Vice President Sports:

Elected Officer: Paul McCarthy

Hi everyone, I’m Paul McCarthy and I’m running to be LUSU’s VP Sports officer for the next year. I’m a 3rd year economics student, but my time at Lancaster has been about much more than purely studying for my degree, and sport has been a fundamental part of this. Over the last 3 years I have been Lonsdale’s sports rep on the JCR, a part of Lonsdale’s football and Bar Sports teams (including this year’s dominoes captain which is unquestionably the most prestigious sporting role one could acquire), and a Vice Captain and Exec member of the University Cricket team. Holding these positions has given me great understanding of the unique qualities the college system brings to the sport side of Lancaster, as well as experience amongst the university sides competing in BUCS and representing us at the elite level. In this manifesto I will outline my goals and focuses were I to be elected as our VP Sports, how I’d look to achieve these goals, and the benefits a flourishing and wholesome sporting system can have to the general lives of Lancaster students.

**Goal 1: Increase participation in LUSU organised College Sports events such as Carter Shield.**

**How?** Clear and advanced communication with College sports reps who are in charge of getting teams together for each Carter Shield event. Whereas previously it’s been left to JCR members to organise the running of each competition, I’d happily take on this responsibility. Advanced notice of when a tournament will be and what sport it will be in will then be sent to each college

communications team for them to advertise on all social media platforms (as well as all LUSU pages) to reach as many people as possible.

**Why would this benefit?** Participating in sport improves physical, social and mental welfare, so even on a non-competitive level if there are more people taking part it would lead to endless advantages. It is also an opportunity for Uni sports teams to recruit potential players they may have missed at the start of the year, so could also provide competitive advantages.

**Goal 2: Increase communications between College and Uni Sports Execs**

**How?** At minimum termly meetings together with college sports reps and members of University Sports execs.

**Why?** I’ve been on both, currently there’s no intercommunication whatsoever. A college sports rep will be the typical point of reference when a fresher wants to take up a sport, so if they know who’s on the Uni Exec of a team, they’ll know who to refer potential recruits to. Also, the relationship could work in the opposite way, if someone trials for a Uni team but doesn’t make it, being referred to a college rep could provide more opportunities to partake at college level instead.

**Goal 3: Focus on Mental Health within sports teams**

**How?** Get at least one member of each team to undertake a course such as ‘Look After Your Mate’, and make a Wellbeing Officer mandatory for Execs. I’d also recommend emulating Rugby’s wellfare sessions, and help other sports teams set these up.

**Why?** Mental Health is a fundamental part of student life, and struggling with it can completely ruin the university experience. Anything that can be done to get people talking more, combating issues they’re facing and speaking honestly with one another in a trusting environment, should be done.

**Goal 4: Win an away Roses**

**How?** Admittedly, this is the ambition I’d have least influence in achieving (although my 20 not out for the Cricket 3’s last year will be talked about for decades to come), but, alongside York and the Roses committee, I’d work tooth and nail to put on another incredible event for what is unquestionably my highlight of the year. Also organising Founders with Bowland last year gives me some experience in this field (although on a much smaller event in scale).

**Goal 5: Increase transparency in the SU**

**How?** Weekly multimedia updates in what I’m doing in my role. Regular meetings with College and Uni teams where I’d look to find out their targets, and see how I could help in achieving them, and multiple Q and A sessions with students to find out what they want from their VP Sports.

Thanks for reading my manifesto, I’ve got plenty more to say so if you see me campaigning feel free to hit me up, and if what I’ve said sounds good to you then I’d be very grateful if you voted for me.