

# Athletic Union Awards

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## 2024 AWARDS GUIDE

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It's time for you to nominate your clubs, teams and members for the annual AU Awards and Colours Presentation.

[KEELESU.COM/AWARDS](https://www.keelesu.com/awards)



# How does it work?

2023/24 has been an eventful year for Team Keele, with loads to celebrate from across the sporting season.

We encourage all members to nominate themselves or someone else for one or more individual and/or colours awards.

Individuals and/or clubs can send in applications for the AU Awards/Colours. You do not need to be on a committee to submit a nomination and it is your responsibility to make sure a nomination has been submitted for an individual or your club.

For Club and Team Awards, please note we will only accept one application per club per award and late applications will not be considered.

For Individual Awards, please note each club can submit multiple member nominations, however you can only submit each person once and late applications will not be considered.

All entries are shortlisted by the AU Committee, Experience & Community Officer and Keele SU Staff. Winners are then chosen by the same group or our awards sponsors, where relevant.

**Please refer to the following timeline for the AU Awards:**

**Nominations Open: Monday 4th March**

**Nominations Close: 9AM 22nd April**

**Shortlist announced: 1st May**

## Save the date

Colours Presentation & Awards Night: Friday 17th May, 6pm / Keele SU Ballroom. Tickets will be £22 per person, will include food, refreshments and entry to the whole awards night and afterparty.



# Award Categories

## INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

### **Outstanding Contribution (Geoff Walker Cup):**

May be given to the individual, who shows outstanding ability and commitment to their Club/Team/University Sport Programme AND the Athletic Union going above and beyond their role as an AU member.

### **Best Newcomer**

(There are three award categories for this - Mens AU Club/Womens AU Club/Mixed AU Club):

This award shall be made annually to the student who, in their first year in any (Mens/Womens/Mixed) AU Club, shows outstanding ability while representing the team.

### **Captains Commendation (Sandra Alderton Cup):**

Awarded to the Club or Team Captain who has shown outstanding commitment and dedication to their Club during their term in office.

### **Laurence Chinn-Brown Trophy:**

A Trophy awarded in the memory of Laurence Chinn Brown to a student who encapsulated all of the characteristics Laurence lived his life with. Awarded to a student whose loyalty and commitment to their club is paralleled by the warmth, kindness and caring this individual brings to their club. Awarded to a true club member whose friendship is felt by all of the club.

### **Sportsperson of the Year**

(There are three award categories for this - Mens AU Club/Womens AU Club/Mixed AU Club):

The overall best achieving sportsperson of the year in any Mens/Womens/Mixed AU Club.



# Award Categories

## CLUB/TEAM AWARDS

### **AU Club of the Year:**

This award shall be presented based on each Club's achievements during the preceding twelve months.

### **Community Shield (Cath Barnett Shield):**

Awarded to the AU Club which most promotes the good name of Keele University in any sporting capacity. e.g. charity events, fellow club support and good behaviour.

### **AU Team of the Year (James Hurst Cup):**

This award shall be presented based on each Team's achievements during the preceding twelve months.

### **Most Improved Club of the Year:**

Awarded to the AU Club which has seen the most improvement in the year, through league position, fresher intake, member retention, charity fundraising or otherwise.

### **BUCS Team of the Year (Keith Harrison Jug):**

Will be presented to the team awarded "BUCS Team of the Year". No nominations will be accepted for this award and is based on overall BUCS Points at times of the awards.



# EXAMPLE #1

This is an anonymised example winning entry from the 2023 awards for the Sandra Alderton Cup.

Kate is not just the captain of Keele Rounders Club - she is its heart and soul. Her passion for the sport and dedication to each player radiates through everything she does. Kate pours her energy into crafting personalised training sets that play to the strengths and support the growth of every athlete, regardless of their ability level. She wants the absolute best for all of us.

You can see Kate's care and investment in the players every time she's pitch-side, cheering us on with such gusto you'd think she was competing too! She celebrates our wins as her own and is always the first to encourage us when things get tough. Kate knows all of our goals - stamina, batting technique, run times - and designs sessions to help us inch closer. Her leadership transformed our team's culture: under her guidance, players who had never competed before found themselves playing at university championships. The confidence she instills is invaluable.

I'm living proof of Kate's compassion. She has been endlessly understanding about my health issues, checking in to make sure I'm okay and never pushing me past my limits on bad days. I trust her completely and feel comfortable opening up because she has created such a supportive environment.

Kate has taken Keele Rounders Club to new heights this year through her strategic training, inclusive leadership, and unwavering care for athletes. She has nurtured an unbreakable team spirit and brought out the best in every individual. Our captain has shaped us into not just better players, but better people. We are so fortunate to have her on our side!

*266/500 words*



## EXAMPLE #2

This is an anonymised example winning entry from the 2023 awards for the Club of the Year.

The Rounders Club has exploded in growth this year, skyrocketing from just 31 members last year to a whopping 87 members now! This massive increase is thanks to the new 'Social Membership' introduced this year, which allows members to join just for fun on Sundays. They can either play to improve their skills, or uncoached for leisure - opening up the inclusive club atmosphere to more people for an affordable price and lower commitment. The benefits are clear already, with many social members visibly improving their techniques across all styles. Some even competed in non-points events at competitions, which is an awesome achievement!

The competitive team have also smashed it out of the park this year. The team made it all the way to the finals at the British University Rounders Leagues, smashing personal bests and club records along the way. The incredible support from non-competing members has fueled their motivation.

12 players also competed at the Welsh Nationals and dominated the field by winning multiple events, breaking records and hitting new personal bests left and right!

The team brought their A-game to BUCS Nationals too. The women's squad powered their way to qualify for the B finals, making the club incredibly proud. Player after player kept breaking club records, only for them to be broken again by their motivated teammates pushing each other to new heights.

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## EXAMPLE #2

This is an anonymised example winning entry from the 2023 awards for the Club of the Year.

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Beyond the pitch, the club has made giving back a priority by raising £752 for charities this year. They started strong, raising £470 through a Breast Cancer Awareness stall and underwear-as-outerwear social. Generous donations were collected for the Stoke Food Bank leading up to Christmas. And £282 was fundraised for the Multiple Sclerosis Society in February.

The competitive season wrapped up with Club Champs, where social members played their first ever competitive event. Despite nerves, they crushed it and were clearly proud of their achievements - many are already planning to train more next year! PBs were smashed yet again by dedicated players, with one standout player breaking the home-run records on top of the pitch side club record.

With record-breaking events, new members, and giving back on top of podium finishes at major tournaments, it's clear this has been a year of tremendous growth and success for the Rounders Club. The sky's the limit going forward!!

*384/1000 words*

### Top Tip!

Judges are looking for quality not quantity, however make sure you say as much as you can about your club. Include stats, sporting achievements, members feedback, the impact on campus/in the community, and how you have grown as a club over the last 12 months.

