

Dylan Clunie's Manifesto



Hi, my name is Dylan (they/he), for the last 5 years I have had the good fortune to have been involved with the football club, and more recently, the futsal club. I have held a range of positions on the committee, including kit rep, treasurer, and development squad coach. I have been playing football for longer than I can remember, as soon as I was capable of standing upright my dad had me out running around kicking a ball. I am a level 1.2 coach and soon to be a qualified referee too! I have held various positions on the football committee, including kit rep, development

squad coach and treasurer. In addition, I have spent the last year as the Athletic Union Treasurer, a role that I have learned so much from and gotten to know some lovely people.

My main goal is to get as much sport as possible running as quickly and as safely as feasible, I know that I've missed being able to play sport! I also want to help make the AU an even more inclusive place for students of all experiences and abilities. In the creation of my manifesto, I spoke to students from other sports clubs, along with friends that didn't play sport, and Saints Sport staff to gather a range of opinions and viewpoints.

Membership Restructure

Through my position as Athletic Union treasurer this year, I have been involved in the Membership Restructure project, working towards making Saints Sport and club membership prices more transparent, fairer, and easier to understand, and making financial support for sports clubs more equitable and consistent. This has been a big undertaking and it is important that the launch of the new structure goes well, as I have been part of this project throughout its development, I would love to be able to help the rollout go smoothly and iron out any issues that may arise, plus seeing the benefits it brings would make the hard work that went into it worth it.

Developing disability sport

Upon speaking to some students at the sports fayre and others since, I think it would be beneficial to work with sports clubs, Scottish Disability Sport and the Disabled Students Network to widen access to sport for disabled participants. This could be via working together to introduce disability-friendly sports sessions, making clubs aware of ways they can adapt sessions to be more inclusive, and finding ways to help clubs finance any more specialist equipment needed for inclusive sessions. Having these

discussions and introducing these sessions would show ways that Saints Sport can improve their accessibility to students that may not otherwise be involved with sport.

Additional intramural and recreational sport

Having spoken to friends who don't play any sports to learn why they're not involved, I saw that aside from the expected answers of not having the time to commit, or preferring to exercise by themselves, there were also answers of not feeling they were good enough to join a club or team or only wanting to play with friends. I would love to bring back the hall sport, as I remember it was a great beginner friendly way to get active, try new sports, and meet new people. These sessions could be run alongside the existing Saturday Sport sessions to give students that wish to be involved and active but like playing a range of sports in a more casual atmosphere the chance to do so. I would work alongside the Sport Participation, Events, and Media officers to drum up interest and publicise the sessions.

In high school the various sports teams we had would sometimes get together for intramural sport, as a way to get to know the other students and clubs and play a sport they weren't familiar with. I would like to try and introduce something similar here, setting up matches and sessions between interested sports clubs, with the potential to develop it into a tournament-style competition if desired.

Growing community links

As someone who grew up playing grassroots sport when I was younger, and continues to play and coach community football today, fostering and building good community links is very important to me. We have such a wide range of sports on offer here and it would be incredible if I could work with sports club leaders and local communities to help bring a wider range of sports opportunities to children (and potentially adults) in and around St Andrews. This could be via taster sessions for school children, or even helping set up clubs in the area if a sport has enough interest. Junior Saints runs sport holiday camps and weekly sports sessions so I would work with staff and volunteers involved with them to set up sessions to learn how best to introduce other sports to the set up.

Club relations and development

Over the past few years, the AU has made great progress in being more open to discussion and suggestions from clubs and highlighting the good things that have been going on in sports clubs. I put great value in this and would love to see it continue to grow. While doing the Saints Leaders programme one of the most valuable and interesting parts to me was the discussions we had with students from other clubs to talk about ways they approached and tackled issues, what they felt was going well in their club and what they thought could be improved. It showed wider perspectives and allowed the easy and open sharing of knowledge and working together to come up

with potential solutions to problems. I would like to continue the previously installed committee forums to help facilitate these discussions beyond sitting chatting around Saints Leaders tables.

Thank you for reading my manifesto, I hope I have shown through my experience and ideas that I should be your next Athletic Union President. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions. I want to create an AU that is open and accessible to all and always looking to grow and improve.