

Atlantic Conquered

They did it! The intrepid duo of Lloyd Figgins and David Whiddon became the first modern day, independent oarsmen to row non-stop from Morocco to Barbados in their 23ft rowing boat 'Atlantic Calling'. Their 3200 nautical mile endurance rowing adventure took them 60 days and 17 hours and their supporters at BU are very proud of them and feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to work on this project.

Along the way the pair, who were raising money for the RNLI, experienced some awe-inspiring as well as scary moments including sightings of 10 rare pygmy killer whales, treacherous storms with 7 metre waves, 3 near collisions with oil tankers, nosy sharks, hallucinations and sleep deprivation.

The Centre for Event and Sport Research provided psychological and physiological support. They brought together people such as Olympic rower, Bobby Thatcher and David Alred (Jonny Wilkinson's kicking coach) to help provide training and focus. UK celebrity and previous Atlantic rower, Ben Fogle provided advice. Emma Kavanagh, Lecturer in Sports Psychology and Coaching Sciences, reported that the key to the rowers' success was down to their positive mental attitude and communication, which they managed to maintain throughout their journey.



Rugby, football, and gender feature in student conference papers

The School of Tourism is sending a total of nine undergraduate students to the British Conference of Undergraduate Research of whom three, we are proud to say, are sports students - Chloe Bray, Maddie Gough and Claire Maton.

Chloe will be exploring the rugby career termination process. She consulted three retired rugby union players to explore the psychological effects career retirement have on professional athletes, and the lifestyle changes they go through to adapt to a new life and career. Previous research has not been sport specific, and therefore fails to address the variances in experiences that may occur between athletes from different sporting backgrounds.

The effect of expertise on visual search behaviours in predicting opponent's movement intentions in football has been researched by Claire. She has identified that the use of deceptive movements by footballers is common practice, yet little is known about their implications on the opponent player. The study investigates the directional decision making and visual search strategies used in identifying the direction which an opponent footballer is moving. Participants were asked to predict the direction in which the player was about to move, whilst having their eye movements monitored using an EyeLink 1000 eye tracker to identify their search patterns over the oncoming player.

Maddie's paper addresses gender identity perceptions among female varsity athletes. Understanding the experiences of female athletes who reach the top levels in a sporting



(Left to right) Chloe Bray, Claire Maton and Maddie Gough

environment that is still largely male dominated and associated with masculinity is an important area to explore. The purpose of the study is to add knowledge to a relatively unexplored field of research by exploring female athletes' perceptions of people's portrayals of themselves in relation to their roles as athletes within University and gender constructions.

The conference hosts spoken papers, lectures, poster presentations and workshops, but each one will be delivered by an undergraduate student. Work is based on what they have done either as part of the course or their dissertation. They are spending two days talking to undergraduate researchers from their respective areas as well as learning about how other disciplines approach research.

BU link up with the University of South Carolina

Dr. Richard Shipway (Associate Dean: International Engagement) received a warm Southern welcome when he spent a week at the College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management (HRSM) at University of Carolina, USA. Richard was awarded funding from the BU Small Grants Research Scheme to explore opportunities for future staff and student exchanges and potential research and enterprise collaboration between BU and USC. Whilst in Columbia, South Carolina, Richard delivered a lecture on Destination Marketing to undergraduate students from the School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management (HRTM). Following initial discussions with USC faculty, staff from CESR (Centre for Event and Sport Research) are currently following up on a series of potential research collaborations, most notably in the two areas of Motor Sport Research and Golf Management.



Richard Shipway (R) receives a warm welcome from Professor Simon Hudson (L), Director of the Center of Economic Excellence in Tourism and Economic Development at USC.

Forest racing

The School's Motor Sport Research Group (MSRG) was again well represented on the 2012 Rallye Sunseeker International run in the forests around Poole and Bournemouth. Bruce Grant-Braham, the University's representative on the Poole Tourism Management Board (which he chairs) was instrumental in organising the ceremonial start from Poole Quay for the second year running. Thousands of spectators flocked to the waterside venue as viewers across the region watched live on BBC 1's *South Today*.

Once out in the competitive forests the first round of the 2012 MSA British Rally Championship got off to a stunning start when an intense day-long battle between Jarkko Nikara/Petri Nikara in their Citroën DS3 R3T and Mark Donnelly/Dai Roberts in their Renault Clio R3 finally went the Northern-Irish driver's way.

With the two crews never separated by more than four seconds throughout the 12-stages their neck-and-neck duel was finally decided when the Finnish crew retired on the penultimate stage after their car's engine lost power.



The organisers commissioned an economic impact study from the MSRG two years ago – which is still extensively quoted in the event's marketing material – and this year Paul Boyce was asked to undertake a satisfaction survey of the competitors. Presumably Mark Donnelly and Dai Roberts' responses will be glowing!

“Very fast, very powerful” - BU backs rising Olympic sport

Great Britain is dreaming of sporting success this summer, and Bournemouth University continues to champion one of the least-known yet most exciting Olympic sports - handball.

Accreditation up to level two will be available for students, teachers, sports development professionals, and anyone else with an interest in the sport.

For BU students, the course enables them to teach handball to children on school placements, improving their CV and introducing the game to a younger audience.

The sport has been successfully coached to children as young as five in mixed gender groups, and a recent accreditation event for the Level One Coaching Qualification attracted 23 students.

Senior Lecturer in Exercise

Physiology, Kelly Goodwin is behind the initiative to teach level one, which BU adopted in 2004. “It is nine years since I started pushing handball,” she said.

“It provides the students with an additional qualification and the knowledge of a sport which is versatile in a coaching environment. It helps to enhance the student's employability and take handball directly into the community.

“There are few handball clubs across the land at present. This means that there are very few individuals trying out for the Olympic team which



means that there is a unique opportunity to develop the sport and identify talent that is home grown.”

Handball is played by two teams, with seven players on each. The aim is to throw the ball into the opposing team's goal, and the team that scores the most goals wins. It is a contact sport, played over two 30 minute halves. Kelly describes the sport as “very fast, very powerful, high action, high scoring.”

Currently, neither Great Britain's men nor women rank in the International

Handball Federation's (IHF) top fifty. France are the current men's Olympic champions, while Norway hold the women's title. The sport made it's first Olympic appearance in 1936, only to be dropped until 1972.

Bournemouth University do not currently have a Handball Club but there are high hopes for the future.

The words here are courtesy of the Media School's Dr. Einar Thorsen and journalism student Mark Wilson.

BU's RELAYS Team inspires

Alexis Major reports that the RELAYS project (Regional Educational Legacy in Arts and Youth Sport) will continue to inspire young people in the South West in the lead up to the Olympics with a whole series of events.

First of these will be the Leadership Academy being held in February and April in Wey Valley. Here BU students will provide pupils from years 9-13 with the leadership skills necessary to assist the delivery of simple games and sports. By the end of the days, the relay team hope that all participants will have gained an understanding of how to deliver simple sports activities and will have developed the practical skills to assist them during the delivery of sessions.

In May the Art of Sport event will be held at Redland Community Sports Hub. This is "the big one" for the team who expect 1800 year 7 pupils to arrive at Redlands to experience a wide range of performing arts and sports. To make this event happen they are looking to recruit over 200 BU students to either deliver the activities to the children or to be group leaders. Each BU student will be accompanied by a Weymouth College student, which will build either new or strengthen established links within the community.

The Weymouth Beach Festival takes place in July and this will attract 400 year 3 and 4 pupils to experience activities which they might not get a go at in school, such as kayaking, sailing, Tchoukball and Aerial Art. This event will require around 20 BU students to either deliver the activities or to be a group leader.



The RELAYS team is also involved with the Live Site Weymouth Beach during the Olympic Games. They are working alongside Active Dorset to help deliver this event which like the last one is on Weymouth beach. It lasts for 17 days and thousands of residents and tourists are expected to have a go at a sport of their choice be it tag rugby, volleyball or kayaking. To help it run smoothly the team will be taking helpers to Weymouth in slots of 4-5 days. Roles will include, data collection, marshalling, officiating, promoting NGB's and their sports as well as the delivery of activities.

All of these events have been given full Olympic approval by LOCOG and this enables them to use the INSPIRE logo. This is the coveted London 2012 mark which recognises exceptional and innovative projects, inspired by the 2012 Games. The concept is an Olympic and Paralympic first, enabling organisations to link their events and projects to the London 2012 Games officially.



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