Raising our Game – Sport at Trinity

Trinity Sport continues to encourage participation of students in different sports and fitness activities, at all levels, and to provide support to student athletes on the field of play as they strive for greatness at both national and international level.

Sports Centre
The expansion of the Sports Centre allowed for an even wider selection of programmes and members voted with their feet – there was a 15% increase in usage from October 2017 to June 2018 compared to the same period the previous year. This translates to:
— 2016-2017 – 249,504 attendance
— 2017-2018 – 286,361 attendance
In both cases the majority of users, circa 70%, were students.
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Social sport & participation

The broadening out of the participation base continues to be a driving objective for Trinity Sport. There was a full programme of social sports and leagues on campus for students, including: 3 v 3 basketball, 5-a-side soccer, rookie hockey, social table tennis and learn to play Gaelic football.

These programmes had 612 participants playing weekly and a footfall over the academic year of just over 7,800. In addition a social sports programme was run off campus in Trinity Hall, where there were 167 participants.

The participation side of Trinity Sport activities also involved the Swim for a Mile training programme and event, a staff social programme, the Reindeer Run and Campus 5K as well as a new EU Active Campus Europe initiative, Move More – Feel Better, specifically aimed at targeting those who do not meet recommended activity levels.

Sports club performances

The Rifle club had a prominent year, with the club’s Siobhan Scarlett representing Trinity on the national and international stages, picking up a Pink and Performance of the Year at the annual Trinity Sports Awards. There were Colours wins for Fencing, Snow Sports, Trampoline and men’s Rugby. Other high-profile wins include the Association Football men’s team, who won freshmen’s competition the Harding Cup for the first time in over 20 years thanks to a goal by sports scholar James Woods.

Elsewhere women’s Volleyball earned promotion to the premier national league, while our fresher hurlers won both the league and the championship for the second year in a row. Men’s rowing won the Wylie Cup (University Championships) and also came from behind to defeat UCD in this year’s Colours, bringing the Gannon Cup back to Trinity. Our senior women claimed the Corcoran Cup at the same event, which had to be hastily rearranged to take place at Islandbridge due to the snowy conditions.

Upcoming talent at Trinity Rugby was on display when the U20s men’s team won the All Ireland Fraser McMullen Cup for only the third time in the club’s history.

Scholarships

October saw the unveiling of this year’s sports scholars, presented in conjunction with Bank of Ireland. Among the 63 awardees were: Aoife Hopkins (sailing), the current U21 European ladies radial champion; Lorcan Tucker (cricket), a previous Junior Player of the Year for Cricket Ireland; and four Ireland U20s (rugby) – Jack Kelly, Michael Silvester, Max Kearney and Jack Dunne, who is also a Naughton scholar.

Planning for the future

Two strategic partnerships were announced this year, which will further develop Trinity’s reputation as a sporting university. An agreement with Cricket Leinster will see the province use College Park as their new home ground for all Leinster youth and senior cricket. In turn, Trinity will have access to Cricket Leinster skills and capacity to upgrade and maintain the cricket square and outfield to the highest standard.

This was followed by the news that Trinity and basketball club Meteors are to field a joint women’s team to compete in the national league from the 2018-19 season with the Sports Centre as the new team’s home court.

Investment

Trinity Sport’s investment in capital projects and facilities was increased during the year with the purchase of the Iveagh Grounds sports facilities in Crumlin in November 2017. Further investment will be made in the site with planned redevelopment work to complement existing facilities at Santry. As Trinity continues to grow, sporting opportunities and facilities are being developed in tandem.

Strategy for Sport

Completed at the end of 2017-18, the strategy was delivered on track and achieved the overall objective to ‘Raise Our Game’ with an increase in performances, participation and much improved communications, infrastructure, resourcing and profile. Trinity Sport is now a recognised identity amongst many stakeholders and continues to grow and develop.
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