



IMAGE: YORK VISION

ANOTHER ROSES DEFEAT

York suffers loss at Roses for the
third consecutive year

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IMAGE: AYMAN ZAHIR

Rose's Lead Note

BY KAITLYN BEATTIE-ZARB (She/Her)

Roses is a stressful, messy, chaotic weekend. It's panicky, interesting, exciting, and utterly exhausting. York sport teams race to Lancaster to compete against their colleagues to see who will become the champion of the biggest Inter-uni sport competition in Europe. Student Media groups from York and Lancaster team up to cover the most sports possible, in what is consistently called a most impossible and impressive achievements for amateurs tv, radio and print reporters. And everyone inevitably ends up sleeping on the floor. That's just how Roses is... and we wouldn't ask for anything else. This year's Roses was no different. Late nights and early starts. Four hour long sleeps. Covering 10+ sports an hour. And after all of it... a seemingly inevitable Roses win for Lancaster again. Three years in a row Lancaster have won Roses on the Saturday evening... and it does make people wonder if there is a misalignment in sport scoring and

scheduling that continually allows for such an early win. But ultimately, the York teams put up a strong, non-stop effort to reclaim the prize and fight back. Large crowds of red and white supporters cheered their hearts out on the sidelines. And our reporters captured it all. The community, the loss, the heart ache, the energy. These pages are filled with stories about Lanc successes, and York close wins. About the atmosphere of the Lancaster sport hall, and about the stressful time student media had waiting to announce the results. There are games and photos, interviews and as many sports that we could cram in to these short pages. Enjoy catching up with all the action. To the players, thank you for your fight. To the crowds, thank you for your passion. And to the York Vision Roses team and our fellow student media groups, thank you for bringing Roses 2024 to life.

Much thanks, Kaitlyn :)



Sport Editor's Note

BY JACOB BASSFORD (He/Him)

Wow this is fun, I get to write an Editor's Note! I have definitely written a ton of words these past few days since last Friday, not really sure a lot of them have made sense but I sit here in the office before send-off so full of pride at the work that everyone has put into making this print. Last year, after Roses 2023 I turned round to Emily and Kaitlyn and said we're gonna go to Lancaster and show everyone what print sports journalism is about and boy did we do that! It was tough, it was long, we didn't really get any sleep,

we were faced with hostile Lancastrian crowds but we all rose up above that (see what I did there) to conduct ourselves with the up-most professionalism. Most of our Vision Roses team had never written about sport before the weekend and whilst I wouldn't blame them if they never wanted to touch sport journalism ever again I sit here extremely proud of everyone who helped with this print, both at Lancaster and here in York! Enjoy this Specials' Print! Jacobean

Opening Ceremony

BY CHARLOTTE AMBROSE (She/Her) AND ANNA MALE (She/Her)

LANCASTER	3
YORK	0

The opening ceremony started Roses 2024 with a bang, with a volleyball tournament that led to a Lancaster win.

The sold-out sports hall was decked in lights and guests were welcomed with a DJ set from Mystikle Blue, who kept the crowd's mood up as they waited for the game to begin. Lancaster University's Hip-Hop and Breakdance Society introduced the game, with a fast-paced routine to an energetic pop mashup.

Speakers from the two universities spoke to the crowd, highlighting the game's long history. Richard Sope, Vice Chair of the Trustee Board, spoke about the "identity through shared experiences" gained through the tournament and his pride in Lancaster was evident when he mentioned the University's union-sponsored "superb sports facilities" where the tournament took place. The Vice Chancellor of Lancaster then spoke about the friendly rivalry between the two Universities, which was felt throughout the room.

Kiran Trehan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor at York and Lancaster alumni, then spoke about how she felt "this country [was] in safe hands with people like you". York's own Sports Officer Tanisha Jain (TJ), led the York supporters in a 'Yorkshireeeee' chant, before Jack Watson, the Lancaster Student Union Sport Vice President, affirmed that Roses were Red.

The long-awaited men's volleyball game then began. York's team was welcomed by the white-clad supporters and Lancaster's team were greeted with minutes of applause. After a quick lighting change, some handshakes, and a word with the referee, the game was off!

Lancaster started with a strong lead, with York hitting it out, but the two teams were soon close together. York got a foul for contact, while some of Lancaster's strong hits to the ground were not defended by the team. After some brief pep talks, York came back fighting, raising their score from 21 - 15 to 21 - 17. York worked well together, volleying the ball between the three

of them, but this wasn't enough to save the point from Lancaster, who pulled ahead with 24-17. With some very lively crowd support, and Lancaster co-opting the 'Yorkshire' chant to a rather unpleasant version, Lancaster won the first set 25-17.

The second fifth commenced with a strong start with both teams tying at 1-1. Lancaster served the ball into the net several times, letting York pull ahead. After Lancaster gained a point, leading to strong cheering from their supporters, York's Sam (number 25) smashed it to the ground, with Lancaster unable to return it. The ball then started to flip-flop between teams, with Lancaster gaining the point and starting to pull into the lead. After a few more serves into the net from both teams, York's Sam was diving for the ball, desperately trying to get it back up, but these efforts were unfortunately futile, with Lancaster gaining the point. Despite strong attacks and defences from York, Lancaster's lead started to grow.

Lancaster's captain, Konstan-

tinios (Costas) Charalambous (8) then got served with a yellow card for screening. For non-volleyball players, this is when someone intentionally obscures the receiving player's view of the server or ball. After this, York began to gain on Lancaster, with great teamwork between the players who stopped Lancaster's defence and frequent dives for the ball. After raising their points to 21-15, Lancaster began a strong comeback to the sound of the "Let's go Lads/Lancs" chant from their supporters. After several more smashes to the ground and serves from York into the net, Lancaster took the second fifth, with a score of 25-17 and a standing ovation.

The tense third fifth began: if Lancaster won this game, it would be game over for York. York started off strong, winning the first point, but Lancaster was quick to catch up and it was clear that the two teams were both fighting to win. York began to maintain a small lead, with the score at 5-7 and rising for York, as Lancaster slipped across the court and their number

4's dives were not enough to defend against York.

At 9-13, Lancaster began to speed up, with some strong volleys not being returned by York, despite players trying to pancake the ball up. Lancaster's point momentum built up, but the pass went straight into the net, despite the chanting, which gave York hope. At 22-18, York was attacking, with Lancaster hitting the ball into the stands, and number 22 down on the floor trying to save their score. At 22-21, York hit the ball out, and Lancaster took the opportunity. In front of a sea of red, and despite the very strong York defence, at 24-23, York was unable to return a Lancaster ball, and Lancaster won the match at 25-23.

Speaking to York Captain Ethan Fenton, he said he was "annoyed we didn't win, but [was] proud of the boys." He thanked the York fans who turned up to see them play despite the "good show" that the Lancaster fans put on.



FRIDAY 3 MAY

College Football

LANCASTER	6
YORK	2

Football Honours Even on Roses' Opening Day

BY HENRY ANDERSON (He/Him)

Friday saw a victory apiece for Lancaster and York, with some enthralling football played by both sides.

The first fixture of the two, York University's Uni Football 3s against Lancaster's College Select side, effectively the best players their colleges have to offer, ended in a 2-3 victory for York. Having spoken to two of the York footballers beforehand, it was clear that the York side were buzzing for the upcoming game.

Kicking off at 10.30, the match was alive as the two sides, both similarly lined up in a 4-3-3 formation, constantly pressed and counter pressed for the ball, playing direct

passes into the danger zones in an end-to-end game. The first twenty minutes was characterised by Lancaster's attacking threat, culminating in a crisp free kick forcing a brilliant save from the York keeper in the top left corner, but they could not capitalise.

York seized on the opportunity. A scramble in the box from a set piece led to York forcing it in the net, and shortly after a cutting ball through the defence and a composed finish from the striker made it 0-2 York.

However, Lancaster refused to give in. A headed goal from a corner seized a goal back for the home side, and another corner goal from

Lancaster centre forward Dempsey completed the comeback to make it 2-2. The game was boiling over, as shown by the five yellow cards for York and single yellow for Lancaster by the 53rd minute, but it seemed a goal was in one side's future.

Energised by a couple of substitutions, York pushed for a goal that came in the form of a penalty deep into the second half. Converted by York number 10 Alex Mo, he was quick to run over and celebrate in front of the Lancaster fans – much to their dismay.

With the 2-3 scoreline secured and the game won, the crowd were left entertained, even if not espe-

cially pleased.

An hour and a half after full time came Halifax 2s, representing York, against Fylde 2s. As the weather got worse, the football didn't, and goal after goal saw Fylde take complete control of the game by the early second half with four goals to Halifax's nil. Halifax heads refused to drop though, and they managed to salvage hopes by scoring two. But this proved to be futile at full time, by which point Fylde had added two goals to end the game 6-2 to the home side. While the football still retained its quality, the sideline really iced the cake.

Megaphone blasts, flares and

chants flew between the opposing supports, making the fixture a fiery encounter but light-hearted.

Of the two fixtures, I found the 10:30 game to be the better of the two encounters. Mo winding up the Lancaster fans by celebrating in front of them, tackles flying in and the referee struggling to keep a lid on it, as well as exquisite football played on a state of the art pitch.

It made every minute worth watching.

With a game won by each university, they have both won a point in the race to Roses glory. Friday certainly set the standard for a weekend of top notch university football.

Ultimate Frisbee

Lancaster Clutch win After Back-and-Forth Game of Ultimate

LANCASTER	13
YORK	10

BY GEORGE HOWARTH (He/Him)

Despite York taking a strong lead at the start, Lancaster won the MixOutdoor Ultimate 14-13.

More commonly known by the brand name Frisbee, Ultimate sees two teams of seven try to score by catching the disc in the 'endzone' on the far side of the pitch.

The game started quickly with York winning the first point after just a few seconds. Both teams were on equal footing, with Lancaster's women having won 13-10 and York taking the Open category 14-10 earlier in the day. However, this fixture was not worth any points for the Roses tally.

Lancaster's Tom Jackson and Alex Niouma, both undefeated in the past two years of Roses, scored their first point with lots of back-and-forth play. Niouma later went on to attempt a long, high and slow throw up the pitch, but the disc was caught by Rebekah Sparks for York.

York then went 5-1 up after making some brilliant interceptions, including a point scored by Oliver Hart.

After a 15-minute interval to reorganise, play resumed with supporters chanting for York. Play was then more even as Lancaster closed

the gap to equalise 40 minutes in at 6-6. Jackson made some brilliant interplay passes with teammates, some of which led to some points for Lancaster.

York soon appeared to be edging into the lead, reaching 13-9 just over an hour into the game including a short pass to Hannah Wilson who caught with a roll in the endzone.

Lancaster then quickly scored 4 points to equalise again, with much of the success again coming from the deadly duo Jackson and Niouma. The game was level until 13-13, before play was distracted by American Football players arriving for a later match. Lancaster snatched the last point to win 14-13, 95 minutes after the game started.

After the match, Daisy Todd-McIntyre and Joseph Hurley from York said "we came in hotter than Lancaster, but both their offence and defence got better as the game went on". They remarked that the game was a lot closer than last year, and said that for the upcoming indoor fixtures on Saturday, "everyone is feeling energised as it could go either way."

LANCASTER	37
YORK	26

BY MATTY APPLETON (He/Him), EDDIE ATKINSON (He/Him), MORGAN GROVE (She/Her)

American Football

Lancaster Capitalise on Half-Time Capitulation

Instantly recognisable by their stature and presence, the American footballers of each team occupied the sideline, sporting their respective red and white jerseys. Before play could begin, each player was called forward onto the field through a guard of honour celebrating the dedication of each player to reach Roses itself.

Upon the coin toss, the York Centurions opted to receive the ball first, which instantly hushed the home crowd. To ease any immediate tension, the Centurions began by operating the run game, which proved immediately unsuccessful, resulting in a punt on the opening drive. To a large ovation from the crowd, the Lancaster Bombers adorned the field, using their first possession to gain around 20 yards of ground before being held by the Centurions, also opting to punt away the ball.

The fixture started defensively; it was not until the third possession from each team that the first score was placed upon the board, with Matt Hill of the York Centurions making the score 6-0. York displayed their aggressive intent

immediately, opting for a 2 point conversion, which was completed to make the score 8-0. After another stifled drive by the Bombers offence, the Centurions regained possession. This, however, would result in a moment which reinvigorated the home crowd, with Tom Fanthorpe throwing an interception to Lancaster defensive back Gergely Tamas, undoubtedly the player of the game, who carried the ball up most of the pitch to the offensive end zone for Lancaster's first touchdown?

With the scores level at 8-6, play was halted with the operation of a drone above the pitch by a spectator. With the drone safely moved over 20 metres to the Women's football pitch adjacent, play could begin again, with the Bombers immediately gaining their first lead of the fixture with a field goal from 35 yards, making scores 9-8. Two more long delays were taken in the first half, both due to serious injuries for each side, acting as a reminder for the aggressive physical nature of the contest at play. After a touchdown each, the teams went to half time with Lancaster leading

15-14.

Following the half time break, the hostility of the home crowd continued to grow, with York's war-mups met with jeers and chants. To the delight of the crowd, Lancaster began the second half extremely strongly, scoring a touchdown from 40 yards and converting the extra two points to extend their lead to 23-14. This domineering performance only continued, with Lancaster performing the recovery off an onside kick to immediately regain possession. The resulting touchdown all but sealed the game for Lancaster, with the fixture dragging to its eventual score of 37-26.

Lancaster's celebrations were wild and dominated by red smoke, as has become tradition, but we were able to catch up with Theodore Pritchard, a linebacker for the victorious side, who told us victory felt "pretty good" and had been "a long time coming", pointing out that it meant a 'three-peat' for the home side. When asked what had caused the shift in momentum at half-time, he said "they got tired, we kept the energy up".

Open 1st Pool

York Whitewash

LANCASTER	9
YORK	0

BY PATRICE SPERKOVA (She/Her)

In a heated and focused battle, the University of York clashed against Lancaster University in a gripping Open 1st Pool tournament during Roses 2024, with Lancaster holding a commanding lead for much of the match. Anticipation ran high as York sought to turn the tide in their favour, but to no avail.

The tournament unfolded simultaneously on two tables, infusing the atmosphere with a sense of bustling activity, and the presence of suited referees imparted a sense of nobility. Loud music emanated from the commentating table, adding to the energetic ambience of the audience which was extremely cheerful, despite the intensity, many of them clutching freshly tapped beers in hand among other refreshments.

Under pressure, players from both York and Lancaster tirelessly performed precise shots and strategic manoeuvres to get into the lead-

ing position. However, despite their efforts, the momentum remained firmly in Lancaster's hands. With each frame, they extended their lead, showcasing a dominance that left their opponents struggling to keep pace as Lancaster marched towards victory.

In the finale, Lancaster University ended triumphantly with a resounding 9-0 victory, their dominance echoing throughout the venue. Despite the disappointment of defeat, the spirit of both the players and the audience showed healthy competition, mutual support and sportsmanship.

We had the opportunity to ask one of the York players, Tommy George, who told Vision 'I enjoyed it until he lost,' about his feelings freshly after the tournament: 'Everyone played really well, it's a tough opposition to go against, cause they're one of the best pool teams across the country.'

LANCASTER	2
YORK	3

The room was packed long before the event started. Spectators poured out of the bleachers and into the aisles; wherever there was room, people sat cross-legged with cardboard signs.

Even their "warm-ups" looked intense. Girls were being thrown up in the air left and right.

There are ten competing teams overall, all at different levels. Each team performs in pairs against each other based on level. To win, you need to win an overall number of teams.

York Pom vs Lancaster Pom:

York Pom kicked things off with an energetic, explosive number to get things going. They spun like tots and their occasional mid-routine yells set the crowd into a frenzy. Their use of the floor was also quite unique, if not a bit chaotic at times.

Lancaster Pom performed exceptionally well to a pop medley playlist, and they received a much louder cheer at the end. Their jumps stood out as being really high. But it looked as if one of the dancers had a leg injury.

York Lyrical

Next up was a gorgeous, lyrical routine, which gave us a refreshing break from the explosive energy of cheer numbers. You could hear a pin drop during this number. Switching up from the usual yellow and black outfits, seven dancers came out in purple dresses. Their arm movement was softer than anything we'd seen so far, but they brought back all the power when doing their kicks.

Lancaster Duo Pom was cancelled (potentially because of the injury?)

Level 2 Group Stunt

York - Five-person team of girls, showcasing their lifts and showing great balance.

Lancaster - Five-person team,

disappointment of the York crowd) this didn't take away from the skill of Theo's performance, as demonstrated in his amazing qualifier climbs. All in all, the fact that Theo didn't top the climbs doesn't mean an awful lot, and he's certainly one to watch at next year's Roses on home turf.

Next up was another YUMC climber, Matty Grier. Now I may seem biased as a member of YUMC in saying that Matty is one of the most spectacular climbers I have ever witnessed scale a wall, but his confident flash of both his final

they sustained strong flexibility in the air.

Lancaster had more confidence and balance than the York crew, but still a very close race for sure

Level 3 group stunt:

Lancaster - The girl in the air was steady the entire time, she looked very at ease even whilst being so high up. There was a slight stumble at the end, coming out of one of the lifts but they recovered well.

York - They had a quick recovery, they were able to go from flip to flip very quickly, performing them all in quick succession.

Lancaster sideline

Bringing back the pom-poms! They used the space a lot and moved to each corner of the floor (not actually competing)

Lancaster - Very smiley and had several lifts going on at the same time on stage. They were cart-wheeling all over the stage. Their lifts weren't always synchronised but they were always energetic and smiling

York - Lots of different things were going on at once (so much to look at). You could tell they were all having fun and they drove home the energy at the end. The last eight counts especially were full of energy and they really brought it home at the end

Level 2 Category:

York - They mixed up the spacing of the lifts which was interesting to see but one of them didn't quite work (one of the girls didn't get up in time) They made up for this with their sassy poses on top of the lifts. There were some cool sections with different musical styles which really made the routine pop

Lancaster - Started dynamically right from the start. Really steady on the lifts and they managed to get into their lifts quickly. There was a lot of good interaction between the

lifted dancers, as they held each other's hands in the air.

York Hip Hop - Wearing red and black jackets, split into two different groups on stage, very in unison and sassy number

Closing Numbers:

York - They came out with a really fierce number and they even threw the pompoms down mid-routine to add a dramatic flare. They managed to hold the lifts for a long amount of time, showing they were clearly confident being in the air. They threw out all their best tricks, turns and smiles at the audience.

Lancaster - Starting with a not-so-smooth transition (tec couldn't find their music for a few minutes), they came out really strong.

They did cool kicks in the air and they definitely went out with a bang. Strong level of concentration on their face and a great feature lift where all the dancers

Powerful lifts, strong spins, fierce energy. Power was the name of this number. A particularly impressive three-person tall tower near the end had the audience on its feet, making this the perfect end to today's cheer showcase

Vision spoke to Emma Newport, Vice President of York Cheer, who competed in the opening number who said:

"It was really good so we're the current national champs and we were national champs last year. But unfortunately, Lancaster beat us last year so we'll see how it pans out this year."

"We have a dead-stop in the middle of our routine so the music stops so everyone thinks it's finished but then we carry on. So she [the Judge] was fooled by that, or she fell for that...so that's a good sign"

"Roses are definitely white"

Lead Climbing Open Individuals

BY MORGAN GROVE (She/Her)

LANCASTER	1
YORK	0

After an intense qualifier in the morning, we were left with some very strong finalists who put up incredible performances, and the very small space of the climbing wall had an electric atmosphere from both climbers and spectators. With the help of women's finalist Olivia Mullan who provided me with a technical perspective, here's a rundown of the final four climbers and their performances.

First on the wall was LUMC's Tom Waddy, described as a "classic lead climber if there ever was one", and his technique was clear

throughout. Tom kicked off the finals with a very strong start for Lancaster and his second climb was just as smooth, overall an impressive lead performance from a fairly new climber to the university competition scene.

Next up, climbing for York, was Theo Hill, another extremely talented climber and very possibly the crowd favourite, especially when his Rose's shirt came flying at the crowd before his second climb. Just missing out on topping either of his climbs (slipping on the final hold of his first climb, much to the vocal

routes as well as his clean sweep in qualifiers proves this point nicely. Matty has a great consistency to his climbing, putting up as impressive a performance in Lancaster as he did at York last year, which really makes him stand out at every lead event.

And last to hit the wall was Lancaster's Sam Lavender, a name that consistently comes up when discussing Roses climbing performances, and he reminded us today why. Sam commands the entire room while he climbs, his confidence is clear and has the whole room cheering for him, creating quite the show

while he is belayed down. He put up an astonishing performance in both his climbs, flashing both with precision and strength. A worthy winner of today's lead competition, keeping his title from last year, Sam certainly remains a force for Lancaster.

Lancaster ended up taking the win of Lead Open Individual, and the final rankings came out at Theo in 4th, Tom in 3rd, Matty in 2nd and Sam taking 1st. This tough competition in lead should have everyone waiting in anticipation for tomorrow's bouldering fixtures!

SATURDAY 4 MAY

Open 1st Tennis Singles

A brutal performance from York's Misha Neverov was unable to prevent an overall team loss to Lancaster

BY JACOB BASSFORD (He/Him)

LANCASTER	5
YORK	4

After a long day of tennis, featuring the doubles and singles in both the 'Open' and 'Woman's' formats, York's first seed in the Open Singles, Misha Neverov faced off against Lancaster's captain Aidan Yates. Both players had a technically accurate game, not quite possessing the power serves of Lancaster's Ryan Teesdale and York's Arthur Ferrar in the second seed fixture, but were certainly the more all-rounded players.

In the first game, Yates could not pressure Neverov on the serve

and double faulted at 15-40 down to give Neverov the first game. However, in the second game after some great rallies with both players pushing each other to the edges Yates broke back to level the scores at one-all. Neverov stepped up a notch and broke Yates for the second time before holding his serve to reach a 1-4 lead.

Play had to stop for Neverov to switch rackets but this did not stop his momentum and there was little Yates could do to prevent the first set going to York 0-1 at 1-6.

In the second set, it looked as Neverov was going to win this match at a canter, as accuracy was letting Yates down, despite holding his serve at the first time of asking. However, Neverov held his serve and broke the Lancastrian to reach a 1-3 lead. In the fifth game Yates pushed back to force a deuce, with some great slicing backhands that had Neverov slipping on the still wet surface from the morning rain. Yates couldn't capitalise and Neverov held for 1-4. Yates sensed momentum and upped his serving

game, winning the sixth game to close the gap to 2-4 giving Yates a sniff at a comeback to level the game in the second set. And he nearly capitalised, again the following game on Neverov's serve went to deuce, but the Yorkist shackled himself from this momentary complacency to hold for 2-5. Yates did well to save two match points to hold for 3-5, again through another deuce, nevertheless Neverov was always in control and held his serve to win 3-6 and thus the match.

Despite this victory, it was not

enough for York as Teesdale beat Ferrar in a highly entertaining and intense fixture to seal overall victory for Lancaster 5-4 in the Open Tennis. This gave Lancaster four points as they closed in on victory in the Roses competition by Saturday night. The University of York Tennis Club still did really well, winning the Women's Firsts earlier on Saturday and the Open 2nds on Friday meaning they won more Roses points than they lost.

VC Table Tennis

LANCASTER	9
YORK	3

The contest operated in a straightforward (not really) point system, with four participants from each university competing and playing each other in rotating matchups. York put forward Pro-Vice Chancellor for Teaching, Learning and Students Tracy Lightfoot, Sport Union President Tanisha Jain, YUSU President Pierrick Rogier, and Keith Morris, Head of Sport at York. Lancaster sent out Vice Chancellor (they brought their one) Andy Schofield, Pro-Chancellor and Chair of something ominously called 'The Council' the Rt Hon Alistair Burt, LUSU VP of

Sport Jack Watson and Richard Soper, Vice Chair of the LUSU Trustee Board.

The opening salvos of the competition were fairly even handed, Tanisha beat Jack in the battle of the union sporting leaders, while Pierrick lost out to Alistair. The headline match between Tracy and Mr Schofield was hotly contested, but ended in a victory for the Lancaster chief - a whisper ran through the crowd (it didn't), would a contest between two Vice-Chancellors, one blessed with two first names, have ended any differently?

BY EDDIE ATKINSON (He/Him)

Would Charlie Jeffery's subsequent victory have rejuvenated York morale like a Roman legion recovering their standard, driving them to an unprecedented comeback in the overall standings? Would this victory then have spurred York on to a decade of Roses dominance? We may never know the answer to these questions. What we do know is that in the real world Lancaster won Vice Chancellor's table tennis 9-3.

Water Polo

LANCASTER	11
YORK	13

BY PATRICIE SPERKOVA (She/Her)

On the Saturday evening of Roses 2024, the Swimming Pool arena became the battleground for Water Polo. What a night of triumph for the University of York! Not only did York secure victory in the Open 1st Water Polo category with a commanding 13-18 score, but the Women's team also won with a 11-13 score, making the first overall Water Polo Victory for York since 2016!

This was one of the most watched sports in a swimming pool setting, electrifying the arena, with overwhelming chants from both sides, particularly intense from the Lancaster supporters. However, even their chants and posters, such as '1 goal = 1 kiss', couldn't sway the

tide in their favour.

The match was closely contested, with both teams demonstrating their exceptional skill and determination. Emily, a player from York, reflected on the tough battle: 'Lancaster's team was really good, so it was a tough match, but everyone played so well.'

Following the victory, Emily expressed her excitement: 'Winning the match felt absolutely incredible. We've been training a lot and our captain Beth has been working really hard, so it was really great to see all that pay off in the end.'

Even for the most amateur spectators, the Water Polo's players' strength and stamina are truly obvious and remarkable.

Pole Fitness

Scary to Start, Awesome Afterwards

BY PATRICIE SPERKOVA (SHE/HER)

LANCASTER	2528
YORK	2236

The Pole Fitness (Open) competition took place on the Saturday of the 2024 Roses in Lancaster, spanning over five hours and featuring a range of categories from beginners to group routines. Despite York's loss with 2236 points against Lancaster's 2528, the event was embraced more as a captivating showcase than a fierce rivalry, as the audience applauded at the breathtaking, impressive, and occasionally electrifying performances from both teams as they passionately demonstrated their genuine love

for the sport.

The competition took place indoors, with two initially installed poles and later an additional one for group performances, illuminated with purple lights that added to the event's aesthetic. And the poles were used just incredibly, all happening in front of the panel of judges who focused on aspects such as flow, difficulty, character, and smaller details including pointed toes. Floor routines were equally significant in the overall performance.

What makes Pole Fitness so captivating is its ability to reflect the individual's aesthetic, mindset, and creativity, allowing for an infinite range of expression. This was evident in the variety of routines. We saw for example an Beetlejuice-inspired performance, or a portrayal of one-sided relationships. Lancaster's breathtaking group performance showed the incredible range of expression achievable through body movement as well as the mutual trust among team members. York's duet

performance of 'I'm Just Ken' also left an impression.

The beginner category was special for me. After their category finished, I asked them about their reflection on their first Roses: 'It was scary beforehand but it was awesome afterwards.'

Billie from York, who won the beginner category, commented: 'I was terrified going on, then when I got just towards the end of my routine, I realised: Oh wait, I've actually done this!'

There was something special

about the atmosphere and audience in the event. It seemed as if almost everyone completely forgot about the Varsity rivalry and we saw an environment of overwhelming support and enthusiasm for each other's aesthetic, approach and small wins.

Pole Fitness is a sport for everyone, regardless of gender, body type, or ability, offering a welcoming and inclusive community that celebrates diversity and individuality.

SATURDAY 4 MAY

Women in Sport

Hockey 1st

As the Saturday Roses drew to a close, crowds of people headed over to enjoy the women's first hockey. With deck chairs and beer cans littered all the way down the side of the pitch, clearly some people were hoping for a chilled relaxing evening.

But, this match was anything but relaxing. People were soon up on their feet when York took the ball and started racing down the right-hand side of the pitch. York managed to get the ball into the semi-circle of the Lancaster goal (the commentators referred to this as the d) but Lancaster intercepted it. In the chaos, the sticks got tangled and one of the Lancaster players fell over, lying injured on

the ground. The game stops for a few minutes as the defence player walks off the pitch. This has been a rocky start for Lancaster, but with no goals yet and plenty of time left, there's still a lot to play for.

Lancaster has a strong defence, but York are relentless. This is a very physically challenging game for Lancaster.

York scored its first goal a few minutes after this, hitting the ball into the top corner of the net. The ball came in at a difficult angle that was hard for the defender to stop. Quickly after, York manages to get into the semi-circle again. But it's very well-defended and Lancaster makes a great save, as all players rush towards the goal to defend it.

The score is still 0-1 to York.

Then, Lancaster takes possession of the ball. They start racing down the pitch and; they pass it to the middle, then to the back right. All the York players rush to it, leaving the goal open. Lancaster shoots it straight. The score is now level, but not for long. York takes the ball again, and shoots it from the right, into the middle, into the goal. The score is now 1-2 to York.

The crowd is very tense and everyone is up on their feet. We have seen two goals in less than five minutes.

In the last few minutes of half-time, Lancaster gets the ball and shoots it into the net...a second after the whistle blows for Lancaster.

Much to the crowd's dismay, the point is not counted and half-time wraps up with York in the lead 1-3.

In the second half of the match, York were playing much safer. An opportunity arises when York's player 11 keeps running with the ball after the whistle has blown. Lancaster takes the shot, and manages to spin the ball into the goal. Minutes later, they try the same trick again. And it works!

Lancaster has levelled the score to 3-3. We're now entering the last quarter of the game. For many of these girls, this will be the last match they ever play as a team; neither team wants the game to end in a draw.

York stops playing it safe and

BY CHARLOTTE AMBROSE (She/Her)

LANCASTER	3
YORK	4

goes on the attack. They get close to the goal but the keeper does a great save. Lancaster also makes a last-ditch attempt; they run to the goal, with the cheering crowd behind them, but it hits the goalpost. It's clear that everyone is getting tense in these final minutes, as York's player 8 gets a yellow card for tackling.

York takes a short corner pass to the right slip, into the middle and then back into net. At the end of a very tense match, the whistle blows with York winning the game with 3-4.

Football 1st

BY EDDIE ATKINSON (He/Him)

Both teams walked out to applause from the gathered support, both the pitch and the sidelines having become treacherously muddy over the course of a long day of sport and rain.

Lancaster won the toss, but it was York who started sharper. This sharpness paid off just six minutes into the tie when they won a free kick about 30 yards from goal; centre back Megan Officer stepped up with the crowd expecting her to whip a long ball into the box, but she had other ideas... she took the Lancaster goalkeeper by surprise, striking the ball firmly and looping it over her head to get York off to a perfect start with a spectacular finish.

A period of Lancaster pressure followed, before the game began to settle slightly. York threatened more, keeping possession and working the ball patiently, but Lancaster's defence held firm, forcing a number of speculative long shots.

Much of the first half played out in a similar manner, with defences on top for both teams and mud slightly disrupting the passage of the ball; York threatened from a number of other set pieces but couldn't replicate the magic of their early goal.

The defensive nature of the game also meant there were a huge amount of very tough tackles flying in, with fouls conceded left and right by both sides, and sections of a firmly Lancaster crowd cheering

every time a York player hit the ground.

Lancaster started the second half strongly, pressing York possession hard and working the ball quickly but purposefully when they won it back. There were brief shouts for a Lancaster penalty as a player was knocked over in the box after heading the ball on to a teammate, but they were waved away by the referee. This was not the only strong challenge in the second half, with a Lancaster player receiving a booking for crunching into a York attacker who had just played a teammate through on goal in the 52nd minute - the referee pulled play back to enter the offender in the book, much to the frustration of the York bench.

Yet for all Lancaster's pressure, it was York who were able to break the stalemate once more in the 60th minute, again from a set piece. A long ball came in from a free kick on the halfway line, which then bounced out to midfielder Eleanor Bland who struck a sweet half volley from about 25 yards out to ripple the back of the net once more and place York firmly in the driving seat of the fixture.

Lancaster pressed hard to get back in the game for the rest of the match, but York's defence was staunch, they sat deeper, opting to leave a single player up and work the ball to her when they won it back, but often they opted simply to clear it. Any stoppages in play were used as opportunities to

LANCASTER	0
YORK	2

huddle and discuss exactly how to keep the Lancaster attackers at bay. Centre back Cameron Shutt put in a particularly strong defensive performance, reliably clearing a number of dangerous balls in quick succession.

The game slowed as York began to sense the approach of the final whistle, at one point briefly taking the ball into the corner before deciding against it, and Lancaster tired. When the ref did call the game to a halt, there were jubilant scenes from the away bench and the first appearance of white rather than red smoke that this reporter has seen at Roses this year.

Basketball

BY JACOB BASSFORD (HE/HIM) AND ANNA MALE (She/Her)

The York team featured the York Sport Union President TJ in the No22 jersey and Vision's own News Editor Hannah Willey in the No 10 vest as they looked to get a big win in front of a noisy home crowd in the stands. Both coaches were constantly rolling on and off the subs, trying to outwit each other throughout the game.

Before the first break, Lancaster raced to a 9-0. York was under intense pressure when on the ball, and the game stopped and started throughout due to collisions and contact. York's tactics were very

much going for the smash-and-grab, but this led to panicking on some of the passes that Lancaster were able to pick off.

After the first break, York's outstanding No.12 and Co-Captain Mia Magraw was making a series of searing breaks from the back, starting a comeback that meant York were only 1 point down as the first quarter hooter sounded. Score 14-13.

In the second quarter, Lancaster's physicality returned, particularly from No. 7 Nileththi Nimsathi Melinda De Silva. Even when free-

shots were given for this, York were not making it count where it was needed, with Lancastrian supporters in the background doing their best to put off the York shooters. Lancaster's strong counterattack in the quarter and some fantastic three pointers lead to a score of 25-14 at the end of the first half.

Indiscipline from the Lancaster side gave York free shots to the net, and they made the most of it. An outstanding three-pointer from no.25 "ET" Espino Tadeo gave York the momentum and the 29-30 lead, to the frenzy of the away

supporters.

Going into the final quarter, the tension was leaching through the crowd and the teams. Despite a temporary regaining of York lead at 37-38, Lancaster went in for the kill and another three-pointer for York was not enough to prevent a 49-44 win for the home team.

Co-Captain Charis Gray said the atmosphere 'really, really energises you', with her pride in her team being echoed by Hannah Willey's comments that it had 'been a good game and [they] played well together'. Gray mentioned her pride in York's comeback, which

Sports Union Officer TJ also spoke to, saying that they had 'something to be proud of'.

TJ was equally proud of her team, and said that having 'York's voice more, if not equal to Lancaster just shows the spirit and community in York is so strong', even at an away Roses.

York can hold their heads high, and played more than their part in a sensational Women's Basketball match. It was unfortunately not their day, and that is sport.

LANCASTER	49
YORK	44

SATURDAY 4 MAY

Hostility at Roses

By **Matty Appleton (He/Him)**

On Saturday afternoon, the Men's footballers took the field in front of one of the largest crowds of the weekend, with a great deal of mutual respect shown towards the York players throughout the fixture. Unfortunately, the same grace did not extend to the officials, who were subject to routine hostility from the home crowd. With such a large number of home supporters, officiating proved to be a daunting and unforgiving task. The hostility of the crowd was particularly directed towards the linesmen, who's proximity to the crowd made them an easy target

for insulting and abusive shouts.

This hostility from the Lancaster crowd did not end at the football, with Vision reporters witnessing aggression, booing and obscene language and gestures across many of the fixtures over the weekend. Most prominent was the intense booing faced by York officials at Sunday evening's closing ceremony, which was described by YUSU Sabbatical Officers Pierrick Roger and Hannah Nimmo as "not very sportsmanlike."

Capacity Confusion

By **KAITLYN BEATTIE-ZARB (She/Her)**

Finding space for the hugely popular matches that dominate Roses is no easy task, and this year was no different. Over the weekend the Lancaster organisers faced consistent issues with capacity in the modern, but narrow, Lancaster Sport Centre. Friday night's opening ceremony started almost an hour late due to the slow manner with which the long line of ticket holders entered the hall, with each barcode needing to be scanned. Security faced many discussions with fans attempting to enter via the VIP entrance, which needed to remain unobstructed for entry by VIPs, event staff and student media.

On Saturday the issues escalated. With strict health and safety regulations limiting the capacity of rooms like the swimming pool - which became known for its exceptional claustrophobia and heat in 2022 - security was present to limit entry. The men and women's basketball finals on Saturday evening saw lines around the building, with many audience members shocked that they were having to save seats over 45 minutes before fixtures started in order to see their friends play. Also problematic was Lancaster Security's failure to account for student media and event staff, who often needed unvetted and flexible access to venues. *York Vision* struggled to get verified 'Priority Access' reporters into the swimming pool on multiple occasions because security had ignored pre-organised crew lists and overfilled spaces with audience members.

The television and radio crews faced similar issues when

they were required to swap out camera operators for tech assistants to fix malfunctions, disrupting the live streams of the competitions. In the face of these ongoing issues, LUSU event staff organised an emergency debrief with security teams ahead of the final day, to ensure that capacity for events would henceforth remain 5 less to ensure flexibility for staff, first aid and student media where necessary. Even still the hostility and confusion presented by security teams throughout the weekend sometimes put a damper on what should have been a fluid and enjoyable weekend for organisers, media, and audiences alike.

A spokesperson of Lancaster Student union shared, "Security staff at the venues had to work to strict capacity limits for spectators in the interests of health and safety and there were some events where there were more spectators than the venue could accommodate. The student media from Lancaster and York did an excellent job of showing as much of the competition on big screens as possible, to help more people see these events."

"As far as media access is concerned LUSU had dedicated staff looking after media and we are pleased any access issues for them were resolved promptly."

Overall the capacity issues were resolved quickly, and we were very glad for the support that LUSU provided throughout the weekend. It is because of the swift work of staff and security that the weekend remained a safe environment for all participants.

BY ANNA MALE (She/Her) AND ALICE PEDERSON (She/Her)

LANCASTER	256
YORK	151

The pool was packed to capacity for the swimming, with people watching from every window to see the York and Lancaster swimmers battle it out. Lancaster drew to the lead, but most races only contained a couple of seconds between the swimmers' time.

The races consisted of two races at once, of the universities' A and B teams. Most races contained an A1, A2 and B1 swimmer, with some having B2 as well.

Lancaster pulled into the lead for the 100m individual medley womens' with their A1 team, whilst the 100m was neck on neck with Lancaster B pulling forward, but Lancaster A1 ultimately having the fastest time.

The races continued to have Lancaster wins, particularly coming out on top in the open 100m breaststroke with wins across their A1, A2 and B1 swimmers in the open.

York won the women's 100m butterfly, with the York A1 swim-

ming pulling to the lead with a time of 1:03:46, with Lancaster coming in a second behind.

Swimmers continued to propel themselves through the water for the 100m, going into the 200m with many Lancaster wins. The open 200m freestyle was a closer race, with the Lancaster A1 and A2 and York A1 neck on neck. Lancaster A2 seemed to be the speediest swimmer, but ultimately the Lancaster A1 swimmer Toby Lowe gained the quickest time, with only .36 seconds between the Lancaster and York A1 swimmers. York won the B1 race, with a difference between swimmers.

The 50m freestyles were particularly speedy with Lancaster A1 swimmer Amelia Hardy achieving a time of 24.34 seconds in the women's race. The open swimmers were more neck on neck at first, after slashing the crowd with their powerful dives, but ultimately A1 Lancaster swimmer Toby Lowe pulled

to the front to win the race.

For the final two races, the women's 4X50m freestyle, and open 4x50m freestyle, the (mostly) red-clad crowd was electric. During the women's 4X50m, Lancaster A1 team pulled into the lead, gaining a final time of 1 minutes 51 seconds, a full four seconds ahead of York's A1 team.

The open 4X50m freestyle saw the Lancaster A1 team storm away, gaining an almost 10m gap on York. The race went to Lancaster, with a 5 second lead on York's A1 team.

Both teams achieved impressive times, with Lancaster swimmer Olivia Sykes commenting she had achieved her personal best on one race. She mentioned the spectators, saying that it was "a really nice environment, really supportive". This environment and support ultimately led to a Lancaster win across the different categories, coming to an aggregate score in Swimming as a whole as 256-151.

Win for York in Inaugural Esports

BY **TOBY CHESHIRE (He/Him)**

LANCASTER	1
YORK	2

Safely inside from the rainy day, esports (competitive video games) held a three game competition. In prior years, esports was held online due to logistics of transporting computers between universities. However, this year the National Student Esports (NSE) stepped in to provide the set-ups needed.

Tech issues marred the start of the League of Legends fixture, as problems caused the display of the game to the crowd to be delayed by over five minutes. Once we were able to get eyes on the game, it wasn't an easy watch for York fans. Lancaster started out with an early domination, decimating the York side. A strong showing from Lancaster's Harazashi ensured York would have a tough time getting into the game, largely off the back of a flurry of multi-kills. The York side were outclassed at every turn and with no sign of relenting, Lancaster pushed York back to their Nexus. Lancaster would put the final nail in the coffin as Ghostface feasts on their opponents, getting an ace and finishing the game. Special thanks to York's American football team, York Centurions, who filled in for York's League team - despite one nursing a concussion from the

previous day's game. Final Score: L39:Y11

Moving to Overwatch 2, expectations were high as teams were estimated to be closest in ability. Lijang Tower begins and expectations are met - first map was fiercely competitive, but York edges past. Next map was a wipeout by Lancaster, with the players in red jeering the opponents. This would come back to bite them, as the next map had York dominating them in return. Next up is King's Row, where one team attacks and the other defends. York got off to a strong start but Lancaster wrestled back control mid-game. A stalwart defence holds until Freakshow's Junker Queen breaks through, and with limited time York pushed it to the end. A change of sides proved difficult for Lancaster initially, however they soon began a steamroll. However, two sequential well timed eliminations of Lancaster's tank halted them. York kept indomitable, and closed out the game, winning the series 2-0. "I think our [communications] are really good" remarked York's JBCOB in a post-game interview, where he also puts the second map win down to "a bit more awareness". Soon began

a cosmetic 3rd map, and with the win in the bag the York team "did a bit of trolling", but put up a close game as Lancaster got it over the line. Final score: Y2:L1

Unfortunately, the event ended with a whimper. A myriad of tech issues delayed the game by over an hour, a restless crowd eagerly awaited. A miscommunication from Lancaster's CS2 representatives and the event organisers led to a forced forfeit for the reds. Brief arguments between said players and organisers ensued, but the teams agreed to play a non-scoring match afterwards, of which Lancaster breezed through the York side. Final score: Lo:Y1. Combined: Y2-L1

York may have won, but the most significant result was the fact this all even happened. In-person esports events are niche, expensive, and logistically difficult - yet thanks to a crew of passionate people, this managed to happen anyway. I hope this can be the first of many to come, as it's events like these that will get people interested and involved - participation begets participation.

SATURDAY 4 MAY

Women's Volleyball

BY ALICE PEDERSON (She/Her) AND CHARLOTTE AMBROSE (She/Her)

In the first set, the game seemed like it was anyone's to play for. Both teams seemed optimistic and excited with Lancaster's first set won by only two points.

The second round was equally fast-paced. Lancaster scored the first point, and York hit the ball out of the court. Lancaster's ball often had a spin on it, sneaking through gaps in York's team right out into the crowd.

The tension seemed to be getting to some of York's players, as those up close to the net misjudged Lancaster's shots and let the ball fall their side of the net. There was frustration amongst the York team as the Lancaster team seemed more collaborative.

One of the longest rallies ended with York winning. Lancaster quickly hit the ball so hard that York couldn't return it. Lancaster was able to smash the ball over into the bottom right corner of York's pitch, which was left undefended.

The differing tactics were interesting to watch: Lancaster knew how to hit it to the back corners

of the York pitch where nobody was playing while York's strength seemed to be with close taps over the net. There were a few consecutive wins from Lancaster as York fumbled with the bigger hits.

But York definitely won in terms of who had the loudest crowd. Despite the large Lancastrian presence, York made a lot of noise. Chants ranged from 'What's your favourite type of tea? (Yorkshire!)' to 'I believe that we will win', encouraging a sense of support that had been missing on York's side in other sports.

Throughout gameplay, York and Lancaster had been playing pretty evenly. The second set was no different, and Lancaster stretched out further into the lead.

In the third set, York's Number 12, began with a great first throw, hitting it so that it came straight at Lancaster with no time to react.

Lancaster looked as if they were losing momentum, with York gaining several consecutive wins with little rally. It might have been the tiredness or the pressure kicking

in.

One of the Lancaster players volleyed the ball over the net. It just skimmed a York girl's hands, going over her. Two York players behind both dove in opposite directions to try for a hit but missed, and ended up blocking it and falling over each other as the ball landed on their side. Lancaster scored another point.

Before we knew it, a swarm of red t-shirts had engulfed Lancaster's team and the York side began their commiseration.

After their win, we spoke with Lancaster's Number 6, Mona Dimitrova, on how she felt immediately following their success. She said: "tired but amazing like this is everything I've ever wanted for the club. As President, I feel like we've had a really tough season, we lost against York twice during the season and we knew that we had to put everything in it. We trained hard, we put on a show and we got it."

LANCASTER	3
YORK	0

Badminton Women's 1st

BY LUCI O'DONNELL (She/Her)

LANCASTER	2
YORK	7

York are significantly ahead from the get go right through to a very intense last game. The women's team really pushed Lancaster to their limits in their final round by keeping everything nice and high.

However, it was interesting to me that Lancaster made the decision to not switch out their teams after each game. Compared to York who seemed to prioritise their teams rest, something that possibly gave York an advantage in the long run. Whether this was down to a lack of team members or choice I do not know but it became increasingly clear as the games progressed that Lancasters team were growing tired. With their performance slipping York put the pressure on.

Lancaster had the same 2 girls playing every game whereas York alternated between multiple sets of doubles allowing their players time to catch their breath. A luxury here Lancaster does not have. Yet this does not take away from the overall performance of the York women's team.

Both teams matched point for point for the majority of the final few games showing fierce competition from both sides. Lancasters

desperation for a win really shines through their play as York sit comfortably on 3 wins (at the time).

This desperation fuelled drive must have paid off as Lancaster won in the tie breaker set. A set that could have potentially secured an overall win for York to gain them 4 points on the roses scoreboard. Although I will say it was pleasing to see so many closely contested points and numerous games won and lost by small margins.

As mentioned there was beautiful gameplay from both sides making it almost entirely impossible to predict which way the games would go and was entirely based on each individual set.

There was a positive atmosphere surrounding the entire afternoon with spectators cheering on their team. Crowds of parents, friends and the random student filled sports hall 1 with their chants and praise. Making it a very enjoyable afternoon - not just for the sport itself.

Yet when the final whistle was blown York came out on top with a very impressive and well deserved 2-7.

Lancaster Darts Tip Roses 2024 Victory

BY MATTY APPLETON (He/Him) AND EDDIE ATKINSON (He/Him)

LANCASTER	5
YORK	4

Having increased largely in popularity in the last year due to the teen sensation Luke Littler, Darts has enjoyed something of a renaissance, the effects of which were felt in the atmosphere on Saturday night. In what was the perfect sport for the last full night of Roses, the darts rounded off an immensely successful weekend for Lancaster, with the narrow 5-4 win officially pushing Lancaster over the 172.5 points required for victory

Amidst an atmosphere reminiscent of a year six disco, the players made their way to the stage, accompanied by their chosen warm up songs. The Average scores ranged from around 40-80, with any scores over or around 100 met with a huge reception from the crowd. The crowd could be characterised by its loud chanting, with the presence of both York and Lancaster supporter's immediately discernible from a series of calls and

responses. Shouts of "Yorkshire" dominated the evening, continuing deep into the night.

Due to Lancaster's dominant performance throughout Saturday, the responsibility fell to Darts to close out the tournament that night. York, however, refused to make it easy for Lancaster, with inspired performances from players such as Reuben 'premium export' Breetveld prolonging Lancaster's wait to be officially crowned Roses champion.

Between the darts matches, which consisted of a best of three legs, the queue for the bar stretched the length of the hall, with the majority of the crowd's rowdiness attributable to the drinking culture that surrounded darts. A few spectators were removed from the venue early into the evening for over-indulging in the celebrations.

The anticipation only grew when Lancaster were announced

to be within grasp of Roses, meaning that Lancaster's triumph in darts would wrap up Roses that evening. The sides remained inseparable throughout the fixture, with players from each side dominating certain matches.

With the scores tied at 4-4, Lancaster's Matt Baker stepped up to the stage, showing composure to close out the match in the very last leg of the fixture, pushing Lancaster over the victory line in the process. The team's celebrations were vast and prolonged, undoubtedly continuing into the early hours of the morning.

After a hard fought victory, Lancaster's darts team epitomised the party-atmosphere from which darts has gained its reputation. In the process, they perfectly wrapped up a dominant Saturday for Lancaster.

Waiting for the Roses Score

BY KAITLYN BEATTIE-ZARB (She/Her)

As is becoming something of a Roses tradition, this year's tournament saw Lancaster win the sporting competition by the 2nd evening. On Saturday night the home team reached the required 172.5 points to technically win Roses, making it mathematically impossible for York to make a Sunday comeback. This moment is always a dramatic one, with student media attempting to announce the news as soon as confirmation is received. This year's announcement was more precarious than most however. During the Women's 1st Volleyball game it became apparent that Lancaster were less than 10 points away from winning. After a netball win, we received reports that crowds in both Netball and Darts were already claiming a Lancaster victory, despite the Roses Live website only displaying 171.5.

Whether this is because LUSU was yet to confirm the results, delayed on updating the netball score or because the calculations did not yet equal a Lanc win, remains up for debate.

What is certain is that student media were ready and waiting with pre-recs, radio commentators, and breaking news articles on standby. So it was off to the pub, or the darts match, to await the final confirmation. During the final for Darts Roses Live was updated with a Lancaster win, giving the home uni the extra point needed to pass the threshold and win Roses, their third win in a row.

The question remains... is there a reason Lancaster continues to win Roses on the Saturday night, a full 24 hours before the end of the competition? Does this continually early win disadvantage and disenfranchise teams playing on Sunday? Does the scheduling need reevaluating? Is the scoring across the first two days disproportionate? If so, the only way to break this pattern of late night announcements might be to reevaluate how the Roses tournament is laid out entirely.

SUNDAY 5 MAY



BY JACOB BASSFORD (He/Him)

LANCASTER	5
YORK	17

Women's Rugby

This was a game with a lot on the line, with a draw in the thirds and a home side victory in the seconds, Lancaster were looking to go unbeaten in women's rugby. The honours went to York as the 1st Women rugby team held onto a 5-17 victory and gave York's last four-pointer of the Roses weekend. The teams ran onto the pitch engulfed in a haze of red and white smoke.

The women's game was a cagey affair, a lot of scrums and a lot of play being kept in the forwards. York went into the game with a tactic to run around Lancaster, pop passes by the forwards and attempts by the vice-captain Sophie Bates and the captain Hollie O'Sullivan were constantly looking to offload the ball out of the tackle. It was a tactic that Lancaster was accustomed to well and defended really well throughout the entire first half. However, the forwards led by the imperious Katie Jackson at openside and the energetic and wriggly number 8 Charlie Norris and controlled super effectively

by scrumhalf Elena Pomarol and Bates at fly half were able to get over the gainline in the first half. In the 16th minute, off a scrum, York went on the attack and a cross field kick from Bates caused havoc for the covering Lancastrian defenders, and the away supporters thought that outside centre Charlie Wooley dotted down but an infringement in the process meant Lancaster were left off the hook.

Exceptional cover defence kept fullback Bailey McIntosh from crossing the whitewash, but eventually York's pressure would eventually lead to points. A whizzing pass from Bates and O'Sullivan had the power to finish for York's first try of the day. This try was unconverted by Bates and the score was 0-5 to the away side.

Despite attempts by Lancaster through the heavy ball carrying of tighthead prop Tahlia Treble to get back into the game, York enjoyed more possession as the first half wore on and got their second try, and again it was the deadly duo of Bates and O'Sullivan as Bates drew

in the defenders and put her captain in for her second, just to the left of the goalposts. This try was converted by Bates and the first half ended 0-12 to York.

Lancaster looked for an answer as the first half drew to a close. This pressure told with York playing dangerously on their own line. Bates rescued a bobbling ball behind her own tryline to make great yards up the pitch, but was turned over, and that led to York haemorrhaging penalties leading to a team yellow card to captain O'Sullivan. Despite being a player up, Lancaster couldn't capitalise before the halftime whistle, 0-12 to York.

After the start of the second half, Lancaster looked to press advantage with York still a woman down for 7 minutes with O'Sullivan in the bin. Buoyed by the impact of replacement back-rower Isabel Bajamo they were able to get into York's 22. And they finally made it count when forward work, typified by the industrious Casey Cutler at number 4 who dotted the ball over the line for Lancaster's first try of

the game after a series of tight carries to the tryline, however this was unconverted.

York tried to get another score to keep the game at arm's length from Lancaster. Although there was a nasty leg injury to York's No.2 Evie Potter and there was a big break in play before being carried off by two of her teammates. There were a couple of other nasty injuries suffered by York in the second half, and one player had to go to the hospital. We hope all injured are doing okay!

Nevertheless, York did not let the breaks in play for injury stop their momentum. A huge break on the right-hand touchline by McIntosh ultimately did not directly lead to a try but there was plenty of momentum still in York's favour. A knock-on close to Lancaster's own tryline proved a killer, as from the resulting scrum York went in for the kill in the phases. Bates again was the maestro, this time it was the other centre Charlie Wooley, denied in the first half, who was on the end of Bates' pass, burrowing

her way over the tryline for York's third try on the 65th minute.

The rest of the second half Lancaster sought to score a try that would see them back in the game but didn't quite have the forward power and composure to match that of York's. York also tried to get another try that would kill the game for good. A ridiculous, Instagram-reel worthy backdoor offload from O'Sullivan led to great interplay down the left-hand touchline but York were unable to capitalise. In the end, York were content keeping Lancaster at arm's length for the rest of the game, and it finished 5-17 to York.

A great game of rugby in front of a noisy spectator's crowd was not quite the attacking try-fest that the warm conditions could have encouraged but was full of physicality and two teams of a high BUCS standard fighting for everything, particularly in the forwards. A high-note for York to end on Sunday evening.

Open 1sts Canoe Polo

LANCASTER	10
YORK	2

Lancaster cruised to victory in the open first fixture, even though York put in a valiant effort and were able to come away with moments to be proud of. York came into the game looking for their first win in the matchup since 2017, a tough ask against a Lancaster team that had finished 11 places above them in the 2023-24 BUCS season.

York did however start off as the stronger side, winning the ball from kick-off and registering the first shot, but Lancaster soon began to show real dominance, scoring fifty seconds into the tie and following this up with a period of sustained pressure. Mistakes for the Lancastrians when passing around the back did give York a

few opportunities to alleviate the pressure, but they were unable to capitalise on them.

Lancaster's period of instability didn't last long; they scored twice more and had another goal disallowed to bring the score to 3-0, capitalising on York throwing more players forward to try and rescue a game they saw slipping away.

York's persistence did eventually pay off as they were able to score in the 9th minute, but any optimism was short lived as Lancaster replied immediately to bring the score to 5-1 in the final play of the half.

The second half began much like the first, with York starting off sharper and getting off a few shots,

but again Lancaster were able to settle and impose themselves on their opposition, scoring 3 minutes into the second period.

York followed this up with their moment of the match, a great looping shot from distance that brought them back within touching distance, but again Lancaster replied quickly and this time conclusively, scoring 5 uninterrupted goals to finish the game 10-2.

Enjoyable incidents from the game included the moment the crowd realised they were very much in the splash zone for the fixture, and a Lancaster player dropping his oar and resorting to paddling himself with his hands to stay involved in an attacking move.

A Taster of Archery...

LANCASTER	0
YORK	1

BY MATTY APPLETON (He/Him)

Amidst a hectic weekend of covering sports, archery proved to be a pleasant change of pace from the intensity of Roses.

Taking place on a rugby pitch far from the main sports centre, the appeal of archery appeared to be in its relaxed nature. Around fifteen archers lined up, aiming at a target, all while being quietly supported by friends and family members. Once all the arrows had been fired, the archers would walk towards the target to inspect their handiwork, complimenting each other on particularly impressive shots.

The crowd were positioned around 10 metres behind the arch-

ers, with the wisest members of the small crowd opting to bring binoculars to catch a better glimpse of the action. Other crowd members opted to bring camping chairs, picnics and blankets to make the event more enjoyable. The crowd were each capitalising on a rare blue sky, being one of the only times in the entire weekend that the clouds parted.

The appeal of attending Archery resided in its relaxed nature. The intensity of a home crowd can often get rather overwhelming, with Archery proving to be a profoundly restful and rejuvenating experience.

SUNDAY 5 MAY

A Taster of Debate...

BY PATRICIE SPERKOVA (She/Her)

For anyone questioning the title, yes, Debate is also a competitive sport at the Roses, and for full 4 points! And rightfully so, as it requires a complete mastery in the art of persuasion to best any opponent.

Imagine the first motion: 'Relativism is the belief that knowledge, truth and morality exist in relation to culture, society, or historical context and are not absolute. THP a world in which everyone holds this belief.' Does it sound like a sport to you already?

In this competition, two motion

types were introduced: THP (This House Prefers) and THBT (This House Believes That). Contestants are given time to prepare after motion announcements, adhering to strict rules like no colluding or internet use. While up to three motions were prepared, if one team secures victories in the first two, further rounds are unnecessary, just as it happened in our case.

During debates, members of the house (anyone included in the Debate) representing various sides, take turns delivering speeches, with interruptions allowed by

raising hands to make a point. Both teams are competing simultaneously, but there is strong emphasis on individual performance.

We asked the judges about the judging criteria. It encompasses believability, impacting, analysis, and argument weighing. Unlike American debating, where you style, this kind of debating is concerned rather with substance, your analysis and linking of arguments, than style. As noted, rhetoric might be enjoyable, but it's the solidity of argumentation that secures victories.

Debating may appear quite terrifying from the outside, but it is not impossible to start at all! "You can compete right away, I feel like, generally, the debating community in the UK but also in Europe and worldwide, is really welcoming. I started 3 years ago and my first competition just felt like a community already, like something where you really can build that community straight away, and also kind of get good at it as you go."

There is even no requirement for being encyclopaedic in such fields. "Judges expect you to act like

an 'Average Global Citizen' - someone who is generally informed but doesn't know all the details of different fields, so are not expected to have any specialist knowledge." "So, it is more just about making those arguments as convincing as possible, and argumentation is as sound as possible so you can really make a certain impact."

In terms of past results, York and Lancaster have each won several times, with Lancaster securing its 6th victory compared to York's 5 in Roses history. We are therefore quite even!

LANCASTER	2
YORK	0

A Taster of Dance...

BY CHARLOTTE AMBROSE (She/Her)

Contemporary, lyrical, street, tap, ballet...we saw it all at this year's Roses dance competition!

There were no scheduled breaks, but there were small delays for costume changes. Most dancers performed more than one routine, having just minutes to change and mentally prepare before their next one.

The dancers performed in front

of three judges: Jane Lucas, Julia Thomson and Jillian Perkinson (check names).

York's advanced contemporary routine was particularly impressive, given that the women performed this very exhausting and dynamic routine while wearing three-piece suits.

Props were also used to tell a story through dance. For instance,

the Lancaster inter-ballet routine included delicate red fans and in York's advanced tap dance, rightly named 'Money Heist', the dancers wore the TV show's signature masks.

One thing I found surprising was that both teams used songs from the 2023 Barbie film. Lancaster's dance to 'What was I made for?' was particularly moving (and

impressive, given that it was done in heels).

It was the final street dance that really caught the audience's attention. Lancaster's 'Blue Bombers' routine brought a new energy to the floor. Their routine was sharp, snappy and just generally enjoyable to watch.

York's street routine 'Pink Print' definitely took a more sassy route,

but was still fun to watch.

York finished the event winning 4 points compared to Lancaster's 1, bumping York's Roses tally by 4.

LANCASTER	1
YORK	4

A Taster of Ballroom...

BY CHARLOTTE AMBROSE (She/Her)

Ballroom dance is a bit different from the other Roses sports. When the dancing starts, the cheering stops, the signs go down and the whole room watches in awe...

In the Grand Hall, many different dance styles were on show, including the Mayfair Quickstep and the Viennese Waltz. The danc-

ers twirled their way around the dancefloor while competing in these various styles.

At the start, the dancers were split into smaller groups to perform the set routines but as the competition progressed, we saw fewer and fewer dancers on the stage.

First up was the Mayfair quick-

step. There were so many performers that the music had to be played three times, with approximately 14 couples performing at once. What was good about that was that if you really enjoyed the dance, you got to watch it again!

The Open Tango was another crowd favourite. Due to its fast-

paced nature, there were a few collisions between dancers, but these were speedily resolved with all the grace that you would expect from professionals.

The song choice also appeared to be at random. Dancers knew the steps, but they had no clue what the song would be. They just had

to have trust in their partner and remember their counts.

Most importantly, you could tell they were all having fun. Moving forward in the competition meant performing the routine again in smaller groups, allowing the dancers to take to the floor and do what they loved.

LANCASTER	5
YORK	0

SUNDAY 5 MAY

MMA Cancelled

BY JACOB BASSFORD (He/Him) AND
MORGAN GROVE (She/Her)

York's MMA club were left furious after the Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Open fixture on Sunday against Lancaster was cancelled for safety reasons. The home university had failed to organise medical coverage for the event.

This fixture, whilst not worth any points towards the Roses total, was a big chance for the MMA team from York to represent their uni. York had lost this fixture in 2023 and a spokesperson from York's MMA club told Vision about the anger felt as a result of this last minute cancellation: "The whole team put a lot of preparation into this event.

"The importance of Lancaster to not provide the one thing which is absolutely necessary for hosting a combat sports event is astonishing. They had weeks, months to organise this and failed to tell us about not having a doctor/ambulance the night before! I personally had already got on the bus to go to Lancaster when I got the call. They have said they were going to refund us but that's beyond the point. All of us have put massive effort into training and for them to be so disorganised is frankly despicable."

Further fury was caused when the Lancaster Uni Brazilian Jiu Jitsu posted on their Instagram story that "York have pulled out", which suggested that York were at fault for the fixture not going ahead. The York MMA club spokesperson told Vision, "The audacity to post a story saying we 'pulled out' as if we're [at fault] is also disgusting."

A representative of Lancaster SU commented, "We can only apologise to the York team and assure them we are investigating why this happened."

Netball 2nds

LANCASTER	35
YORK	48

BY Kaitlyn Beattie-Zarb (She/Her)

This was the final fixture for Roses 2024. The first quarter saw a pretty slow start. As the watching home crowd got more nervous, their energy became more hostile towards the York team. Heading into the final quarter, the score was 28-36. But ultimately Lancaster's ferocious efforts weren't enough, as York style sored into first place with a large 35-48 lead, winning them the final match of Roses 2024 Roses, but not, unfortunately, the whole tournament.

Men's 1st Rugby

LANCASTER	47
YORK	14

Over 130 fixtures over the weekend, lots of match reporting, photos, and not so much sleep all came down to the final fixture of the day outside (with Netball Seconds having the honour of finishing the indoor day action). There was not anything points wise to play for, Lancaster already had a hefty deficit over York by the time the men's rugby teams took to the main pitch in front of a packed out crowd, but there was still plenty to play for.

One of the bright notes of an otherwise disastrous home Roses for York in 2023 was the complete whitewash in rugby union in both the men's and women's. This was a sour note that Lancaster wanted desperately to correct and York just as desperately wanted to hold onto. This meant the match was certainly cagey in the first quarter, as Lancaster enjoyed more possession. Lineout inaccuracy and a wobbly scrum, which just couldn't handle the 6 foot 7 frame of Watkin (double check name), meant York were unable to string together a considerable number of phases. Lancaster on the other hand, was very clinical and despite York keeping the maul at bay, and the tighthead prop was just not going to be stopped from five metres out,

which was duly converted by fly-half [name]. Just three minutes later, from another rolling maul, the flyhalf whizzed the ball outside to number 15 [name] who dummied and dotted the ball down under the sticks. [Flyhalf] easily converted at Lancaster had got to a quick 14-0 lead to jubilation from the home support and rowdy 'ultras' (players from Lancaster's seconds and thirds) on the other side of the pitch.

However, Lancastrian complacency let York back into the game in the first half. From a scrum inside the 22, the attempted box-kick from [Lancaster Number 9] was charged down by his opposite number [name] and he dotted to give York a try which was unconverted from the fullback. Lancaster were not going to let momentum slide, and a rolling maul from five metres out gave [tighthead prop] his second try of the game, and it was converted for a 21-7 lead.

The lineout, which had been stuttering for York, had finally started to click, and for the first time in the game they were able to pull together some phases. Despite Lancastrian attempts to cause mayhem at the breakdown, Captain No.8 Dylan Jamni (who led his

team from the front all day and often rescued a reversing scrum with crucial carries) burst his way over the tryline for a converted score at 21-12. Lancaster responded back just as quickly with the fullback powering his way over the line, it suspiciously looked like double movement yet the officials were happy and another conversion set the score at 28-12 and the half-time whistle soon followed with a 16 point mountain for York to climb.

The second half started off with a lot of stop and starts, and not brilliant rugby from either side. Even with a yellow card to Lancaster's Cypriot international (yes this is apparently true) for starting a scrap. York were never able to make the extra man count and were guilty of overplaying on the halfway line in a desperate attempt to exploit the one man advantage.

As soon as [player's] sin-bin finished Lancaster went into fourth gear and York never got another sniff in the game. York had an opportunity to get a third try but a loose ball and a pick-up from Lancaster meant they marched up the field and never looked back. With the pressure building, an inside ball from replacement scrumhalf and York's defence parted like the

BY JACOB BASSFORD (He/Him)

Red Sea as the fullback Cook went over for his second. This was the opening of the floodgates in the last five minutes. York's flyhalf Chesworth tried a speculative up-and-under that was calmly collected by Lancaster's left wing Dan Hope. Instead of calling for the mark, he neatly slipped the ball out to no.21 on the wrap-around and Lancaster burst up the field again. A few phases later and no.22 barnstormed his way over the line for a converted score. By this point, York were completely out on their feet and Lancaster's flyhalf danced inside a tired forward to make a break down the middle and made a pearl of pass to Dan Hope on the wing to score.

York were unable to get any consolation scores in the final plays of the game and the match finished 47-12 as the victorious players were swamped by red-flares and Lancastrian pitch invaders. Throughout the game, York suffered from a dysfunctional set piece in the lineout and being destroyed in the scrum and had no platform to counter Lancaster with and the home side were able to finish Roses with a rout of their own in the rugby.

Women's 1st Lacrosse

LANCASTER	8
YORK	12

BY MATTY APPLETON (He/Him)

In front of a small, yet knowledgeable, Sunday morning crowd, the women's lacrosse teams began to warm up. Lancaster's warm up consisted mainly of shooting drills, with York choosing to focus on passing. Once the fixture had begun, Lancaster's shooting practice paid dividends, with Lancaster midfielder Mia Scarbrough opening the scoring. Maya Roberts of Lancaster, who would go on to have a brilliant game, doubled Lancaster's lead early in the first quarter.

Slightly against the run of the play, York managed to claw back a point when attacker Lara Dalton beat three players and pushed the ball into the back of the net. The

accuracy of each pass was an astonishing part of this fixture, with the players catching 40 yard passes with ease. This made for an extremely fast-paced, aggressive fixture, which was constantly up and down the field.

When play resumed after a break between quarters, the intensity of play continued, with York levelling the scores before taking a swift lead. The two sides retreated to the sidelines for half time with York leading 3-5, showcasing a dominant end to the second quarter spearheaded by Lara Dalton.

York continued to assert their dominance deep into the third quarter, with Katie Hewetson scoring a well worked team goal

to extend the lead to 3-7. This lead would extend by two more points before Lancaster could respond, by this point the game was already gone. Although York's offence outclassed Lancaster's, it was in the defence that York particularly looked superior, with goal keeper Kathryn Halstead making some crucial stops to prevent Lancaster's fight back.

It took a moment of individual brilliance, turning out to be undoubtedly the goal of the match, to restore Lancaster's confidence in front of the net, with centre Mathilde Birch intercepting the ball at the halfway line, beating a number of players, all before sliding the ball into the back of the net. This mo-

ment inspired a slight back from Lancaster, with Maya Roberts and Gabbie Freeman scoring goals in quick succession to capitalise on York's lacklustre 4th quarter performance, moving the scores to 7-9.

In the end, this late fight back proved futile, York capitalised on late defensive errors by Lancaster to close out the game at 8-12. One touching sentiment was the presence of handshakes between the two sides at full time, a gesture of amiability and respect between the two sides in what was an intense, hard fought fixture.

PHOTO GALLERY



INTERVIEWS

“We Need to Install the Fire Back in York” York Sport President TJ reacts to Roses

BY JACOB BASSFORD (He/Him)

Vision spoke to York Sport Union President Tanisha Jain (TJ) after the final Roses fixture ended in a tough day at the office for York Men’s 1st Rugby team to get her concluding thoughts on the Roses weekend, where York lost by 217.5-126.6. TJ’s voice was hoarse from three days of shouting from the sidelines but was still more than happy to give Vision an interview as everyone packed up to go home.

What are your concluding thoughts on the weekend, it’s been long, it’s been tough, everyone is either ready to go out or go home, can you give a

summary of your thoughts on Roses 2024 for Vision?

“I mean it’s been a great weekend of sport, I think that’s what Roses is about, about competition, about bringing two universities together. It’s been a great weekend, I am very tired. Disappointing loss for the men’s rugby but I’m very hopeful for next year I’m gonna turn it around and hopefully next year Roses will be white.”

We can’t beat around the bush, it is the third Roses defeat in a row, what needs to be done next year to really change things around?

“I’m not going to lie, I think we’ve just been [too] nice, at Sport at York we’re about being nice, we’ve got everyone to feel included, I agree with that, we need everyone to be included. [But] it’s also about competition, things like Roses we need to instil the fire back into York. [Roses] is the most important [sporting] event of the year. The fact that this is the biggest Varsity in Europe, we have to take it more seriously than what we have done currently.”

TJ’s comments will be met with agreeing nods from a lot of the University’s sports teams. There is definitely a sense that whilst at too many

occasions behaviour was over the line, Lancaster created an intimidating atmosphere. At times you just cannot deal with that pressure, especially as Roses is the only time that a lot of our university teams will be playing in front of large crowds this year. Nonetheless, there is a lot more that needs to be done, and not just short-term planning but also in the long term as well. The gap in funding between the two Universities for sport is simply too big at the moment. If York is to win a Roses in the foreseeable future then simply put the University of York needs to start caring about its sports teams. We

can make home Roses as hostile as we like, but playing Europe’s biggest intervarsity event on a public recreational ground and not having full access to the York Sports Village are just two obstacles which will make Lancaster’s advantage unobtainable for some years to come. But perhaps TJ’s comments are right, if we start to make our crowds hostile, and get more York students to care about Roses, that might be the push that’s needed for some genuine investment to go into our sports teams.

Banner-Making, Nightline and Eco Swap

The Lancaster Societies at Roses

BY GEORGE HOWARTH (He/Him)

Amongst all the action and rivalry at Roses, three Lancaster student groups pitched their society to the crowds that came and went throughout the weekend.

The first I visited was Crafts-oc, run by Sof and Sofia, who approached LUSU (YUSU’s equivalent in Lancaster) as they were looking for students to contribute to the competition’s atmosphere. Usually, they run biweekly craft events like painting and crocheting, but in true spirit of the Roses rivalry, they set up a stall with cardboard, stencils and marker pens for fans to make banners and signs to support their team.

Notably, the stall is targeted more toward Lancaster students, but Sof said “I think most of [the signs] have been quite nice actually,

[...] everyone kind of focuses more on how to support their own team rather than bringing down the other side”. Sofia added, “they don’t mind that we only have red pens.”

Next was Nightline, a confidential, non-judgmental support service run by students. Some volunteers explained that it was really important for everyone to feel supported at Roses, with emotions running high and a busy environment for everyone. This stands in the context of York’s own Nightline service beclosed down last year after YUSU chose not to re-ratify the project following substantial concerns relating to the practical and emotional impact of it on both it’s volunteers and York Nightline’s users”

Finally, there was the Eco Swap Shop, which was a stand that

allowed students to donate clothes and swap them for something else. Students could also buy second-hand items if they didn’t have anything to give for a small charge starting at £1. Asha and Muneebah, who were running the stall, said that they had been very busy, particularly on Friday, and that they were glad they had stopped clothes going to waste.



A TASTER OF...

A Taster of Powerlifting...

BY CHARLOTTE AMBROSE (She/Her) AND ALICE PEDERSEN (She/ Her)

Being first-timers to watching powerlifting, the initial scoring system provided some much-needed context for us.

Each athlete is sorted into their weight category. Each athlete does nine different lifts: three squats, three benches, and three deadlifts. Each successful lift is added to the total score, and there will be a total overall winner relative to the lifter's weight and the weight they managed to lift. A person stands behind them, and then two people are on either side, watching the weights. If anyone starts to lift slanted or unevenly, the watcher steps in.

Despite being an individual sport, the atmosphere from both competitions and the crowd felt communal, with cheering and celebration coming from the crowd.

The women competitors go first. They can all do the first lift well, even though some approach the bar nervously before attempting it. Some tremble around their mouths; others go red in the face. Some squat slowly and measuredly; while others do it quickly. Everyone reacts differently under the pressure.

Often, getting down into the

squat is the easy bit. It's during the coming-up part that the atmosphere becomes tense. The crowd watches as their legs tremble, and they take a final deep breath.

As the weights get heavier, some of the competitors begin to struggle, even though they still seem to maintain composure for their holds and squats.

There are many ways that a squat can be unsuccessful. For example, it's a no-lift if the person starts to squat before the watcher yells 'squat' because part of the challenge is to hold the weight before squatting. It is also deemed unsuccessful if the squat isn't deep enough.

Despite the red and white branded across campus which allows for clearly distinguishable loyalties, the use of red and white flags in powerlifting continued to baffle us, as they neither seemed to represent the University of the competitors nor whether their lifts were successful.

It was a slightly confused scoring system which made it hard to follow but it was still entertaining to watch.

A Taster of Korfball... A Massive win for Lancaster

BY CHARLOTTE AMBROSE (She/Her)

Korfball is a very fast-paced game which is condensed into two 30-minute segments, where points rattled up quickly (for one team at least!). There are eight players per team, with four on defence and four on attack.

It's played a little like basketball and a little like netball, only with a big yellow net. You can't move with the ball but you can shoot from behind the net.

The game was played at both ends of the court, nothing much

took place in the middle. The game is played mixed, but girls mark girls and boys mark boys.

Within the first minute, Lancaster scored their first point and York took a tumble.

Lancaster maintained a strong defence throughout, making it hard for York to pass without being intercepted. At the end, York was lacking in confidence, passing too much to try to retain possession. This gave Lancaster plenty of opportunities to get intercepts, and

they took many of them.

In the first ten minutes, the score was 5:1 to Lancaster, and by the end, it was 40:4 to Lancaster, a resounding victory for the home side.

Lancaster got braver with their shots, making for a few more nervous goals and York kept passing too close to the goal making for more interceptions, and that unfortunately was the story of the match. Better luck next time York!

A Taster of Women's Pool...

BY MATTY APPLETON (He/Him), EDDIE ATKINSON (He/Him), MORGAN GROVE (She/Her)

To many people, the appeal of pool is in its simplicity and sociability, with most pubs owning or having access to a pool table. Thankfully, this event retained the 'Pub-feel' in its charm and social appeal, with DJ's, drinking and chanting from the crowd, all while maintaining a sense of amicability and respect between the two sides.

The event began with the dimming of lights, as a DJ announced each players' name, and respective nicknames, to either cheers or boos from the crowd. To York's dismay, this only enlivened the crowd more, with the positioning of the two tables in the centre of the room only adding to the intimidating nature of the environment for the

travelling players. When the lights again rose, the pool was ready to begin, with the potting of each ball met with an audible cheer from the crowd.

In the four matches we witnessed, Lancaster's women dominated. The event operated in a best of three format, meaning that games were often decided by tie breaking shots. In one fixture between Lancaster's Jay Crattage and York's Sophie Coombes, the game was decided by the last ball, with Lancaster triumphing in the frame. Unable to silence the home crowd, York were dominated by Lancaster throughout the evening. The environment never turned hostile however, it instead championed

the sociability of the sport while remaining perennially competitive.

The event itself epitomised the appeal of pool to the average spectator or player, the organisation of the event, and even the venue itself, allowed a large crowd to enjoy competitive play, predictable music and a few drinks late into the evening. The officials themselves even indulged in the odd dance or sing-a-long. For a sport on the opening evening of Roses, it perfectly epitomised the competitive spirit of both sides, while being a perhaps rare example of the amicability and mutual respect from both sides.

A Taster of Octopush... A Sport York Does Well!

BY EDDIE ATKINSON (He/Him)

I stepped into the venue for Underwater Hockey with little idea of what to expect. I knew what hockey was, and I knew what the concept of underwater was, but I wasn't really sure I understood how they'd combine. I stepped out at the end still not exactly clear on what had happened, but with great respect for a sport that calls on unbelievable physical exertion.

My disorientation wasn't helped by the arrival of the players in full gear: snorkels, flippers, water polo caps and stubby hockey sticks attached to a singular glove. It also became clear that, because it's very

difficult to hear referee calls under water, it was someone's job to dip a large metal pole in the water and whack it with a stick to tell people what was happening, in an action I fear can only be described as binging it!

The game itself largely takes place on the floor of the pool, which made following the action occasionally difficult as a spectator. Mostly what we were able to see was a scrum of bodies with players occasionally coming up for air before diving back down, their flippers arcing gracefully like the flicking of a dolphin's tail.

As a sporting venture Octopush is far from silly however, originally invented as a fitness exercise for sub-aqua divers, it can become highly physical and players must be able to hold their breath for extended periods of time. I would thoroughly recommend it to anyone looking to stay fit while wearing flippers. And what's more it was a fantastic result for York, winning 3-10 for a big four points on Friday afternoon. What a start to the weekend.



YORK VISION ROSES



BALLROOM DANCE	SAILING	KORFBALL	FOOTBALL
FENCING	SWIMMING	WATER POLO	GOLF
BASKETBALL	CANOE POLO	RUGBY UNION	DEBATING
TENNIS	OCTOPUSH	HOCKEY	POLE FITNESS

The 16 words above can be sorted into 4 groups of 4 words, can you sort them correctly?

