? Build networks between JCR Sports reps, who freshers often come to asking how to join clubs, and Sports presidents. Focussed communication and guidance for new execs on how best to recruit, and consistent showcasing of teams on union socials. And finally a week long campus wide freshers fair, with stations up for longer and increased trial sessions, to maximise the chance of freshers finding their new communities.

## 3. Alumni Roses.

Why? Final years and students that left last year haven't had a full traditional Roses to be the incredible send off it's supposed to be – and that doesn't sit right with me.

How? On a separate summer weekend to the traditional Roses which of course needs to be in Lancaster, we hold a tournament for alumni of these two years, and encourage all to come back, play their fixtures and make useful connections with current students.

## 4. Affiliate College Sport.

Why? Execs aren't given proper training, particularly on finances, and I'm worried no affiliation could leave college sport vulnerable as we saw with the Rec leagues decision.

How? Simply ensure they get the training (which I also want to reform) that uni teams get.

## 5. Build Sporting Community.

How? Rebuild the Sport section on the LUSU website. Advertisement of what sport is happening and where. Published BUCS Wednesday fixtures so students see where they can go and support teams, and easily follow how we're doing nationally. Make links to clubs' pages and training times more accessible so more students can see how to get involved. Also SU provided training courses on signposting for welfare reps, helping them in their roles and ensuring sport is inclusive, welcoming and the highlight of student experience.

Keep us on track and vote Pmac.

