Sport is central to Trinity, as a social, health and recreation activity for thousands of students and staff. It also provides a competitive platform for our high—performance athletes. These two key themes, participation and performance, form the cornerstone of the current strategy for sport, ‘Raising our Game’ 2015–2018, which this year reached its half-way point. This milestone was marked with an interim review, which highlighted that many of the goals set out in the original plan have been achieved ahead of time. Significant progress made thus far includes:

— Completion of phase 1 of outdoor sports facilities, fitness theatre extension and acquisition of the Iveagh Grounds. When fully operational this 17-acre site will provide a suite of all-weather flood—lit training facilities;
— The creation of a sports development unit which provides a clear pathway to ensure student sports clubs continue to flourish;
— A more streamlined staffing structure to realign with strategic goals.
One of the two key strategic themes of ‘Raising our Game’ is participation, and an expanded social sport programme certainly captured the imagination of staff and students...
Social Sport & Participation
One of the two key strategic themes of ‘Raising our Game’ is participation, and an expanded social sport programme certainty captured the imagination of staff and students in 2016–2017, increasing participation levels along the way.

In addition to five-a-side soccer, dodgeball, tag rugby and badminton, this year also saw the introduction of successful ‘learn to play’ hockey and GAA courses as well as 3 v 3 basketball. Trinity Sport’s recreational runs, the Reindeer Run, and Campus 5k are as popular as ever and continue to attract capacity crowds.

A newly introduced weekly social walk/run began as a pilot programme and was quickly extended into a permanent fixture. An ultimate frisbee social league for staff, new adult fencing and children’s trampolining were among the other new additions to the classes and courses programmes.

High Performance
Our hockey ladies first XI had a well-earned promotion to the top-tier EY league while Trinity Rugby consolidated their position in division 1A of the AIL. The latter also saw four of their players called up to the Ireland U20 squad: Colm Hogan, Jack Kelly, Michael Silvester and Charlie Connolly.

Other student clubs that shone include sailing, who enjoyed one of their most successful years in decades, claiming colours and intervarsities. The latter was particularly sweet, as it was their first in 11 years and it also resulted in an invitation to compete in the British University Sailing Association (BUSA) competition in Liverpool.

There were intervarsity wins too for the kayak club, ultimate frisbee, judo, squash, snow sports (who also won colours this year), and men’s tennis.

Our fencers notched up their 10th consecutive intervarsities win to complete their ‘decade of dominance’. An even more epic landmark was reached by the cricket club in June, who celebrated their 1,000th game since the formation of the Leinster league.

Trinity’s senior hurlers competed in the prestigious Fitzgibbon Cup for the first time in over a decade. The team also made the final of the Kehoe Cup. Our freshers, meanwhile, completed the double to win both the league and championship in division 2. Fresher hurler Cian O’Sullivan was also called up to the Dublin senior squad.

Women’s rugby welcomed the Women’s Rugby World Cup to campus in March. The event was hosted by Trinity captain Niamh Byrne, of Leinster and Ireland Sevens, and also saw the return of World Cup squad member and graduate Ailis Egan, who began playing her rugby at Trinity.

DUBC, who won the novice 8 Dan Quinn shield at this year’s colours for the fourth consecutive year, look forward to welcoming their new chief rowing coach, Richard Ruggieri. Richard is a former head coach for the US U23 national team.
DULBC’s novice 8 won at this year’s Trinity Regatta, while two of the club’s senior members, Caoimhe Dempsey and Aoiife Corcoran, were selected to represent Ireland at the Home Internationals in Scotland.

**Student Scholarships and Awards**

Trinity Sport awarded 68 scholarships in 20 different sporting codes. Supported by Bank of Ireland, some of these recipients included:

- Ellen Ince, a two-time European champion as well as a two-time world champion in taekwondo.
- Áine Haberlin, Aisling Reynolds and Michelle Peel, all senior inter-county Gaelic football players.
- Irish U20 rugby players Colm Hogan, Jack Kelly and Michael Silvester.
- Women’s rugby interprovincial players Kathryn-Ann Dane and Niamh Byrne.
- Commonwealth Games athlete Victoria Mullin.
- Prakash Vijayanath, South African international badminton player.
- Fencer Philip Cripwell, ranked number one in Ireland in both junior and senior foil (2015–16).
- Ireland Wolves cricket player Lorcan Tucker, who also helped Ireland retain the Hone Mac-Gregor Trophy at this year’s Irish Universities Cricket tournament in Cambridge.

The annual sport awards and commons was once again compered by RTÉ presenter Evanne Ní Chuilínn and was attended by special guests Ed Joyce and Rob Kearney. There were eight awards in total, including Club of the Year (fencing), Team of the Year (ladies hockey first XI) and Sports Person of the Year (Cian O’Sullivan – hurling).

**Facilities**

For the third consecutive year the Sports Centre won Gold in the White Flag National Quality Standards, which grades facilities for their operational standards. This year was the Centre’s 10th anniversary since its founding and it underwent a major reconfiguration and enhancement programme.

The completion of phase 1 works at Santry Sports Grounds was heralded with pomp and ceremony when the GAA pitch was officially launched with a match between Jim Gavin’s Dublin team and a Trinity selection. It was great too to welcome GAA President Aogán Ó Fearghaíl to this event.

The pending acquisition of the 17-acre Iveagh Sports Grounds will provide enhanced GAA, rugby and hockey facilities.

As Trinity Sport continues to build on previous successes, it enters into the final stage of its strategic plan in good shape.
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