

Student Cup Finals 2012-13

UEA Sportspark in Norwich played host to two-days of enthralling competition that saw Northumbria University confirm their status as the top University in the country for Volleyball being crowned double Student Cup 2013 Champions!

Both the Men's and the Women's Team took the title's for the first time with the Women's team taking the final 2-0 (25-16, 25-15) overcoming strong competition from the University London Union. The men's team faced last year's runners-up in their final edging out Bournemouth University 2-0 (25-16, 25-15) after both teams had qualified to that stage without losing a set.

Both games were played in a competitive spirit and were a shining example of student volleyball. A special mention should go to University London Union and Bournemouth University for their valiant efforts and for making the finals a great spectacle.

The two winning teams had an impressive record reaching the final, throughout the two days neither side dropped a set against their opposition in either the pool or knock out stages showing what a strong caliber of players the university has.

The Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards also went to the players from the winning University. Whitney Phillips scooped the award in the women's competition, with Kieran Sowden claiming the award for the men.

The event saw 32 of the top University and College teams from across the country battle it out for the title. As is tradition, the men's and women's Irish Varsity winners were invited to take part – Queen's University Belfast representing the men and University College Dublin representing the women.

Day 1

After a very competitive first day of competition Bournemouth qualified fairly comfortably from Men's Pool A having not conceded more than 18 points per game in the process. In pool B, Loughborough University qualified as the top team edging out Southampton University. LEAF Academy topped pool C in their first time of playing in the competition. Northumbria University ran out victorious in Pool D, with the University of Warwick qualifying in 2nd place.

Last years winners and this years top seeds University of London Union emerged as winners of women's pool A. Loughborough University were the victors of pool B with University College Dublin progressing as runners up after a close fought battle for 2nd place in the pool. Northumbria University eased to top spot in pool C, with Sussex University also progressing to the top 8 knockout phase following a good showing last year. Durham University and last years runners-up Cambridge University progressed from pool D.

Day 2

Day 2 started where day 1 left off; with the battle for the highest possible placing ensuring a high level of intensity was maintained. Loughborough University vs Warwick University was the pick of the men's quarter finals with Loughborough coming out on top in a close match 2-0 (25-22, 25-23). In the other quarter finals Bournemouth beat University of East London, LEAF Academy edged out Durham University and Northumbria University booked their place in the Semi Finals with a win over Southampton University.

The pick of the women's quarter finals was the match between University London Union and Sussex University. Sussex University started strongly, winning the first set to 20. Last years winners ULU regrouped and managed to win a close 2nd set to 17. ULU then showed their class in the 3rd set taking it to 9 points. In the other semi finals Loughborough University edged past last years runners-up Cambridge in a close fought match, whilst Northumbria University and Durham University eased past Bournemouth University and University College Dublin respectively.

The men's semi finals were contested between Bournemouth / Loughborough University and LEAF Academy / Northumbria. Both matches proved to be highly entertaining. Loughborough University pushed Bournemouth all the way, eventually losing 2-0 (25-23, 25-22). In the other semi final, Northumbria demonstrated that they meant business by beating LEAF Academy 2-0 (25-16, 25-15) in a match which exhibited some of the best volleyball the competition had seen from both sides. LEAF Academy backed up their strong play in this match with a focused performance in the men's 3rd / 4th playoff which they won 2-0 (25-21, 25-11).

In the women's semi finals, Northumbria and ULU proved too strong for Durham and Loughborough University respectively. Durham University eased to victory in the women's 3rd / 4th playoff in a match that seemed to be one too many for Loughborough. The Final saw Northumbria demonstrate a master class against a very strong ULU side. Last years winners simply didn't have an answer for the strength of play of the Northumbria side which was lead to victory by MVP Whitney Phillips whose dominant all round play set her and her team apart.

The men's final followed, with Bournemouth taking on Northumbria. Just like the women's final, it was a close fought match. Northumbria University's hitting firepower proved a little bit too strong for Bournemouth to handle. Northumbria's Setter and MVP Kieran Sowden did a magnificent job of providing the Northumbria's hitters with the right ball at the right time and proved why he is one of the best young setters in the country. Following the performance Bournemouth should hold their heads up high, this is the second time in a row that they had reached the Final and is testament to the development that is going on in the area. The Team was full of young players, who will be back next year looking to go one better.

The final words and congratulations should be saved for the Northumbria University teams, who dominated all weekend on their way to being crowned double Student Cup Champions. No doubt they will cherish this achievement and will be looking to use it as a building block to winning more titles this year and defending their titles next year.

Final Standings

Men

- 1st Northumbria University
- 2nd Bournemouth University
- 3rd Leaf Academy
- 4th Loughborough University
- 5th Warwick University
- 6th Southampton University
- 7th Durham University
- 8th University of East London
- 9th Queen's University Belfast
- 10th King's College London
- 11th Oxford University B
- 12th Brunel University
- 13th Exeter University
- 14th Cardiff University
- 15th Leicester University
- 16th Oxford University A

Women

- 1st Northumbria University
- 2nd University London Union
- 3rd Durham University
- 4th Loughborough University
- 5th Cambridge University
- 6th Bournemouth University
- 7th Sussex University
- 8th University College Dublin
- 9th Oxford University
- 10th University College London
- 11th Middlesex University
- 12th University of York
- 13th University of Bristol
- 14th Leicester University
- 15th Solent University
- 16th Southampton University