

# MMU'S MOST

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## SPORTS OFFICER

# ROSS SHARMAN

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Hey, I'm your current Sports Officer, Ross Sharman, running to be re elected by you. I have had an incredibly fulfilling first year as your student representative, making it my duty to fight for all students, ensuring they get the representation and support they deserve.

It has been an honour to hold this position for a year and I hope to be able to continue this work for a second year. I live my life by five tenets, Integrity, Courtesy, Perseverance, Self Control and Indomitable Spirit, and have made it my aim to ensure they are used to represent you in the role as the Sports Officer.

Prior to this year I was awarded Committee Official of the Year, Volunteer Coach of the Year, Union Colours, MMU Sport Colours and the Brownhill-Evans Memorial Award.

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# MANIFESTO

I have always believed that all students and sports should be represented, have equal opportunities and are provided with a voice that supports them and fights their corner until a solution is found, this is what I firmly believe a Sports Officer should be, something I have strived to do this past year.

As a student I founded the MMU Taekwondo club and have volunteer coached them for 7 years, I also worked in the Union Shop for 5 years and the Opportunities Department for 1 year. This year I have worked to create a stronger bond between our societies and sports teams, this has been incredibly inspiring to see and something I am very excited to continue into next year by working closely alongside my team mate Eve Sweeney.

I have been incredibly lucky to work and engage with so many students this year, every Ride A Long with teams has been a highlight and is key to upholding my promise and role of representation. Supporting students is my passion and I am grateful for the opportunities to do so, together we have proven we are stronger. I don't embrace excuses, I embrace solutions. Indomitable Spirit established 1989.

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The reason I ran for the Sports Officer role last year was because of how passionate I am about student experience and feel that everyone should be represented and supported. Having shaped the role this year I have become even more incredibly passionate and feel this first year has only been the beginning.

I firmly believe there has been positive changes this year compared to previous and I would be honoured to continue this forward and finish what we all started together. Having held the role for a year I fully understand how things work and have established a strong and positive relationship within the University, the Union and MMU Sport.

This experience and knowledge will allow me to build upon everything this year, keep us going in a positive direction and complete our joint journey of representation. I firmly believe that the experiences students encounter at university will lead to breathtaking opportunities, the key to a successful Officer is to make this a reality.

Sport regardless of level whether it be socially or professionally can save and change lives. I was inspired by our students prior to holding the position, and now seeing it through the perspective of an officer I am overwhelmingly inspired, this is a powerful tool and one that I want to continue to embrace and use to its full potential.

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## UPGRADES

- Club Support 2.0 – Representing and working closely with sport teams has been a large part of this year, we have seen many improvements and positivity but I feel I have more work to do for you. I want to improve our strength and conditioning offer, get all our teams home to Platt Lane, improve training opportunities and continuing to push equality within sport for all non Bucs and Bucs teams. Pushing the philosophy that Sport is for all.
  - Ride A Longs 2.0 – This year I have reached thousands of students as part of my weekly ride a longs, attending their fixtures, sessions and events. I want to upgrade this by conducting video blogs every time I accompany teams and students, sharing the experiences with the rest of MMU and not just posting photos. I've even added an Instagram account!
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- Sport Surgery 2.0 – Also this past year I have conducted sport surgeries, where students can come in during specific slots at the Union and talk to me in confidence. Whether it be course related, sport related or personal I am always here for you. I want to upgrade this by taking my surgeries out to every faculty and holding them in different hot desk locations, I feel to maximise helping our students I should be coming to you. We have seen many successes this year through the surgeries but I want to reach even more and build upon this great start.
- Student Led Events 2.0 – This year has seen the most student led events take place which has been incredibly inspiring to be involved with. I want to increase the support to students so that we can help even more clubs put on events they are passionate about. This will include a specific sport club event pot that students can apply for, to assist them with their goals. This year we have currently raised just over £9000 for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Charities, something I feel very strongly about continuing.

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## DEVELOPMENT

- Make Wednesday Free - By speaking to students this year I have found that many are not allocated a free afternoon on Wednesdays. This is especially damaging to sport students and scholars who participate in the majority of their fixtures during this day. I have managed to assist 40 students this year so far who have been victim to this neglect of policy. I feel that this should not be something we have to police every year so want to campaign and make Wednesdays completely free for our Students here at MMU. Afternoons are not enough, especially for our sport teams who's away fixtures often mean leaving earlier in the day. I have been working closely with current Education Officer and my team mate Lucy Follon on this issue and if re elected will continue to push it forward.

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- Bring Back MMU vs UoM Varsity – Students have often asked me if there is any way we can reboot the Manchester Varsity. I have been working on this for some time as it is a very large project. In doing so I have developed and constructed key relationships with both Universities personnel such as heads of security, sport departments, pro vice chancellors and student officers and believe that if re elected I can bring back an official Manchester Varsity Event.
  - Create Mental Health Support and Sport Related Help for our athletes and students – By speaking to students I have found that many suffer from or know someone who suffers from mental health. It's incredibly difficult to know how to support or help people in these situations, so I want to develop and introduce support and mental health training for committees. I also want to put on events that support and can help with all elements of mental health, especially relevant to sport such as performance anxiety. I have been working with our current Well being Officer and my team mate Andy Harmon on this and excited to put it into action if re elected.

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## CAMPAIGNS

- #BeeTogether Campaign – I want to continue my work on making sport more inclusive at MMU by celebrating all our athletes here. The bee together campaign highlights what we can do to improve experiences and opportunities for our students at MMU, especially through sport. I want to continue working with sport and societies to make sport inclusive for all. One campaign that matters and makes a difference.
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Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto. Whilst I am out campaigning please question me on my plans and my first year as a sabbatical student officer. I want to hear your ideas and needs. Team work is the heart of sport and this is how we continue to build success.

If you want to see continue representation, change and support at MMU from someone who fight for the underdog while maintaining the success of the established, please vote to re elect ROSS SHARMAN, the Sheriff, for SPORTS OFFICER. #1 MMUs MOST WANTED.

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