



VISION STATEMENT

Candidate's Name	Imogen Holland
Candidate Team Name	
<p>With a year under my belt, I'm really excited about running again for a second year as Sports Officer. I've spent a year making positive changes but there is so much more work to be done.</p> <p>This year saw an outstanding number of students join our sports clubs, take part in Campus League or join a Free Sport and Fitness session, showcasing just how important sport is in the student experience. Another year in this role will give me the opportunity to continue to fight for access to these for everyone. I've begun this through data collection on the Union's Online Community surrounding barriers to sport and have since created a miniseries on social media to break down these barriers. I know firsthand how much of a positive impact being part of sport here at Man Met can have your university experience, which is why I want as many students as possible to have the opportunity to be involved.</p> <p>As well as minimizing barriers, I really value inclusion; being part of a sport club has already been proven to harbor a sense of belonging at uni, and no one should face challenges or discrimination when it comes to this. A small way I've sought to improve inclusivity is through a region-wide Rainbow Laces campaign during LGBTQ+ History Month that I've led on, uniting officers across the northwest to engage in a collaborative effort to promote inclusion and have as much of a reach as possible.</p> <p>An ever-present issue is the cost of living, and now more than ever it is vital to work toward putting more money back in students' pockets. An adaptation to the allocation of the Cool It Kickback Scheme after direct input from students through Town Hall's and Sports Council meant that clubs now get 70% of the money they raise directly back into their Union account, to help with cost of events, equipment and club development and growth. This is something I want to continue to implement next year, while simultaneously exploring more ways to save students money.</p> <p>A key priority for me is to investigate the Campus League structure and explore options for the potential inclusion of new sports in this set up. It's already one of the biggest of its kind in the country, but more can be done to ensure there is something for everyone. I aim to examine ways to help fund this for students starting new teams, particularly those forming them within their accommodation or courses, to help facilitate belonging without the compromise of cost.</p> <p>Following on from this, student voice is vital for me, as highlighted through our regular Officer Drop-In Sessions, which I aim to carry on next year. These are so important for hearing directly from students, to hear about any issues they are facing, and what they are enjoying in university life. Students shouldn't always have to seek us out so meeting you halfway is one small way to help. In line with this, I will work to ensure Wednesday afternoons are kept as protected time for sport and co-curricular activity. I've begun work on this, but more is waiting to be done going into the next academic year to effectively adapt the timetable policy on this.</p>	



More specifically for sports members, I have had a pivotal role in the new format of Sports Ball, now partnered with Cool It, and the addition of a new Sports Gala event with Man Met Sport; the aim of these is to give more platforms to recognize students' achievements, celebrating them and fostering community here at Man Met. Through working with the team at Bournemouth 7's, I've also facilitated a record number of teams entering the festival with discounted tickets, giving students opportunity to play their sport on another stage and celebrate the year they've had. A big goal of mine is to work on these projects next year, using student feedback to make them even bigger and better, so students feel heard and recognized.

On this note, I want to investigate new ways to accredit members and volunteers for the important work they do in running their clubs and societies. Many other universities implement a point system that recognizes not only committee members, but all club/society members for a variety of different categories and awards prizes and or funding for winners. This is something I wish to explore further here at The Union.