**Vice President Student Activities Report
Student Council March 2015
Abi Clarke**

It’s been a busy month, with the planning stages and final touches being made to a number of events and projects that will be seen in the next few months.

**BUCS**

It has been a successful season for many of our sports teams. A number of our teams have achieved promotion prior to the official close of their respective seasons. Men’s volleyball have secured their league with a game to spare, impressively not losing a single set this season. Women’s netball 2s and 3s will both win their leagues respectively and ladies rugby remain undefeated in the league and will secure promotion too. Men’s Rugby are undefeated in 2015 and have secured a number of impressive wins, especially on the road, which will mean they have secured their place in the Premier League and will finish in a competitive position – a task some thought they would not achieve this year, due to us lacking size. But as the boys themselves say, “if size was all that matters the elephant would be king of the jungle”

Notable results in the last weeks saw ladies football 1sts secure their first league win of the season to avoid relegation. They were set to struggle this year due to the competitive league they are in and losing a large amount of 1st team players last year.

Men’s Basketball 2s have shown our strength in depth in the sport, by securing their place in the cup final, whilst men’s basketball 1s head to the next round of the play-offs.

**Vice Chancellor’s 11 Cricket Charity Match**

During a discussion with Suzie Hart (director of recreation) it was proposed that we reintroduce a charity game that the University used to hold each year – The Vice Chancellors 11. This is something I have discussed with the head of Institute of Sport and Exercise Science and the Worcestershire Cricket Academy and we have agreed to place this as a fixture for next year’s calendar. Unfortunately due to the large amount of fixtures the academy have this year and the limited time we have around our BUCS season it is not logistically possible this year. However, conversations have been positive and the academy wants this to be an annual event starting from next year. Men’s Cricket BUCS Season is set to start 22nd April.

**Varsity**

Dates for Varsity are officially booked in as 24th-29th April. Starting off with Men’s Rugby and finishing with a Worcester Wednesday with a number of sports taking place in the Arena, with a break in the afternoon for a Rowing event on the River. The fixtures promotion starts as soon as we have wound down from elections. Captains have their photo call for posters on the 11th and 12th this month. There are 20 events in this year’s series and we are hoping that this will be a well attended and successful series with that long awaited Worcester win!

**Wheelchair Basketball**

The University Wheelchair Basketball Championships are again being hoisted by Worcester in our Arena on Sunday 8t March – 12 teams have entered this year’s competition, showing how many institutions are behind the sport and the event. I am continuing to put pressure on BUCS and am aiming to use photos and stats from this year’s championship to lobby the NGB again. We have got to keep the pressure on them in order to drive change and this is something I am passionate about continuing and I hope my successor will continue to lobby BUCS and other universities to support the campaign. I have been tweeting about the situation recently, with #WeWantBUCS and this has gathered a lot of student support. I am currently in discussions with a few other institutions about potentially putting together a petition to really show BUCS that their current provision of inclusive sport is simply not good enough and wheelchair basketball deserves to be included in their list of sports. At a friendly earlier this month wheelchair basketball beat NTU 46-37 and the game was watched by a large crowd of students from many different societies. This is a sign that students are really behind the team and the sport and we should use this as a tool in further campaigns.

**Reduction in Membership Fees and removal of hidden costs**

I am also continuing discussions with ISES regarding membership fees and the hidden costs of joining a University sports club which will hopefully be reflected in a reduction of the highest sports membership fees (e.g. £100+ for basketball) and a removal of all extra costs such as weekly “subs” which some teams still expect students to pay. This will all be discussed in committee training 2 – a session introduced this year so that we encourage a smoother handover period between club committees and ensure that students understand the work that has to be done during the summer e.g. budget sheets, sponsorship forms etc.

**Arts Festival**

Spotlight Society came to Andy Wager and I with a proposal for an Arts Festival – a way to showcase our students who have an interest in the arts. This is something we have fully supported and are hoping to make it a big event that has a place in the calendar every year, like Varsity does for Sport. I have been busy contacting local community groups and external performers, as well as staff within the University to help support the event. We have also given a grant of £500 and will help support any further costs if required to ensure that this event is a success. If this is something you’d like to be involved with please email me on a.clarke@worc.ac.uk

**Showcasing Societies**

Last month I wrote an email to our society committee members, proposing a few new ideas in order to further promote their events and to provide new platforms for our societies to showcase what they do. The idea of a publication that is partly written by the SU but also by the societies, was met with mostly positive feedback (The Voice were worried about conflicts with their publication – we hope this will not be an issue) This would be planned and created during the Summer so is something to have ready for the start of the next academic year.

**Humans of Worcester Students’ Union (in the style of Humans of New York)**

I am also looking into creating a video for celebration week. This will be made up of interviews and short clips of current students who engage with the SU from the sports clubs to the student staff in the shop and bar. This video will be launched in clips as promo for celebration week and then in full at the awards nights (Colours Ball, Society Ball, VOSCAS).

**Society Council**

 The idea of a society council was also proposed. This is something that I have been looking into and my research has found that many other Universities have adopted this as a means to keep in regular contact with the committees of non-Sporting societies. I will discuss this with my successor.

**Easter Trips**

This Easter we are continuing our tradition of doing a Sports Tour in Easter break. I will be taking just under 100 students to Salou on 6th April-12th April. The last few weeks have been spent writing a code of conduct for all students travelling and an increased list of responsibilities for the nominated tour reps.

This year we are also doing a societies and StARs Trip to Amsterdam, following on from the success of the trip introduced last year. Wes and I will be taking 45 students to the city on the 31st march until 3rd April. We will be meeting with all students travelling within the next few weeks to go over final details and lists of what they need etc.