

scan



333 campaign comes to a head as general election draws closer

Following LUSU's 333 campaign, campus goes to the polls on Thursday Week 3

ELLIOT THOMPSON

On Thursday Week 3 the polling stations will open and the future of the country will be in the voters' hands. To make sure no students miss out on the opportunity to make their political voice heard LUSU have heavily campaigned for greater numbers of students registering to vote.

In Lent Term SCAN revealed that only 22 students on campus were registered to vote in the General Election. According to figures from Lancaster City Council on April 4, by that date 1144 Lancaster University residents were registered to vote.

This is a very significant increase in the number of registered students, but is still only 28% of those on the electoral roll for the 2013 County Council Elections: 4121. According to Subtext, Lancaster University's figures are comparably successful as only nineteen students from the University of

Cumbria, Lancaster campus, were registered to vote on Wednesday Week 8, Lent Term.

Both parties have recognized Lancaster and Fleetwood as an important parliamentary seat; it is currently number nine on Labour list of target seats for the election.

Throughout April numerous leading politicians and campaigner – for both parties – have visited the region to drum up support. Most notably Labour Leader Ed Miliband, Conservative Chancellor George Osborne, and Labour campaigner and comedian Eddie Izzard visited the city this month.

Voter turnout has declined significantly in the last decade and it is lowest in the under 25 age group. In an attempt to reverse that trend, the Students' Union, with the financial support of the NUS, has therefore been running the 333 campaign to encourage more students to register and vote in the election.

The campaign takes its name from the 333 margin of majority in last year's election for this constituency, Lancaster and Fleetwood. With more than 12,000 students enrolled at the University, the campaign highlights that Lancaster students have a particular high influence as the margin between the Conservative Party and Labour Party is so narrow.

“One of the highlights for me was seeing the campaign register students who didn't even realise they were eligible to vote.”
Damon Fairley, VP (Union Development)

LUSU have spread the message around campus through their 333 campaign bus which travelled around the campus during the final week of the Spring term.

The bus offered free rides around campus as well as a daily trip from campus to Sainsbury's. On board

campaign volunteers were there to provide information about registering and could even register people there and then.

With a number of volunteers at hand the campaign continued to gain more signups, with around 450 student in total registering to vote, many coming of their own accord. There was a corresponding increase in the number of people registering to vote online to the publicity generated by the campaign.

General awareness is the key aim of the campaign. Damon Fairley, VP (Union Development) said, “one of the highlights for me was seeing the campaign register students who didn't even realise they were eligible to vote”, particularly students from outside the UK.

For example Commonwealth students can vote in all UK elections and students from EU member states can vote in all local elections.

While the deadline has passed for voter registration, 333 continues. Fairley stressed that it is equally important to actually go and vote as it is to register in the first place. “The more students that vote in this key marginal constituency, the greater voice we have as a student movement nationally”, said the VP.

LUSU is encouraging students to look at the parliamentary candidates for Lancaster and decide which candidate best represents your interests. Alongside UCSU, the Union set up a Question Time event in lent term for students to listen to the constituency's prospective candidates.

For more information you can follow @LancasterSU #GenerationVote and #333 on twitter. There is also a Facebook page '333' where you can keep track of the progress and events taking place in the run up to the election.

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Students priced out of Grad Ball

HENRY SAKER-CLARK **NEWS EDITOR**

Many students have vented their anger over the recent Grad Ball announcement, causing an anonymous group of five students to hold their own alternative event. With the standard ticket price risen from £54.50 last year to £59.50 numerous have questioned the affordability of the event for numerous students, particularly whilst the Union have been pushing their 'Cost of Living' campaign.

The line-up announced last month consists of three main acts, as well as three student acts. The total cost of the artists is over £23,000, or as the union have broken it down: £22.79 per person is spent on acts. The headline act for the event held in Blackpool Tower is a DJ set by drum and bass duo Sigma, best known for their number one singles 'Nobody to Love' and 'Changing' feat. Paloma Faith.

Many have also criticized the value for money within the ticket price, believing that a DJ set from a new artist does not justify said ticket pricing. The duo are costing £15,000 to play the event, costing almost a third of the total predicted cost for the event.

VP (Activities) Salman Rukhsar defended the pricing policy and event to SCAN, saying that the event has been designed around student feedback: "The event was held at Blackpool Tower for the first time two years ago after our members told us that they weren't happy with the quality of Grad Ball events at other venues. Over 2,000 students have attended the Grad Ball at Blackpool over the last two years and we've had nothing but good feedback after the event – which is why the event continues in its current form."

"As far as the price is concerned, I do think it's reasonable", the VP said. "For the price of a ticket, guests get a full night's entertainment – including a truly brilliant circus show, performances from top live acts as well as student bands, DJs and more."

Despite some student discontent, numerous still turned out to queue for tickets on Wednesday morning week 1 to ensure they had a ticket. Rukhsar told SCAN, "tick-



et sales launch day was a success, with people queuing from 7.40am to get their hands on tickets. All of our early-bird tickets sold very quickly as they always do and tickets continue to sell on a daily basis. Sales have been in line with our expectations."

Alongside Sigma's DJ set the event will see a live performance from Blackpool Singer Songwriter, and BBC Sound of 2015 nominee, Rae Morris, and an acoustic performance by noughties pop band The Hoosiers. The artists alone have cost more than £23,000 combined, thus causing students to question the viability of an alternative whereby students pay a £20 for a ticket, expected to include food.

In a break down of their costs per

student, LUSU answered questioning regarding why they do not provide food and expect students to provide it for themselves. They explained that adding food to the cost of a ticket would increase each ticket by around £32. LUSU suggested that the cost of the venue, Blackpool Tower, would however cost only £3.52 per person.

Some students, who have chosen to remain anonymous, have organised an 'Unofficial Lancaster University Graduation Ball 2015.' The organisers have stated that the event has not been created purely to oppose Grad Ball, but to provide an affordable Grad Ball that aims not to exclude students.

The price of Grad Ball tickets ranged from £44.50 for Early Bird Tickets, £49.50 for students

with purple cards and a standard £59.50. However some key aspects of one's evening are not priced within the cost of the ticket. The ticket involves no food, drink or transport, all of which must be bought on top.

The £59.50 figure seems particularly expensive when compared to tickets to Sigma perform live. Sigma's current tour, which would be a live show rather than DJ set, costs around £13 per ticket. LUSU have paid for Sigma's DJ set at £15,000, and have based their financial figures on an expectation of selling 1150 tickets. Assuming all guests were to pay the same price per ticket, this would average £13.04 being paid towards Sigma alone, excluding venue costs, agent fees or anything else likely to be included in the price of a normal gig

ticket. Also, generally the booking price of DJ sets is significantly less than that of live performances.

Rukhsar feels that the pricing is "not extortionate at all". He said, "It's important to remember that Sigma are part of a bigger overall package. Our guests get to go to a fantastic venue – Blackpool Tower Ballroom really is amazing and photos don't really do it justice. It's a great place to hold a celebration we hope our guests will remember for the rest of their lives and look back upon fondly in years to come. And then there's the other entertainment. I'm not aware of any other Grad Ball that can offer a world-famous circus as its warm-up act, and there's loads more live entertainment too."

LUSU President to appeal guilty conviction

LAURA WILKINSON **DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR**

Current LUSU President and activist, Laura Clayson, is due to appear in Manchester Crown Court on Friday Week 2 to appeal against a guilty conviction that she received last July.

On January 7th 2014, Clayson and another Lancaster resident, Sarah McGowan, locked themselves to a concrete barrel inside a car in order to obstruct access to a fracking site on Barton Moss Road, Manchester. After being asked by police officers to move from the car, the pair refused. They were then cut from the car, and arrested to be charged with obstruction of a public highway.

These convictions were assessed during a hearing in February 2014, and the judge ruled that this was an incorrect arrest because the road was not classed as a public highway. The charge was then subsequently changed to the obstruction of an officer in the execution of their duty, and Clayson was found guilty in July 2014.

In a recent interview, Clayson told SCAN that the officers who arrested her and others on the day “wer-

en’t acting within the rule of law because they only justified why they arrested us after they had done it”. In light of new evidence, which meant that some of the protesters were not found guilty for similar charges, Clayson and McGowan have decided to appeal their guilty conviction.

Clayson said that the protesters “took this action in order to support the local community’s struggle against the unconventional fossil fuel industry”, but on the day of her arrest she feels that the police were not working towards “[protecting] of the citizens in those communities” as she only felt they acted in the interest

s of protecting “capital and big-business”. She believes that she has a responsibility to change this and create a more just and fair system for all, particularly those who want to protest or campaign in the future.

One of the main reasons that Clayson wants to appeal the case against her is to show that she believes “the police should be challenged on their actions” and not simply be taken as given. She also hopes that a re-opening of the case

“will strengthen case law around this topic because I don’t think that it is okay in a democratic society that the police can arrest you just by virtue of their position”.

When asked by SCAN whether her actions on the day of her arrest set a good example to the students of Lancaster, Clayson said: “it doesn’t have any bearing on my ability as LUSU President. It is simply reflective of who I am as a person”. Clayson also added that this “protest was nothing to do with my work as LUSU President and does not fall under the remit of my role. This action was taken solely as a private citizens who cares passionately about the environment and the impacts of fossil fuel exploitation on communities.”

Clayson believes that her involvement in the anti-fracking protests show that she is “a passionate person and [she] stands up for what [she] believes in, and that is what [she] believes every single person should do”. However, Clayson did emphasise that this doesn’t mean that “everyone should go out and lock themselves to things in protest” but that she feels “as citizens we have a responsibility to chal-



lenge our government when we believe they are making decisions not in the community’s best interests. Taking direct action was not a decision I took lightly, it came from two years of campaigning against fracking through the ‘legitimate’ avenues, and it was only upon realising that these methods weren’t being as effective as I hoped that I decided to obstruct access to a fracking site on private property. Everyone’s contribution to the struggle is just as important, we have to use the strengths we all have to effect change.” She went on to say that she believes she has “a responsibility to make society

better place for everyone else who is living in it but also for future generations”.

Clayson is still waiting for confirmation that she would be attending Crown Court on the same day as McGowan as the paperwork for their appeals were sent at different times. On the day of the hearing for the re-opening of the case Clayson intends to plead not guilty for the charges that were put to her in July last year.

At the time SCAN went to print the outcome of the court case was unknown.

Positive step forward for ethical investments

NATHALIE FARRUGIA **NEWS EDITOR**

On Thursday Week 2, Lancaster University’s Ethical Investment Group (LUEIG) held an open meeting to discuss their progress after the Finances and General Purposes Committee pledged to the development of an Ethical Investment Policy on Friday Week 7 of Lent term.

In a statement given to SCAN, President Laura Clayson said: “Finance and General Purposes Committee have committed to the development of an Ethical Investment Policy (subject to official ratification from University Council). The next stage after this will be to send around a survey to all in the institution to ascertain what different stakeholder’s desire from this policy, i.e. what we perceive as ethical and what we do not. This will be created in collaboration with students working on

this campaign. We are taking this as a massive win, so thank you to everyone for all your support! We will keep you all updated about where you can fill this survey in smile.”

This is a positive step forward for the group who have been campaigning for the divestment from unethical investments and the proposal to establish an ethical investment policy for the last academic year, as part of a wider nationwide initiative. Speaking on the result of the meeting, LUEIG said: “This is a great result and a real success for the group, after a year of hard work! There does, however, need to be sustained pressure to ensure that the campaign does not get lost in bureaucratic structures and have its demands watered down.”

The meeting held in Week 2 invited students and staff to hear about the achievements of Lancaster’s

University Ethical Investments campaign so far, and to discuss ways of supporting the campaign going forward. Speaking to SCAN, LUEIG said “The meeting will update attendees on our progress so far this term, and consider how students, staff and local residents can support us. It would be great if there was a sister campaign calling for the city council to divest from fossil fuels!

We will also consider the university’s general strategy in terms of sustainability and the environment and hopefully come up with some ideas as to how we can embed principles of sustainability at the core of the university’s operations.”

Currently, around 14% of the University’s investments are in fossil fuels and nearly 4% of investments are in the arms trade. A report published in October 2013

entitled ‘Knowledge and Power: Fossil Fuel Universities Published by People & Planet’ showed that Lancaster University are receiving £4,788,745 from Shell, BP and Exxon research in projects. The first, entitled ‘UK Centre for Doctoral Training in Statistics and Operational Research, Lancaster University (LUSTOR)’ receives £4,515,764 funding, and the second, the ‘Locally stationary Energy Time Series (LETS)’ project receives £272,981.

In response to these findings, LUEIG told SCAN: “Whilst it is shocking at some level, given Shell’s notorious record of environmental degradation and human rights abuse, it is sadly not surprising.”

In the UK, Shell, BP and Exxon fund 56.7 million pounds of research at higher education institutions and LUEIG explained

how Lancaster’s relationship with these companies is part of a much wider problem.

In terms of the impact this research will have on their campaign LUEIG said “It will definitely have an impact... whether a benefit or not remains to be seen! It helps explain why there may be opposition to divesting from fossil fuel companies due to entrenched research links with these very same companies. However, it also makes the reasons for opposition rather more transparent, which is useful in some ways, as we have a greater understanding of the context behind opposition to our campaign.”

LUEIG said that their survey will “hopefully be disseminated this term” along with a leaflet of information. At the time SCAN went to print, the open meeting had not taken place.

University and LUSU join forces to secure future of Green Lancaster

JACK PERRY EDITOR

The University and LUSU have announced a strengthening of ties on Green Lancaster, with the former playing a much greater role in terms of organisation and publicity. The announcement follows the successful Green Lancaster Week campaign, which is hoped will be used as a “springboard” for future action on sustainability in the future.

In Week 5, a Green Lancaster working group was formed jointly between the University and the Union, led by the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sharon Huttly. The group aims to identify campaigns and other methods to raise awareness of green initiatives undertaken by students and staff on campus.

The first such campaign was Green Lancaster Week, which took place during Week 9, Lent Term, with a different sustainability-related event taking place each day of the week. These included providing a free breakfast to students at the Lancaster University Sports Centre, as well as a celebratory lunch at the campus ecobus on Friday Week 9. While there was disappointment about the weather during the Week, the initiative

was successful enough to spark ideas for more campaigns, with a 12-month plan in place and a large event towards the end of Summer Term already mooted.

The stronger partnership between LUSU and the University is considered mutually beneficial to both parties, with the University able to expand the Green Lancaster brand to encompass all of its environment and energy initiatives. Green Lancaster is currently most closely associated with the sustainable food-growing initiative Edible Campus and the Exodus Project, which aims to reuse students' unwanted items by giving them to charities. The University aims to expand the Green Lancaster umbrella beyond this core remit, with a particular emphasis on behavioural change among students and staff at Lancaster.

For their part, LUSU hopes that by having greater support from the University they will be able to secure Green Lancaster's future. At the end of July, the National Union of Students (NUS) will end its funding for the programme, which had hitherto been a key lifeline for the Edible Campus project. It is therefore hoped that a stronger University presence in Green Lan-

caster will help maintain – or even improve – the momentum behind such initiatives.

Louisa Duff, the Marketing & Communications Manager of the University's Facilities division, told SCAN that the aim of the revitalised partnership was to increase awareness of all of Lancaster's sustainability projects. “I'm conscious that awareness of the sustainability work that we do could be improved – among staff, students and visitors,” Duff said. “If you ask the question ‘what are we doing about sustainability?’ to people at Lancaster University they will say, ‘oh, we've got a wind turbine!’ and that's about it. All the other work that is happening is below the radar – it's not getting the exposure that it needs.”

The lack of awareness among students and staff at Lancaster, Duff said, is reinforced by recent surveys conducted by the Facilities division. “We did some student carousels a few weeks ago, and I asked them about their awareness of sustainability and whether they actually cared about it (most of them said yes, others were a little impartial),” Duff told SCAN. “The majority of them recognised Green Lancaster, but they were a little unsure of what it was and



how they could get involved.

“I think it's mainly about building it into people's everyday lives and behaviours– it doesn't have to be extra work.”

LUSU's Green Lancaster Coordinator, Darren Axe, said that the University's recent commitment to Green Lancaster shows that sustainability issues are now getting the attention they deserve on campus. “My feeling on this is that sustainability, as an entity at the university, is vitally important as a cross-cutting agenda; it must be embedded into everything that we do as an institution” Axe told

SCAN. “The [University's] strategy says that sustainability is something that the University is taking seriously, so we're very excited to make that happen in terms of practical, on the ground action in the years to come”.

“Since Week 5, with the formation of the Green Lancaster Action Group, a high level management group for oversight of sustainability activity, there has already been a visible change, and by the end of the Summer Term it could all look completely different. I think that was the key thing about Green Lancaster Week – using it as a springboard for our future work.”

Care leavers bursary success from 2015/16

JESSICA WALLACE DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

Following the proposal for more financial support for care leavers, it has been confirmed that commencing the academic year 15/16, eligible undergraduates will receive a £2000 bursary per year.

The bursary is likely to be covered by Office For Fair Access (OFFA) related expenditure budgets which are allocated to widening participation and increasing the diversity of students attending Lancaster University, although this is yet to be confirmed.

This follows concerns that Lancaster was not attracting enough

care leavers, as it has been reported that approximately only 1.5% of the 1300 care leavers in Lancashire currently study at Lancaster, averaging 7 care leavers per year over the past 3 years. This is proportionately lower than other higher education institutions in Lancashire such as the University of Cumbria and the University of Central Lancashire.

Currently, the University offers care leavers guaranteed 365 day accommodation, a financial advisor and other support.

However, care leavers often are disadvantaged financially and Mia Scott, VP (Welfare & Community)

explained that a “lack of support networks” can lead to care leavers struggling more financially with their living costs.

The bursary will allow care leavers to “start saving in their first year” for this period post-University, and means that “the pressure and stress of thinking about post-University life is reduced dramatically.”

Scott has fronted the campaign to receive more financial support for care leavers: writing for SCAN in Michaelmas Term 2014, she recognised that higher education institutions are meant to be “engaging progressively with students and

focusing on their abilities and potential, and not circumstances”, and views this bursary as “commitment [...] to make Lancaster fully accessible”.

Scott called on the participation of current students who are care leavers to back the campaign, and found that although care leavers were supported in many ways, the “one major issue they had was with finance”.

Speaking to SCAN, Scott described the confirmation of the bursary as a “huge win”. She emphasised that the bursary means the financial struggle faced by many care leavers will be reduced

during University, and pointed out that care leavers will often “struggle more than most” after leaving University, as they must go head-first into a lifestyle where there is no background support, and “they are on their own and funding themselves for everything”.

Scott recognises the importance of the bursary, as it will allow care leavers to “start saving in their first year [of University]” for this period post-University, and means that “the pressure and stress of thinking about post-University life is reduced dramatically”, benefiting students welfare and allowing them to focus on their academic studies.

An interview with James May

JACK PERRY EDITOR

When SCAN approached Lancaster University and Pendle College alumnus James May for an interview, he was sat enjoying the sun on the balcony outside Pendle Bar with a group of current students from the college – “[When I was a student at Lancaster] we used to do some revision, unlike this lot who just sit around on a balcony” – having spent the whole day on campus. Given the sporadic appearances of May at various locations on campus over the past 24 hours, the first question SCAN was most keen to ask was why the former *Top Gear* presenter had decided to visit Lancaster today. “I kept telling the Alumni association that I would come – I couldn’t come to the 50 year stuff because I was abroad, but they were very keen for me to see the new engineering department so I came up last night,” May said. “I had a look at that and I’ve had some lunch and stayed on campus and just had a general look round.”

May said that he was very impressed by the new engineering building. “It was fantastic!” he said. “That engineering building has been designed ecologically, so there’s a constant temperature and it’s all very comfortable, whereas in the old days it was all either baking hot – because the communal central heating was cranked right up – or it was absolutely freezing cold; it just didn’t really work. You young people don’t know how lucky you are.”

In addition to the new engineering building, a lot of campus has changed since May was a student at Lancaster (he graduated in 1985), although much of what he calls the “core” of the university remains the same. “I haven’t had time to see [all of campus] but we had a walk up and down the spine,” May said. “The core of the university [along the central spine] is the bit that we remember because that’s largely unchanged – we can still recognise quite a bit of it. And up at the other end, County and the Nuffield Theatre, that’s all still the same.”

“But they’ve renamed bits and effectively moved colleges around, and there are all these new buildings around the outside,” May told SCAN. “It must be two-and-a-half



Ian Meeks

times the size of what it was for me at university.”

While the passive observer may assume that his undergraduate degree at Lancaster was in engineering or a similar discipline, May graduated from the university with a bachelor’s degree in music. He enjoyed doing the degree, but apparently wasn’t very good at it. “To be honest I was a bit of a slacker – a bit like this lot,” he said, gesturing to all of the students gathered around him sunbathing.

Of course, Lancaster controversially closed its music department in the 2012-13 academic year. How does May feel about the fact he has a degree from a department which no longer exists? “Well I find it quite sad,” he said, although added that he believes there is still scope for the music degree scheme to rise from the ashes. “I

notice that the Music Rooms are still called “The Music Rooms” – I know that they have concerts in there now, but that still bodes quite well for it [the music department] coming back, which would be quite nice I think.”

It’s at this point that we turn to May’s own current situation and future. He left the BBC show *Top Gear* around a month ago after the sacking of fellow presenter Jeremy Clarkson following a fracas between Clarkson and a producer of the show. While he “can’t tell you anything” about Clarkson or the fate of *Top Gear*, May is currently “unemployed. Unemployed by the BBC.” During his time since leaving *Top Gear*, he has been busying himself by making a series of videos on his new YouTube channel, JM’s Unemployment Tube. The first of the videos posted on the channel was a minute-long ren-

dition of Greensleeves on his recorder. “It’s poor isn’t it?” May says of his performance of the famous tune. “That’s what a degree led to – I’m able to play Greensleeves on the recorder. I was a very poor student.”

May said that he will not only be working on more YouTube videos – one concerning the making of poached eggs on toast, another on how to mend old toy trains – but could potentially be returning to the BBC to make a documentary. “I am working on an idea for a documentary for the BBC, which they haven’t formally commissioned yet but I think they’re going to,” he told SCAN. “In the very immediate future I’m going to do two more YouTube films: one about poached eggs on toast, which has been popularly requested; and the other one that people have requested is ‘how to mend your old

toy trains.’ I put that last one in as a joke, but a lot of people were very keen so I’m going to have to do it, I suppose.”

May’s endearingly amateurish approach to his YouTube channel can be traced back to when he was a student at Lancaster, although he was emphatically not a member of Bailrigg FM, contrary to the claim made by the student radio station’s Wikipedia page. Instead, May worked on the Pendle College newspaper (“we had to do it with a typewriter, take real photographs and then glue them on”) which he believes may have helped establish his future career. Or not. “I really liked doing it, and maybe it was portentous in some way,” May told SCAN as our interview in the sun drew to a close. “Or maybe I was just trying to get out of doing my proper work.”

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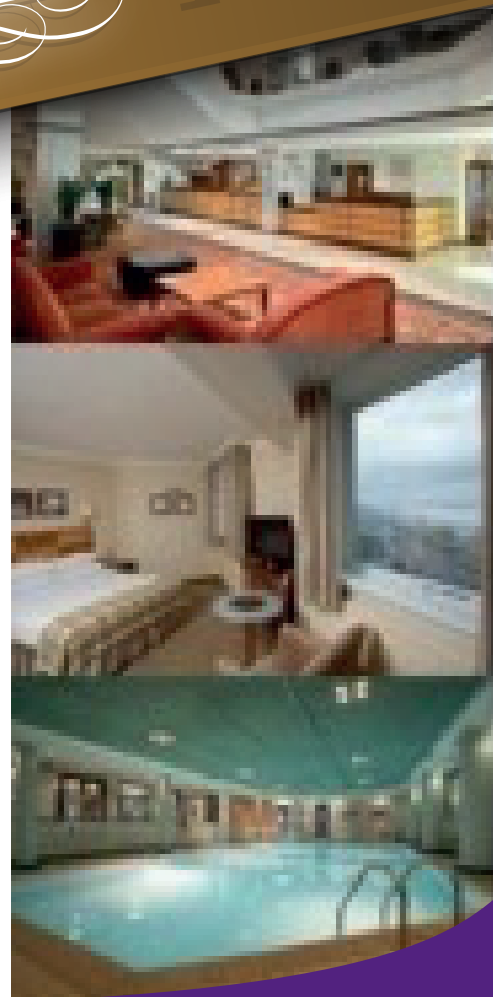


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EDITORIAL

The election is here

The general election is finally here (at times it felt like it would never arrive and we would all be in a daze of anticipation and fatigue forever) so be sure to make it count. In Lent Term SCAN reported that only 22 Lancaster students living on campus had registered to vote – the potential disenfranchisement of Lancaster students as a result could have had an extremely poor effect on our representation in a future Parliament. Thankfully, however, the figure has increased exponentially, and that is no doubt much to do with the superlative 333 campaign run by LUSU over the past term. From the clever name and marketing (333 refers to the size of the majority won by the incumbent Lancaster and Fleetwood MP at the 2010 general election) to the use of an iconic red double decker bus, LUSU's campaign has proved extremely effective in putting voter registration on the agenda. This is shown in the hundreds of students who have since registered to vote, and will hopefully as a result vote in the general election in a few days' time. Indeed, it is important to remember that registering to vote is only one half of the story – without actually turning out to vote it is all pointless. However you cast your vote, whether you're a party loyalist or a floating voter; whether you're a politics addict or you couldn't care less, vote. It could matter more than you think.

Roses

As you may be aware, Roses took place during the weekend of Week 1. It is tempting, as it is after any defeat to York, to question what went wrong. In particular, if – as common knowledge suggests – the University and LUSU put an extraordinary amount of money into trying to secure a Lancaster victory, it is interesting to muse how that money was actually spent and why it did not have its intended result. However, in the immediate aftermath it is far more important to congratulate all Lancaster students who competed for putting up such an excellent fight on away turf. In addition, I would like to say well done to all of the student media who covered the event, particularly to the SCAN team who handled Roses Live throughout the weekend and wrote the match reports in this very issue.

JACK PERRY EDITOR
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The rise of OAPs: old age pregnancies

SOPHIE BARBER
DEPUTY COMMENT EDITOR

Annegret Raunigk, a 65 year old mother from Germany, is expecting quadruplets. With the help of IVF, she has managed to conceive multiple babies. Her youngest daughter is now ten years old, and the new babies will bring the number of her children up to seventeen. Yes, that's right; seventeen. This story seems to have caused quite a stir in the media and questions have been raised about the ethics of an older woman being allowed to conceive with medical help.

First of all, there are medical risks. As women get older, they face increased risks when pregnant. High blood pressure and gestational diabetes are two of the biggest problems, which can cause complications as the pregnancy progresses. Raunigk has an even higher chance of suffering from these health risks because she is carrying quadruplets. Many mothers who are expecting more than one baby cannot hope to give birth naturally, and so must undergo a caesarean section. In younger women this can be a strain; for an older woman it may take her much longer to recover.

With seventeen children to take care of, this is definitely going to be a problem for Raunigk. The complications don't stop after birth; looking after a newborn is tiring work with lots of late nights and stress. As a baby grows, they get more and more energy. And although lots of older people are fit and healthy, they just don't have the energy of a new 25 year old mother.

That's not to say that older women shouldn't have babies, but the welfare of the child needs to be considered before fertility treatments are used. Raunigk will be 80 by the time her newest children are in their teens. And although many people can expect to live longer with the advances in modern medicine, it is inevitable that a mother of this age can't reasonably expect



Gabi Menashe

to live long enough to see her children reach their mid twenties. Is it really fair to introduce a child into the world knowing that you might not be around for important landmarks in their life?

In this country, IVF is a tricky subject when it comes to older mums. Dr Sue Avery, a fertility expert at Birmingham Women's Fertility Centre, said that there are no laws which make an age restriction explicit; it's something which individual clinics must decide upon. The welfare of the child is one of the most important factors, along with the health of the mother. If an older woman is fit and healthy, most doctors will see no reason to deny them treatment.

However, some people think that there should be an age limit. It could be argued that older women should not have children simply because they can't provide the same lifestyle younger mums can. Like I pointed out before, Raunigk's children will be teenagers with a mother who is in her eighties. Going out shopping, playing in the park and school runs can become more of a strain with age. This could very easily be too much for someone who is older.

But having children is a universal right; one of the world's oldest recorded mothers was a 70 year old from India. Some people would argue that denying fertility treatment to women who want to have children because of their age goes against a basic human right. If the woman is healthy and fit, should there really be a problem? And since many women are choosing to have children at a later age because of career aspirations, IVF can sometimes be the only option. After the age of 35, a woman's fertility decreases pretty rapidly and can make it a lot harder to have a baby.

In the end, both the doctors and prospective parents should weigh up the pros and cons of having a child at an older age. Older women may face certain problems that younger mums won't, but with such great advances in modern medicine, a lot of these hurdles can be overcome. As long as the child being brought into the world is given the best possible lifestyle, the question of age should be seen as a little irrelevant. As for Annegret Raunigk, let's hope she has enough energy to take care of seventeen children!

UCAS and the 1%: the money gap

Comment Editor Daniel Snape discusses inequality amongst students in gaining access to university education.

DANIEL SNAPE COMMENT EDITOR

✉ @DTCSNAPE

Not long ago I had a nightmare. I dreamt that someone had destroyed the digital record of my A-level results and I was heading home for a year of retakes, before starting the search for university places again from scratch. I wasn't pleased, but I was surprisingly nonchalant about the whole situation because I had lots of tinned food with me. It made perfect sense at the time – as all the best dreams do – but when I woke up it reminded me of the unmitigated panic that was the UCAS application. Today, university is just a fact of life, or even a chore, but a few years ago it was a gut-wrenching uncertainty for most of us.

For some of us, however, the wait no doubt felt shorter. I'm talking about the rich. Economic inequality in the developed world has become the British left-wingers' pet hate, after climate change and fiscal austerity. If the disparity is growing, and if a rich family in one generation inevitably becomes an obscenely rich family in the next generation, then the higher education system surely isn't helping.

Nowhere is this more obvious than America, the epitome of Western inequality. Of those students considering an Ivy League education, the lucky few can now fork out \$14,000 (the equivalent of a year's tuition at Lancaster) for a four-day preparation course from "America's premier college consultants". While it's a mere drop in the States' \$1.3 trillion ocean of student debt, and perfectly ethical in a liberal democratic sense, it still infuriates me that these gilded fools might get a leg up over smarter, humbler applicants. Add to this the fact that some Ivy League members continue to penalise young hopefuls whose parents aren't alumni of the university. And once the rejections are in the post, these universities spend the remainder of the year agonising over their social diversity figures!

Here in the UK, the situation isn't much healthier. As anybody who has considered going for Oxbridge knows, a vast and parasitic industry has grown up around the ancient colleges, promising students a much easier time on the UCAS Tracker in return for a modest slice of their parents' personal fortunes.

They have everything from summer courses and mock interviews to men in waistcoats wandering the two cities at peak season and pretending to be lecturers (one of whom, posing as an Economics tutor, managed to get some of my contact details).

But as ever, rich bastards aren't the only culprits. Earlier this month, UCAS was found to have breached the Data Protection Act by packaging adverts for O2 and Vodafone as important university-related information for its subscribers. This trusted institution was, like the shady man with my contact details, trying to make money out of the desperation of young people.

As the record for the number of students entering UK universities is broken year on year, the temptation of wealthy parents, unscrupulous educationalists, and even UCAS itself to cheat the system like this can only increase. What surprises me most of all is the complete silence around this problem as far as schools, applicants, and parents are concerned. Granted, it's a moral question that only plagues the average Brit once or twice for about four months,



but it shapes the sociological landscape of the world for an entire lifetime.

The sorts of people who like to tally up the concentration of half the planet's wealth and put it on posters have shown remarkable disinterest towards the practical, educational advantages of "the 1%" – a slogan I hesitate to use with the loathing of some self-styled activists when an income of £23,000 can put anyone comfortably inside that bracket.

If you haven't noticed by now, I am in two minds about the actual answer to this fundamental question. As a LUMS student with an intense suspicion of the word "networking", and as a public school boy in the lowest household income bracket, I do understand the place of money in the earliest stages of the university system, but I don't like it. For now, I think I'll wait and see how the problem plays out in the course of global politics. I could be some time.

Are we too blasé about sexual health?

BRYONY SEAGER COMMENT EDITOR

✉ @BEINGBRYONY

We need to get one thing straight from the very beginning: sexual health is not just a woman's issue. Several articles I've read recently concerning the rising number of STIs amongst young people seem to focus mainly on the female half of the population. I'm looking at you Flora Carr, Guardian writer, who asks: "Why are young women playing Russian Roulette with their sexual health?" In her defence, the article is centred on the idea that the pill can give women more sexual freedom, but the question above doesn't make it clear that sexual health is something everyone should be concerned about, not just young women on the pill.

Statistics given out by the NHS

paint a bleak picture. They state that young people aged 16–24 accounted for more than 60% of chlamydia cases in 2011, and more than 40% for herpes. Clearly this is a serious problem, and it seems that an attitude of "well, it won't happen to me" is permeating a lot of campuses across the country. The problem is that it could, and you might not even know about it. Lots of these STIs don't carry obvious symptoms, but can lead to serious health problems later in life. So – as you've been told ever since you were old enough to hear about the birds and the bees – if you do have sex without protection, go and get yourself checked. And that's the infomercial part of this article over.

The reasons why we should use condoms are fairly obvious, especially when looking at the statis-

tics above. Even scarier, over 3,000 people were diagnosed as HIV positive in 2013. Sexual health is not a joke and should not be treated as something that can be taken lightly. Okay, so it might be a little difficult to take it seriously when most of your memories of being taught about condoms involved your teacher rolling one onto a banana.

There's a persistent rumour that condoms spoil the moment and therefore they shouldn't be used. You know what does spoil the moment? Getting the clap. Nothing kills the mood like an STI. If the two of you are so sure that condoms do ruin the moment, do something else until you've gotten yourselves checked out. Then you can have all the condom-free sex you like. But for one night stands and casual encounters, unless

your partner produces a certificate to say they're STI free before you head to the bedroom (that would be weird), using a condom is a no-brainer.

Of course we all know that it's not just STIs that condoms protect against; clearly they also prevent unwanted pregnancy. Most people who wouldn't think about using a condom are probably on the pill (again coming back to the fallacy that this is woman's issue), but even the pill isn't 100% effective. If you're taking other medications, such as certain antibiotics, it can reduce the effectiveness of your contraception. If you haven't taken it on time, which is probably going to happen if you're on a boozy night out with friends, or you've been sick (tactical chunder, anyone?), then it's effectiveness is seriously limited, if not compromised

altogether.

There's no need to be paranoid about all this, but being emotionally mature enough to have sex there also comes the added responsibility of being mature enough to care for your health. After the million or so adverts about it, you would be stupid to not wear a seatbelt in a car because "oh, it won't happen to me". So when considering your sexual health you should have the same approach. This goes for men as well as women; just because you're not responsible for taking a contraceptive doesn't mean you can forget about the whole thing. It takes two to make a baby. In the end, being sensible when it comes to your sex life might sound boring to begin with, but it's a lot more fun in the long run.

WHAT DOES THE FOX SAY?

with SCAN's columnist, Tom Fox



@MRTJFOX

Why we should ditch Grad Ball (unless Lemar's involved)

Apparently people are upset about the price of this year's Grad Ball, with students describing it as "a party for rich kids" and "the worst thing to happen since they found out about Ralph." It's probably the most active I've seen the student community for a while, which pisses me off as much as it entertains me. I'm not supporting LUSU (for once).

It is an expensive event, and the Union needs to ask whether it's been gathering feedback from the right people, i.e. those who have gone in the past. There are a couple thousand students who, for whatever reason, fail to attend the Ball year on year, and I bet that price plays an important role in their decision – but as with everything, the Union relies on those with the loudest voices to dictate their plans. Bigger acts and better locations are the main goals this year, and obviously that can't be achieved without higher ticket prices (unless the Union starts firing staff or the University does something unforgivable and increases the block grant). It's no

surprise, but I'd be mighty happy if it was just held in the Bobbin with Lemar headlining and the Marties supporting. £2.50 doubles, "If There's any Justice in the World", and a raging saxophone sounds like a winning combination to me.

So the answer? Well, you could start actually campaigning. A few years ago, students just vented on Facebook and the Ball was eventually held in Sugarhouse and Elements with a huge marquee in between. They got one member from East 17 and an Abba tribute band and, as a result, it was a lot cheaper. But it was also really shit. I know, I know, students have started campaigning, creating alternative events, and that's great if they actually amount to anything – but in my opinion, Extravs are the answer if you can't afford Grad Ball. There are three of them and you get to dress up as a dinosaur (big up Pendle). They're cheap, cheerful, and completely student-led. You won't get Lemar (you do have to pay for quality), but you'll get some cracking student bands in the campus bars you've grown

to love.

Is it right that some students who won't get to attend the Ball, then? Probably not, but we don't live in an ideal world. The University increases rent every year while Stagecoach increases bus prices, the Loans Company verges on collapse, and some students rely on food banks to feed themselves every day. The Union, its officers, and all you bloody students should focus your time on complaining to people about that instead of whining about your individualistic right to dress up, get drunk, and watch someone famous sing. At the end of the day, it's a privilege. I'd be happy if LUSU sacked off the whole thing and used the £50,000 to support an event or campaign that actively helped those in need. But alas, that won't happen. People will go to the circus, they'll tweet their utter enjoyment, and then in a year's time, people will complain all over again but do nothing to actually change the situation. We're a cyclical bunch, us students.



Alex Chau

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Vaccinations are a must for children



PATRICK WILSON
 @PADDYWILSON

I quite liked vaccinations when we got them in school. You were allowed to leave a lesson, have a sit down, maybe a cup of orange juice if you made yourself look a little queasy. Not that I knew anything about them, really – just that it stopped me from getting ill and the whole process took minutes. So I'm not against it.

Neither is the Australian government, which this month announced a 'no jab, no pay policy'. It stipulates that if you don't vaccinate your children, unless for extreme medical or religious circumstances (a discussion in itself), you won't get your welfare. A smart, scientific policy, or a way to cut government spending? But first things first. This policy is the direct result of a growing trend of parents rejecting vaccinations worldwide. "Who on earth is objecting to vaccinations," you ask, "and why?" To find out, let's play

Ask a Libertarian.

Hello, Mr Libertarian. Can you define "libertarian" for us? "Of course. A libertarian is someone who strives for liberty; that's the primary aim. I want to maximise individual freedom of choice. Therefore I'd generally like a smaller state; a laissez-faire government on my Christmas list. I believe in sovereignty of the individual. Fundamentally, I don't want anything forced upon me. Not even vaccinations."

But vaccinations prevent diseases. Why wouldn't you want you or your kids to be vaccinated? "Well there's evidence suggesting vaccinations can in fact be harmful, leading to autism –" You mean the 1998 Wakefield paper which manipulated evidence, was widely discredited, fully retracted and clashes with every other doctor, scientist and piece medical evidence, like, ever? "Er, well, the choice is mine. It may be good, it may be bad –" It's not bad. "But I

want the freedom to choose. The government should not be able to force me or my children to do anything." Thank you, Mr Libertarian. The End.

Of course, most of those who reject vaccines wouldn't identify as a libertarian, it being such a broad philosophical and political ideology. However, there's a clear libertarian streak in our society today: the idea that my life is my own and mine only. My body is mine and no one can tell me what I can or can't do with it. And that's only right.

The trouble is when this idea begins to harm others. Jump back to 2013, Swansea, where there was a measles outbreak. The Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine that most of us receive as children, was rejected by parents thanks to the fear that the Wakefield paper stoked up, leading to 1,455 measles cases in Wales at a cost of £470,000 in treatment and control, and one death: Ga-

reth Colfer-Williams, who died from pneumonia brought on by the measles. To be sure, there are some extremely rare adverse reactions to the vaccine, but they're usually just rashes or malaise. Some people have the same with strawberries.

And, though delicious, they don't stop you from contracting possibly fatal diseases. So it's all well and good if you feel that you really must reject a vaccine, but it can affect other people, like the children too young to get those shots, for example.

But back to Australia and the somewhat brave policy the government has established. Ostensibly it's a good, scientifically driven policy, but it's a shame that the policy is needed. A cynical attempt at cutting government spending? I don't buy it. I don't believe that they're prioritising less spending over healthy kids.

Agree with years of research from

the medical and scientific community, spend a blink of an eye vaccinating your kids, and get your welfare. No fuss. On the other hand, regardless of the evidenced success of vaccines, it is an attempt to limit freedom of choice. I'm instinctively hostile to anything that does so.

This policy, however, I'd accept. Why? Because of "freedom to" versus "freedom from". In this case the freedom from contracting certain diseases and being barred from welfare, outweighs the freedom to not inoculate your kids. And hey, you can still choose not to do it. It's just a stupid choice. You know why the "You're a True 90s Kid if You Remember These" lists don't feature "that time when you and your friends contracted measles/polio lol"? Because you got vaccinated.

So, while I defend your right to choose, I reserve the right to tell you that not vaccinating is a dangerous and stupid choice.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT // FEATURES // FASHION // LIFESTYLE



SPINE SPOTTER: ROSES EDITION
READ IT IN FASHION

Photo by Georgia Shephard

Published as a student: can it happen?

RORY MELLON
DEPUTY ARTS & ENTS EDITOR

Hidden deep within the unorganised mess that is the documents section of my laptop is a folder marked 'Novel Odds and Ends'. Contained within it is a collection of half-baked and half-written ideas, from single paragraph outlines to more substantial first drafts of short stories. There's even a couple of chapters of a potential novel that I'm particularly fond of.

The folder is a silent reminder that my goal of writing a full novel is constantly being delayed by a mountain of university work and drunken nights in Sugarhouse. There are undoubtedly thousands of inspiring writers throughout campus, all hoping to one day see their name on the cover of a freshly printed book. One man who has already achieved this landmark in any writer's career is our Arts and Ents editor Simon James, whose collection of short stories entitled *Chapter One* was published in early 2013. He has escaped featuring in an article until now.

"I'm lucky as I do Creative Writing so I am writing most days anyway.

I wouldn't have time if I studied something else, which was one of the main reasons I chose to do this subject as I'd hate to stop writing" was Simon's response when I asked him how he finds times to write. "However, a lot of my better stuff has been written in the holidays, and/or in long sessions until 7 in the morning. With both of these you become detached from everything else and get really sucked into what you're doing I guess."

Chapter One is comprised of ten short stories, ranging from 'Bubbles' which revolves around a certain Canadian jazz singer being kidnapped, to 'Die Entartung', a wonderfully strange tale about Adolf Hitler's brain being transferred into a monkey's body. I asked Simon of the ten stories which was the hardest to write. "I'd say Die Entartung. The very nature of writing a story about Hitler as a monkey is pretty ludicrous, but I didn't want it to feel farcical. There's also the whole issue with making Hitler a protagonist – I didn't want to alienate the reader by presenting him as likeable, but I still wanted to make them care about what happened to him."

There were plenty of stories in the book that left me wanting more, but when I approached the topic of expanding some of them perhaps into full length novels, Simon replied "that ship seems to have sailed really; as much as I'm proud of these stories, I'm more excited about new stuff now."

"The whole publishing side of it took longer than you'd think, so I'm glad I got it done in first year."

I was surprised to learn that a lot of the time spent on the book was in the actual publishing itself. "The whole publishing side of it took longer than you'd think, so I'm glad I got it done in first year." I was interested in learning more about how Simon distributed the book: "I made a biiiig Facebook event when it was launched and got people to click 'attending' if they wanted one.

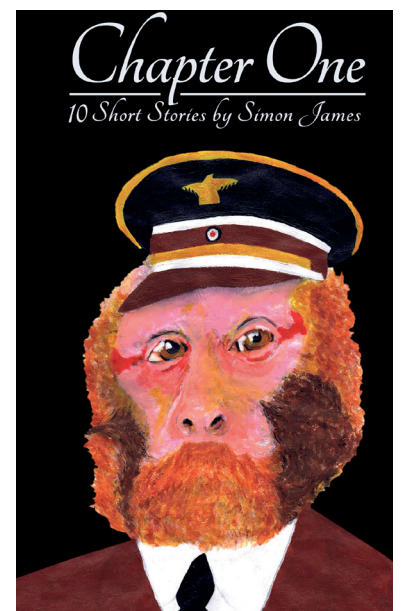
"Then I did one big trip around my town, dropping them off and collecting money. The original print run was mainly people I knew, but they were the ones that really mattered as I wanted them to see what

I'd done. In terms of other distributors, it was hard, because a lot of the time I had to have the books printed already before I could sell them and make my money back. Amazon are a bit different; they get it straight from the publisher."

I asked about the infamous writer's block, which I know is something that halts even the most prolific writers in their tracks: "I've never suffered with it. Obviously there's some days when you're not in the mood, particularly when you're thinking about other stuff. But in terms of not actually knowing what to write, I've never had that problem."

That answer surprised me and I wanted to know more about how Simon manages to avoid such a plaguing issue. "I think part of that is because I plan my stories a lot in advance. But in my opinion if you're not enthused enough about something to know what you want to write, then you probably shouldn't be writing it."

It's a cliché question to ask but I felt it necessary to inquire if Simon had any advice for aspiring writers: "write something that ex-



cites you and you're desperate to get down. If it's not something you would want to read then you can assume no one else will either."

Future projects was the last topic we covered. "I've recently had a go at writing and directing my first radio play. It's called 'Here For You', and it's a 25 minute student drama. It'll be on Bailrigg FM at 8pm on Thursday, week 4, and available for download on my Facebook page [fb.com/SimonJamesBooks] shortly after."

STAY CULTURED

Paul Muldoon (reading)



Join Professor Paul Muldoon for a reading of his new collection of poems *One Thousand Things Worth Knowing*. It is another wild, expansive collection from the eternally surprising writer, 2003 winner and poetry editor at the New Yorker. There will be a buffet from 5pm, Paul's reading will be held in the Nuffield Theatre from 6pm and a wine reception and book signing will conclude the evening. This event is hosted by the Department of English and Creative Writing, Lancaster University.

The Nuffield Theatre - Wednesday, Week 3

Kevin Bridges: A Work in Progress



Kevin Bridges returns to the road trying out brand new material prior to embarking on his biggest tour to date. The last twelve months have been incredibly busy for Kevin with him hosting three shows for BBC1 including his critically acclaimed documentaries *Kevin Bridges - What's The Story* and stand up shows on the Commonwealth Games and the Scottish Referendum. This exclusive preparation gig may involve Kevin using notes... but you can bet if he does he'll be making fun of himself too.

The Grand - Monday, Week 4

Lancashire Youth Dance Festival 2015



Ludus Dance and the Dukes present the 7th annual Lancashire Youth Dance Festival. Two nights of dynamic and exciting dance from some of the most talented young artists across the county and beyond. From contemporary and physical theatre to break dance and hip hop, don't miss this flagship celebration of young talent and creativity. And if you're in a dance group aged 11-21, get in touch to perform in a professional venue and partake in high quality workshops!

The Dukes - Friday/Saturday, Week 4

Henning Wehn: Eins, Zwei, DIY



You will recognise Henning from *8 out of 10 Cats* and *Have I Got News For You*. After more than a decade in Britain, the German Comedy Ambassador has 'groan' to like puns... though he still couldn't eat a whole one. As Henning's assimilation is not yet complete he hasn't lost his sense of Westphalian wonderment at the foibles of British society. Expect a crash course in personal accountability and have a right old laugh at the same time! Wunderbar.

The Dukes - Sunday, Week 4.

Five acts that would suit Grad Ball better than Sigma

JAMES HYDE

🐦 @JAMESHYDETWEETS

As far as I have experienced, the news that Sigma are headlining Grad Ball 2015 has been greeted with the sort of vaguely-despondent apathy usually reserved for when Alan Shearer starts talking on *Match of the Day*. I have to confess, being chronically late to the party on the tunes of today, that I had never heard of Sigma when the news dropped.

However, having done my research, I've realised that I am vaguely familiar with a couple of their songs, which are apparently part of the select group of about 20 songs that get played in Sugarhouse every night on a seemingly perpetual loop.

I suppose that if you're a fan of generic, fairly banal 'bangers' then Sigma are a perfectly acceptable booking for Grad Ball, but if your taste is slightly different (dare I say discerning), you may be un-

inspired. I of course realise that drum and bass is perfect for nightclubs, and I'm incredibly partial to a bit of last year's headliners Chase and Status when the moods strikes, but I was hoping against hope that LUSU would be a bit more imaginative for a Grad Ball.

Give the people something surprising, not something they hear every Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday like clockwork. I'm not even going to moan about the fact that students are paying £50, plus extras, on seeing a headlining act that charge £13 on their current tour - I don't know the financial restrictions or logistical challenges that accompany such an event, so I can't comment. All I know is that I won't be attending Grad Ball this year. If LUSU had pulled something magical out of their musical hat, I would have considered taking out the other student loan required to afford the ticket. As it was, I think I'll make do with the debt I have already accumulated.



Anyway, because I can and it's an excuse to dream, here are five acts that may have been a bit less yawn-inducing. I'm suggesting

bookings on the basis that we'd all rather see a set from more established acts that may have become slightly less relevant, than an up-

and-coming drum and bass duo who we'll all have forgotten about in a couple of years. Maybe I'm wrong.

1) The Vengaboys

Sure, it's a bit kitsch, but if Dutch pop won't get people on the dancefloor, what will? Vengaboys are available for prices that could comfortably be achievable for LUSU, which for a group that sold 25 million records worldwide, is very reasonable. They have previous experience over the past few years playing student unions and comparably smaller venues, so why not? 'Boom, Boom, Boom, Boom' (the Bohemian Rhapsody of the Europop world, so I'm told) would surely be worth the ticket price alone, but with a host of another classic nineties hits such as 'We Like To Party' and 'We're going to Ibiza', they've got the quantity as well as the quality. I'd love it, I really would.



2) Razorlight

Razorlight, five years ago, were a massive name, but they haven't released an album since 2008, and have recently been mainly playing small-scale festivals and intimate gigs. Their set list ('America', 'Somewhere Else', 'Before I Fall to Pieces' etc) would obviously be massively impressive, and they are renowned for their stage presence and showmanship. Obviously, a band who have sub-headlined V Festival and played at Live 8 have pedigree above and beyond playing a university ball, and it would be ambitious to approach them, but given their lower-key status this decade, you never know.



3) The Feeling

Fairly similarly to Razorlight, The Feeling were successful new kids on the block who fizzled out a wee bit. Having been the most-played act on UK radio in 2006, the Sussex outfit have been notably less successful since 2008's number one album, *Join With Us*. With only sporadic festival appearances and fairly small-scale gigs in the past few years, maybe Lancaster Grad Ball could be tempting for a band who are known for their bouncy live shows and feel-good riffs. They usually throw in a couple of fun covers as well, so they would be an exciting booking. They may be lacking the 'cool' factor that apparently all students desire, but I'd be more than happy to see them.



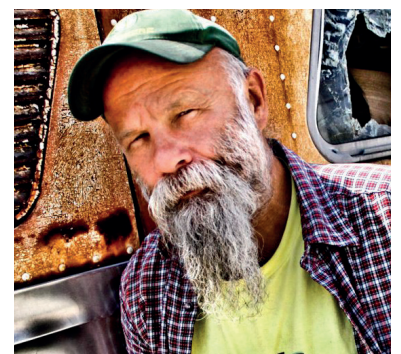
4) Mika

Another slightly less relevant name, but as with the prior acts I've mentioned, Mika is renowned for his energetic live shows. He rarely plays festivals and isn't an excessive tourer, but has been a judge on talent shows in the past few years, so is still very much in the public eye in Europe. His rates probably wouldn't be extortionate, he's got a bunch of emotive ballads that can reduce a grown person to tears, and who wouldn't want to see 'Grace Kelly' belted out at Blackpool Tower?!



5) Seasick Steve

Okay, having a 73 year-old Blues artist would be a pendulum-swing away from Sigma, but that's not a bad thing. Seasick Steve is an incessant performer at festivals both great and small, and his easy charisma, and blend of smooth melodies and harder guitar riffs, should have something for everything. He's an incredibly adept live performer, and his lack of commerciality means that he would probably be an achievable booking. Oh, and he happens to be in the UK on Grad Ball week...



Of course, maybe I'm being unfair and out of touch. Maybe I really do want Sigma to play, so we can live vicariously through their lyrics: 'This ain't real, this ain't cool. This ain't what I signed up to. This ain't right, it's no good.'



JAMIE MILLS
@JHRM94

When I was kid, every time we went to the cinema my Dad would ask me to give a rating. I would invariably give it a 9 or a 10, something which he found both pointless and hilarious. But 7 year old me was right; all films are good. There are some better than others obviously, but there isn't a bad film. Ultimately all films serve a different purpose. Some are to entertain, some to make us laugh, and some to make us think. You can't define a film by what you expect from them. This strain of thought is a reaction against the comments posted (usually by pretentious fucks who spent their whole time angry at the existence of art they don't like) saying things like "contrived stream of drivel coming from Hollywood, one grows weary of the shallow dreck" and "this film was unwatchable". How can a film be unwatchable? Did one of the main characters come to life and attempt to gouge out your eyes?

No. They didn't. I have sat through films that I dreaded watching. Films I felt were beneath me, and were "vapid drivel". But you know what, I enjoyed them. Because believe it or not, the films involved a talented cast and crew all devoted to creating something worthwhile, combined with a fair chunk of investment. All films have a heart and soul and at the very least contain something redeeming; *The Room* is engrossing and funny, *The Transformers* is visually incredible, and *Man of Steel* had a talented cast. Ultimately it's much better to enjoy things in life than hate them. So stop with your pretentious bullshit, buy some popcorn and sit down and watch *Fast & Furious*.



LANCASTER NEWS



Love's Labour's Lost, RSC

The last few weeks in film news have focused more on the trailers than the films themselves. The trailer for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* had Matthew McConaughey in tears, we got a first look at the *Batman Vs. Superman* film, and students across Lancaster were stunned by the teaser trailer for the upcoming LUFPP project: *Nerve Endings*. The trailer shows the film's protagonist, James, dealing with the loss of his girlfriend. If you haven't seen it yet head to the LUFPP Youtube channel and check it out, as well as their other trailers. Last term I had the great pleasure of playing 'Ed' in another of LUFPP's films, *Counting Candles*.

The Avengers Midnight Screening

On the note of films that are often looked down on, I went to see the midnight screening of *The Avengers: Age of Ultron* on Wednesday night. I'll leave the review to Rory (p. 21) because I'd just start gushing and any review I wrote would sound like Joss Whedon wrote it himself. But I will say this: see it. For the love of God see it. However, it was amazing to see the number of people who couldn't bear to wait another 12 hours to see the film. The queue was virtually out the door by the time I arrived; and this wasn't your usual group of cosplaying super nerds; these were cool people with actual lives and hobbies and athletic ability. There were rumours that some people in the audience had even had sex!

Dukes Review

Last term I went to see RSC Live: *Love's Labours Won* at The Dukes, a theatre on screen production which promised to be fascinating. *Love's Labour's Lost* and *Love's Labours Won* (also known as *Much Ado About Nothing*)

are two of Shakespeare's most iconic comedies, brought together under the vision of Christopher Luscombe (*The Rocky Horror Show*, *Spamalot*). The production celebrated the 100th anniversary of the 1st World War, the production began with *Love's Labours Lost* set in the summer of 1914 just following the outbreak of the war and was concluded with *Love's Labours Won* set in the world-weary period at end of the war in 1918.



Much Ado About Nothing, RSC

The result is hilarious, echoing the tone of modern period dramas such as *Downton Abbey*. It's a stellar cast, with David Horovitch (Holofernes) and Nick Haverson (Costard) delivering incredible performances and in turn some of the funniest moments. The genius of the production, however, lies not just in the classic lines, but in the contrast between the two plays and the slow shift from hilarious wit to earnest emotion. Once again the transformation from theatre to stage works beautifully and is fast becoming one of my favourite cinema experiences.

WHAT'S ON

SELMA

One of the most critically acclaimed films of the past twelve months, *Selma* is an incredible movie documenting the life and work of Martin Luther King.

WHEN: Monday, Week 3

WHERE: Take 2 Cinema

BOY - SHORT FILM

Multiple award winning short film available to watch free on YouTube.

WHERE: YouTube

AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON

The latest showing from the MCU. It is worth not eating for a week to afford a ticket.

WHEN: Out now

WHERE: Vue and Reel Cinema



BLADE RUNNER: THE FINAL CUT

Harrison Ford stars in one of the most influential dystopian films of all time. This is director Ridley Scott's definitive cut of the film.

WHEN: Friday, Week 2 - Thursday, Week 3

WHERE: The Dukes

BIG HERO SIX

This year's Oscar winner for Best Animated Feature and totally deserving.

WHEN: Saturday/Sunday, Week 3

WHERE: Take 2 Cinema

NT LIVE: MAN AND SUPERMAN

Ralph Fiennes plays Jack Tanner in this exhilarating reinvention of George Bernard Shaw's witty, provocative classic.

WHEN: Thursday, Week 7, 7pm

WHERE: The Dukes

An interview with David Dunwell

CHRIS BICKLEY

🐦 @CHRISBICKLEY1

“It’s finally good to leave my brother at home, it gives me chance to sing the songs I wrote,” David Dunwell – guitarist, co-vocalist and lyricist of The Dunwells – on performing an intimate acoustic session at County Bar for the first Live At The Oak of Term 3. Intimate because the numbers peaked at 13, but it didn’t faze the Yorkshire lad. “I just love to sing, I think I’ve got a great voice” he says modestly. Ironically this ameliorates his brother Joe’s claim to being the lead singer of The Dunwells. Much of the audience didn’t realise David was a guitarist by trade.

Supported by talented guitarist Alex Haslam and vocalist James Geary, the evening lived up to its bill as a relaxed evening for the hectic exam period approaching. Both supports played an array of covers and original material; Haslam demonstrating his acoustic prowess with a homemade in-

strumental and Geary showing off his vocal range with Sheeran and Ezra present, as well as passing off his band’s songs as his own in his short set. However, it was David’s set that reminded us of The Dunwell’s energy and passion they delivered back in Term 2.

“Music is my life. It’s not just a job, it literally is my life,” he explains as he nonchalantly strums on his guitar. Like his preceding guests, David’s set consisted of original material as well as the odd cover. ‘Cannonball’ by Damien Rice (his favourite song to cover) succeeded a Bruce Springsteen number, an artist coincidentally on the same agency as The Dunwells, something David sheepishly noted.

Opening with new single ‘Lucky Ones’, David described the process of making their new video. “It was filmed in Manchester at a swimming pool that’s due to be demolished in a few months. We had a proper film crew and everything, we are in it. Just a little cameo, you might see us.” As well as new

songs off their forthcoming LP, David also wheeled off tracks from their currently-slender back catalogue. ‘Oh Lord’, ‘So Beautiful’ and ‘Elizabeth’ from their debut record *Blind Sighted Faith* all featured, with the latter requiring a little audience participation. “Usually I’d get the crowd involved here but we’re quite exposed so I’ll let you off” he lied. The crowd provided the backing vocals to his chorus – ‘Call if you want it but, don’t make it easy’. “I’m not leaving until you’re all singing” joked the guitarist.

An insight into the new album was unveiled with ‘Animal’, ‘Light Up My Skies’ and ‘Communicate’ all showcased. ‘Communicate’ (at the time of writing) has amassed over 900,000 hits on Spotify, a sign that David deserved to be playing sold-out venues rather than meagre crowds at a university bar. But that’s the kind of guy he is, just happy to be able to release his music into the wild.

With the new album (as yet un-

titled) due for September, this quiet gig provided stripped back versions of the band’s new songs, many of which have adopted electronic touches, as opposed to their pure, guitar-driven, folk debut. David described ‘Light Up My Skies’ as the song that kept them in the music game. “We hadn’t heard anything from the record label in ages, but me and Joe kept on writing songs. We thought we were out of it, but we sent them this and suddenly we were back in,” he explains. This is the only song so far which still features David on lead vocals. “Joe just has this aura about him, he’ll probably take over eventually.”

David also described the events at Lollapalooza in 2012, when the self-described “scruffy lads from Leeds” found themselves in the Hilton hotel after thunderstorm warnings with hundreds of fans and artists, and decided to commandeer a grand piano in the corner of the room and play an impromptu short set. This was picked up by the American me-

dia and gave them more publicity than actually playing Lollapalooza would have, although they managed to complete their dream by playing the year after.

Festival appearances this year will likely be limited to the UK, with The Great Escape Festival in Brighton the first announced. “We have no others we’re allowed to mention yet,” he unveiled when pushed for more dates. His set climaxed with a beautiful rendition of ‘So Beautiful’, before returning to Leeds and no doubt ending up somewhere else in the country to promote the band’s material the following day. It’s difficult to put into words how much music is David’s life, willing to put on a dazzling performance to 13 people having previously been on *The Jay Leno Show* only a few years previous. After the publicity American journalists gave the group in 2012, David jokingly asked whether there were any present in County to help the band. Alas, there were not, but hopefully a humble SCAN reporter will do.

Strange but true: celebrating David Lynch

RORY MELLON

DEPUTY ARTS & ENTS EDITOR

Nine years: that’s how long it has been since the release of *Inland Empire*, David Lynch’s last film, and it’s been nearly a century since the silver screen was graced with the unsettling and isolating joys of the American director’s undeniably unique cinematic style. While we’re on the subject of time passing, this month marks the 25th anniversary of the premier of Lynch’s cult TV series *Twin Peaks*. To celebrate, The Dukes is holding a weekly screening of one of his films, ranging from his directorial debut *Eraserhead* to his neo-noir mystery *Blue Velvet*.

“All the movies are about strange worlds that you can’t go into unless you build them and film them, that’s what’s so important about film to me. I just like going into strange worlds” - one of David Lynch’s most famous quotes which really does largely sum up

his incredible body of work. Each of his films explores a strange world, often ones that appear familiar but have a dark twist, from the gritty and grimy streets of Victorian London to the glitzy and glamorous facade of Hollywood life.

Held in high esteem by far too many critics to name, Lynch is revered for his surreal approach and unflinching desire to remain true to his artistic vision, regardless of its effect on the films commercial appeal. His humble beginnings were in 1977 with *Eraserhead* a low budget affair filmed in black and white about a young male’s struggle to cope with his deformed baby who drove him to the edge of insanity. It’s a truly marvelous film, one of my personal favourites of Lynch’s, a work of art that repulses yet effortlessly manages to suck audience members into the industrial wasteland these characters inhabit.

If you’re looking for an entry point into the hazy often nightmare filled world of David Lynch then may I suggest *Blue Velvet*, which is being shown at The Dukes Wednesday, week 3. Earning him his second nomination for Best Director at the Academy Awards, *Blue Velvet* unearths the seedy underbelly of a supposed idyllic American suburb. Gaining only a small theatrical run upon its initial release over time the film has gained a reputation most can only dream of, being regarded as one of the most influential and well-crafted films of all time.

If, however, you’re looking to throw yourself fully into one of the director’s strange worlds then look no further than *Mullholland Drive*, which is being screened Wednesday, week 6. There’s good reason as to why The Dukes have chosen this particular film as the climax of its David Lynch season; it’s often proclaimed as his best work, praise I most definitely



agree with. Following a car crash a young woman is left with no idea who she is and, with the help of an aspiring actress, tries to piece together her identity. It’s a confusing but altogether wonderful journey through a heightened world of casting directors and palm trees.

The Dukes are offering a rare opportunity for audience’s members,

both those unfamiliar with David Lynch’s world and those who have already fallen down the rabbit hole, to experience one of the best directors of all times work on the big screen. You’d be crazy to miss it.

Visit [The Dukes’ website](#) for the full schedule of films being shown.

Review: West Side Story

JAMIE MILLS
@JHRM94

Before the opening night of *West Side Story* you could feel the excitement in the air as the audience waited to enter the theatre. *West Side Story* is a very well known musical and over the past decades it's been performed by some of the finest names in theatre. Could The Lancaster University Theatre Group (LUTG), working in collaboration with The Lancaster University Dance Society (LUDanS) and The University of Lancaster Music Society (ULMS), live up to the legacy?

Of course they could. It was cool, it was sassy, and strode the line between cheesy and sincere perfectly; resisting the urge to become parodies of the characters themselves. Credit has to go to ULMS for bringing life to this incredible soundtrack. Ultimately it was a hugely enjoyable show that offered both hilarious and heart-felt moments. At the end of the two acts you could feel the

sincere emotional silence from the audience; partially explained by having just watched their friends murdered on stage. Taking on a musical as iconic and complex as this took huge bravery from all participants but their commitment paid off in what was a truly wonderful performance. It was a confident and self-assured production, which drifted from its source material enough to provide a unique perspective on this classic musical.

One of the film's strongest points is the wonderful aesthetic it managed to create and credit for that must go to the wardrobe, set design, and lighting as well as the actors' very natural performances. They truly created the sense that this was 1950's New York. The show was not without faults, however. At times the choreography was messy, particularly at the start as the performers (rather understandably for opening night) took a while to find their rhythm. At times the show lacked energy,

notably during the song 'Cool' as the entire performance seemed to slow to an unnatural pace. And of course, opening nights inevitably feature a few small mistakes, but *West Side Story* managed to avoid anything too jarring. These issues were, in reality, very insignificant. By the standards of a university production, this was an extremely professional performance.

I am reluctant to give special praise to certain cast members as the quality of the cast overall was incredibly high. Jamie Steele (Tony) and Molly Hirst (Maria) were inevitably the stars of the show, their natural chemistry and powerful voices drew the audience into their classic love story. Abbie Jones (Anita), however, threatened to steal the show with an incredible performance that, just like the show itself, balanced quick witted humour with heart-felt emotion. She led the group of Puerto Rican girls who managed to live up to the name of two of the show's best known songs: 'Ameri-



ca' and 'Feel Pretty'. While the musical naturally lends itself to chemistry between Tony and Maria, Riff (played by Callum Berridge) and Bernardo (played by Mazdak Kamyab), the leaders of the Jets and the Sharks respectively, had one of the more fascinating relationships on stage, which developed into a

real sense of tension towards the end of the first act. This is down to their fantastic performances.

Overall another incredibly strong showing from LUTG, that is a testament to the quality of the people involved. Congratulations to all those involved in the show.

Review: Your Country Called...



CRISTINA SPOIALA

A concoction of politics, family stories and confusion made up the play *Your Country Called... And It Wants You Back* which was staged for three performances at the end of week 1 at the Dukes Theatre. The piece was put on by the teenage cast of The Dukes Young Actors & The Dukes Young Compa-

ny. It was a huge set up of around 30 actors, some too young to vote. The latter point is of importance as the play is set in the present time; "two weeks away from the general elections", as they excitedly uttered during the play. While this political theme is very current, which was refreshing, the play did lack a particular vigour in attempting to challenge the con-

troversial issues regarding politics.

The setup of the play was around short stories relating to the UK such as a family with children about to start university in Lancaster, a local MP trying to bring about change and people who have immigrated to the UK. The big challenge of exposing the hardship faced by many in deciding who to vote and why, was given through quick snippets of these people's lives. We were shown a range of scenarios which took place in different parts of the country. These were changed by the ensemble into living rooms, offices, streets and even a boat. This in itself was powerful as it captured how politics is relevant to all regardless from where people are. However, the issue with this is that not enough time was given to really explore one theme in detail.

The ensemble worked really well in creating scenes with their own bodies, by walking around the space, with the use of suitcases, to create monsters in nightmare scenes and to use in scenes where

there were no other props. The suitcases particularly, which were old looking of various colours, were a brilliant choice in representing the migration of different people, and all their possessions fitting in such a small space. Most movingly they were used in the scene which represented the darkest side of emigration. This was the boat scene, which depicted the tight spaces people are willing to put themselves in, as it is the only way they can escape their country and seek refuge somewhere else. The actors had some of the suitcases opened across the floor and then they lay in them in a state of sleep. To start with only one boy spoke out, describing how he felt- dehydrated, tired and almost inhuman for having to risk his life so in hope of finding a safer place to live. Not only did this story clash against the scenes involving UKIP supporters and the racist violence against minorities, but it was emphasised when taking into account the recent death of over 1,000 immigrants at sea.

The play was not all as dark, as it managed to be thought provoking through the satirical investigation of politics. This was achieved by showing the politicians in par-

liament and the farcical manner in which they debate. In the after-talk the actors expressed their amazement at how unprofessional politicians act and how this making them less trustworthy. Another actress added that she was also unpleasantly surprised that voting choices are sometimes down to "the influence of friends and family members." The play depicted the confusion young people feel when listening to politics in their country.

Your Country Called was as much a play about politics as it was of the psychology of politics. How can young people engage more in this? Through scratching the surface of some of the most debated topics in our culture, the play is much more aimed at young people starting to understand or get involved in the daunting task of voting. As admitted by one of the actors "It is all just very confusing, there are so many factors to take into account. I have a pretty cynical view; the country is in a bit of a mess." And so while politicians have created a distance between themselves and their young people, this play offered an insight into simply how hard it is for young people to care more about voting.

Soundtracks to your studies

ANDREW GODDARD

✉ @ANXIMUSIC

Each of us have rituals when revision rears its ugly head. Some of us need to be in the perfect space (such as the reading room), and some of us only work at night. For many, however, the perfect soundtrack is required, to motivate and energise, or to craft an illusion of tranquillity. In this article, a few soundtracks will be suggested that you may have not thought of, to help you bust through your revision over the next couple of months.

Ori and the Blind Forest

This adventure platformer game boasts one of the best soundtracks of the year, accompanying a beautiful, fantastical visual palette. The game itself has received incredibly positive reviews (an aggregate score of 89/100 on Metacritic), and this is partially due to its ethereal aesthetic, helped in part by Gareth Coker's beautiful score. Whilst many fantasy video games do feature lush soundtracks (such as *Final Fantasy XIII*), this one in particular works for studying as the timbres used across tracks remain relatively consistent. Available on Spotify and YouTube.

House of Cards

American political dramas don't get much better than *House of Cards*, and the haunting soundtrack provides a suitable backdrop for studying. From the driving opening credits theme to minimal tracks such as Peter and Christina, Jeff Beal's soundtrack showcases how much diversity can be squeezed from a high budget musical production. Whilst the



overall melancholic tone may not be to everyone's taste, the variety of tracks on offer ensure that most people will find some value within this collection. Seasons 1 & 2 available on Spotify, iTunes and other digital retailers.

(500) Days of Summer

To be clear, we're not talking about the soundtrack (featuring The Smiths and Regina Spektor) but the motion picture score composed by Mychael Danna and Rob Simonsen. If you have seen the film, you probably didn't notice the underscoring take place, and that is the exact intention of this soundtrack, to gently accompany the storytelling without taking precedence and distracting the audience. This is achieved through its simple recurring themes and minimal instrumentation, and is ideal for establishing a calming study-space. Available on Spotify, iTunes and other digital retailers.

Usagi Drop

This anime soundtrack is probably the least well known from this selection of music, but it is definitely one you should be listening to. *Usagi Drop* focuses on the relationship between father and daughter, in a cute slice-of-life story and it is definitely worth a watch, if you can find it online. However, the first thing that one notices when watching the show is how gorgeous the music is, and it stands out amongst other anime soundtracks due to Masashi Hamauzu's high quality of production. Available on YouTube.

Rayman Legends

Anyone who has played *Rayman Legends* (or *Rayman Origins*) will be able to vouch for the delightful insanity of this game. Produced by Ubisoft Montpellier, *Rayman Legends* was crafted with the intention of being artistically stimulating as well as hilarious and entertaining. Be warned: this soundtrack is incredibly hyperactive, featuring orchestral rushes, squeaky choruses and Latin American themed numbers, all created by Christophe Héral and Billy Martin. Available on Spotify, iTunes and other digital retailers.

Review: Avengers - Age of Ultron

RORY MELLON

DEPUTY ARTS & ENTS EDITOR

In many ways *Avengers: Age of Ultron* has the hardest task of any Marvel film to date, even harder than *Guardians of the Galaxy* having to sell us on a talking raccoon and a humanoid tree. The first *Avengers* was so exciting because there had never been anything like it before, an ambitious project years in making and the culmination of five lead in movies.

The novelty of seeing Earth's Mightiest Heroes on the silver screen together has worn off somewhat meaning this sequel needs to bring something new to the table in order to live up to the mountain of expectation. Taken as a standalone film this is easily one of the best superhero movies ever made, however when you consider its place with the interconnected Marvel Cinematic Universe it's an almost underwhelming way to finish off the series' second phase.

The last *Captain America* movie advanced the overarching narrative far more, at times this second outing for the *Avengers* feels very self-contained it's only really the film's mid credits scene (side note: there is no post credits scene) that actually contributes to the MCU and even that is just reiterating events we already knew had transpired. *Age of Ultron* is perhaps being a little generous, 'Week of Ultron' might have better fitted the quality of this latest Marvel villain. The trailers presented this Frankenstein-like creation as a suitably threatening and imitating opponent for such a powerful team of heroes but in reality Ultron is, not quite dull, but certainly lacking.

James Spader does a respectable job voicing the titular villain, but his distinctive voice can be distracting at times. The biggest criticism that can be levelled against the MCU is probably the real lack of worthwhile villains, unfortunately Ultron is another underwhelming foe in a franchise filled with them. The whole team is back, including a few new addition, but the one member who really gets to shine

this time round is Hawkeye. The almost whipping boy of the first movie is given a much more substantial role, something that Jeremy Renner apparently demanded, and overall it's a welcome change. It's Scarlett Johansson's Black Widow who perhaps gets the short end of the stick aside from a rather so-so romantic sub plot with the Hulk she doesn't get to do a whole lot.

Captain America and Iron Man once again take centre stage, there is plenty of tension between the pair clearly building up to their confrontation in next year's *Civil War*. Robert Downey Jr. has a lot of sway with the studio executives, more than they'd probably like, for good reason though he remains the perfect Tony Stark effortlessly cool and brilliantly sarcastic. Chris Evans continues to be a compelling leader of the team and it's always fun to see Cap throw his shield around.

The Hulk was sort of the unexpected standout of the first *Avengers* movie, I think even Marvel were surprised with how well he was received. The lack of a standalone Hulk movie since means it has been a while since we last got to see the big green guy, resulting in once again the Hulk being a highlight. The much anticipated showdown between the Hulk and Iron Man (in a special Hulk-Buster suit) is worth the price of admission alone. Also Thor is around too, and he continues to be pretty bland but at least he has a few decently funny one liners.

Speaking of one liners, there is plenty of comedy on offer. The team dynamic really helps sell the whole thing, the banter between the group is one of the single best components of the film. The first action sequence features a brilliant exchange between Iron Man and Captain America that is called back to throughout the rest of the movie in hilarious ways. This comedic aspect definitely helps because narratively *Age of Ultron* is very similar to the original really lacking anything that hasn't been seen before in previous MCU films, it's not a bad yarn being



spun but it'd be nice to see a slightly fresher plot in the next *Avengers* film.

There are a couple of new additions to the team as well in the form of Scarlet Witch and Quicksilver. After Evan Peters' portrayal of Quicksilver in *X-Men: Days of Future Past* Aaron Taylor-Johnson had a tough task ahead of him but he manages to differentiate himself enough and his super speed power leads to some visually impressive action moments.

Elizabeth Olsen fares less well, some of her line delivery is a little off and Scarlet Witch just doesn't ever manage to be particularly interesting. These two super powered twins aren't really given much backstory but they feature in enough enjoyable action scenes to make them worthwhile additions.

Much like the first *Avengers* film the second the credits started rolling I was desperate to watch the whole thing all over again, there are very few films that can match *Age of Ultron* in terms of simple unadulterated fun. If the Marvel Cinematic Universe is the Star Wars of this generation then *Avengers: Age of Ultron* is *The Empire Strikes Back*, being an often familiar continuation of its predecessor but adding just enough new elements to keep things joyously thrilling.

Employ us for our skills, not our lipstick

EBONY ROOME

They will only employ you if you wear lipstick.

Many women like to make an effort with their appearance, and I am sure many guys do too. Whether this be running a brush through our hair before we rush out the door or going for all out mascara and green eyeliner, we rarely leave the house with the just-rolled-out-of-bed look. Everyone knows stereotypically women do care about their looks. However, does this really give employers the right to judge our capabilities by our appearance?

Gone are the days when job applications requested a pretty photo alongside your CV. This had been in hope of ridding employers of those nasty judgmental vibes that discriminated between female candidates over how perfect their pout was. Yet, even with application styles such as this abolished, society still defines working women in terms of their appearance. Even social media labels women this way; Facebook pages flash images of 'the most beautiful female soldiers' or the 'sexiest police-women'. But we don't want to be classified by how gorgeous we are; we want to be seen as the soldiers who battle for our country or the policewomen who catch the criminals. The question is why bother

glugging Red Bulls to cram before an exam, why stress over commas in references and why work so hard for a degree when we are only judged by our newly high-lighted hair?

Employers, both male and female, have always taken appearance into consideration. New York University discovered that an increase in women's body weight resulted in a "decline in her occupational prestige" meaning the chunkier we are the less likely we will get that promotion. Further studies into the link between a female's professional success and her glamorous looks were looked into by the New York Times in 2011. They stated that when a woman increases the make-up she wears, as long as not overdoing it, she also increases her likeability, trustworthiness and generally appears more competent within the workplace.

The NY Times went on to discuss how certain choices in make-up can help a woman to come across differently when at work. For example, a darker lip colour can give the intimidating big-boss impression while a softer, lighter look makes a woman more approachable, benefiting in roles such as a teacher or a psychiatrist. Basically, it stated that mastering beauty will get you what you want.

So, maybe we should accept it; we



Aveda Corporation

will only get where we want to be in life if we doll ourselves up, diet and perfect our hair style daily?

No, we will not. Make-up is brilliant; it allows us to try out different looks out and often boosts confidence. It can intensify our eyes or dye our lips; we can even make our self more tanned if we want to! But that by no means should establish make-up as necessary for women to succeed.

There are millions of successful

women in the world, past, present and future. There was Margaret Thatcher, Rosa Parks, Eleanor Roosevelt, Mother Teresa and so many more. Do you honestly think that Amelia Earhart was applying her lipstick just before getting into that plane? Nope, she was too concerned with making history! The fact is employers should not judge anyone by their appearance male or female. We don't want to be awarded the job because our eyebrows are more precisely plucked than the other candidate. We are

brilliant on the inside as well as out, and we are proud of our achievements. We are intelligent, passionate and quick thinking; if we are good looking on top of that it should be a bonus.

Some are born liking make-up, some reach for make-up and some have make-up thrust upon them. But this doesn't matters; we should get the job because of our first class degree and not our first class lipply.

Keeping your eyes open for new friends

EMILY NICHOLLS

We all need people in our lives; people who we care about and who we can care about in return. Whether this means friends, family, or a significant other, we all need people in our lives – even if it's just to say a well meaning 'hello' as we enter a lecture. Although social convention dictates that we will be decent to those who we encounter on a daily basis (even if some are a tad insufferable), we do, generally, get to choose the people we bring into our lives on purpose. These are the people who we don't just talk to, but we share out fears and dreams with, the people who we will happily

pick up off the floor of Sugarhouse (providing they're not stuck there, of course!). And we might expect to find them in certain place. But if you have a look around once in a while, you might find a friend in the place you least expect.

When we choose our friends we seem to adhere to a sort of unspoken rule. We should, in theory, choose people with similar interests. We will have plenty in common, be on the same page – it's a great plan, but a very boring one. University is one of the best places for meeting people who aren't like us because they have come from different walks of life, different countries, and have different in-

terests. The thought of striking up a conversation with someone you don't have anything in common with might be scary, but it's one of the best thing you can do. By talking to someone who is a little bit different from you, you can enrich each other's perspectives on the world and make friends for life.

But it's not just differing opinions that can make a great friendship. At uni you may be forced to complete the infamous group project with someone you don't know. But that's half the fun of university: meeting people and learning to get along and learning about one another. The people on your course will have at least one mu-

tual interest with you, and the chances are that they can teach you something you didn't know about that subject. While it can be a pain spending time with people you may not see eye to eye with, it encourages you to find a middle ground and will help you to become a well-rounded person at the end of it all.

Next up, I want to look at friends of convenience. This sounds somewhat crass but in reality, especially in a university environment, you can get stuck with the people you are supposed to make friends with (your flatmates from first year). What I propose is that you remember that everyone you talk to

doesn't have to be a friend for life. At uni it's totally acceptable to talk to people when you're drunk and then never talk to them again. Not everyone has to be a friend for life, but the memories of random and largely drunken chats about the meaning of life are memories that will stay with you!

To quote the legendary Mr Gump, 'life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get'. I'm not saying disregard your friends at the moment, they might be great and perfect for you. All I'm saying is open your eyes once in a while and you might just find the unexpected gem.

Introvert or extrovert?

EMILY BIRKETT

Introversion and extroversion is something I'm almost fascinated by. Mostly because I think about it a lot in relation to myself and how my personality shifts, that I tend to dip into both categories numerous times a day. There's a common misconception between personality types, and many people cross them over like they are the same thing. Almost all are interlinked but just because you're an introvert doesn't mean you are necessarily shy and just because you're shy doesn't mean you can't be an extrovert. Surprisingly, you can even be an introvert and an extrovert. It wasn't until I read 'Quiet' by Susan Cain that I began to understand this, as she explains her experience with the personality types. I'd spent my entire childhood wondering why people would label me as an extrovert, outgoing and confident when deep down I preferred to spend time by myself rather than with other people. It really did baffle me. I turned down parties and sleepovers and I wondered if I was creating an impression that I didn't want to spend time with the people that were inviting me. To an outside perspective, this may seem offensive but the main reason was simply that I preferred being in my own company, especially when I spent so much time being surrounded by people in school and naturally, I enjoyed pottering on by myself. By creating that impression, I can only assume my invitations decreased due to people assuming I didn't want to attend. My offers had descended so much that by the time I got into sixth form, I pretty much got invited nowhere. However, I guess you could say that it serves me right. Growing up, I confess, it bothered me but by the time I'd turned 18, I'd completely accepted my predominantly introverted self so much so that I didn't care.

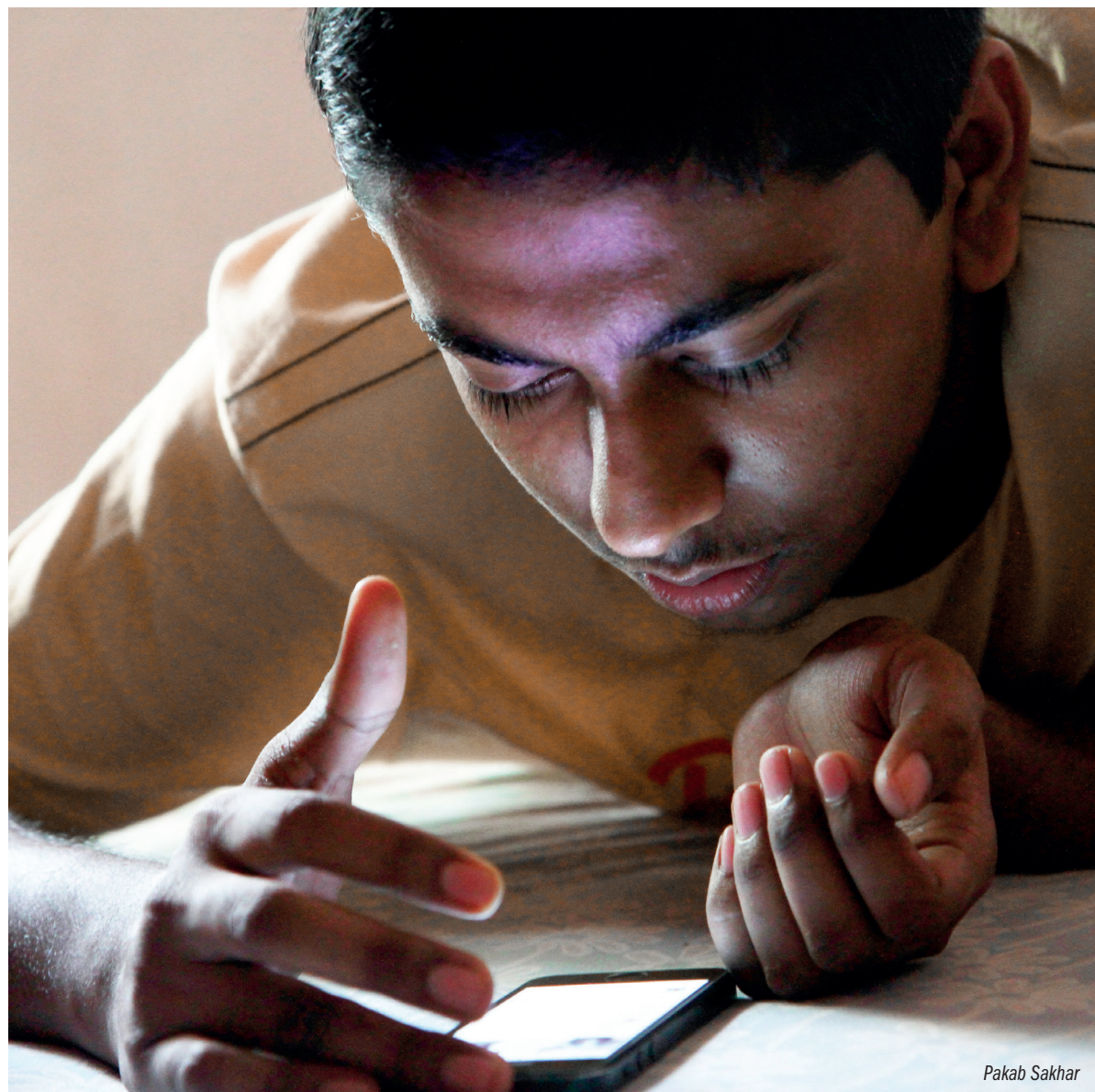
I've had a few conversations in my time with people who are extroverts who don't understand why anyone would want to spend time alone. They kind of thrive off being in social situations. When you see people walking on their own

it's easy to pinpoint the reason why being due to loneliness. However, I can personally say that everyday I make the conscious decision to go places on my own accord. On the contrary, although I am in complete acceptance of having a small friend group and spending the majority of my time in my own company, loneliness still hits like a ton of bricks and sometimes when I'm not expecting it. I confess, I still find it difficult to manage even though I have mastered the act of being alone. How do I manage it? Well I still feel I'm getting to grips with that. Previously, it involved watching TV through Skype with my parents at home for which they would place the iPad down on a chair facing the screen and would turn the volume up to a maximum so I could hear. But recently, I've been enjoying a night out just as much as I enjoy having an early night and therefore I cater for my introverted days and my extroverted ones.

It's easy to classify being introverted as a flaw, especially when you walk past a large group of extroverts all cracking jokes and then you do begin to question why you walk by yourself. At least I do and then I realise that I enjoy walking by myself but it's easy to get brain-washed and want things you can't have. When actually, having traits of an introvert is just as important as having extroverted ones. And I truly believe everyone has a blend of the two, even if you're convinced you are an out and out extrovert or a fully equipped introvert.

Whether people like to admit to it or not, loneliness will factor in at university while your timetable doesn't match up with your friends unlike school where there would be a cluster of people not able to walk to lessons by themselves. In my opinion, it's all about managing your loneliness and actually working it to your advantage. When loneliness hits, I am as productive as I can be with my alone time, completing work or doing exercise, things that better yourself instead of sitting there feeling sorry for yourself until you meet up with a friend to go to a lecture an hour later.

Social media: do we really need to know?



Pakab Sakhar

SAMMIE CAINE HEAD OF PHOTOGRAPHY

With social media's growing role in our lives, every day we see details of reunions with old friends, new-born babies, and trips for a "cheeky Nando's" strewn across our newsfeeds, but is this hinting towards a growing problem of our need to 'over-share'?

I'm not going to preach about how awful it is to share details of your life on social media, I am by no means innocent of it, but there's a fine line between what to share with your friends list and what not to, and there can even be some dangers in sharing just that bit too much with your friend-lists and followers...

As we look towards having to inevitably enter the 'real world' once we finish our degrees, there's the constant reminder to be care-

ful about what details you share online and what you say about certain individuals, or else you run the risk of potential employers seeing it. (So maybe it's best to think twice about tweeting that bitchy comment about that one group member who did f-all in your group project – after all, 'team-player' is right up there on your CV, am I right?)

According to a poll in The Telegraph, approximately "one in ten British holidaymakers share details about the length and location of their trip before heading abroad." While going on holiday is an exciting thing (and it's kind of fun bragging about it too), the same survey from The Telegraph also found that around 8% of these holidaymakers had then returned to find their home had been burgled whilst they were away. Recent years have seen a growth in the use

of social media to identify when homes will be empty, and this kind of 'over-sharing' on social media only assists this further.

However, there's no denying that social media can also play a very positive part in modern life, be it thanks to its ability to allow us to communicate with family and friends living on the other side of the world, or to see news events unfold in real time.

So when it comes to social media it seems it's the kind of sharing that we do rather than the amount (although all in moderation of course, no one wants to be that person flooding friends' newsfeeds with meaningless posts). Perhaps I'll give it a second thought the next time I go to upload a photo of the view from my hotel room to Instagram...

Bucket lists: what will be on yours?

EBONY ROOME

"A thousand people were asked, if they could know in advance, would they want to know the exact day of their death? Ninety-six percent of them said no."

The 2007 hit film 'The Bucket List' begins by stating this figure. The majority of us have no idea when we will die and most of us do not want to know. Yet the creation of a bucket list is becoming a bit of a craze. It seems as though our lives have only just begun; the majority of us have just started to live alone, earn our own money, and make decisions for ourselves. So why not start planning for our own future?

A bucket list is a place for all of your dreams and wants in life. It provides us with the opportunity to challenge ourselves, to make ourselves think 'you know what I really do want to clamber to the top of Kilimanjaro', and begin to make plans for a way to actually achieve goals that aren't just related to a career path or qualification. Commonly, when people are

asked to make a bucket list they jump for the obvious: they choose skydiving or swimming with sharks - the dangerous alternatives to everyday life. Celebrities claim to have created their own bucket lists. Cameron Diaz on The Tonight Show revealed that she is already beginning to complete hers, starting with jumping out of an airplane and riding an elephant bareback! Nevertheless, although such a list forces you to consider what do you really want from life - do you want to visit Niagara Falls, do you want to learn to use sign language? - creating your bucket list should be effortless. It's only noting down your desires, after all.

What you decide on doesn't necessarily have to be the thrill seeking, and certainly shouldn't be impersonal. Websites such as bucketlist.org are full of the common bucket list goals but make it your own. Whether that is running a marathon to raise money for a charity close to your heart, refusing to eat chocolate for a week just to prove you can, or simply aiming to make a stranger laugh. There is no need to make you list full of

extravagant or complicated activities all you need to do is ask yourself what makes you happy, where you would like to visit, and what do you feel you must achieve before you die. It is an opportunity for you to put down the shopping bags, stop writing that essay, delay washing the pots and discover what it is you wish to accomplish.

However, the bucket list isn't just a pile of wishes that you have been putting off, or worse a compilation of all the things you know you will never in fact do. It is also not diminishing your life into a checklist of achievements.

Your bucket list should be, in a sense, enlightening of what your current and future life could encompass. A bucket list is not something to hide behind. You don't want it to become a 'something I'll do one day' list but instead a 'what shall I do next' list. It should in no way be a competition either as it is an entirely personal area of your life. It cannot be judged and can include whatever you want it to (although a trip to the moon may be pushing it).



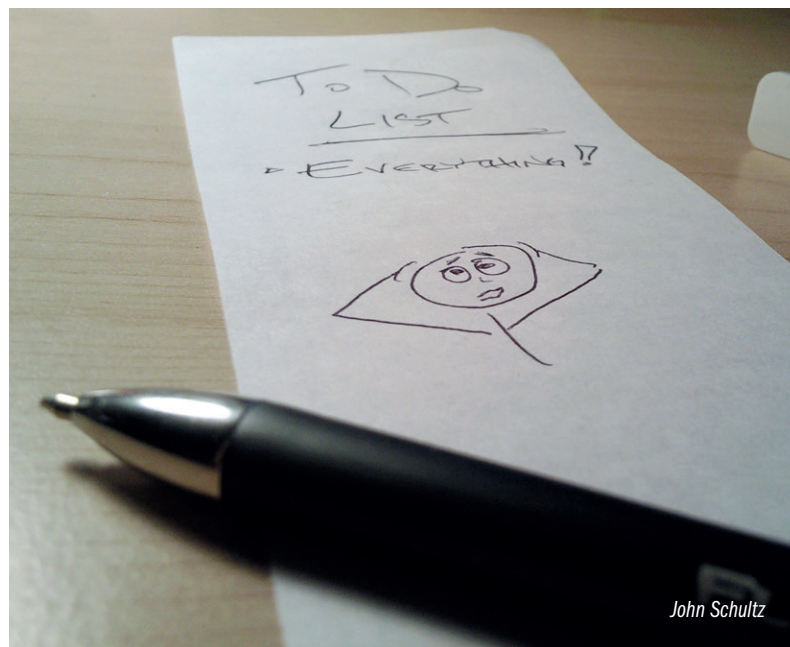
Brian Griffiths

Is sky-diving on your bucket list?

If you could do anything right now what would you want to do? If you were to die tomorrow what would you regret not having done? These questions open up your mind to all the desires you have, what you

want to see, do, feel, taste, and witness. And, by scribbling them all down onto a list you can ensure that they are never forgotten. All the list will do is enable you to start to achieve all of your wishes.

The future is all yours...



John Schultz

BRYONY SEAGER COMMENT EDITOR
@BEINGBRYONY

We're sometimes told that we're our own worst enemy, and sometimes this can be true. I've often said to myself that I'd do some-

thing later, or put something off because I thought I perhaps had better things to do. More often, though, if we actually pulled our fingers out and got on with what we were supposed to be doing in the first place, the feeling of ac-

complishment is a much bigger high than the apathy and rising panic might bring.

Someone much wiser than me once told us that if we're able to get past ourselves then we can accomplish great things. Sounds like a pretty daunting goal from where I'm standing. A way to break it down and make it more manageable is through goal setting. Then, once something is achieved, it gives us that high and that rush of actually getting something done. Everyone has felt the relief of pushing an essay through the slot on the submission box and hearing it thunk to the bottom. It's done, it's out of your hair, and the stress is over.

Goals don't have to be overarching and huge; they can be broken down to make it even more manageable. A sports psychologist once told me that, particularly when it comes to fitness goals, breaking it down into

daily, monthly and yearly goals can be helpful.

This, of course, can be applied to things outside of fitness and given a broader scope. Whether it be career goals or degree goals, things can be made all the more manageable by making bite size chunks out of what has to be done. With fitness, for example, a goal could be to make sure that this week you go the gym four times or follow a proper nutrition scheme.

Goals don't have to be overarching and huge; they can be broken down to make it even more manageable.

Another for me was to do with revision. During the week I wanted to make sure I was doing at least six hours a day, and I know I work best in the morning, so I made the decision that I would make the concerted effort to get to the library by eight in the morning and work until early afternoon. This of course means I have to get my lazy behind out of bed at some godforsaken hour of the morning, some-

thing which I don't particularly relish when my alarm goes off. It is better for me though and that feeling of accomplishment I get at 2 in the afternoon, knowing that all that work has been done already feels pretty special.

I'm not advocating that every little minute of your time needs to be diced up to ensure you're performing at your best, but if you're busy and have a lot asked of you, most of the time it's a necessary evil - might as well get something out of it for yourself as well, right? There is a flip side to this coin; if you're strong with your timekeeping and self control then more often it leaves you with more time to yourself, to do exactly what you want, whether that be to sleep (sometimes that's all you want to do!), or just veg out and watch TV.

Goal setting can be boring, but seeing yourself working towards something can often be much more rewarding than drifting aimlessly, or panicking over last minute deadlines because how they'd been accomplished hadn't been planned for.

Farewell Gisele...

GEORGIA SHEPHEARD **FASHION EDITOR**

Whilst models come and go, there are some that refuse to budge, soaring from success to success and cover to catwalk. Who am I talking about? Why the thirty four year old supermodel, Gisele Bündchen. After an incredible two decades of modelling and a career worth an estimated \$386 million, supermodel Gisele has announced her appearance at Sao Paulo Fashion Week to be her last. Returning back to where it all started in her native Brazil, Gisele walked for the brand Colcci, a Brazilian street wear label she has supported since 2005, for what was the very last time. The mother of two young children and a past Victoria's Secret model, Gisele is undeniably one of the most incredible mothers out there, but after what I can only imagine must have been a

gruelling twenty years, Gisele has admitted that her body has rather understandably "asked to stop". Though she has vowed to continue working in the industry on her own line of lingerie and flip flops and as the face of Chanel No.5, for Gisele, the runway is in the past.

Why should you care about Gisele's retirement though? Well perhaps you shouldn't, but considering that fashion shapes our society, Gisele has been one of the few to generate change and progress. Spotted at the age of 14 in a shopping centre, Bündchen experienced a meteoric rise to international supermodel status and by the age of twenty, she was gracing the covers of magazines worldwide, playing a huge part in the shift from waifish models (think Twiggy and Kate Moss) to strong, powerful, Amazonian beauties. In

a culture where skinny is celebrated and models are put under pressure to maintain the unhealthy, anyone that challenges that gets a whole lot of love from me. For Gisele to retire at her body's request is admirable and illustrates what a healthy relationship with your body really looks like.

There is no doubt the world supports Gisele too, for she has held the title of 'highest paid model in the world' since 2002 and is listed in Forbes top 100 most powerful women. I think it is fair to say Gisele has come a long way from her home in Brazil and whilst she still looks as incredible as she did in the nineties, what a timeline of her career really highlights is the leaps and bounds fashion has made!

...And hello Gigi!

GEORGIA SHEPHEARD **FASHION EDITOR**

As we wave goodbye to Gisele, naturally we must wave hello to a new influx of models and this year, there has been one that has stood out from the rest, with real potential to fill Gisele's shoes. Recently revealed as the new face of Maybelline, causing a storm at last month's fashion week and BFF's with Kendall Jenner and Taylor Swift, Gigi Hadid is the one to watch.

Starting her career at the age of just ten with a contract for GUESS, Gigi has since gone onto bag several editorials with Sports Illustrated, American Vogue and even earned herself a coveted spot in the 2015 Pirelli calendar; a hotly anticipated calendar that cannot be bought but rather is 'sent' to a select few in the industry.

Starring alongside the likes of Adriana Lima, Joan Smalls and Isabeli Fontana, Gigi scored herself Miss November and is rumoured to be making her Victoria's Secret debut at this November's annual lingerie show.

Not only is the nineteen year old (yeah, we're a bit depressed about it too) set to have a long career ahead of her, she has also bared



a softer side to her fierce looks by revealing to her twitter fans her birthday wish, "food gift cards to keep in my wallet to give to those I pass on the streets of NYC and elsewhere that are in need of a meal". Of course it wouldn't be a heart-warming anecdote if it didn't have a happy ending, which of course it does, for her boyfriend fulfilled that wish and provided her with a whole batch of McDonald's cards for the homeless.

Whilst that is just one of my rea-

sons to love Gigi, there are many more. There is simply something refreshing about her, from her attitude to life and staying fit, "Eat clean to stay fit, have a burger to stay sane" that seems just that bit more 'normal' than perhaps Gisele and Naomi did.

And asked by Vogue who her 'favourite living icon' is she responded with Beyoncé; the correct answer for a girl after my own heart.

DRESSING FOR... Spring in Lancaster



ALEXANDRIA DALE

Whether your year has flown by or Week One seems like a lifetime ago, third term is finally here and has brought the sun with it! Sitting on the steps in Alex Square eating ice cream, or lying on the grass claiming to be taking notes, I think we can all agree that campus in the sunshine is a beautiful sight and a lovely place to be.

Let's not forget this is Lancaster though, and the weather can take a turn for the worst and send you running inside at a moments notice. Dressing for spring in Lancaster is different to dressing for spring anywhere else, this is the season when deciding between tights or socks can result in a make or break situation. And with exams to revise for, there just isn't time to worry about what to wear. Thanks to the following guide, you won't have to!

1. Layering is key for spring. You want lots of light layers that you can easily remove when the sun is high in the sky, but an extra shirt or cardigan you can throw on when you end up in the shade. The layers will keep you covered in case it starts to rain, but the

lighter fabrics will still allow you to feel the breeze.

2. Your shoes can easily change how appropriate your outfit is for the season. If you're not quite ready to get your legs out and still want to wear your jeans, opt for sandals to lighten up your ensemble. On the other hand, if you're feeling ready for the beach and want to wear your new summer dress now, try pairing it with ankle boots for an alternative and edgier look.

3. Sunglasses are encouraged! Not only do you need to protect your eyes, sunglasses make everyone look just a little more glamorous. Take advantage of the cloudless skies and make sure you have a pair of sunglasses on your head, in your bag, or on your face at all times!

4. Follow nature's lead with colour. Banish your black, navy and dark grey clothes to the bottom of your drawer. The flowers have bloomed in every shade, so make sure your outfit is just as light and bright.

So there it is, your unofficial wardrobe rulebook of dressing for spring in Lancaster. And as for the tights and socks debate, whatever you decide with maybe stick the other in your bag just in case!



Maria Morri

What to wear this festival season

ALEXANDRIA DALE

Before last summer, I had never been to a festival. Feeling well rested and energized, I decided a bit of fresh air and festival fun may be the perfect thing to rip me from the homely comforts I had so enjoyed basking in since returning from my first year at Uni. I'd enjoyed Mum's home cooked meals and days spent in bed re-watching entire seasons of Gossip Girl for too long. Now, having attended Chicago's Lollapalooza, Leeds Festival and Coachella, I feel I have gained a new level of understanding on the ins and outs of conventional festival conduct. And ready for the upcoming festival season, I'm sharing my thoughts on festival fashion to help you find your feet, which can be hard to do beneath all the mud!

Let's start at the top. From bandannas to braids, even a girl's headgear seems to matter when it comes to festival fashion. For a flower crown update, try a bejewelled headband, something a little more 'indie' and a little less 'hippie'. Sunglasses that can be scratched, snapped or forgotten are essential. In crowds with arms constantly flying in every direction, my sunglasses were always finding themselves anywhere other than my face - most often in the mud or under the foot of an oblivious stranger. A topic of debate, bum bags verses backpacks. I'm not sure I appreciate the "fanny-pack" (American for "bum bag") fad, but I decided to embrace it along with the native Chicago-ans who reassured me of their perfection: hands-free allowing for a much larger range of dance moves and enables increased crowd weaving ability over a back pack. One piece of advice when shopping for your bum bag, a solid neutral colour is key. Although a novelty souvenir item, an American flag print fanny pack does make it a lot harder to coordinate a working outfit. With bum bags more on trend than ever, it may be something to consider adding to your festival wardrobe.

This said, at a British festival I found that the backpack was a much more convenient option for our bipolar English weather. With the sun constantly ducking behind the clouds and the cool night approaching, I greatly valued the



ability to store layers in my backpack. If you do opt for a backpack over a bum bag, I advise a fabric that can easily be wiped clean of mud, such as pleather or vinyl. I've managed to limit my absolute festival fashion essentials to just five items, and when you're trying to save space packing so as not to carry the weight equivalent to that of a grown man around on your back, I think five is an appropriate number.

1) Rain Ponchos. Easy enough to be carried around in your pocket until that sudden downpour has you scrambling to get them over your head. Plus, at the end of the weekend, you can just throw it away!

2) An oversized denim jacket. Not only does it go with everything, it will be the item of clothing you wish for when you start getting cold in your shorts and crop top.

3) Wellies, wellies, wellies! Is an explanation really necessary?

4) Face paint. For yourself, your friends, and strangers you meet along the way. You can successfully add a touch of fun to your festival look and hide the fact you're in desperate need of a shower and facial.

5) Duct tape. It's not just useful for fixing tent rips (although I use the term "fix" very lightly there) - it can also cover holes in your wellies, help hold up sticky bras which have a tendency to slip in the middle of a mosh pit, and if wrapped around your feet can prevent blisters forming.

Finally, a few other tips for you; white is never a good idea if you want said item of clothing to still be white at the end of the day. Check your outfits for comfort before you leave - high waisted shorts that ride up can not only be uncomfortable but they can also be painful, not to mention they often attract the wrong kind of attention from everyone's least favourite wasted oldies that can't seem to stay away from the festival scene. And dungarees, rompers and one pieces leotards, although cute, make going to the toilet that much harder.

If you haven't at least thought about any festivals yet for this summer, what are you waiting for?! You need something to look forward to after exams are finally over, and hopefully thanks to the above, your festival wardrobe is already sorted!

Max Factor's Marilyn



ANNABELLE BRITTLE

In their most recent campaign, Max Factor has transformed model Candice Swanepoel into Marilyn Monroe. This comes a few months after Max Factor announced in January that the late film star was to become their new global glamour ambassador, showing that her timeless look will never go out of style. In the campaign photos, Candice looks incredibly similar to Marilyn with her platinum-blonde curls, winged eyeliner, strongly defined brows and blood red lipstick.

However, this strikes me as somewhat odd. Whilst the Marilyn 'look' is certainly iconic and is, for many people, synonymous with beauty and sophistication, I feel Max Factor are sending a confusing message to their twenty-first century customers. The later years of Marilyn's life were arguably tragic; marked by illness, personal problems, reported depression and ultimately, suicide. She was an undoubtedly talented woman, but is more commonly remembered for her 'sex symbol' status than acting credentials or personality. It seems somewhat superficial and unjust to ignore her career and troubled past by simply heralding her as a beauty icon. And let's not

forget that she reached the peak of her fame in the 1950s; a time when women had significantly fewer rights and opportunities than they do today, so a nostalgic trip down memory lane might not be the best bet for Max Factor newest campaign.

I expected Max Factor to take inspiration from Marilyn's classic look but give it a modern twist, instead of turning Candice into a carbon-copy of the Hollywood star. So, instead of telling you how to 'get the look' of Ms. Monroe, I ask you to take to heart one of her most enduring traits, her confidence, and use that to inspire you. Wear a lot of makeup if you want to, and ignore people who say you're trying too hard.

Wear no makeup at all if you'd rather, and feel good about the skin you're in. Ironically, a red lipstick can boost your confidence massively, so wear it loud and proud if that's your thing. And as Marilyn once said, "Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius and it's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring," so you can bet she'd encourage you to dress, act and look exactly how you want to.

SPINE SPOTTER - ROSES EDITION

Showcasing not only the most stylish students but all those who have made an effort to stand out from the crowd (even if they are only visiting Greggs).



Jacob Lawton & Joel Smith

Lancaster

Course:

Jacob: History

Joel: English Language

Supporting:

Bailrigg commentators for boxing and badminton

Favourite shop?

New Look



Becky Bannister & Jo Grover

York

Course:

Becky: Law

Jo: Law

Supporting:

Squash and cheerleading

Sports icon:

Jessica Ennis-Hill

Favourite shop?

H&M, TK Maxx, vintage charity shops



Alex & Becky

Lancaster

Supporting:

LUDANS

Sports icons:

Andy Murray & David Beckham

Favourite shop?

Zara & H&M



Molly & Louise

Lancaster

Course:

Molly: Marketing & Design

Louise: Art

Supporting:

Pole fitness & lacrosse

Sports icon:

Bendy Kate

Favourite shop?

"Right now, Greggs because we're hungover!"



Tom, Sam, Sam, & Alice

Lancaster

Supporting:

Hockey and netball



Tom, Daniella, Zara, Mollie & Abbey

Lancaster

Supporting:

Hockey

Sports icon:

Sebastian Vettel

Story from the weekend?

After spending hours looking for a shower, a group of York students were kind enough to invite us in to their flat for showers - shout out to them!



Chris Carter

Lancaster

Course:

Management & IT

Supporting:

Lancaster!

Favourite shop?

Topman

Summer running, happened so fast...

ANNA TROGSTAD **LIFESTYLE EDITOR**

It's finally summer, and astonishingly Lancaster has seen some blue skies rather than the usual grey expanse. It's good to get out and swap the running machine for the road, and a chance to get to know the city a little more. With the evenings lasting until past 8pm this time of year you have all the more reason to sacrifice Netflix for a jog (okay, maybe not Netflix, but you get the idea). Here are a few mid-length routes to get you inspired.

Starting from Revolution from the Greaves Road direction, turn left onto Aldcliffe Road and run along the canal on the opposite side to The Waterwitch Pub. Pass Chancellors Wharf and continue under the bridge before turning right onto Cromwell Road. At the end of the road, go through the gate and you'll get onto a path that winds through fields, eventually reaching a stream called Lucy Brook. Run alongside this for two houses, before turning left onto another path. Carry on along this until once again you arrive at Aldcliffe Road, where you turn left.

Keep going: there'll be a footbridge going over the canal on the right. Cross it, and run (or walk!) up the hill: there's a great view at the top. After running back down, turn right when you get to the railway line and then turn left on to Ashton Road, keeping left and going past the infirmary, before arriving back at Revs.

Length: 3 miles. Pro: It doesn't feel like you're in Lancaster, and you can see the whole city from the top of the hill. **Con:** The hill is very steep, so it's a definite challenge on your legs!

Starting from The Pointer (Greaves Road roundabout), run towards the town centre and down Penny Street. Cut through Frances Passage (next to Wilkinsons) and onto Gage Street until reaching Dalton Square. Turn right and then left past the Town Council, following Nelson Street up through East Road and onto Quernmore Road until reaching the lower entrance to Williamson Park. Jog through Williamson Park on one of its many pathways, passing the Ashton Memorial, until reaching the main entrance on Wyresdale Road. Upon reach-



ing the junction, cross right onto Coulston Road and follow until you reach the centre of Bowerham and meet Bowerham Road, turning right. Keep running until you meet The Pointer once again.

Length: 2.8 miles. Pro: Variation, as it goes into town and through Williamson Park so it isn't just the same scenery for the whole route. **Con:** As it goes through town, the first bit of the route can get busy depending on the time of day.

Starting at Booths, cross the road

and run along Ashford Road past the cemetery. There will be a sign directing bicycles to the city centre: follow the sign, turning left along a small lane before meeting Ashton Road and going left for a short while until meeting the bridge that crosses over Lancaster Canal. Turn right so you get onto the path that runs alongside the canal, and jog the route until meeting Aldcliffe Road. Run the short distance to the first bridge, and cross over the canal. Continue to veer right along Haverbreaks Road around the perimeter of the

estate, following the road left and the slight uphill until getting to the A588. Turn right, past the beautiful Jamea Al Kauthar school, eventually meeting the mini roundabout where you will turn left onto Caspian Way. Continue on to Ashford Road to your left, before following back to the Booths Junction.

Length: 3 miles. Pro: The Canal is a peaceful escape, and you'll be amazed at the architecture of the school. **Con:** It's not that interesting running through the residential area, but it's only short.

Getting the best out of Lancashire

AMY AMIRA

When you ask any Lancaster University student what they think about Lancaster, their answers are almost always more or less the same. "Lancaster is so boring", "There's nothing to do in Lancaster", so on and so forth. Most of the time, we all find ourselves running to bigger cities like Manchester or Liverpool over the weekend.

What I think most of us fail to see is that there are actually places that are worth visiting that are close to Lancaster. Although it lacks that busy "living in the fast lane" kind of feel to it, these cities and towns still boast aesthetic beauty and even have some interesting places that you may overlook.

Pointing out the places where you could visit in Garstang for example, a couple of friends and I went

for a Christmas meal at Bellflower, and I must say that I was pretty surprised to find such a cosy place out there. It is quite easy to get there as well, there are buses from outside the University to and from Garstang. Best of all, a place that you must visit, is the Walling's farm where they serve ice-cream and there are areas where you can sit out and enjoy the view and have a selfie or two with the llamas and sheep.

Travelling to Kendal by train takes less than 15 minutes and when you get there, there is a chocolatier which you may be surprised with, as they even have a small café above the shop. It has been there since 1657, it's literally called 1657 Chocolate House. I must say that they have an array of amazing tasting chocolates and obviously, the chocolate mint cake: a slab of mint, coated with chocolate,

which I'd like to warn you about.

DO NOT be greedy; just get a small piece, because you have to trust me on this one, it's too sweet. Another great thing about Kendal is that its town is surprisingly big and you could do quite a bit of shopping, with plenty of stores and places to grab lunch.

Arnside is another great place to visit if you're into photography especially as it's really calming and you'll love the nature and the view that you get there. While I'm on the topic, another place to go to is Windermere, go trekking up through Orrest Head and voila, reach the top and you'll get a beautiful view of the lakes. Then, if you're up for it, walk all the way to Ambleside by foot: just follow the main road and on the way, there's the Peter Rabbit shop if that takes your fancy to stop at.

Alternatively you could do some fun things that they have over summer at the camps, which you will pass if you're on foot. When you reach Ambleside, go for the ice-cream with the flake! Best decision ever. If you'd like to go on the boat, you might as well, but if it's too cold, seriously, forget it as it's gorgeous even if you're just sitting by the lake. Oh, and if you're into baking like I am, they also have a baking shop right outside the train station at Windermere.

If you're not too much of going out on trains, you could always take the bus to Heysham/Morecambe and go to the beach, even if just to go to ASDA to do your grocery shopping via the 6A. Best make use of your bus pass right? There's another place called Halton: they have a place that I volunteered at called The Mill and it is quite a

small place, but it's amazing how you feel like you're transported to some other era, but hey, maybe that would help you in appreciating Lancaster? You never know!

Anyway, if all those things still don't appeal to you, take a day out to walk from the Alexandra Park campus exit to the Forrest of Bowland. If even that doesn't take your fancy, walk to Galgate, a village that once again is a nice walk if you need a break from studying. Go with friends whatever you do, and there's always Lancaster's own Ashton Memorial to visit, but don't forget: we're only in a small corner of the country. Travel via bus is inexpensive if you want to get out of Lancashire, but make sure you don't dismiss the beautiful landscape we have around us in favour of what might be a longer, potentially more expensive day out.

Review: The Meeting House

GEORGIA SHEPHEARD **FASHION EDITOR**

Back in March I had the pleasure of visiting The Meeting House in Lancaster to enjoy their mid-week offer; a three course meal for just nineteen pound. Despite walking past the restaurant easily seven times a week, I had taken little notice of this hidden gem. Situated on Meeting House Lane opposite the train station, the darkened restaurant merges into the few other small shops along the roadside and with little more than fifteen tables, it is an intimate restaurant, dimly lit with candles that illuminate the bare stone walls.

The smaller choice of dishes makes it much easier for indecisive people like me to make their mind up. There were even three refreshing vegetarian options that sounded much more exciting than the usual vegetarian options, I even contemplated ordering the butternut squash, chickpea and date tagine myself. In the end though I opted for the pan fried sea bass on a bed of chorizo and basil risotto whilst Jonny, my meat-loving date, chose the ribeye steak. Though there were several yummy sounding starters to choose from we began our meal with a sharing platter. When it came not only was the presentation brilliant but the platter, made up of Parma ham, chorizo, a selection of cheese, pate and crackers, homemade bread, olives, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, was all absolutely delicious. I even, slightly nervously, tasted pate for the very first time and found it to be surprisingly good! Spread on a piece of homemade bread with their own caramelised onion 'marmalade' it was my favourite part of the platter and proved to be something I would definitely order again.

Shortly after this we were presented with our mains and though we didn't want to admit it, the platter had already done a brilliant job at satisfying our hunger! When my

sea bass arrived it was cooked to perfection and the risotto it was accompanied by was the perfect partner. With small chunks of chorizo in, the risotto's smoky flavour complimented the fresh fish effortlessly, it was overall a dish I cannot fault. Whilst I tucked in, Jonny ploughed his way through a ginormous plate of steak, chips, onion rings, mushrooms and grilled tomatoes. Whilst he conquered the steak without a sweat, the mountain of chips was just too much for him though.



Georgia Shephard

There was still one more course to overcome: dessert. I ordered a classic apple crumble with custard and Jonny opted for sticky toffee pudding. When I was little I used to make apple crumble almost every weekend and so, as an avid crumble connoisseur, I was anxious to taste theirs. Just like the two previous courses though, it was brilliant. The crumble wasn't stodgy, undercooked or burnt but had just a little crunch that was perfect with the sweet, soft apples underneath. The sticky toffee was equally as good, inevitably rich as it always is but rescued delightfully with ice cream and toffee sauce.

Overall, our experience of The Meeting House was brilliant. The staff were welcoming and for a Tuesday night there was a lovely atmosphere. The food was incredibly good too and as your average student with a limited budget, it was one of the best meals I have had in Lancaster. Though the menu is perhaps slightly above budget at the weekend, I recommend visiting during the week to make the most of their mid-week offer. Where else can you get three courses of delicious food for under £20? The Meeting House really is a perfect treat for a birthday or post-exam celebration, or heck, if your parents are visiting and offer to pay, why not take them here for a guaranteed lovely evening!



Georgia Shephard

Choosing who to travel with: our guide



Karen Bryan

FIONA POINTS

There are so many ways to travel, and so many places to go. However, before all the plans can be made and the money can be spent, it is crucial to know who you're going to travel with. If you're headed off for some exploration over the summer or after University, you may be in discussion with your friends or a partner: or you may be psyching up to take the plunge and travel alone. To help you make this decision, here's a quick overview of the pros and cons of travelling alone, in a group, or with a partner.

First off, let's take a dive into the potential of travelling with your partner. Your partner may be the person you are closest to in the world, and the person you can have the most fun with. For this reason, travelling with your partner is potentially the best option to hold off the homesickness. Taking some personal time to travel the world and create some shared memories could do wonders for your relationship as an experience you will remember for ever: and all that time alone is a great test for what your relationship can handle in the future!

One thing to note, however, is that you have to be sure your relationship can endure it. Nothing will ruin your travels like a break-up in the middle! Talk about awkward. Furthermore, the prevailing opinion appears to be that travelling with your partner can affect your chances of making friends. If you and your partner are sitting out at a bar, or in a hotel restaurant, the chances are that fellow travellers will be less likely to approach you

as a couple. Hence, travelling as a couple may be more of an introverted, private experience.

Travelling with friends may present a viable alternative to this. You're still at less risk of homesickness travelling with people you already know and who have similar interests to you, and if you're a little lacking in confidence in terms of going out to face the world alone your friends can be a great support for you. And let's face it, who doesn't love spamming their Facebook account with #travelling selfies? If you're anything like me, you'll be at your most confident around a good group of friends who bring you out of your shell.

A group is also safety in numbers, and you might find yourself feeling far more comfortable out at night, at least for the first few days, if you're with your friends from home. The downside of this, however, is that the more of you there are, the more you might have to compromise with your plans. Everyone wants to do and see different things, so you may end up having to give up one of your ideas and do something that your friend wants.

Don't let that effect your decision too much though: that thing your friend made you do might turn out to be one of your trip highlights!

The third option is perhaps the most daunting. Setting out on your own to see the world is a scary prospect, but it has its upsides. Personally, I'm yet to meet anyone who says they regret heading out alone! Travelling alone allows you to learn about yourself and pick up some valuable life

skills: decision making, budgeting and adaptability to name just a few. What employer doesn't want to hear about that?

You're also more likely to go out and make friends. Travelling alone gives you the incentive to approach others and makes you more approachable for them. You can join and leave groups as you go along, and once you get back you'll have made life-long friends! Bag yourself some friends from cool locations, and you might even have a place to stay for your next adventure.

It takes guts to drop the people that you spend all your time with at home, but taking the time to enjoy a solo trip might be the best decision you ever make. It becomes a case of simply jumping in head-first and if you can do that, you'll soon make friends and have an unforgettable experience.

So, it would appear that any travel combination has its merits. Let's not kid ourselves, the chances of a trip going absolutely perfectly are slim to none, but having confidence in yourself and a strong network of support will get you through it: be it old friends or new ones.

If you're nervous about your travels, a good option might be to take your first trip with a friend, get the lay of the land, and then cut loose and go solo for your next! Everyone has different perspectives, wants and comfort levels so it's just about finding a dynamic that works for you. One thing is for sure, whoever you travel with: you won't regret it.

A less stressed house for exam season

Lifestyle Editor Anna Trogstad tells us what to do to reduce stress during exam period.

ANNA TROGSTAD *LIFESTYLE EDITOR*

Chances are, you've been living with a few of your friends for a while now. This is undoubtedly one of the best things about your time at university, but now it's reached exam season you're all burying your heads in revision, particularly if you're in Second or Third Year. Usually you can brush off your housemate not cleaning your plates that they've used, but you're stressed, tired, and if they do it one more time, you swear...

...that there are better ways to deal with it than shouting at them, which will just make a stressful time all the more hard to deal with. If you've got a big enough house or flat, usually you can keep out of their way or just stay in the library all day (sob).

However, you're bound to bump into them sooner or later. Maybe it's presumptuous to assume there's one housemate you don't get on with, because it might of course be all fine. Nonetheless, it's best to keep the ease of living together during exams to exactly that: easy.

You're going to want food at some point, and unless you're feeling fancy and can dine out, be considerate and clean up after yourself. It's as easy as washing whatever you've used after, wiping the surface or sticking stuff in the dishwasher (if you're lucky enough). All these things are basic, and maybe you're wondering why they need to be said, but we all leave stuff every so often and it just helps make life more simple for everyone grabbing dinner.

If there's stuff clogging up the drain for example, maybe "it's not mine!" so you feel you shouldn't have to clean it up. And you don't, but if you did, it doesn't have an impact on you for more than the few seconds there is cold, squidgy pasta in your palm. The kitchen is always busy and we all need to use it, so the cleaner it's kept, the happier your house will be and collectively more peaceful in the long run.



ABC.net

Without being patronising, remember to be rational if you find yourself getting stressed with your housemates. When you have a lot to do and can't concentrate because their music is playing so loudly, okay, it's annoying but just go and ask them to switch it off rather than getting irritated. Buying ear plugs is a surprisingly useful investment if the worst comes to the worst, but make sure you have other places to go, be it a friend's house or the Learning Zone.

Hopefully you know them well enough to compromise, as that's what living together is about, but everyone can use their headphones – particularly when ex-

ams are approaching. You're not going to get the Porters coming to tell you off if you live off campus, but unless you want to be Housemate of the Year, you can probably guess that Taylor Swift echoing down the stairs isn't the best background music for revising LEC101.

Everyone says it, but exercising really does help you get away and feel a bit better about this time of year. It's been weirdly summer-like in Lancaster recently, so it's a great time to get out of the house even just for a walk.

As always, check out the exercise classes both in the gym and town (Bowerham has a popular Zumba class!) and see if anyone wants to join you. Have a go at some of

the running routes Lancaster has to offer in this issue's article, or even just go and sit outside on the grass banks of campus – just get some fresh air whatever you do. A change of scene is so important when you've had your head in a book all day, and it's instantaneous stress relief.

Perhaps most important at this time is to make sure you spend time with your housemates. Yeah, okay, you're all really busy, but schedule a revision break together. The other day my housemate had to post a letter and asked us if we wanted to come. It's less than ten minutes down the road, but picking up an ice-cream lolly on the way back meant it became a pretty decent, chilled out excursion from

being stuck inside all day, even if it does sound lame as hell.

Checking up on each other at this time is essential to keeping a healthy house atmosphere and you never know, it might keep a friend from becoming too panicked.

Even if it's obvious, look out for your housemates, and be patient. All these things seem simple, and yet most of the time they're simply overlooked. However, it's nearly time for the year to end, which means cold drinks, warm nights and Extrav and Grad Ball on the horizon. Save Taylor Swift for those future, post-exam pre-drinks: trust me. It'll be worth it.

Five reasons to write for Spine



SIAN BRADLEY **SPINE EDITOR**

Stare at GIFs all day

Spine is all about the GIFs (well, that and the writing, we suppose). That means you can spend all day browsing Tumblr and Reddit for the perfect ridiculous looking cat.

The best thing is that if you write for Spine, it isn't considered procrastination, but 'boosting your CV and building important skills, according to smug little articles like this one.



Step into student journalism

Student journalism is important and an incredibly fun way of getting your voice heard all over campus. However, speaking to so many people about straight-faced and earnest topics can seem more than a little bit daunting.

As Spine is online only and a lighthearted section of SCAN, you can still get your name in lights without leaping straight into the frozen pond of cold hard news.



No need to be serious

Journalism is a serious game with high stakes and strict rules - apart from Spine.

We're the more frivolous section of the paper who offer students a humorous break from the constant and pointless droning of academic writing, meaning that your writing and topics don't need to be serious at all.

Have fun, break out your best jokes and spread joy, laughter and dubiously relevant GIFs all over the place.



Talk about anything

We focus on absolutely every topic under the sun that affects students or Lancastrians. Given that students are unpleasable and have an endless stream of issues and gripes, this means we're well supplied with content.

That leaves articles open to a huge range of topics, from the difficulties of staging a house party to what to do if you're undersupplied with cat GIFs.



Vent your frustration

It's no secret that university stresses students out - essays, 9am lectures and Sainsburys' extortionate prices all get the temper rising.

Because Spine isn't taken seriously, you can feel free to take all that anger out on a topic in the form of terrible puns and passive aggressive animations without any threat of libel action.

As long as you're not turning your article from a rant into a tirade, almost anything goes!

WRITE FOR SPINE



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County College to Canary Wharf: Paul Taylor, CEO of Fitch Group

Steph Mitcalf and Divesh Lachhwani interview Paul Taylor, Lancaster alumnus and CEO of Fitch Group.

STEPH MITCALF **BUSINESS EDITOR**
DIVESH LACHHWANI

In the concluding remarks of 'Why Globalization Works' (2004), Martin Wolf writes "The view that states and markets are in opposition to one another is the obverse of the truth." This statement encapsulates the principal division in liberal politics. All of us may only work with the information we have at any one time. Often, manipulated statistics dominate the debate and the issues at hand are discarded as being, frankly, too mathsy.

With this in mind, it was a relief to speak to somebody with a fundamental understanding of financial markets who was not trying to blind us with science. Paul Taylor studied at LUMS from 1980-3, majoring in Management and Marketing. "The reason I ended up coming here was primarily because my girlfriend's father at the time had a really cool car, and he was a Marketing Director. He's actually my father-in-law now! Lancaster had the best reputation in marketing." WE STILL DO, GUYS, WE STILL DO. When a job in Marketing did not materialise, Taylor accepted a position with Lloyds. As of 2012, he has served as the CEO of Fitch Group, which generated revenues in excess of \$1,118.4 million in 2014. Fitch Ratings, the largest subsidiary of Fitch Group, is one of the Big Three credit rating agencies, based out of New York and London.

Most students don't know what credit rating agencies are. Would you give us a brief introduction about what credit rating agencies do and their role in the capital markets?

Credit ratings serve a fundamental purpose. There is a symmetry of information in financial markets. What that means is, if you're an institutional investor, so if you're investing money, say, in London,

you're a pension fund in London and you want to invest money in China... You've got options in China. There will be companies issuing securities, bonds. That might be an electricity company or a food company. You, as the pension fund in London, don't necessarily have the time or the expertise to assess the quality of the risk of that investment. You essentially outsource that service, and you outsource it to credit rating agencies. We have the expertise and presence to opine on the quality of that Chinese bond. You can see if it's something that you are interested in buying. We rank, on an audible basis, the companies who are issuing fixed income securities. That makes markets more liquid. That means that you, the pension fund in London, are therefore more likely to put your money to use around the world, and hopefully get a better return, whilst the Chinese company raises money. You can apply that globally. It is a huge market, trillions of dollars of debt are being issued all the time.

So investor confidence is built on ratings?

We're helping provide information that helps them make a decision. Credit rating is only one aspect they have to look at. There's also interest risk, pricing risk... Does it fit their portfolio? There are a lot of other things they have to think about, but ratings are part of what they need to look at.

To you, what are the main lessons of the financial crisis?

That's a big question!

[Laughs] I watched a talk that you gave about a year ago, where you said that you felt the financial crisis would continue for five more years. We wondered, how do you feel about that now?

There's lots of lessons from the crisis. The reason I say it will keep

going on, which it is actually, is because the underlying issues are pretty fundamental and haven't really been fixed. People talk about there being too much debt in the world. If you go into an economic recession, you will normally see the deleveraging effect. So, people will borrow less. Interestingly, this time around, we have seen no deleveraging, in fact it has gone the other way, driven in large part by quantitative easing. Governments have been churning out cash, but also because interest rates are so low, companies in particular have been borrowing more. So there's been an increase in leverage, at a time when we expected leverage to come down.

Now, there are some reasons why this isn't a bad thing: deepening of emerging markets, capital markets, that's good, disintermediation of the banks, so banks can't lend as much as they used to because of their capital controls coming into place. That is not a bad reason for leverage to be going up in the capital markets, but really nothing has been fixed, so everything is bumping along, kicking the can down the road. We're not in crisis mode, but we are in challenging times. Like you said, look at what is going on with Greece, the Eurozone. There's lots of arguments about 'have they fixed their problems? Are they putting structural reforms in place?' There's massive unemployment in Spain. There are challenges around.

What is your stance on quantitative easing? I think it was a trillion euros of QE put in by the ECB.

I understand fully why they are doing it. In theory, it should be positive. The whole issue is about getting lending going in the European economy, particularly to the SME sector. I'm not sure how much there is a lack of demand for money, versus the inabilities of supply from the banks. There is

a lot of discussion going on at the European level. I was in Brussels a few weeks ago at a lunch, where we were talking about this, to develop more liquidity in European capital markets so we can fund the SME sector, where there is a view that there is not enough credit and it is stifling their growth. QE should help that, and it should continue to help the recovery process, but it's just one part of the solution. It is not the only solution. There's a big argument - again I'm out of my area of expertise here - there is a huge argument going on amongst economists about whether it has been successful or not in the US or in the UK. I don't know the answer.

To go back to your previous question about lessons from the crisis, I think that you should never stop asking questions about what might happen. I think we got in too, 'we', the entire world of financial markets, got into a bit of complacency, about how nothing could ever go wrong. Why would you assume things would go wrong when things have been so good for so long? The crisis has taught everyone to go back to basics and just question, more than ever before. That's a good thing, certainly a good thing for our business.

What role did the Big Three (S&P, Moody's and Fitch) play within the crisis?

Again, that it a very complex question. Our business, and most people don't really see this, or understand it, even... Since the financial crisis, '08, '09, we have had really strong growth in our business, despite what you read in the press. Not just we, but the industry, has had an incredibly strong growth path. Partly that is because, as I said at the start of this discussion, ratings serve a fundamental purpose. If they didn't exist, you'd have to recreate them, because they are a fundamental part of the

markets. The need for ratings is still there. They are fundamental. Capital markets have grown coming out of the crisis and we have grown with it. Most importantly, when you hear about 'the ratings agencies messed up', 'they got it wrong', all this kind of stuff, [that's because] in US mortgages, the US housing market, we didn't do a very good job. We missed a lot of the problems there. When you apply it to most of the other sectors, that's non-financial companies, banks, insurance companies, sovereigns, ratings were fine. Actually, they did a good job. Our customers know that, because they're sophisticated institutional investors, so they see on a daily basis what we are doing. They know that a rating still serves a good purpose. For the newspapers, they like stories. You need to make it news worthy. No one ever writes an article that says 'ratings are mostly right'.

Investors are being accused because they placed their investments in the wrong companies and what not, what do you think?

People talk about securitization. That was the issue, toxic assets. You remember all the headlines we saw? This meeting I was at in Brussels, they were talking about how we get the securitization market going again. This is the same policy makers that four or five years ago were talking about toxic assets being terrible. Actually, they weren't as toxic as people thought. Between 2001 and 2009, I think it was, there was something like \$10 trillion of securitized assets issued. It is a huge amount of money. When the crisis came along, the price of those securities collapsed.

Normally, you'd invest \$100 and get \$100 back at the end of the day. So your price tends to be bumping around \$100, depending on interest rates. If you get default risk appearing the price goes down, because you might get less back

than you thought. In the financial crisis, if you get mortgage backed bonds at \$100, the prices collapsed down to, on average, 30-35 cents in the dollar. So you were assuming a 70% loss on your assets. If you invested \$1 million, you would lose 70% of that. Most of that was due to market panic; a lack of liquidity, no one was selling, so the price didn't reflect the underlying quality of the asset. Now you fast forward five years, six years, with the benefit of hindsight, we were saying this at the time, the actual losses on those assets is probably going to be around 5%. At the moment it is around 2%, because they are long tail assets. At the end of the life of these things, which is going to be twenty years, it's probably going to be about 5%. All the toxic asset stuff was going on when the price was down to 30, 35 cents in the dollar, but there's still an underlying asset under that bond, which is houses.

First of all, people have to default on their loan and then you have to have no value in the asset if you try and sell it, in the house. There was a huge gap between the liquidity risk which was in the transaction and the actual credit risk. Our job is to do the credit risk. It is not to comment on [whether] the price [is] right. People have now belatedly started to realize that it wasn't quite as bad as it was made out to be at the time. Of course, that was only one sector. When you look at most of our business as rating companies, there are always one or two exceptions, but nothing went wrong, or banks, where most things didn't go wrong.

My favorite example is [that] a few years ago I did the Treasury Select Committee, which is not a fun experience. There is a lot of political theatre. One of the MP's asked me about Northern Rock, which obviously famously failed. He said, 'how did you get Northern Rock so wrong?' I said 'well, we didn't get it wrong', and he said 'of course you did! It failed, it defaulted'. I said, 'but the bonds actually paid out'. The bit that we rated, we asked 'will you get your money back on those securities?' Yes, you did actually get your money back. So even though the bank failed, what we were supposed to be doing [concerning whether] if you own that security, will you get your money back, well yes, you did.

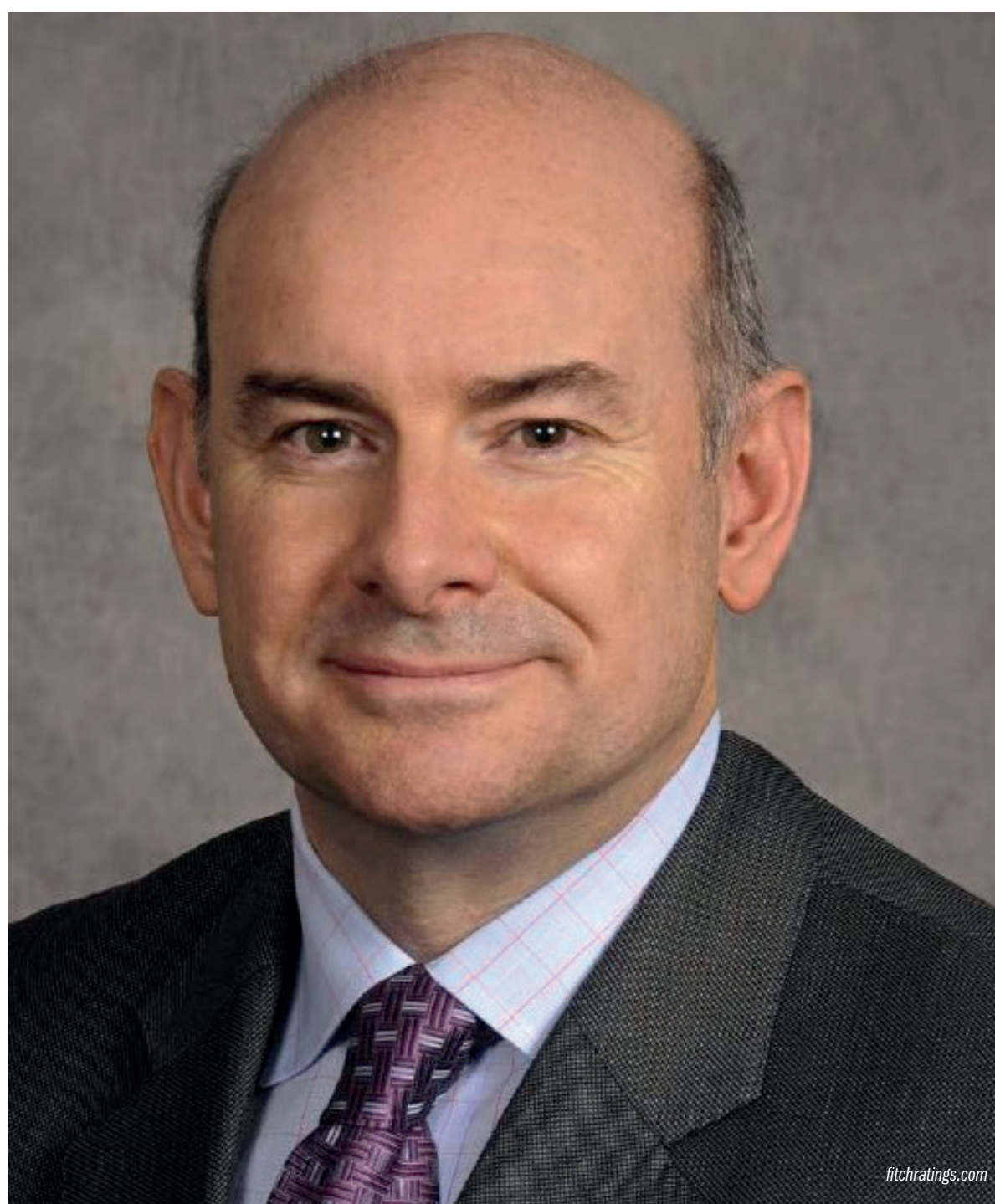
Therefore, our rating didn't change that much. From a policy maker point of view, the bank failed, so surely our rating was

wrong. There was a complete lack of understanding of fundamentally what it is we were doing. A lot of that appears in the media as well. It's better now. You've seen the commentary disappear because they've learnt a bit more about this, and we've put a lot of work into educating them as well. You see a lot less now about how rating agencies got it wrong and all that kind of stuff. You see much more about what we think about something. So particularly the FT, the Wall Street Journal, the quality financial media, the tone has changed quite a bit. There is this lack of understanding about what really happened. We don't cover ourselves in glory. There were things we did that weren't very good, but that was just poor analysis. We didn't assume that there would be as many defaults in US mortgages as there were. We didn't get everything right by any stretch of the imagination, but most of what we did was right, which is why we have grown so well coming out of it.

On to some more personal questions. If you could tell your twenty year old self one thing, what would it be? What would you tell yourself, in 1982?

Oh, God! I think you've just got to get your head down and get on with it, is the simple answer. I was lucky. I applied and got a job at Lloyds and got on with it. I didn't assume I was going to change the world on the first day. I had to learn. I think it gets worse as you get older, you think you know a lot more than you actually do. I'll give you an example. I took on my current job three years ago. For the two years previous to that, I was essentially the number two in the company, and I shadowed the guy who was my boss, who was the then CEO.

When they first made me President of the company, essentially number two, I was thinking 'I know how to do the CEO job, why aren't I being given the CEO job?' Over the two years I realized that I didn't actually know. There were lots of things that I didn't understand and didn't know. I needed those two years to be able to do the job properly. I see that now in people in the firm. They think they know more than they do. Sometimes, you just have to be a little bit patient to develop that understanding. Maybe I could apply that to when I was twenty!



Paul Taylor, CEO of Fitch Group

Most of us are going through our job interviews at the moment, so what do you think are the ideal characteristics that a company such as Fitch would look for? What would you look for? What is important in the sector and in the industry?

First of all, you're lucky because you're at a good institution. Assuming you get a good degree, you will come out with a strong academic qualification and reputation. A lot of it is about being personable. I've seen lots of people over the years who are incredibly well academically qualified, but they lack that inter-personal ability, or they lack that ability to stand up to a group of people in a room. Having those kind of soft skill abilities are really important to us. We throw people in at the deep end in some ways. You could be sitting opposite a senior management

team of a big firm, and you're allowed to ask questions. The gravitas of how you do that is important. Just having those soft skills is pretty important. I asked my HR department to tell me what we are looking for in people [laughs]! I can tell you if you want.

Here we go! What differentiates the best candidates? A finance orientated or numerate degree. You can always find examples of Arts graduates in the city, but they are increasingly rare. They start their career planning early. CV's of most graduates we hire already demonstrate a commitment to the sector through previous work experience or internship placements. Interesting. They are persistent. They know why they want the job. You'd be surprised how many candidates fall down on the basic question, 'why do you want to work here?' All employers want

graduates with a genuine fascination with financial markets and who can communicate this professionally, yet passionately. You can't fake interest. That's what my HR department say! You've got to know why you are there.

Lastly, just before we round up, what makes a great leader?

Ears. You've got to listen. I've made it a policy for me not to talk first in meetings internally. If you ask people at Fitch about me, they'd probably say I listen lots. Normally, because people are smarter than me, I like to listen to what they think before I talk.

A special thanks to Steven Young, Libby Packham, Joanna Stephens and the Accounting and Finance department for facilitating this interview and for allowing Divesh and I this opportunity.

Mixed volleyballers lose out in Roses battle

FINAL SCORE:

LANCASTER 0-3 YORK

NATHALIE FARRUGIA **NEWS EDITOR**

Despite winning both their men's and women's matches, Lancaster University Volleyball Club (LUVVC) unfortunately lost out 3-0 to York in the mixed volleyball. LUVVC were also unlucky to have lost one of their players Andre Honorato to a twisted ankle in the warm up just before the game.

The York team started the first set very strongly, securing 7 consecutive points. It took the Lancaster team, who hadn't competed together before, a while to get into the game. A York shot that hit the net earned Lancaster their first point, followed by an excellent serve by Bre Wong, making the score 7-2.

Gradually, Lancaster started to ease into the game, bringing the score to 8-4. However, York remained the stronger side, scoring another point. A great spike from Changxing Hong made the score 9-5. Despite Lancaster starting to play more confidently, York managed to secure another 7 consecutive

points bringing the score to 17-5. Although Lancaster managed to get a few more points, the rest of the set was dominated by York who ended it 25-14.

In the second set York were again the stronger side. Although Lancaster won the first point, York went on to score nine consecutive points, despite them losing a player to a suspected twisted ankle. But after a time out, Lancaster came back with an excellent spike from Emanuele Celani, making the score 9-2.

An excellent serve from Yaa Ofori saw another point go to Lancaster, who were starting to creep up on the York side. Lancaster were working better as a team, scoring 5 consecutive points, making it 9-6 to York. However, the side started to lose a few points by not defending strongly enough, meaning York were able to stay ahead at 15-7. A few mistakes by York gained Lancaster a further three points making the score 15-10 and it was looking promising for the away team.

While Lancaster were attempting some excellent shots, the York defence was very strong and the set

started to slip away from Lancaster and York managed to secure 21 points to Lancaster's 14. The set finished with the same score as the first at 25-14, making the overall game score 2-0.

The third set was the deciding set and Lancaster came back much stronger than they had played in the first two. York led the game 3-1, but the play was much more level. Lancaster's defence got better and the result was even at 3-3.

The points continued on in this manner until the two teams were even again at 10-10. York slightly had the upper hand from then on and with some successful shots, which brought the score to 17-12. Lancaster's play started to weaken slightly and York managed to gain 20 points to Lancaster's 13. In a turn around, however, Lancaster caught up, making the score 21-19, with another spike from Celani. At 22-20 the teams took a time out and York only needed 3 points to win overall. York scored the next point with a spike, making it 23-20.

However, Lancaster fought harder earning themselves a point, making it 23-21. Stilyana Stoyanova secured Lancaster an important



point in an excellent shot, bringing the score to 24-23 to York. Lancaster scored another point which made the teams even at 24-24. Unfortunately, York won the last two points meaning they won the set and therefore the game 3-0.

Overall, it was a well fought match by Lancaster. Although it took them a while to get into the game, they played some excellent shots and had some good defence. It was unfortunate that they just missed out in the last set as it would have

been great to see them battle for the points in a further two sets.

However, York were a strong team with a great defence which they maintained throughout. Alex Buttol, a member of LUVVC coaching the game, told SCAN "we had a great weekend so we're really really proud of how it went. We decided to give space to those people who show commitment throughout the whole year, so it was kind of a reward for them."

Promising future for Lancaster's karate team

FINAL SCORE:

LANCASTER 2-2 YORK

VIKTORIO SERDAROV

This year's competition involved participants competing in both kata and kumite and was highly anticipated by students from both universities, as well as other spectators. The competition was held at the Roger Kirk Center and started at about 9pm on Friday Week 1. In an affair full of intensity and competitiveness, Lancaster and York each split two points, with Lancaster winning the female kata and the male kumite and York having the upper hand at male kata and female kumite. The contenders for the white rose were: Andrew Gameson (Kata and Kumite), Alice Carstairs (Kata and Kumite), Nettie A-Borrill (Kata and Kumite) and Max Strachan (Kata). On the other hand, Lancaster's lineup

included Adam Craggs (Kata and Kumite), Francesco Quiliconi (Kata and Kumite), Peter Skinner (Kata), Charlie Pepper (Kumite), Kelly Chi - (Kata and Kumite) and Samantha Pang (Kata and Kumite). First up was the female kata followed by men's kata. Kelly Chi and Samantha Pang did not have a problem at all with the clean and solid execution of their moves and ensured that Lancaster's team was off to a good start at kata. Despite this fact, in the men's kata York responded to the challenge and managed to beat their Lancaster counterparts 2-1.

After finishing up with kata, it was time for female and male kumite. In the female kumite York came out strong and Alice Carstairs and Nettie A-Borrill had no problem seeing off their opponents. No matter how close the fights seemed at times, the white rose

managed to find a way to dominate the female kumite by executing the right moves at the right time. On the other hand, although the start for Lancaster at the men's kumite was not positive, with Francesco Quiliconi being beaten in an extremely intense and close fight, Adam Craggs and Charlie Pepper managed to pick up the slack and ensure that Lancaster was granted victory. During both of these fights, which determined the result of men's kumite, Lancaster participants showed that they have no problem with coping with pressure, getting out of tough situations and turning the result in their favour, despite the circumstances. For instance, at one point Pepper fell on the ground and it looked like his opponent was going to deliver an ippon (which is the highest score a fighter could achieve for a move and is worth three points), but Pepper managed

to prevent that, got out of the situation cleanly and eventually win the fight. Furthermore, Craggs also looked extremely composed and patient during his fight and seeing him defeat his York opponent was hardly a surprise. After all of the fights were finished Craggs shared that he was both satisfied and disappointed at the same time of Lancaster's performance. He praised his teammates, but also emphasized that the team is capable of being even more successful in the future because of the potential and dedication of its members.

Overall, I am of the firm belief that participants from both Lancaster and York were well-prepared for Roses 2015 and the sharing of the points between the two sides is probably justified. However, it has to be noted that York's raucous crowd definitely played their part

and constantly cheered for and encouraged their fellow university members (something that the referee was not too fond of, perhaps because the fans were extremely loud and might have influenced the competitors' performance). On the flipside, the red rose's representatives did their best to remain focused and unaffected by the crowd's chants. In the end, the important thing is that we saw some captivating, as well as fair fights, in which many impressive moves were executed cleanly. For example, members of both teams executed some beautiful chudan kicks, which definitely pumped up the crowd. Overall, seeing York vs Lancaster at Roses 2015 was a particularly enjoyable and intriguing experience and proved to be a faithful presentation of both team's high level of talent and their rigorous training and lengthy preparations.

Lancaster score two points in women's football

FINAL SCORE:

LANCASTER 2-2 YORK

NATHALIE FARRUGIA **NEWS EDITOR**

Despite a relatively even first half, York's control of the second half of the game resulted in an unfortunate draw for the Lancaster side, seeing them only win 2 of the 4 available points. However, they are the first LUWFC team since 2009 to come away from York with at least a draw in the 11-a-side Roses match. York also lost all three 11-a-side games at Lancaster during this period, making this year's squad the first from either side not to get beaten away in the 11-a-side Roses game since 2009.

LUWFC President Samantha Seddon told SCAN: "Our team spirit

has been absolutely fantastic coming into Roses and obviously playing at their York ground is going to be daunting and the whole away thing, I just don't think it fazed us really. We played until the very end, we gave it our all and there's nothing more we could have asked of our team than that."

The home side started the match much more confidently than Lancaster, who took a while to get into the highly anticipated away game. York had possession for the majority of the first third of the game, dominating Lancaster's half of the pitch. After a free kick just outside the Lancaster box, York captain Anty Cole scored a strong first goal around fifteen minutes in.

Despite the quick first goal, Lancaster's team came fighting back

and after a corner from Lancaster's Monica Crewe, centre-back Nat Dunn scored an excellent goal only three minutes later, bringing the score to 1-1. However, this didn't faze the York side who continued to play very well, with their captain narrowly missing a free kick shortly after.

Almost midway through the first half, it was looking like a very even match with both sides fighting for possession. In spite of the strong attack from York, Lancaster managed to score their second goal 30 minutes in. It came after another corner from Crewe, this time from striker Carmel Daniels who scored a fantastic header, making the score 2-1 to Lancaster.

A York corner shortly after Lancaster's goal was headed away

brilliantly by Nat Dunn, and Lancaster's defence strengthened, blocking the corners and free kicks from York that followed. Lancaster narrowly missed two opportunities to score again after this, though it was close. However, the last ten minutes of the first half was predominantly played in Lancaster's half, but their defence was strong and the score remained at 2-1.

In the second half York immediately took possession, taking two shots at the goal in the first two minutes of play. York's captain then scored their second goal in the fifth minute from an impressive distance, evening the score to 2-2. Although the York side were mainly in possession, there was some action from Lancaster in York's half.

Overall, Lancaster played well and while York's fierce attack and control of the ball made them the stronger side in the second half, Lancaster's defence was solid and we saw some good saves from the goal keeper Demi Rabbette.

Speaking to SCAN immediately after the match, captain Jordan Williamson said: "We put 110% into the whole thing, I'm gutted with a draw obviously because we're all about winning but we'll absolutely take it, a draw away is a very hard thing to do."

She also said: "We couldn't ask for anything more from our players, they gave us everything they had and we're really proud to be LUWFC."

Late surge in women's rugby not enough to overcome York

FINAL SCORE:

WOMENS 1ST: LANCASTER 12-22 YORK

GEORGE HAMLYN

After suffering defeat in the women's rugby sevens seconds, it was time for the firsts to avenge their fellow Lancastrians in a highly awaited contest. SCAN arrived to see both sets of teams engaged in vast warm ups, with Lancaster's Captain Emma Pryor motivating the side on for success.

It was 2:30pm. The teams were ready, the stage was set. 14 minutes of intense, all action rugby by the seven players on each team.

The game kicked off and the intensity was clearly evident, with both sides flying into some strong tackles immediately. The York girls took the early initiative and began to drive at Lancaster. It took just 2 minutes for York's early pressure to pay off, following a ruck over, the ball was popped out wide for the speedy Juliette Carter of York to drive over the try-line.

However, luckily for Lancaster, the ref had called for a forward pass, meaning the try was disallowed. A let off for Lancaster after a sloppy start.

Lancaster took spirit from this; however York withstood the pressure, and after winning the ball back, a pass out wide to the rapid Carter enabled her to exploit her main asset and race away from the Lancaster back line to score.

This time, unfortunately, no forward pass and the try stood. First blood to York. The score line wasn't increased though as the conversion, slightly wide of the posts, was missed.

York then took spirit from this and their game plan was clear: to get as much of an early advantage as possible. York came at Lancaster again, and consecutive ruck overs were won by York deep in the Lancaster half, allowing them to push further and further forward. Lancaster had opportunities to clear their lines.

However, York's aggressive pressure denied this, as breakaways were quickly stopped by strong tackles. Despite initially taking the pressure, the ball was again popped out to Carter; a constant feature of York's game, who drove it beyond the line.

Once again, the York kicker could not increase the advantage.

Lancaster couldn't wait for half time to come, especially as York

added a third just before half time to complete a first half hat-trick of tries. Once again, her try was not rounded off as it appeared the York kicker had left her shooting boots at home. York's early pressure and first half dominance enabled them to go in 15-0 up at the break.

Lancaster used this half time interval to regroup and fire each other up for the second half, and they were by no means out of the game.

The second half began and Lancaster came out with a different mind-set: to go at York with nothing to lose. This was evident in the strong early challenges by Lancaster. As Lancaster's 7 drove forward early on, they were always vulnerable to the counter attack, and once more the pace of Carter allowed her to hit Lancaster on the break following a turnover in possession. She helped out her kicker this time by running directly in between the posts, giving her a central kick and this time she scored. 22-0 to York.

Lancaster then decided to go all out and try and muster a comeback, there was still time. Some strong challenges and clever wing play by Lancaster enabled Megan Brown to get in behind York and get a try back for Lancaster, which lifted the crowd who began spurring the girls on in belief of an



Polly McDonnell

incredible comeback. The conversion was missed but it didn't matter as Lancaster had hope.

York were tired and Lancaster could smell blood. Immediately after, Lancaster drove into York and Abi Graham raced through the try-line and Megan Brown showed the York kicker how it's done by converted to bring it back to 22-12 to York. Lancaster grew with confidence of achieving this heroic comeback, and the fans we're in full voice in encouragement.

Lancaster pressed and pressed but, it proved too little too late with the half only 7 minutes long. The full time whistle was called to the

relief of York, who were beginning to let it slip as Lancaster mounted this comeback. If the game were to go on for longer, I am certain that Lancaster would have pegged York back further. 22-12 seems a tad harsh on Lancaster, who gave a valiant effort in the second half but it was the poor start which inevitably let them down.

After the game victorious York captain Thulani Kimbugwe stated: "It's the first time we've won both sevens for a while so we're very pleased with our efforts"

Lancaster can take great spirit form this defeat: Roll on Roses 2016!

LUDanS miss out despite best choreography prize

FINAL SCORE:

LANCASTER 2-3 YORK

NATHALIE FARRUGIA **NEWS EDITOR**

Despite a fantastic afternoon of performances from LUDanS in street, contemporary, tap, ballet and jazz, the Lancaster team narrowly missed out on taking the 4 points home in this year's very closely fought Roses dance competition. However, after doing very well throughout the year in national competitions, the team were pleased with their performances and even took home the prize for best choreography for their contemporary routine.

In the first of the five categories York's street dance routine had a boxing theme. The routine was very fast paced with some interesting movement and the group made good use of the space around them. It was a very powerful and dynamic performance full of attitude. However, it was Lancaster's Hunger Games themed performance that stole the show and was clear winner. The music for the routine incorporated quotes from the films and the group acted out scenes whilst dressed in hoodies with the Mockingjay symbol. Their routine was more in sync than the York side's and they showed fantastic technique with some very fast sequences including intricate arm movements and lifts. Overall the routine had a much stronger reaction from the crowd and Lancaster rightly won this category with 134 points to York's 115.

In the contemporary category, York's routine addressed the theme of bullying, with their squad dressed as school pupils and teachers. The routine kept in time and told a sad but interesting story through some lovely shapes and formations. However, Lancaster's routine was very different and tackled the issue of mental health in a powerful way. The choreography was very strong and despite having a smaller group than York's, their routine was a much more emotional and dynamic performance that wowed the audience. Lancaster won this category with a strong 142 points against York's 114 and LUDanS took home the prize for best choreography in this routine.

The two tap routines were perhaps the most different in style. York's routine had a tribal theme and involved wooden sticks which helped to create a more powerful performance. The group were very in sync, especially in the stick choreography and the routine went down very well with the crowd. Differently, Lancaster's tap dance was performed to Cheryl's Crazy Stupid Love and although it didn't have as strong a theme, the team remained in time and created some interesting formations and moves which worked very well with the music. However, York won this section with 137 points and Lancaster narrowly missed out with 120 points.

York's ballet performance involved a large group, which seemed slightly overwhelming in the small



Ian Meeks

space. However, it was a lovely performance with some great lifts and movement around the stage, as well as some interesting storytelling through the interaction between the only male dancer and the other female dancers. Again, Lancaster's performance was very different. They added a Spanish twist to their routine which involved Spanish style dress and fans and showed great technique. The Spanish theme went down well with the audience but this was another very close section and while York's performance seemed to have just a little bit too much going on, they won with 133 points, with Lancaster missing out by just 10 points.

The last category was jazz. This was probably the most exciting of all York's dances and the one with the biggest reaction from the crowd. The team was split into two and presented a group of 'good guys' and 'bad guys' who wore masks. It was a very dynamic performance which involved lots of lifts and a told an exciting story. However, the large group again made it feel overwhelming and slightly messy. In comparison, Lancaster's jazz was very powerful. The smaller group's routine involved some excellent choreography and fantastic sections of floor work. The reaction Lancaster's jazz team received dominat-

ed York's, which was why York's victory in this category was quite a surprise. They won by 148 to 121 points.

By winning 3 of the categories compared to Lancaster's 2, the York team just secured a win. Speaking to SCAN after their performances, LUDanS President Chloe Dearden said she thought the team did "absolutely fabulous." She said: "obviously we didn't win but to get 3-2 is absolutely amazing so we did win in two categories and we've just got best choreography as well, overall I'm very impressed with the results!"

York bounce to victory in the Roses trampolining

FINAL SCORE:

LANCASTER 93.1-94.4 YORK

GEORGIA SHEPHEARD **FASHION EDITOR**

Forgive my naivety but until this weekend I was oblivious to the popularity of trampolining at Lancaster. In fact, it wasn't until I arrived at the sports centre amidst throngs of people that it became clear to me that the sport had come a long way since I was last on one myself, age six in my school gym.

Getting my head round the event, I learnt that there were six categories of difficulty ranging from novice to uber, the hardest category with just one Lancaster participant competing in it, and that competitors were marked on their execution of a ten-move sequence.

In true Lancaster spirit and sportsmanship, Lancaster trampolining club invited everyone who wished to and was able to compete to partake in the event. While York, on the other hand, hand-picked only their best individuals to compete, resulting in a noticeable dispro-

portion of Lancaster to York students.

Despite strategic tactics from York, Lancaster presented winning performance after winning performance and went on to win 11 out of 16 medals: two in Novice, all three in Intermediate, two in Intervanced, two in Advanced, one in Elite and, unsurprisingly, one in Uber.

However, in a weird twist of fate, or should I say scoring, York bagged the all-important points for the event. The scores are worked out

on average and as a result the bigger team almost inevitably loses.

When it came down to the final scoring, York had fewer but higher marks to be counted, while Lancaster had a larger, wider range of results that resulted in a lower average. Consequently, the skewed scoring system meant York were up by 0.5 points in the lower categories and 2 points in the higher categories.

If ever Lancaster could argue that York set them up for a loss, now would definitely be the time. For-

tunately we are Lancaster and we're not quite that childish. Rather the club's medal win is something to be proud of and captain of the team, Andie Forster, summed up the experience perfectly: "Even though we lost on paper everybody achieved so many personal goals, we're just so proud and so happy to have taken home so many medals."

If that isn't true sporting spirit I don't know what is.

York dominate indoor hockey ists



Sammie Caine

FINAL SCORE:

WOMEN: LANCASTER 2-2 YORK

MEN: LANCASTER 2-7 YORK

CHRIS BICKLEY

Lancaster's women took to the field inside York's Sports Centre at 4:15pm having watched their 2nd team draw 2-2 with York earlier in the afternoon.

The game opened with slightly nervy play by both teams, but Lancaster had their goalkeeper to thank early on with a sprawling save at the legs of York's forward, the keeper losing her helmet in the line of duty.

York fumbled their short corner to slightly relax the nerves in the Lancaster camp. However, York still took the lead shortly after, Warmington with a simple tap in after a well worked move.

Despite York's early lead, Lancaster seemed to most likely to score for the rest of the first half. Great play by Turner and Rittey forced York's Furber into one of many great saves she was required to make to maintain York's lead. The rest of the half finished in similar fashion, York resulting to loose shots whilst Lancaster played the better hockey. Nevertheless, York still went in at the break a goal up.

Similar to the first few minutes of the first half, the second half start-

ed tetchily. York had a great opportunity, but the ball was hooked off the Lancaster goal line after it deflected through a number of bodies. But unlike the first half, York continued their pressure, with Lancaster's goal frame being rattled from a fierce shot. This was after Saner received a green card for York.

The atmosphere was electric for the whole game, something which both teams needed.

The second goal of the match went to York. This was no longer surprising due to run of play York had, but their 15-yard strike shocked many supporters around the pitch. With 15 minutes left, Lancaster called for a team talk to help compose the girls. This had the desired effect, with Barker immediately adventuring on a mazy run, only to lack a clinical finish at the end of it. Dent also had a great opportunity, but failed to convert when 1-on-1 with Furber.

A tactical overhaul happened with 10 minutes to go when Lancaster's keeper was substituted for an outfield player, to try and pressure two late equalisers. They were vulnerable from a York counter attack, but it paid off massively when Short's close-range top trickled over the line with the help of some fortunate spin.

With Warmington now sin-binned for York, Lancaster had a player

advantage and made the most of it almost instantly, with Dent firing in an equaliser past the excellent Furber to make it 2-2. Although another goal was a possibility, the whistle blew 5 minutes later to cap off what had been an excellent game, and a superb comeback by Lancaster. The atmosphere was electric for the whole game, something which both teams needed to help support their team in the succeeding men's match.

Unlike the women's match, this was not a tight affair. Ruthless York were dominant and won 7-2, despite an end-to-end opening 5 minutes. York opened the scoring fairly quickly and could have had another were it not for a great clearance off the line. Both teams had the ball in the net illegally before York made it 2-0. York entered half-time 4-0 courtesy of further goals from Chaundy and Ratliff.

Straight from the second start, York made it clear that Lancaster were not gaining the 2 points on offer here. Chaundy gained another, whereas Watton scored twice; the first a delectable chip, the second a cocky poke over the line. An emergency team-talk helped Lancaster pull two goals back, but this was only for pride. They played better in the last 5 minutes, but it was too late to even remotely startle the York team.

Bowland beat Derwent

FINAL SCORE:

LANCASTER 3-1 YORK

ERIK APTER ASSISTANT EDITOR

Bowland enjoyed a reasonably comfortable afternoon in their Roses A league winner's fixture, despite a second half resurgence from York's Derwent College. The Lancaster based team, who enjoyed an unbeaten season in their domestic league, ran out 3-1 winners courtesy of goals from Martin Kennish, Jocelyn Kirby and Harry Heptonstall.

Despite the impending doom surrounding Lancaster's chances of retaining the Carter-James Trophy, Bowland's football team were intent on delaying the inevitable and allowing the travelling support a chance to at least enjoy the Sunday morning sunshine. The away side were positive right from the off, using their natural width to stretch the game and attempt to isolate the Derwent full backs. Suhail Bux was especially lively throughout the early stages down the right-hand side and looked to have the beating of left-back Reynolds. It was Bux who crafted the first early opportunities with his direct running, first being taken down by Reynolds after an amazing run, then being denied a goal by the offside flag, following a lovely exchange of passes with Heptonstall. Derwent had less of the ball than their opponents in red, but did manage to craft a couple of opportunities during the first half, the best of which falling to Reynolds, who's scuffed shot was cleared off the line following Stopczynski's hashed attempt at dealing with a cross. Bowland then cranked up the pressure, a far post header from Bux looping agonisingly over the bar and the away side were once again frustrated in their attempts to break the deadlock, it would be the dying moments of the first half until they managed to do so.

Good work from the industrious Wheatley saw Bowland win a corner on the right hand side, and from there it was Kennish who took charge. A swinging delivery was met with a thumping header from the defender, who saw his effort valiantly cleared from beneath the crossbar for another corner. This time however, Kennish would not be denied, planting his header into the far corner

in a carbon-copy routine, Bowland finally led. Derwent set out positively for the second half, but their task was made doubly hard early on following another slack piece of defending from a corner. The initial set-piece delivery was dealt with well enough, but the second ball seemed to perplex the home defence, as Jocelyn Kirby was afforded the chance to nod a header past Aylett at the far post to double his side's advantage. The second goal appeared to spark Derwent into life however, with the attacking duo of Nicholson and Whittall finally able to cause the Bowland defence some problems.

The first noteworthy moment came as Nicholson's touch in the box appeared to strike a Bowland arm in the area, but the referee dismissed the incident as accidental. Nicholson then produced a moment of quality as he spun smartly away from his marker and wrapped his foot around a cross than was a whisker away from Whittall's right boot. The new-found impetus in the Derwent attack seemed to unsettle the Bowland defence, as a series of hashed clearances in the area eventually fell to Whittall, but he could only fire into the side netting. Nicholson then almost reduced the arrears with a spectacular overhead kick that flew only a couple of yards over the bar, Derwent were desperate for a foothold back into the game, but moments later they had it. Bowland yet again were unable to clear their lines from a cross and with the ball taking numerous deflections in the box, it was eventually scrambled in at close range by Elvin, despite a heroic effort from Stopczynski to claw the ball away.

Derwin deserved their goal following a spell of decent pressure, but the high intensity few minutes leading up to the goal fizzled out soon after, mostly in part due to the hot conditions. As the pace of the game slowed, it was Bowland who once again looked like the more assured team, controlling possession and looking to kill the game with a third goal. The away side did manage to secure the points ten minutes from time, following the introduction of Dan Jones from the bench. The substitute managed to elude the Derwent midfield and slipped a smart pass into Heptonstall, who made no mistake and arrowed the ball past Aylett into the far corner.

Lancaster keeps up the pace on York in the swimming

FINAL SCORE:

MENS: LANCASTER 0-4 YORK

WOMENS: LANCASTER 0-4 YORK

GEORGE HAMLYN

In the York Sport Village on Heslington Campus, slightly off of the main York campus, a packed crowd was in full voice to watch the Lancaster Swimming team line up to take on York in men's and women's action. A series of short 50m, 100m, and 200m races followed, mixing up the style to keep the crowd entertained.

The atmosphere was great as we anticipated the first race, with Lancaster providing great support for their representatives. The crowd were ready. The commentator was ready. In lanes three and five, Lancaster were ready. The first races of the day were the relay medleys, with York winning in both the men's and the women's; however, Lancaster claimed valiant second place finishes in both races which could prove valuable in

the overall scoring. Next up came the individual medleys, and York were again victorious in both the men's and women's event. We were four races in and Lancaster had not registered first place in any of them, and it was time for the first break of the afternoon before we returned with some singles action.

Lancaster made a flying start to singles action during the 100m freestyle, with Alice Lilley storming to victory for Lancaster Women's. The opening first place finish for Lancaster was soon followed up by Elliot Bloor, racing to victory in the men's equivalent. Lancaster were off the mark.

This Lancaster momentum was soon foiled when York took first and second in the women's 100m butterfly event, but Elliot Bloor restored the tempo by edging to victory during his neck and neck encounter in the men's 100 butterfly. Next up were events nine and 10, the 100m backstroke, and York claimed first spot in both of these.

We had two events to go, with the breaststroke up next. Lancaster stormed to first and second in the women's heat, with Eleanor Cantwell and Susannah Yielding the successful swimmers. The men, however, were unsuccessful in their attempt to replicate the women's success.

Lancaster had claimed a few second and third place finishes during these 12 events, and the scores stood at 39 - 31 to York in the women's and 36 - 32 to York in the mens. Lancaster were far from out of it as the next set of events, the altered lengths of 200metre and 50 metre races, were about to begin.

First up we had the 200m freestyle, with the exact same finishing spots in both men's and women's, York first and Lancaster in second and third. We then moved on to the same order of events as before, only this time the length was only 50metres, so the races were going to be tighter. That meant we were in for the butterfly first, with York taking the first spot again. The

encouraging sign for Lancaster is that they were not losing second place in the races where York were victorious; they were consistently claiming valiant second and third spots.

Elliot Bloor flew to victory in the men's 50m butterfly for Lancaster, but in the backstroke York claimed first and second in both heats. Just four races remained until a third and final break before the big ones, the 4 x 50 m freestyle relays. In the woman's 50 metre breaststroke, Eleanor Cantwell again had the best stroke as she won her individual race again. In the men's counterpart, York claimed first and second, before two extremely close races between all four swimmers. In the women's 50m freestyle, the swimmers were separated by just 0.4 seconds, and lady luck was unfortunately shining on York as they were successful in first. In the men's, another close one as just 0.8 seconds separated the swimmers, once again York claiming the luck with victory by just 0.1 of a second.

A break followed to the dismay of the crowd, and the commentator was quick to announce the scores: York were in a strong position to go on to win as the scores stood at 66-54 in the women's and 62-53 in the men's. The Lancaster crowd were really behind the team as we went into the last events.

First was the woman's four by 50m freestyle relay, which, despite valiant efforts, York claimed first spot, and with that the Lancaster women were defeated 78-62.

It was still to play for in the men's, and you could tell as the race was went down to the wire, and Lancaster missed out on the first spot by just 0.5 seconds. Desperately unlucky as York went on to win 77-61.

Lancaster were devastatingly unlucky as York claimed the win in the pool, but they will truly fancy their chances for next year.

York score 10 in women's 1st team indoor football

FINAL SCORE:

LANCASTER 6-10 YORK

CHRIS BICKLEY

After a disappointing result for the women's indoor football 2nd, Lancaster were hoping to bounce back with their first team and put some more points on the board, particularly important considering this match was worth 4 points.

The crowd was still strong, with players for the universities' hockey teams joining in with the spectators. It didn't take long for the crowd to be rewarded with Lancaster immediately opening the scoring with a rifling shot into the bottom corner.

A York equaliser soon followed, then another Lancaster goal within a minute. The crowd were enjoying this end-to-end action, and there was no sign of it letting up.

York's second equaliser of the day came from Anty Cole, a name which may pop up again later. The powerful forward was too strong and held off Lancastrian defend-

ers with ease. Cole soon bagged another from the penalty spot, with the referee adjudging that a Lancaster defender had touched the ball in the area. Having spoken to a few members of the second team, it was clear Lancaster had the confidence to turn this around.

The excitement died down for a little, the players growing tired after an intense opening few minutes. Futsal halves are only 20 minutes long but the time stops whenever the ball goes dead, effectively meaning players are on the pitch for 40 minutes come half-time.

The scruffy nature continued with Lancaster's equaliser, a cruel deflection leaving York goalkeeper Anna Cook flat-footed and making it 3-3.

In a game that showed no clear team having the upper hand, it was left to moments of individual brilliance to separates the two rivals. One like Hovland firing in from close range into the top corner, leaving Cook stranded.

But Anty Cole turned up again,

completing her hat trick with more route one football. Lancaster failed to cope with Cook hurling the ball to Cole, who had a tremendous touch and skill to fire home.

Demi Rabette was by far the busier keeper, with Cole and Whitaker forcing her into good saves to keep Lancaster level. Cook, however, was restrained to simple saves from ambitious Lancaster attempts.

Lancaster finally scored their first goal of the second half through a simple penalty, but that would turn out to be Lancaster's final flourish offensively.

But Rabette had no answer to Cole's second penalty, and fourth goal of the afternoon. However, Lancaster levelled with not long left in the first half, with Williamson firing a freekick through the legs of Cook.

Lancaster could have been crucially ahead just before half-time, with a blockbuster of a shot crashing off the bar and bouncing off

the line. Channelling Geoff Hurst it appears, but Lancaster were not rewarded with a goal. If only there were some sort of technology that worked on goal lines.

Cole made it 6-5 to York just before the whistle, ending an exhilarating half. Cole scored another penalty in the second half, but this time controversy reigned with Monica Crewe said to have touched the ball in her area, despite being under clear pressure from the York forward.

Crewe also gained a yellow card for her troubles, and Lancaster never regained their composure. Another Cole goal followed, with Lancaster snapshots seldom troubling Anna Cook. Lancaster finally scored their first goal of the second half through a simple penalty.

But that would turn out to be Lancaster's final flourish offensively, with Cole turning provider and laying off Megan Anderton to make in 9 for York.

Lancaster's breaking point was also seen with their manager re-

ceiving a stern telling off from the referee for protesting a supposed handball from York.

When asked for words about the match, he replied "None that you'd be allowed to publish." Frayed and ragged, Lancaster conceded another as Cole slotted away her eighth of the match to make it 10-6 to York at the final whistle.

Definite player of the match was York's Cole. It would be unfair to say York relied on her, but eight goals is unbelievable. "It was great, Lancaster put up a really great fight, I'm looking forward to playing some of them again in the 11-a-side tomorrow" said the York forward.

Lancaster did not disappoint themselves, although they will rue certain decisions. Demi Rabette played a blinder and was congratulated by spectators of both York and Lancaster, but alas, it was not to be.

Lancaster women retain cricket crown after close match

FINAL SCORE:

LANCASTER 122-116 YORK

HARRIET STONE

Once again the Lancaster women retain the cricket trophy, having beaten York at every Roses match since 1984. Closer than expected, but well battled by the Lancaster team, York were beaten by just six runs on Sunday at what turned out to be a very tense and well-played game on both sides.

After beating York women in their BUCS league game only five days before, the Lancaster team were confident for another win at Roses on Sunday. The side, unbeaten outdoors for two seasons, have convincingly won all previous Roses games and the team were keen to keep up their record.

York won the toss and put Lancaster into bat first. The opening pair were Emma Marsh, at her first Roses, eager to set the standard for years to come; and Harriet Stone, hoping to beat her previous Roses score of 67. The pair started out strong, with the York bowlers becoming unsettled by some loud chanting from the Lancaster supporters. After just 10 overs and many boundaries from both batters, the pair had brought Lancaster up to a score of 62, seeming comfortable with the bowling attack and established to set a good

score for Lancaster.

Both were playing well, putting away the bad balls for four and keeping the total moving steadily. However in the 11th over, an ambitious sweep to leg from Stone saw the 64 partnership end and Stone out LBW by York spinner A. Cook; scoring 17 off 21 balls.

Next up to the crease was vice captain Emma Fletcher, seeming to start confidently with the already well established Marsh. Unfortunately a tempting ball from Cook and a well-taken catch at square leg from M. Sail meant that Marsh was out for a respectable 36. Next to face the York bowling and poor on-pitch banter was Alice Gibbs, though she was soon sent back to the pavilion clean bowled by first change bowler R. Roy. After a very positive start the run rate was dropping, yet still decent as Captain Katy Davies came to the crease, hoping to anchor the Lancaster team. A well-placed ball from York's E. Harper saw Fletcher out for nine, with the team at 97-4 with just six overs to go. Club president Lauren Saxby joined Davies at the crease, ready to see Lancaster over the finish line. The pair batted well, finishing with a partnership of 24 runs thanks to some brilliant running between the wickets, with Saxby finishing six not out and Davies ending on a score of 17 not out. This brought Lancaster's final score up to a de-

fendable 122 for four.

Between innings Lancaster felt they had performed well thus far, with their spirits only knocked by the resonance of the York comments made during the innings, which were felt to be "certainly not cricket".

Opening bowlers Davies and Gibbs started well, but Davies soon took herself off after just two overs due to an injury to the leg whilst batting. The change turned out to be a good move for Lancaster, seeming to throw the batters, as first change bowler Emma Fletcher took out both openers aided by a catch at point by Lauren Saxby. Fletcher went on to bowl the York number three for just eight runs and York captain K. Lovegrove for a golden duck leaving her on a hat-trick ball. With all Lancaster fielders in close ready for the third, Fletcher came in to bowl, but a well-practiced defensive shot from A. Cole left her one wicket short.

However, Cole didn't last long with spinner Harriet Stone clean bowling her for seven. Opening bowler Alice Gibbs returned to the attack with a fierce second spell, toppling wicket keeper L. Furbes for seven.

This left York's bowling star A. Cook at the crease, watching her teammates crumble around her at a score of 77 for 6 off 24 overs, well



Sammie Caine

behind the needed run rate. R. Roy came to join Cook and together they put on a quick partnership of 29 playing well and putting the Lancaster field under pressure for a time, before spinner Stone replied with a looping ball out of the sun which felled Cook in her stride, bowling her for 41.

This took the pressure off Lancaster and back on the York batters who had been relying on Cook after their top order scored nothing over single figures. Two balls later Stone took another wicket as J. Sarey went for a duck, scooping the ball straight back to the

bowler for a catch. This brought in the York number 10 batter to face Stone's final ball in the penultimate over. Going into the final over, to be bowled by captain Katy Davies, York were on 109 for 8, needing just over two runs a ball.

The field were pushed out to avoid any pressure-building boundaries and the fielders were calm. The final pair played well, with a nicely placed four into an on-side gap, but it wasn't enough. York finished their innings with 116 for eight, six runs short of the needed total, meaning that Lancaster Women's cricket had won Roses once again.

Lancaster's women narrowly defeated in the basketball

FINAL SCORE:

LANCASTER 63-69 YORK

CLAIRE STARR SPORTS EDITOR

After a brilliant year for Lancaster, where they became one of the strongest teams in the university and won the match which took Lancaster over the threshold to win Roses 2014, there was much anticipation for this game and hopes were high for the Women's Basketball team to claim 4 points for Lancaster.

However, with several changes to their line up, this was going to be a challenge.

York took an early lead, scoring a few early points, but not so many that Lancaster rapidly caught up. You could see the desire from both

teams to get the win, a tussle on the floor between Lancaster's Poulsen and York's Williams emphasised the fight from both teams.

Although York's Captain, Gillian Jago, described how York had 'a slow start', the teams seemed very even, the First Quarter ending 10-8 to Lancaster.

At the start of the Second Quarter, York missed several opportunities and Lancaster pulled into the lead, scorching ahead by 5 points.

Lancaster's Anya Rasaiah pulled out several fantastic long range shots which, despite York's Captain, Jago scoring 2 baskets in quick succession, meant that Lancaster further pulled into the lead.

The score had reached 24-19 to

Lancaster when the whistle for Half Time went. Yet the Lancaster side still needed to consolidate their lead. With the York side playing zone defence, Lancaster were finding it quite a challenge to remain in the lead as York got closer to the Lancaster side.

Although a disappointing result for the Lancaster team, it was a fantastic game from all the players and one which kept the spectators on tenterhooks.

A strategy which the team had not met all season meant that the players were practicing and improving as they played. However, with some great baskets from York's number 16, Sophie Bennett, who scored 5 3 pointers throughout the match, York seemed to be

making a comeback.

Significantly, the crowd, despite the best efforts of the Lancaster supporters was far more vocal in support of York. With York spectators dancing around behind the hoop, Lancaster struggled to focus on making a few free throws, but managed to stay remarkably calm.

As York overtook and pulled away from Lancaster for the first time in the game, Lancaster's Captain, Jackie Zhang went down injured, rapidly after bringing Lancaster back into the game at 53-51 York before making her way to the bench.

Lancaster finally caught up, tying the score at 53 all with just seconds to go on the clock. After a basket from York, taking them 2 points

ahead, York tried to run down the clock, until Bennett found an opportunity past to sneak the ball past the Lancaster defence, sealing a further 3 points and a win at 69-63 to York.

Having put so much into the match, the Lancaster team and supporters were clearly distraught, only added to by this being the last game for the final year students in the team.

Lancaster's Zhang however, spoke strongly, saying that the team 'played tough' and that they 'will be back next year'. Although a disappointing result for the Lancaster team, it was a fantastic game from all the players and one which kept the spectators on tenterhooks.

Lancaster comfortably win the men's basketball



Sammie Caine

FINAL SCORE:
LANCASTER 74-67 YORK

JAMES ANDREWS

York won the tip-off, and amid a slightly cagey opening to the first quarter, Lancaster looked to have the upper hand with some decent counter attacking play. However, from 9 points apiece midway through the quarter, York switched up a gear and used their man-to-man marking system to shut out Lancaster whilst advancing into a slender 13-9 lead. York intercepted Lancaster's passing game well, using this to launch their attacks and by the end of the first quarter, had increased their lead to 19-12.

The second quarter begun well for Lancaster, lessening their deficit to 22-16 via a 3-pointer and a successful free throw. Pushing on, they deservedly drew level at 22-22. The boys in red were playing well, waiting for scoring opportunities and then taking them with aplomb. A great hustle and subsequent basket from York put them 34-33 up, but Lancaster repeated the trick their own way to move back into the lead and leave the half time score at 35-34.

Neither side was able to immediately pull away in the second half, with the scores locked for a time at 43-42 to Lancaster. When the scores got to 52-44 Lancaster's

way, you could sense that the tide of the game was switching Lancaster way. This was obviously felt by York's coach on the side-line, who got progressively more animated and annoyed with his team after every basket! Ending the third quarter 57-47 up, Lancaster knew that they were ten minutes from victory, and just had to keep scoring to prevent York from coming back into the game.

The match went very end to end all of a sudden in the fourth and final quarter, with defence almost going out the window as both teams tried to gain an unassailable lead with time running out. When the score got to 72-59 Lancaster's way with just two minutes remaining, it became clear that York would struggle to make up the difference whilst also stopping Lancaster from scoring. York very nearly managed it surprisingly, powering their way through the points to 72-67. A final basket in the dying seconds made safe of the victory for Lancaster, leaving the final score 74-67.

A great win from Lancaster, who despite a few minor scares in the fourth quarter, held on to win the points for the Red Rose. The game was effectively won in the third quarter, when Lancaster gained a ten point lead, it became very challenging for York to bring it back.

Lancaster's tennis succeeds despite greenhouse conditions

GEORGE HAMLYN

Sunday morning, 9:30 AM, and the early start was worth it for the long anticipated Roses Tennis. On courts one, two and three, under the newly installed tennis bubble, were the first teams.

First up were the women's doubles: Jemma Cardy and Olivia Marshall on court one, Valerie Sophie and Danielle McNally on court two and Florine Dubois-Graffan and Mercedes Shackleton on court three.

On court one, the communication between Cardy and Marshall was exceptional, causing them to claim the first set. Unfortunately for Lancaster, Sophie and McNally found York a tough nut to crack, especially the immense serve that York possessed. A similar story on court three, with York taking the first set. The second sets began, and York responded on court one by storming into the first few games, and ultimately claiming the second set.

We were set for a third set tie break on court one, and ready for another test of Cardy and Marshall's stamina - the heat inside the dome was now reaching Mediterranean-like conditions. Unfortunately, Lancaster suffered defeat in the second set on courts two and three, meaning the Lancaster pair had to win to give the girls hope going into singles action.

And win they did. In style, claiming the tie break 7-5 following a great serving game from the players, with women's captain Marshall leading by example.

The first stage of matches were over, and York held a slender 2-1 lead over Lancaster.

It was time for some singles actions, six matches of women's singles taking place. Mercedes Shackleton, Danielle McNally and Florine Dubois-Graffan were first up for Lancaster in respective singles matches.

Shackleton's strong serves enabled her to take the advantage over her opponent, with score at 5-4 to Shackleton. A terrific volley during the final game and the set

belonged to Shackleton. Expecting a fightback in the second set, Shackleton stepped it up a gear in set two, causing her to race into a 4-1 lead, and from here on out, the hope was lost by York as Shackleton dominated, winning the second set, thus claiming the match. Terrific tennis.

On court three, McNally used the net to her advantage with some looping drop shots from close to the net. However they weren't enough as she was defeated in two straight sets despite putting up a valiant fight to do Lancaster proud.

"We haven't won the men's tennis at Roses for 10 years so we know it's going to be a tough game."

The same applies to Dubois-Graffan, whose fighting attitude led to some immense rallies, and she fought for every single point. However, maybe due to experience in the conditions, the York player was just able to outfight and ended up winning in straight sets to increase York's advantage to 4-2 going into the last round of women's singles.

It was now midday so the sunlight was in full beam, causing the humidity within the dome to be at its highest, so we were now stopping for fresh air and refreshments after every game. Due to the greenhouse-like structure of the dome, the intensity of the brightness had now increased, so Lancaster were really up against it.

First up we had Valerie Sophie on court one, who was highly impressive despite defeat in the doubles. Unfortunately her opponent was also a very good player, York's secret weapon in many ways, who claimed victory in straight sets despite a battle from Sophie.

On centre court, the captain Olivia Marshall was out to make it two wins out of two with victory in her singles match. Both players took successive sets on their respective serves, neither player being able to get the all-important serve break.

With the scores equal at 5-5, we went into the tension of the tie break to determine the first set.

Marshall held her nerve and claimed the first set, able to then get the all-important break in the final game of set two to make it two wins out of two on a personal level for her.

However, it wasn't enough as York won more games overall will hold the women's tennis title until next year.

Next up it was the men's doubles. Before the matches, SCAN spoke to Lancaster Tennis society president Dominic Liddell-Crewe, who was quick to stress the success of the men's team this year: "we've had a really good year with the promotion for the first team so we feel we stand a really good chance." He was also keen to point out the difficulty of the task ahead however, stating "we haven't won the men's tennis at Roses for 10 years so we know it's going to be a tough game."

And a tough game it proved, for two reasons, the quality of the opposition, and the unbearable conditions. Focusing on the match on centre court, the team of Abdul Al Janahi and Ollie Wiggan suffered defeat in the first set 6-1. The second set was much closer, with York taking it 7-5. A valiant effort to try and get back in the game.

The match on court three gathered the crowds. It was a very tight affair, with Maxim Uslamin's powerful shots winning multiple games for Lancaster.

The first set ended with Lancaster on the wrong end of a 10 game match, losing 6-4 despite a fearless fight. The second set, an even closer affair with York taking it 7-6 on the tie break. Harsh on the Lancaster pair to suffer defeat in straight sets.

Despite the scores looking as though York tasted a bittersweet success, it must be noted that they were pushed all the way and only won because their players were better equipped and trained to playing in the greenhouse conditions.

Roll on the return to outdoor tennis in Roses 2016, and let's end the 11 year hoodoo!

York consign Lancaster to another rugby whitewash

FINAL SCORE:

MENS 1ST: LANCASTER 12-31 YORK

MENS 2ND: LANCASTER 10-24 YORK

MENS 3RD: LANCASTER 0-17 YORK

CHRIS BICKLEY

In recent years, York have definitely had the edge over Lancaster's men in Rugby Union. Unfortunately, this trend continued in 2015 with the 1sts, 2nds and 3rds all losing. The 1sts match was the final event at Roses, arguably billed to be one of the best Roses events. With the crowd that turned up, it was easy to see why, as both teams had hundreds of supporters. York clearly outnumbered Lancaster's following, but that was to be expected.

Lancaster kicked us off at 4pm, and faced immediate pressure from York. It seemed inevitable after just 5 minutes that York would be the first team to register on the score sheet. Scrum after scrum edged York closer to the Lancaster try line, and this paid off on 13 minutes when they grounded and converted. Lancaster had a chance to counter back with a penalty 2 minutes later. However, Eliot Burton failed to kick over for

3 points. Lancaster were made to rue this missed opportunity when York broke through the Lancaster defensive line and made no mistake in messing up this 2-on-1 opportunity, York's 13 scoring a converted try to make it 14-0. Lancaster's defence held up well from the continuing York pressure. However, they were unable to make any meaningful ground from kicks to touch. A penalty try for York meant they went into the break at the half-time whistle. But just before the whistle, Lancaster had a try held up after impressive work by Dom Lane making up 25 yards. But the sustained pressure on the York try line was countered by equally determined Yorkshire defence, so Lancaster remained scoreless.

Only 3 minutes into the second half, York made it 28-0 with a simple kick down the left flank for their winger to latch onto a put down. Will Field also impressed, but was one of many players from both teams to lose their footing on the slippery pitch when embarking on a charge. Lancaster finally got points on the board after scrappy play on the York tryline, and Ike Ekweremadu Jr scored

shortly after to make the score 28-12, the high winds making the second try too difficult to convert.

York scored a penalty to give them a 31-12 advantage, and this would remain until the final whistle. Despite Lancaster arguably controlling the second half, it was not to the extent that York did in the first 40 minutes. Their defence split too often, whereas York were rarely caught off guard. A disallowed try for York was the final highlight of the match, quietening the rapturous applause that originally followed it. The crowd quickly erupted again as the final whistle blew, as York completed another whitewash, something their 3rd team said "is all that matters." Considering the 2nds and 3rds matches shared 5 sin bins between them, the finale was a well-disciplined affair. This arguably meant the game failed to live up to its billing, with York having already wrapped up Roses comprehensively and the game being very stop-start in the centre of the pitch.

The score line may have flattered York, but it they deserved to win rather than Lancaster deserving



Polly McDonnell

to lose. The only difference was that York made the most of their opportunities. If certain kicks and decisions went the opposite way, the momentum could have easily switched. The 3rd team fared poorly as well, and similarly to the 1st team, improved vastly in the second half. York won 17-0 to take 1 Roses point. They opened the scoring in the first 10 minutes and scored a penalty shortly after. The game lacked quality, the main highlight being York's number 10 pushing past the Lancaster props and knocking the referee in the

process. Lancaster improved in the second half as the sun began to shine, but they were still not good enough to ground for 5 points. Murray was Lancaster's good player, even gathering praise from the York sideline. But York were able to score again, making it 17-0. Similar to many of Lancaster's performances in multiple sports on Saturday, they lacked any consistency and were often too slow in the first half. Lancaster didn't deserve to finish scoreless, but that's the way it is sometimes. Anyone else fancy revenge next year?

York outshine Lancaster in men's 2nds cricket



Polly McDonnell

FINAL SCORE:

LANCASTER 109 FOR 10

YORK 113 FOR 2

HARRIET STONE

With sun shining over the Roses wicket, Lancaster 2nds battled York seconds anticipating the preservation of last year's dominance at Roses. But with a score of 109 for 10 off 50 overs, the Lancaster team had not left themselves

enough room for manoeuvre in the field, allowing York to comfortably reach the needed score with overs to spare. Lancaster captain Matt Haley won the toss and elected to bat first. First to the crease were Conor Brindley and Jim Collinge, ready to take on the York pace attack. However, after only three balls from York opener Thurgate, Brindley was sent back to the clubhouse for a duck, having been caught behind off an edge. This brought Alex Cleaves to join

Collinge in the middle, though all too soon Collinge was sent the same way as Brindley, caught for 0 off a tempting ball from opening bowler H. Turner. It seemed York's intensity and excessive appealing were getting to the Lancaster line-up as, with two wickets down, they were still yet to put runs on the board. Last year's Roses batting reliant Ben Finch was in next at number four, eager to change Lancaster's luck. The pair played well for a time, although the run rate was lower than hoped due to some tight bowling from Thurgate and Turner. The pace picked up after bowling changes, and Cleaves seemed to get into his stride. In the 17th over, York bowler B. Grindell felled Finch, clean bowled, and incoming batsman Jerome Martill with an LBW in quick succession, leaving him on a hat-trick ball with Tom Robinson coming in to face. It was not long before Grindell claimed his third victim, as Robinson edged a ball behind to be caught at slip for four. The score was 55 for five as number seven Pete Baker took

to the field. The pair batted well through drinks, with Cleaves reaching a half century with a powerful shot for four at the 29th over. In the 30th over bowler Grindell took his fourth wicket as Cleaves was caught behind at slip for a respectable 56. Baker was caught off Askham for 4 and soon after, Lancefield was caught off second change bowler McDonald for a duck. This left captain Matt Haley and Izhar Ullar at the crease at a score of 97 with 18 overs to play and only one man left in the clubhouse. The two batted on together for 8 overs before the first two balls of McDonald's fifth over took out Ullar LBW and number 11 Cooper, leaving Lancaster all out for 109 having only used 41 of the total 50 overs.

Between innings, although the total was felt to be "slightly under par", first team player Adam Senn still had confidence in the side, as they were always known to be a strong bowling team. The opening bowlers Izhar Ullar and Jack Lancefield started out strong,

keeping the York batters just under the low run rate of 2.2 after 10 overs. It seemed clear that York had not had a better start than Lancaster at that point, as the bowlers were on good form considering the pressure of a low total. It was not until bowler Connor Brindley came on for his first over did Lancaster get a wicket, as opener A. Bryant was caught and bowled for 43. First change bowler Ben Finch took the second wicket, in the form of a safe catch from Martill in the field which saw opener H. Collins out for 39. Despite the openers falling, it was clear that the York batters were confident, scoring multiple boundaries off the Lancaster attack and quickly closing in on the total needed. In the 26th over York were on a score of 90, needing only 20 runs to win. The final runs were scored from commanding boundaries, with the winning runs being hit as a six, lofted over the boundary by batter A. McDonald. York won the game with a score of 113 for two, needing only 27 overs to beat Lancaster's total.

Fencers complete clean sweep in the men's competitions

FINAL SCORE:

MENS 1STs: LANCASTER 110-105 YORK

MENS 2NDs: LANCASTER 123-111 YORK

CLAIRE STARR **SPORTS EDITOR**

One of the first fixtures of the weekend, the Men's 2nd Fencing began soon after the teams had made their way over the Penines at the crack of dawn that morning. A newly put together Lancaster 2nds team meant that it was unclear who was going to take some of the first points of Roses 2015.

Although the crowd was small to start with, the tension in the room was palpable. York started strongly taking the first bout 4-1, but as Lancaster's Captain Matt Haslam stepped up to the piste, it was clear that Lancaster meant business as he reduced the deficit to 8-6 to York. A weapon failure from York meant that Lancaster got a free point and suddenly the game was on, as Lancaster's Jacques tied the score at 13 all. York began to pull away, eventually creating a 7 point lead at 30-23. Lancaster's Rif Ideris showed he wasn't about to give up, as he produced a great 9-4 win in his final bout, reducing the deficit to 39-35. The Foil ended at 45-42 to York, but it was clear this was going to be a closely fought match.

The Sabre began soon after. With a very confident performance from Lancaster's Broadbent and Douglas, the Red Rose was soon pulling into the lead. With some

stylish jumping and flicking of his sword, Douglas left York's Fraser Griffin standing, winning a bout 5-2 to take the score to 20-6 to Lancaster. In his first university fencing match, Lancaster's Sritej Kalas superbly supported Broadbent and Douglas confidently winning his bouts and helping the team to a 45-21 win in the Sabre.

The Epee brought Lancaster's Broadbent the chance to show his multitasking skills as he stepped up to the piste once again. With York giving away yet another point for a failed weapons test, it was already 1-0 to Lancaster and the fencing hadn't even begun. York's Captain, Tom Chan, showed his prowess, giving York a lead of 5 points early on. Jonathon Burns kept up the lead with several roars as he got points on Lancaster, York stretching their lead and ending the Epee with a strong lead at 45-36. However, solid performances in the Foil and Epee weren't enough to counteract Lancaster's superb Sabre performance, leaving the overall score at 123-111 to Lancaster.

Lancaster's Captain Matt Haslam said 'it's a fantastic feeling to get a good result against what was a very confident York side!'

Mens 1sts Fencing

As the only Lancaster team in the Premier League, this was a fixture that was widely anticipated. However, after a loss which shocked the

club the Wednesday before Roses against Leicester, confidence in the team had been shaken.

Once again, the match started with the Foil, and as had been the case with the 2nds, York took an early lead. With Foil specialist Michael Higgs on their side, York were clearly the stronger team. Despite an impressive performance from Devon Boyd, Higgs extended their lead as the match went into its 3rd bout. This time it was up to Lancaster's Captain, John Simmons to claim some points for Lancaster. After a great bout in which Simmons scored 11 hits to Roderick Maclean's two, Lancaster took the lead for the first time at 18-17. York Captain Peter Jordan however, exacted his revenge for his team and York retook a more confident lead at 25-20. From then on York were in command of the weapon, despite Lancaster's Jennings' best efforts in his final bout scoring 7 points to 5, York had truly taken the lead winning the weapon 44-30.

Lancaster's increasing desperation meant that the Epee became increasingly violent with both teams literally running into each other and the frustration was evident from several of the Lancaster side. President Chris Anwyl produced a stunning bout to keep the scores close but York once again were the stronger team, leading 40-25 just before the final bout. Although it looked like there was no way back into the match for Lancaster, the



cacophony of cheering from the Lancaster camp continued and it seemed hopes were still high. Anwyl stepped up for the last bout, winning that 7-5, and leaving the Epee at 45-32.

As spectators began to fill the room, it was clear that Lancaster had a lot of work to do. York needed just 18 points out of a possible 45, but with 2 Great Britain Sabre internationals on the Lancaster team, it would be a miracle but not impossible for Lancaster to claim the four points. You could hear a pin drop in the room as the tension was palpable. Simmons and Jennings, with the help of Wai Yu Kwan, needed to keep York at bay. As Jennings made it to 30-10, the

cheers from the Lancaster team and supporters got increasingly louder and more raucous as they realised a miracle win could become a reality. Hearts were racing as York reached 16 points. But Jennings finished them off in style with some impressive flicks and York were destroyed with a 45-16 win for Lancaster in the Sabre! Lancaster's Captain Simmons said 'we're thrilled to have overturned such a big deficit, everyone fenced extremely well, especially under the pressure'. Jennings, Simmons and Kwan's impressive performances throughout the match had held York to a thrilling 110-105 defeat giving Lancaster a breathtaking win.

Mixed results for Lancaster Roses in the lacrosse

FINAL SCORE:

MENS: LANCASTER 10-10 YORK

WOMENS: LANCASTER 2-18 YORK

MIXED: LANCASTER 8-18 YORK

HENRY SAKER-CLARK **NEWS EDITOR**

22 Acre was witness to a chilling breeze but also a large crowd who were engrossed by the always exciting match. Early on, Thomas got York off to a good start with a near post finish. His lead was soon doubled after scored, shooting high into the net. Despite being clouted on his way through to goal Siddall closed the gap for Lancaster before ball scored once more. Ryan Roman scored a quality long range effort shortly before the end of the quarter to keep Lancaster in touching distance. Another

superb shot from Ryan Roman destroyed York's slender lead. A brace of goals for each team soon made it 5-5. Despite a frenetic pace, the intensity barely dwindled with one of lacrosse's key characteristics (violence) becoming more apparent. A Lancaster player in fact hit his opponent so aggressively as to snap his metal stick in two.

The pace was maintained throughout the third quarter, with York gaining the lead before Lancaster immediately retook it. Ryan Roman then proved himself to be a real dangerman for Lancaster, scoring again by breaking through the York defence to score. A good team move soon after then led to Connor Thomson putting Lancaster in front. A nightmare for the York goalkeeper then put Lancas-

ter in a commanding position, as Ryan's shot rebounded off the goal frame towards the keeper who then knocked the ball back into his net.

However, York soon pulled themselves back into the tie, with Ball getting the equalizer to make it nine each. Henry Farr then turned it around completely. York led, but not for long as Tom Amundsen then gave Lancaster a much deserved share of the points. Both teams deserved to take something from the match, and either could have won so Lancaster's celebrations afterwards were certainly justified. A hard-fought and well deserved draw. A draw for Lancaster's men seemed an even greater achievement after the Women's fixture which swiftly followed

on 22 Acre. York were dominant throughout, and Lancaster struggled to compete with a York team who had performed strongly this season. York could not have got off to a better start. After gaining possession deep in the Lancaster half, York dispatched their first good opportunity setting the wheels in motion for a heavy win. After about five minutes York were winning 5-0 and looking comfortable despite the bleak weather. The first quarter ended with Lancaster 7-0 behind and an unenviable mountain to attempt to climb. Inevitably Lancaster never looked able to gain a foothold in the fixture. York's attack seemed both more clinical and more physical pushing ahead 11-0. For Lancaster the aim was clearly not to put in a winning performance but a re-

spectable one, and they achieved that late into the second quarter. A break down the right hand side resulted in a rare Lancaster attack which was expertly finished low into the net.

The third quarter continued in much the same way as the previous two. York stormed to 15-0 lead as the impressive Searle picked up her fourth goal of the tie. Good play by Galgut and Morris could not provide Lancaster with more goalscoring chances. In the fourth and final quarter, York solidified their lead with three goals in quick succession. The match looked like it would end 18-1, but Lancaster Ladies managed to claw another goal back, which was celebrated like a winner. 18-2 it finished.

Lancaster complete victory in volleyball

FINAL SCORE:

MEN: LANCASTER 3-1 YORK

WOMEN: LANCASTER 3-0 YORK

JAMES ANDREWS

Both games were played at the Heslington West Sports Centre and a sizeable crowd from both universities came down to cheer on their side to victory. The women's match was first up, and Lancaster started the first set strongly, using their set-up play effectively to produce well placed, point-winning shots. Smashes from Tse and Buttol for Lancaster particularly stood out, and in combination with Stoyanova right on the net to attack, they raced into a 19-7 lead. York had some decent attacking play of their own, but found it difficult to block and stop the powerful smashes from Lancaster. Keeping the points ticking over, Lancaster won the first set 25-8, a dominant performance which set a precedent for the remainder of the match.

Lancaster found a good rhythm to their play in the opening stages of the second set, but York matched this and gained a 6-5 lead. Knowing that this score line could be overturned if they stepped up their game, Lancaster did just that and regained parity by advancing into a 11-7 lead. Buttol made some excellent dig shots, but again York fought back, making this set a little close for comfort for the away

side. Lancaster still won the set 25-21, making to overall score 2-0, but York ramped up their efforts in the final few points to just throw a slight element of doubt into Lancastrian minds.

If anything though, this seems to motivate Lancaster even more, and they worked hard to reassert themselves at the start of the third set. Maintaining a decent gap in terms of the points, when Harley made an enormous leap and smashed to make it 16-7, the crowd realised that Lancaster were surely not far from victory. Some extended rallies from York came too little, too late to stop Lancaster, and Lancaster took a fully deserved victory, winning their third consecutive set 25-13 for an overall win of 3 sets to nil. After the game, Stilyana commented, "We had such a good focus on getting the win today, everyone had their part to play but at the end of the day, it's a team sport so we did really well collectively."

Could the men's team live up to the women's success? The signs were good at the opening exchanges, with Lancaster quickly getting into a 4-1 lead thanks to great attacking play from Freudenstein. York soon sussed out an effective way to halt the progress of the Red Rose, employing some key blocks to deny Lancaster points at the net. Both teams were looking very even, with long rallies showing this. In



the end though, Lancaster scored a flurry of consecutive points to win the first set 25-18.

The second set was ever so close, with both teams almost alternating between taking the lead, losing it and then regaining it again! On balance, York were the stronger team in this set, but Lancaster just edged them out to take the set 25-22. At 2-0, Lancaster knew that winning the third set would guarantee victory, but of course, York

also knew this so pulled out all the stops to battle to a 25-21 win and 2-1 overall.

The fourth set could have had two outcomes, a Lancaster win and they win the match overall, or a York win and the match goes to a winner-takes-all fifth set. The atmosphere among the crowd was electric at this stage, they knew what was at stake and the volume was quite unbelievable when Lancaster went 15-10 up. York dug deep

to bring it right back though, and the match was in the balance at 23-23. Lancaster proved their mettle though, gaining the decisive two points required to win the set 25-23 and the match overall 3-1.

Overall, the women's victory was a lot more dominant than the men's, but both teams can be extremely proud to have 'done the double' over their fiercest rivals.

Lancaster women fall agonisingly short in the fencing

FINAL SCORE:

LANCASTER 123-127 YORK

HENRY SAKER-CLARK NEWS EDITOR

As central hall filled up with spectators for Fight Night on Friday evening, many would be forgiven for thinking it was the only big event to take place. However, for all the exhilaration and tension each fight produced, it would have been little more exciting than the riveting battle taking place in the Maths department.

After the two victories earlier in the day from Lancaster's Men's Fencing team there was hope that the female team could clinch the last batch of points.

The game started as it finished. A victory for York's Hennenburg in the first Epee bout put the home side 5-3 up, and immediately highlighted one of the key figures in the fixture. Her victory over Lancaster's Caselli gave York a lead which lasted until the third bout, when Hills won 3-2 over York's Forsythe to even up the standings at 12-12.

Hennenburg came back once more within another formidable performance to regain York's lead, but this was narrowed and then swiftly overtaken. Lancaster captain, and SCAN Sports Editor, Claire Starr brought down the deficit before her team-mate Hills overturned her opponents lead, now putting Lancaster four points in front. Victories for Lancaster in

their next, and last, two epee bouts gave the team a six point lead heading into heading into sabre.

Even to a novice it was obvious that Sabre required a different tact than epee. As I was informed by a member of the fencing society during the matched it was more slashy, whilst Epee was jabby, in some seriously dumbed down explanation. York seemed to benefit from this change, taking the first two bouts, before Stocker once more opened Lancaster's lead.

However Lancaster fought back with a series of improved performances. By the end of the Sabre round, the lead had been solidified, with Lancaster now eight points ahead. The opening round of Foil however revealed the York

teams ability in this part of the tie. Caselli lost 5-0 to the extraordinary Hennenburg, which is perhaps unsurprising as a quick Google search reveals that Hennenburg once competed for Germany U-23s at a European level.

Starr was not yet willing to hand over the lead, winning her next bout 10-2 to extend the red lead to 11 points. Whilst this was a strong lead, York's ability in Foil was paramount. After a series of good results for York the two Universities were left even with two bouts left.

Despite Liet's consistently strong performances for York, Caselli put in a great performance to end the bout 4-4 leaving the score 121 each with Hennenburg and Starr left to battle out the decider.

Ultimately, Hennenburg was a class above anyone else in the room. Despite Starr's tireless efforts, the Lancaster captain and star player was unable stop the German from giving York a 127-123 win.

The unfortunate result did not however take away from the immense efforts from the Lancaster team. Starr told SCAN, "I'm so proud of the team's performance, we pulled out our best performance of the season and everyone fought really hard for every point! Being quite an inexperienced team against a far more experienced team, we really gave them a run for their money. It was a great match to end the year with!"

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Lancaster draw in women's 2nds hockey

FINAL SCORE:

LANCASTER 2-2 YORK

CLAIRE STARR **SPORTS EDITOR**

Coming off the back of a strong season, placing 3rd in their BUCS league, this was a fixture Lancaster's Women's Hockey 2nds were prepared for, despite a 3-0 loss the previous year. Being the last university match for several of the team, a lot was invested in this lunch time fixture on the Saturday of the Roses weekend. The crowd was in fine voice and rowdy, both cheering and jeering each side. With history of trouble from the York spectators, perhaps the Lancaster supporters were slightly more confident in their insults to the opposing side, which seems the norm at most hockey matches.

Both teams were well balanced, the ball flying rapidly and pretty evenly from end to end. York got an early goal after just under 15 minutes, sliding the ball past Lancaster's goalkeeper Cat Nichol. Lancaster played on though and a few minutes later Lancaster's Captain Ruth Holdsworth got one back which, much to the dismay of the spectators, was disallowed by the referee. Eventually, Kimberly Paul got one back for Lancaster, lifting the ball and flying into the backboard from the edge of the D, tying the scores. With the score remaining 1-1 at half time, the game was either team's to claim. Two more goals were scored in the sec-

ond half. One followed an impressive run by Lancaster's Michaela Rogers, who, after first hitting the post, caught the rebound and got a second goal for the Lancaster side.

Despite the Red Roses' confidence showing on the pitch, and an impressive defensive play from the Lancaster side throughout the game, not 10 minutes later York drew equal after a defensive error and the scores were tied once again. York's Captain described how she was pleased with the 'great passages of play' that were produced by her team. Throughout both halves, Nichol was doing significantly more work than York's goalkeeper Ellie Smith, with Nichol producing some fantastic saves including one right on the line of the goal.

The York side seemed to be growing in confidence towards the end of the game, the ball seemed to remain constantly down the Lancaster end. The most tense moment of the game came with just 4 minutes to go, when York were awarded a penalty flick. Luckily for the Lancaster side, Nichol stepped up to face the ball, saving it as it came hurling straight towards the middle of the goal, the score line ending an evenly matched game at 2-2. Both teams were pleased with their performances and pleased to both come out with points. Holdsworth said 'I'm very proud of the girls performance today, everyone put up a great fight. It was a nice way to end a great season!'.

Lancaster and York play out a thriller in the women's indoor hockey 2nds

FINAL SCORE:

LANCASTER 2-2 YORK

HENY SAKER-CLARK **NEWS EDITOR**

The Women's Seconds got off to a flyer, playing quite directly and pushing towards the York goal until they forced a penalty corner. This great opportunity was not wasted as Maisy King's shot from the corner was directed into the net by her team-mate Edgington to give Lancaster the 1-0 lead.

The lead lasted barely five minutes. Lancaster struggled to keep the ball after intense York pressing, allowing Marks to pick up the ball ten yards from goal and then slip the ball past Lancaster's Nichols in goal.

However, Lancaster still looked the better of the two teams, holding more position and creating numerous half-chances despite the York team being physically more imposing.

It was a tight match, but Lancaster will certainly see it as a missed opportunity.

Nichols however had to come to Lancaster's rescue on numerous occasions in the match, including an excellent stop from a Cordingley shot after the York play took advantage of sloppy Lancaster play. It was not long, however, until Lancaster found the quality they had been searching for.



Sammie Caine

Norman picked up the ball and danced through the three York players blocking her path to the goal before skilfully finishing. Lancaster maintained this deserved lead as the frenetic first half came to a close.

Despite having Norman in the sin bin for the start of the second half, York were unable to turn their numerical advantage into a goal and looked likely to be frustrated for the rest of the game. Lancaster's McMillan found herself in shooting distance but could not get the first goal of the second half. Lancaster seemed more focus on maintaining their lead than extending it, but their dominance

was still clear.

The play was largely congested in the middle for the rest of the half, with York struggling to break through Lancaster.

However, they ultimately found a way through, getting the ball to the physical Furber who quickly turned and shot to deliver a blow to the Lancaster team.

Despite both teams attacking towards the end the play looked tired and lacking the quality evident early on. It was a tight match, but Lancaster will certainly see it as a missed opportunity.

Women's outdoor hockey draw hampered by rain

FINAL SCORE:

LANCASTER 0-0 YORK

GEORGE HAMLYN

On Saturday evening, following the men's 2-2 draw, the women were attempting to outdo the men and claim a valuable victory for Lancaster down on the Richard Larkin Astro turf. As SCAN arrived, it appeared that the rain had arrived as well, starting off mildly spitting but then gradually becoming heavier and heavier before kick-off. This could have either affected the game in two ways: the

pitch would become wet allowing the ball the skid, increasing the passing game, or, alternatively, the ball would skid too much. Unfortunately for the games sake, it was the latter and too often the ball was found skidding out of play. It was a game that was massively affected by the conditions, causing both sides to appear nervous and edgy in possession, with neither side taking that risk which would have allowed them to break through the backline. Having said that, York piled on early pressure and it if wasn't for a goal saving clearance, York would have taken the early lead. In the next phase

of play, neither side could find a break through nor there no real chances to speak of, until two fine saves in quick succession at the end of the half by the Lancaster goalie kept them in it.

The rain continued to hammer down during the interval but, the crowd stayed despite the soaking, cheering on the Lancaster girls. The game had to get more eventful in the second half. The second half did improve as the rain allowed the players to push on and try seize upon any defensive mishaps. Regularly, passes were going stray which allowed both sides

to hit on the counter, and York's attacking play enabled them to break through and force the Lancaster goalkeeper into making some more fine saves; if it wasn't for her who knows what the score may have been. Lancaster had their fair share of possession and counter attacks too, but too often found lacking in the final third, often guilty of making the wrong decision in possession. With time ticking away, a promising Lancaster attack was halted by a professional foul, resulting in a green card for the York offender. The game was not the best quality in truth, mainly because of the con-

ditions. As time was ticking away, the crowd's interest was diminishing, and their alcohol consumption was increasing, causing them to attempt to steal the show by throwing various objects, including a football and various I am Lancaster bags on to the pitch. I have to be honest, the highlight of the game was when one fan stole the show by streaking across the side of the pitch; hats off to him in these conditions. The game finished 0-0 and in truth it was a very poor affair, with chances in a premium, and a draw was the fair result as neither side did enough to win, nor did they deserve to lose.

Tough competition from York in the netball



Ian Meeks

FINAL SCORE:

1ST: LANCASTER 36-32 YORK

2ND: LANCASTER 40-33 YORK

3RD: LANCASTER 33-18 YORK

ESTHER JEWITT

The university netball matches took place on the Sunday, and I quickly realised they were a far more serious affair than college had been the day before. The umpire would not let me inside the court to chat to the teams, other than for a brief five minutes before play commenced.

York's captain Holly Dixon told me: "we're extremely prepared. We're here for three wins and nothing less." Claire Turner, Lancaster's thirds captain, said: 'it's going to be a tough game, but we're ready — we've had a great season.'

From the outset, Lancaster rapidly stormed into the lead at 7-2. It was impressive to see how efficiently the team was finding space for smooth and rapid passes. Afterwards, WD Chelsea Eddy informed me that during training: "we did a lot of set plays, working on controlling the ball down

the centre court and driving into space, which York struggle to do."

Lancaster's defence duo proved impenetrable; GK Lydia John and GD Laura Langton were perfectly in sync, having played together for three years now. York struggled to break through. By the end of the first quarter, the score was 11-5 to Lancaster. York visibly began to panic, missing several easy shots. Lancaster's strong start appeared to have rattled them. The second quarter concluded at 18-6 to Lancaster. The team demonstrated flawless cohesion, which they attributed to their fantastic group bond. Also, having such cool and calm shooters, Claire Turner and Laura Pryer, was invaluable when it came to driving for victory without succumbing to pressure.

The score was 26-12 by the end of the third quarter, and the crowd was ecstatic. The remainder of Lancaster's netball club accounted for 90% of the noise - a fantastic show of support. The final score was 31-18 - a phenomenal win for Lancaster. Eddy accounted for their incredible success: "the fact that we're all good friends makes us a particularly good team when

we could have potentially been just alright."

The seconds match began somewhat dramatically, as Lancaster's WD Alice Round suffered a nasty fall a few minutes in. She was soon on her feet again, but unfortunately had to sit the game out. Lancaster appeared a little shaken as York managed to tuck away four goals. Their shooter, Samantha Hall, turned out to be an absolute machine, and York soared into the lead. The first quarter ended 13-7 to York. York had a ruthless defensive team: GK Melanie Okuneve and GD Jess Boakye. Lancaster's shooters, Heather Watson and Sally Shacklady, usually a 'dream team', were finding it suspiciously hard to break through the defence. Some questioned whether the umpiring was fair, as York's defence carried out some obstruction and contact offences that were not pulled up. Lancaster claimed: "they were more like boxers than netballers!"

The second quarter ended 21-16, with Lancaster putting up an impressive fight against a difficult team. In the third quarter, York's GA Grace Clarke suffered an inju-

ry, and also left the court, showing a fraught nature to this game. The teams scored equally during the third quarter, leaving the overall score 30-24 to York. Such a high goal count demonstrated exceptional play on both sides. Unfortunately, York maintained their lead and won the game 40-33. York's Captain Emily Shipwright commented: "we're ecstatic! We have worked so hard for this result."

The final netball match of the weekend, the university firsts, was about to take place. Before the match, Lancaster's captain Natalie Sutcliffe was confident that her squad were well prepared. They were keen to get going. Within the first few minutes, Lancaster surged two points ahead. However, York were strong competition, and matched Lancaster's impressive pace. The first quarter concluded at 9-7 to Lancaster. At this point the match could have gone either way. The teams remained equally matched throughout the second quarter; the standard was incredibly high. The second quarter finished on a nail-biting 17 all.

Lancaster's GK Sam Longson proved an exceptionally strong de-

fensive force. I later learned that she is first year, and shot straight to the first team. She made some crucial interceptions towards the end of the match. At the start of the final quarter, it was 27-26 to Lancaster. They maintained the edge by a hair's breadth throughout. It struck me how unbelievably calm both teams were. They could not afford to panic now, and incredibly, both teams did not falter in their intense focus. The crowd, however, was going absolutely nuts. With mere seconds to go, it looked like it was going to be a draw at 32 all, but then out of nowhere, Lancaster miraculously slammed in another two goals.

Chelsea Eddy explained this phenomenal result: "the firsts were equally matched, but our girls thrive off winning, and they couldn't have gone away with a loss, so it was their attitude, teamwork and ridiculous fitness that pushed them ahead." Such a fantastic away competition for Lancaster netball, securing 5 points overall towards the Roses total. It was also an emotional one for the third years, who have certainly ended their Lancaster netball careers with a bang.

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N O M I N A T I O N S N O W O P E N

Inaugural boxing matches open 51st Roses



OLLIE ORTON **SPORTS EDITOR**

After waiting for many years for boxing to become a Roses event, it was perhaps pertinent that the points were shared between Lancaster and York after four bouts of intrigue and excitement. Even an hour before the event, as supporters began entering the arena, it was clear to many that a dramatic evening was in store – as the venue filled, this sense only got more obvious.

The excitement in the York-dominated crowd was palpable as the start of the event neared, with each sighting of a boxer on the big screen being greeted with a roar of approval. After playing the ever popular Roses promotional video, the opening ceremony launched into life, with a number of York's Dance Society taking to the ring to perform a boxing-themed dance. With the crowd already pumped,

the arrival of the MC for the evening sent everyone present into a frenzy. Despite his best attempts, the small pocket of Lancaster supporters in the far corner of the arena could still be heard above the vast wall of noise generated by the Yorkists.

The first Roses fight of the evening took place between Dylan Cheema from Lancaster and Aaron Dougherty from York. With a cocky entrance from Cheema, the immediate question was whether his boxing would live up to such theatrics. After some pushing and shoving from Cheema, Dougherty landed a massive punch which had Cheema reeling, but he powered through into the second round. The second bout remained even until the final seconds, where Cheema engaged and landed blow after blow upon Dougherty, with the York man only being saved by the bell. The third bout belonged

to Cheema – one particular left hook resulted in Dougherty being left reeling. However, credit must be given to the York fighter, who held his own and took the fight to the final bell. After a superb fight, Cheema took the victory on a split decision, and Lancaster went 1-0 up on the night.

The next fight saw Farrar of York take on Manev of Lancaster – immediately, the gulf in class was clear. Despite Manev landing a few strong punches, he struggled to cope with the long reach of Farrar. After dominating the first round, Farrar consolidated in the second, primarily by highlighting the weakness in Manev's defensive game by consistently and powerfully pushing him back against the ropes. But still Manev held firm, and improved considerably into the third round, launching an excellent counter attack upon Farrar. After going the distance, the fight

was again decided on a split decision, with Farrar of York deservedly taking the points in this fight.

York's Aron versus Lancaster's James began more reservedly than the previous two fights, with both boxers taking the first round to size each other up. The second round brought a thunderous punch from James onto the chin of Aron, who did exceptionally well to ride the blow and stay mobile. The final round proceeded in a similar manner; despite solid boxing from both fighters, neither landed that knockout blow which could have won them the fight.

On balance, and according to the press box, James had probably done enough to claim the points for Lancaster. However, the decision that Aron had won was met with gasps in the box, and a cacophony of delight from the thousands of York supporters packed

into the arena – going into the final bout, York led 2-1.

The final round pitted Lancaster's Joe Hollinshead against York's Laurie Twine. Twine's entrance to the ring was akin to a triumphant warrior returning home – after receiving a standing ovation, he hopped around the ring in a manner that suggested defeat was never in his mind. After a cautious opening, Hollinshead launched a ferocious punch which, to the shock of the home crowd and the delight of everyone wearing red, floored York's poster boy within a minute of the first round. There was a moment of silence before the place erupted – this time, it was Lancaster leading the celebrations. With the knock-out confirmed, Hollinshead claimed victory and ensured that the Roses points were shared.

YORK 225.5 - 139.5 LANCASTER