



On Friday 16 May we celebrated the outstanding achievements of our student athletes at the annual REDS Awards ceremony. The event took place in the gardens at Goldney Hall and was attended by 90 students, alumni and staff, as well as an inspiring VIP panel of speakers from the world of professional rugby.

Ceremony

The event was themed around women's rugby – in celebration of the upcoming Women's Rugby World Cup – with VIP guest speakers including previous England Rugby World Cup finalists Abbie Ward, Sophie Halhead (University alumni), and Amber Reed (University Head Coach for Women's Rugby), plus University alumni and Bristol Bears Women team mates Phoebe Murray and Ella Lovibond.

A marquee was set up in the gardens at Goldney, with sunshine allowing for drinks and canapes on the lawn before the award-giving commenced, inside.

Award winners

This year, three students won a Bristol RED, including Hockey Wales' Lily Roberts and Gabriel Mann, who played for GB Rugby 7s at Rugby Europe last autumn. The Bristol RED was first introduced in 1979 and has since been received by more than 400 students who have performed in their chosen sport with great distinction.

Other honourable awards presented on the night include the Director's Award, Inclusivity Award, Wellbeing Award and the Ben Dudley Coach of the Year Award.

Director of Sport, Exercise and Health Matt Birch said: "the REDs evening is our most prestigious sporting event of the year. It provides the opportunity to celebrate both those students who've performed exceptionally on the pitch, but also those who've shown great leadership off it. The University ensures students are at the heart of our work and it's fantastic that we've been able to honour so many talented and driven individuals this year.

I'm also delighted that so many Bristol Bears staff and players were able to attend the evening. The University entered a partnership with the club last summer ([read the press release](#)), and a number of students have already put on the Bears shirt this season. I look forward to working with the club to develop student rugby players over the coming years."

Performance Sport Manager Matt Paine said "The REDs ceremony was a superb evening, celebrating all that is special and unique about student sport, the success stories across clubs, and recognising staffing contributions from those who help to create the inclusive and welcoming environments that allow students to thrive and reach their potential. An inspiring evening."

Bristol RED Award winners

Gabriel Mann – Rugby Union | Lily Roberts – Hockey | Ella Lovibond – Rugby Union.

Director's Award winners

Ella Walker – Tennis | Ryan Webb – Rugby Union | Oli Evans – Hockey | Chloe Davies – Netball |
Skye Ayling – Rugby Union | Alex Matthews – Tennis | Leila Akhavan-Zanjani – Volleyball.

Honourable award winners

The **Inclusivity Award** went to the Race Inclusion Advocates for the Black Student Sport project (represented by Ameerah Kola-Olukotun, Silvio Madueke and Karen Adwoa Akyere Mends) and the **Wellbeing Award** was presented to Silver Singhvi, on behalf of the University of Bristol Korfball Club, for leading the 'Buddy' (the club's Panda mascot – [see more on instagram](#)) initiative.

Men's Football Coach Alan Tyers took home the **Ben Dudley Coach of the Year Award**, following a fantastic season which saw the first team reach the BUCS playoff final and beat Swindon Supermarine 5-0 to lift the BSCC Cup, plus a league title win for the sixth team.

All of the winners were nominated by coaches, sporting staff and club captains.



Images (top-left to bottom-right):

- 1 – Guest speakers Ella Lovibond, Sophie Halhead, Phoebe Murray, Amber Reed and Abbie Ward on stage with Performance Sport Manager Matt Paine
- 2 – Guests mingling in the gardens at Goldney Hall
- 3 – Coach of the Year Award winner Alan Tyers in conversation with a student athlete
- 4 – Inclusivity Award winners, the Race Inclusion Advocates team, on stage with Ella Lovibond.