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Wanna snog? The science behind an everyday kiss might put you off



LGBTQ Issue: Love is Love

'It won't be cool in Hell': Maths lecturer sparks controversy

Lucy Connolly

A University lecturer has sparked controversy after claiming that those who do not follow Jesus will go to hell.

Charles Read, a Professor of Pure Mathematics at Leeds, has used his online university webpage to talk about his conversion to Christianity.

He ends his testimony by stating, 'I strongly urge you to seek the truth as a researcher, not trusting anyone else to do your basic investigations for you. That's right, Jesus is the Way. But you have to find that out for yourself. For those who seek find, but those who can't be bothered, or who think they're too cool, end in a very dark place. It won't be cool in Hell.'

The Maths lecturer is well known for his work in functional analysis, and has published many mathematical papers. His webpage states he is a 'born-again Christian first, all other things afterwards.'

A third-year Maths student told *The Gryphon*, 'I don't think his university webpage should be showing his personal opinions about faith and religion as it doesn't have anything to do with someone's ability to learn maths.'

He goes on to make more controversial claims, saying, 'There is just one faith which really takes sin and forgiveness fully seriously, and that is Christianity'. He adds, 'I reckon the salvation of the awful, grotty inhabitants of Planet Moron is very urgent.'

It is believed the web page has been online for around five years without complaint.

Professor Read also describes an encounter with Christian healing, claiming to have witnessed the healing of a girl from a sporting injury:

'At this point I felt the whole upper half of my body become hot. Hot hot, a sort of dry heat, but very real and noticeable... the young lady was instantly healed. She described it as feeling water like, running away. She asked me, "who

are you?"; and I, still slightly in shock, replied, 'I'm nobody in particular'.

In a statement, a University spokesperson said, 'As an institution, we are committed to promoting and encouraging freedom of expression and, as such, we tolerate a wide range of views. Many of our academics use personal web pages housed within the University's site not only to expand on academic matters but also to express ideas and opinions relating to their own personal interests'.

'The University publishes guidelines for staff relating to use of web pages and other social media. These are reviewed on a regular basis and changes introduced as necessary'.

Charles Read previously studied at Cambridge University, where he completed a PhD.

The Gryphon contacted Professor Read but he was unable to provide a comment at this time.



13 02 15

Weather

		HI	LO
Friday	rainy	7	5
Saturday	rainy	8	4
Sunday	foggy	8	4

Quote of the Week

We learned a lot from you by seeing which questions weren't answered.

-Sallying forth on Mumsnet

Harriet Harman's bad week continued when she got a bashing on a Mumsnet forum chat. Internet warriors 1, Labour 0.

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Credits

Editor-In-Chief - Jasmine Andersson

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Features - Ruby Lott-Lavinga, Brigitte Phillips

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Science - Alice Hargreaves-Jones and Michael Öwen

Sport - Adam LeRoux, Peter White, Alex Bowmer

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Editor's Letter

The murders at Chapel Hill are devastating, but the causes might be closer to home than we think

Earlier this week, three Muslim students were shot dead in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. If, as seems likely, this attack was motivated purely by anti-Islamic hatred then there are serious issues to be raised. It can be easy to dismiss the perpetrators of such attacks as deranged psychopaths, but just as almost 15% of the UK population have been influenced to vote for UKIP in the upcoming election, we must accept that societal and cultural factors are responsible the way we behave and the things we think and do. In this, our media outlets and politicians play a hugely significant role. Day after day journalists and politicians clumsily interchange 'Islamist' with 'extremist', 'terrorist' and 'fundamentalist' and this has a profound effect. Certain ideas are perpetuated on a massive scale and whilst it could not be clearer to well educated students that there are differences between extremists and the majority of Muslims this truth is not always a distinct one. As a result of the information presented to them, some sections of our

society only see the 'evil' in Islam. In a 2010 poll, 58% of Brits linked Islam directly with 'extremism'. This shows, quite simply, the power and influence of the media and in a period of mis-representation of Islam it is clear that individuals can be influenced to such an extent that they can attack, and even kill, out of such hatred. Many do understand that to be an 'Islamist' is not to be an 'extremist', yet the mass media, consciously or not, pumps a fearful message with a lack of clarity into our living rooms, ears and brains on a daily basis. The distinction between the many and the few is consequently blurred and this sloppy and dangerous oversight fuels confusion, misunderstanding and fear. In only the most extreme cases, this process ends in the tragic deaths of three innocent students but every day, anti-Muslim hate crimes occur in our country. 570 hate crimes against Muslims were recorded in London over a twelve month period to October 2014.

If the brutal murder of three innocent Muslims across the Atlantic isn't enough to shock us into change then that should be. Yet it doesn't, and whilst there's no quick and simple solution, if things don't change soon, we might just have a Chapel Hill of our own to regret. Let's hope it doesn't come to that.

Jamie Taylor
News Associate

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RAG winter event raises 11k for charity



Elli Pugh

Leeds RAG's Bacchanalia event, has raised over £11 000 for charity.

On Saturday 31st January, the Union played host to a winter festival-style event, and attendees were treated to a variety of different music from Mixtape, Jack Bedford and the LSR DJs. There was also a variety of stalls including a hog roast, a snow machine, a photo booth and a free Smirnoff shot van.

Emma Roberts, a first year History student who attended the night, told *The Gryphon*:

'I loved all the extra features of the night that RAG organised as it really made the night stand out from other Union events like Fruity. It was such great value for money but still raised so much for charity.'

Rebecca Brett, one of the event coordinators at Leeds RAG, told *The Gryphon*.

'We sold 1600 tickets and the atmosphere was amazing. Since the event, I have heard nothing but great things from everybody.'

The event was raising funds for Dying To Keep Warm, a charity who provides heating to those who cannot afford to heat their homes. Rebecca explained:

'The charity was on the brink of closing down last year but the Bacchanalia events have meant that they can continue to function and may even be able to expand from the North West to help those in other parts of the country.'

Leeds gay pride parade



● Our photograph of the week encapsulates the spirit of this issue of *The Gryphon*. It shows two protesters campaigning to bridge the gap between the LGBT community and religious groups.

Image: Sam Broadley

Should I vote in May? Young people say 'Yes'!

Hugh Baillie-Lane

On Wednesday evening, the *i* Newspaper organised a debate tackling the topic of whether young people should vote. The motion for debate was 'young people shouldn't bother voting in May because politicians have given up on them'. The panel included the Green Party leader, Natalie Bennett, Labour MP for Central Leeds Hilary Benn, MP Greg Mulholland of the Liberal Democrats and Conservative MP, Sam Gyimah. The debate was chaired by the *i*'s Whitehall editor, Oliver Wright and Lisa Markwell, Editor of the Independent on Sunday was also present on the panel.

Topics of debate varied from the benefit of Russell Brand's 'revolution' to the European Union and women in politics. When discussing Brand's stand point, the panel agreed that though he succeeds in engaging young people in politics, he is wrong to advocate apathy towards voting.

Considerable discussion revolved around moving politics away from

Westminster to focus on whether politics should be taught as a compulsory subject in schools and whether to take advantage of various media platforms to connect and engage with young voters.

It was remarked by Oliver Wright that during the last election, only 44% of 18-24 year olds voted and 77% of those votes came from students.

Another issue raised by questions from the audience was whether the age limit to vote should be lowered to 16.

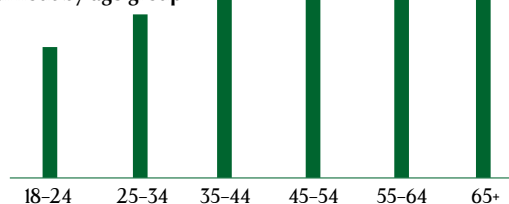
Jack Slater, a student in Digital Design at Leeds tweeted '@Mr_Slater Over 1.5 million 16 and 17 year olds are denied a vote in the UK. Give them the vote, let

young people have their voice heard. #iDebate'

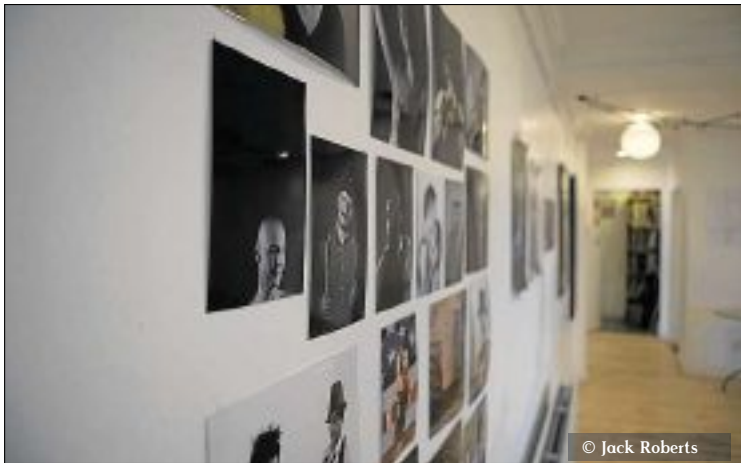
At the end of the debate audience members were invited to vote on the motion. Those who agreed in exercising their right to vote were required to hold up a placard which read 'iVote' whilst those who were against it held up an oversized portrait of Russell Brand's face.

The decision of the audience was almost unanimous with an overwhelming majority of 'iVote' placards in sight. The collective view of the panel was summarised by Lisa Markwell who said 'If you vote you get stuff, if you don't vote, you get stuffed.'

2010 Election Voter turnout by age group



First exclusively LGBTQ arts exhibition opens in Leeds



© Jack Roberts

Emily Willson

In honour of LGBT History Month, mental health and arts organisation Inkwell are holding the first ever LGBTQ art exhibition.

The scheme, set up with the help of Leeds University student Laura Ferris, has

resulted in 'Transitions'. It predominantly focuses on works by LGBTQ artists, with the intention being for them to express 'transformation' and 'development'.

The exhibition features a wide range of artworks in various media forms, including drawings, paintings, photography, sculptures and video. All artists involved were required to respond

to the theme of 'Transitions' by selecting an early work and a recent piece from their practice, to show their progression and development.

The main intention of the exhibition is to promote a safe, accessible space to celebrate passion and the skills of the artists involved as well as their diversity and equality. Inkwell strongly believes that creativity can play a key part in allowing people to express themselves freely and live life to the full.

Laura Joani Ferris, who is helping to organise the exhibition, said of the idea,

'I'm hoping the event will raise the profile of Mind and of how creative arts can help those with mental health problems cope. I'm also hoping it will raise funds and people will have a good time'

The LGBTQ community on the whole appear to have responded well to the exhibition, and feel it will showcase high quality artistic talent while also raising awareness of LGBT History Month.

The exhibition runs from Friday 13th February to Tuesday 17th March and is open to the public for free.

Proposed counter-terror law sparks petition

Suhail Dhanji

Students at Leeds have protested against the Government's Counter-Terror Bill with an online open letter to the Union which has attracted over 100 signatures.

The petition condemned the new bill as a 'serious threat to freedom of expression'.

Theresa May's proposed Counter-Terror and Security Bill (CTSB) has now passed with Royal Assent subject to a second legislation which requires approval.

Wil Hutton, President of LUU Amnesty International told *The Gryphon*,

'LUU Amnesty International condemns the CTSB, as it erodes the right of British citizens to live in privacy and dignity, including Leeds students who will also suffer the cross indecency of the Bill.'

The legislation will give the Government powers to dictate who can and cannot speak on campuses in a bid to prevent radical extremism in British universities.

Students across the country have protested against the Bill, arguing that it impedes their freedom of speech and counteracts the Education (No. 2) Act 1986. This states that universities must 'ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for members, students and employees of the establishment and for visiting speakers'.

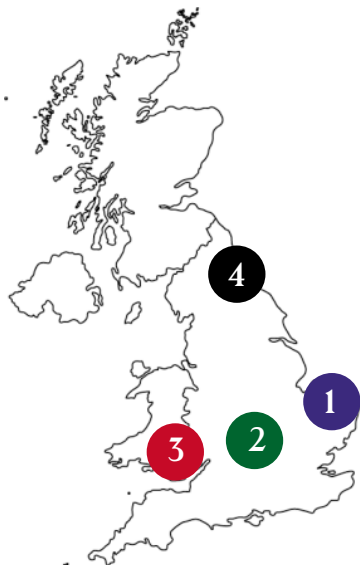
In response to student dissatisfaction, the Union released a statement which said: 'We feel strongly that it counters the freedom of students and universities alike and treats vulnerable members of our community as suspects.'

The Liberal Democrats broadly support the bill, and Murray Hawthorne, Chair of Leeds' Liberal Youth, told this paper,

'Whilst we recognise the good changes made by Lib Dems in the Lords, as a society we cannot risk the restriction of free speech in higher education.'

The bill will be subject to Lords approval next week and if accepted it will be passed into law.

Campus Watch



1 Norwich

UEA Student's Union creates first dedicated nap space

UEA Students' Union has opened the UK's first dedicated "Nap Nook". Students wishing to use the service can book forty minute nap slots. The Union claims that using the service will increase their alertness, capacity to learn and to decrease stress levels. The "Nap Nook" is equipped with mattresses, eye masks and CCTV to ensure comfort and safety for its users.

Faye Lawrence

2 Oxford

Oxford students protest Marine Le Pen appearance

An appearance at the Oxford Union by Marine Le Pen, the leader of France's far-right national party, has sparked an anti-fascist protest by students. The debate was delayed by over an hour due to three hundred supporters a gathering outside the Union. The protesters were seen waving banners and chanting 'Le Pen, never again' and 'Oxford Union, shame on you'.

Elli Pugh

3 Cardiff

Cardiff University student dies after night out

A Cardiff University student died from hypothermia after walking home from a night out, an inquest has heard. Ali Bunney, 20, was celebrating a friend's 21st birthday and was wearing just a short sleeved shirt and jeans in temperatures of 4°C. The blood alcohol levels of Mr Bunney were four times the drink-driving limit as he attempted to walk nine miles home.

Elli Pugh

4 Durham

Durham introduces breathalysing on club doors

Students at Durham University could soon be breathalysed before being allowed entry to nightclubs. The scheme is a response to the drink-related deaths of 3 students within a 14 month period, all of whom drowned in the River Wear. It plans to crack down on pre-drinking culture. A number of establishments have signed up, and the scheme has already been announced in other parts of the UK.

Jake Hookem



Revs Call Homeless 'barred' from Trinity Lane in alleged 'racist' incident

Charlotte Mason
News Editor

Popular cocktail bar and restaurant Revolution has come under fire after an alleged incident in which a man claims he was refused entry because of his ethnicity.

Michael Younis explains that he and three mixed-race and black friends were turned away from the bar on Call Lane shortly before a group of white men were allowed in.

The alleged incident took place at around 11.45pm on Friday 6th February when Mr Younis claims doormen told the men they could not come in because of a 'no-groups' policy.

Mr Younis told *The Gryphon*.

'Four of us were turned away from a club for the 'no groups' reason. Fair enough. Seconds later, they let the group of four (white) guys behind us in'.

'I confronted the bouncer about it calmly. He was mumbling but just kept repeating that there were only three in the group he let in. There weren't, but even so, one extra person is enough not to get us in? A group is a group.'

The second-year medical student at Manchester University was visiting Leeds with friends when they were turned away from the bar.

In a video posted to Instagram, Younis films himself asking doormen, 'Me and my four black friends tried to get in here and we couldn't. Four white guys came in behind us and they all got in. Are you guys alright with that?'

One bouncer replies, 'Mate, I'm mixed race, why would I...?'

Younis' sister uploaded the videos with the caption, 'So this happened to my little brother last night in Leeds'.

Mr Younis added, 'I'm not normally one to play the race card and I'm aware this sort of discrimination does happen in clubs and bars, but it's usually more subtle'.

He tweeted, '@RevolutionLeeds thanks for being racist. 4 black/mixed race get turned away. 4 white guys behind us get in. Thanks Leeds Rev.'

The Gryphon contacted Revolution but they declined to comment.

Charlotte Mason
News Editor

Trinity Leeds has refuted allegations it banned homeless people from an event aimed at tackling food poverty.

The Real Junk Food Project claims that the shopping centre banned homeless people from its Pay As You Feel Day in Trinity Kitchen on Saturday 7th February.

The Gryphon understands that some customers were refused entry because of a previous ban from the centre, although the café has criticised the decision.

Justin Mortimer, a spokesperson for The Real Junk Food Project, said,

'The homeless were barred from entering with the reason stated that they maybe carrying needles and that some had already been barred for shoplifting. We were also accused of encouraging them as we don't exclude people who are marginalized from accessing our food offering.'

The one-day event at Trinity Kitchen comprised of five street-food stalls offering food on a pay-as-you-feel basis. The initiative was marketed as a way to 'give everyone access to the street food experience' and to address 'the battle of food waste and poverty'.

Paul Smith, Marketing Manager for Trinity Leeds, responded to the allegations, saying,

'We were not banning homeless people from accessing the Pay As You Feel Day'. We were refusing entry to any person that has previously been



© Lucie England-Duce

banned from Trinity Leeds', he explained. 'As I understand it, individuals, be they homeless or otherwise, that commit regular crimes such as theft, burglary or present a threat to the public by carrying offensive weapons are listed on the Business Against Crime in Leeds register and denied entry to all establishments involved'.

Mr. Smith added, 'This is not a policy against homeless people'.

Mr. Mortimer said, 'We strongly disagree with the Trinity's policies in this respect and realise that we have little in common with this organization. We have no plans to work with Trinity in the future.'

Leeds lecturers to receive training in gender sensitivity

Alexander Peel

Lecturers will be trained in gender sensitivity to raise awareness of language choices when referring to the terms 'gender' and 'sex'.

The motion was voted in by a panel of student representatives at a Better University Forum, and aims to tackle the problem of 'rights and recognition' for students who identify as transgender.

The term 'sex' is used to define biological differences between men and women, whereas 'gender' refers to social roles attributed to them.

Union LGBTQ Liberation Officer Lily Aarons told *The Gryphon*,

'There is an obvious benefit for students who don't identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. These students can often feel marginalised and side-lined in lectures where gender and sex are conflated. This can lead to anything from annoyance to offence, to feelings of discrimination'.

She added that staff will 'gain knowledge of issues they may not have known about before, enabling them to think about their words more carefully and be more sensitive'.

The measure was reportedly introduced after a Genetics lecturer told students that chromosomes determine gender, as opposed to sex.

LUU Equality and Diversity Officer Gemma Turner said,

'This is something that a lot of students are affected by regularly and I will be working with the University and our LGBTQ liberation coordinators to ensure this is a high priority this year, with the aim to raise awareness and educate lecturers on the correct uses of the terms'.

The Union aims to implement the training over the next few months.



Your LGBTQ stories

Shay Collins on embracing her sexuality

Silence was the hardest thing. Silence creates loneliness and that quickly leads to self-destructive thoughts. Every day I'd dwell over what was 'wrong' with me rather than embracing all the things that were right. After so many years of suppressing the truth, one day it just kind of exploded out of me. I'd had enough of being miserable in my life just to maintain the blissful status quo in others'. Today I am content, openly

bisexual and thankfully, free. However with openness comes judgment. Telling people my sexuality often creates an inevitable domino effect and suddenly people assume I must to be attracted to every girl out there. No, I have my types, just like everyone else. I appreciate all the Union's efforts to contribute in making life for LGBTIQ's easier and happier. Little things like gender-neutral toilets make a difference

for certain students. We need to keep taking steps forward into creating that vital haven for students who identify as LGBTIQ. But if you have a special place for film in your heart, watch the Six Nations and don't mind an American Irish accent, holla at me.



Image: Anne Wyman



Image: Lucie England-Duce

Lauren Clayton on being asexual

It took me a long time to find the labels I use to describe myself. One of them is asexual.

When asexuality is discussed, we're often called 'not queer enough' to be part of LGBTQIA+ community. We're accused of being 'too young' or 'naïve' to understand and experience sexual attraction. We're told we have problems with our hormone levels. None of these are true.

If you don't know much about asexuality, that's because the only media representation we get are caricatures of sterile scientist types (I'm looking at

you, Sheldon Cooper). We are barely included LGBTQIA+ communities. Either such acronyms get shortened to simply 'LGBT', excluding us altogether, or people hijack the 'A' to stand for 'ally'. Newsflash: the world does not revolve around cisgender heterosexual people. We deserve a voice too.

University is meant to be a place where you can explore and find yourself, where people are accepting and welcoming no matter who you are. I finally found the word I needed to be comfortable with myself at uni after 19 years of searching. We are one of the only universities

in the country to celebrate Asexual Awareness Week, but it's not enough. I do not know if I am welcome at LGBT Soc because I don't know if they think I'm queer enough to be marginalised like they are. We need to do better to educate and raise awareness about asexuality so nobody else grows up feeling alone and broken. I hope someday we can celebrate Asexual Pride at Leeds Uni, instead of just struggling to find a place in a world which tells us we don't exist.

The Digest

Prime Minister slammed in HSBC tax scandal



Image: Press Association

Labour has branded David Cameron 'the dodgy Prime Minister' after it emerged MPs were handed leaked documents implementing thousands of suspected tax dodgers in the HSBC scandal as early as 2011. The release of private files in the 'biggest banking leak in history' shows that HSBC helped wealthy clients to hide a total £78bn from domestic tax authorities. The news contradicts

Downing Street's claims that MPs only found out about the allegations earlier this month. Suspicions emerged when a whistleblower stole files from the bank in 2007. British tax authorities are now expanding their investigation to HSBC's Swiss accounts.

Danny Anderson

GCHQ censured for US intelligence secrets

Surveillance agency GCHQ has been criticised for a lack of transparency about information it shares with American authorities. A tribunal in December found that GCHQ failed to provide clear enough details of how it shared data gathered from mass internet surveillance. It was the first ruling by the Investigatory Powers Tribunal against an intelligence agency in the past fifteen years. The agency has since been forced to release additional information to the public after it was ruled that the system in place 'contravened' human rights. The Home Office argues that it is 'committed to transparency'.

Emily Willson

British Police investigate Charlie Hebdo readers

British police have apologised after it was found they investigated news agents who stock the French publication Charlie Hebdo in an attempt to monitor UK sales. Shops in three counties were questioned by officers, and a news agent in Wiltshire was asked to hand over details of readers who had bought the controversial magazine. The move was criticised by free-speech campaigners who cited 'a more general worrying increase in abuse of police powers in invading privacy'. Five million copies of the 'survivors' issue' were released following a terrorist attack on the satirical magazine in Paris last month.

Emily Willson

Labour to introduce LGBT sex education

The Labour Party has pledged to make LGBT-inclusive sex education compulsory in state schools. Proposals would give teachers special training to deal with homophobic bullying and give schools a duty to show a 'zero-tolerance' approach to homophobia in the classroom and playground. The party also said it would provide more mental health services for survivors of

homophobic-related abuse. Shadow Education Secretary Tristram Hunt said, 'No young person should ever feel that their sexuality or gender identity prevents them from fulfilling their potential'. An estimated 50,000 gay, lesbian and bisexual pupils will miss school because of homophobic bullying.

Emily Willson



Minister for Care and Support Norman Lamb: “The way the NHS works amounts to an inbuilt discrimination against mental health”



Images: Jack Roberts



Images: Jack Roberts

Charlotte Mason
News Editor

Minister for Care and Support Norman Lamb talks about mental health in the UK, the role of prison cells and the upcoming election.

How would you describe the state of mental health care in this country today?

I think it's quite variable. I go around the country a lot and I've seen some wonderful, innovative services, promoting early intervention and rapid support. But there are also services which aren't working well. You get areas where, still, there's the most extraordinary level of use of police cells for people suffering a mental health crisis. There are lots of areas where they've solved the problem by police collaborating effectively with mental health services. London, for example, has had about twenty people in police cells this year. In Sussex last year, it was over 800. London is showing brilliant leadership. There's not been a single under-18 (suffering a mental health crisis) in a police cell in London now for two years.

How are you tackling the taboo status of mental health?

The stigma of mental health still exists very strongly. *Time to Change* is a brilliant campaign which we funded to combat it. Public opinion surveys show clearly that people are becoming more open and willing to talk about it. People are less embarrassed or afraid of ill mental health. That's encouraging but we've got to maintain the momentum to change attitudes. Nobody wants to do down mental health; it's just that it gets forgotten about. It's not taken as seriously as other forms of health care. There's also evidence that attitudes of

some people who work in mental health care aren't always as enlightened as you might hope. There's a lot of work still to be done. I met with the campaign group Student Minds, who told me that when you move from your home to university, if you register with a GP in your new city, you may lose contact with mental health services back home. That's ridiculous.

- 1 in 4 people in the UK will experience a mental health problem each year (Mind).
- 'The number of students who took their own lives in England and Wales rose by 50% between 2007 and 2011' (ONS).
- The first ever waiting times standards will be introduced for people with a mental health issue in April.

There was a case recently where a 16-year-old girl with mental health issues was held in a prison cell for 48 hours. What went wrong?

That's a very interesting case. People rightly saw that as totally unacceptable but that used to happen routinely. That case was really outrageous but actually, across the country, we're on track to achieve a reduction in the use of police cells for people suffering a mental health crisis, which is really exciting. The frustration is that it doesn't happen everywhere.

Can you guarantee that people with mental health issues will not be put in a prison cell if there's a psychiatric bed available?

My view is that if there's an exceptional circumstance where someone is of a real risk to themselves or potentially to other people at that moment, you might have to put them in a police cell. But

as a general rule, adults shouldn't be going in there. It should be the absolute exception. We've reviewed powers under the Mental Health Act of police to pick someone up and take them to a place of safety, and concluded that we should ban the use of police cells for under-18's in law. I share that view. We can't do this before the General Election but I want it to be a top priority for whoever wins, that we simply ban it and make it illegal to be put into a police cell if you're under 18 and to make it a totally exceptional event if you're an adult.

What could be done to improve mental health care?

The way the NHS works amounts to, in my view, a sort of inbuilt discrimination against mental health. If you have suspected cancer, you have a right to be seen within two weeks. There's a whole plethora of rights for people with physical health conditions. You go to mental health, there's nothing at all. How can you possibly justify someone with a first episode of psychosis not having any right to access treatment? That's why I've managed to get the introduction of the first ever access and waiting times standards in mental health from April this year, including for early intervention in psychosis where there will be a standard of two weeks to access treatment. We start with saying that 50% of youngsters must start their treatment within two weeks, but then progressively in future years that will increase. I want that to be systematic throughout mental health that people have rights to access treatments just as they have it in physical health.

Why have you cut the budget for children's mental health services by £50m in recent years?

The way we organise children's services is completely dysfunctional and it's not fit for purpose. At local level where the

system is often under enormous pressure and you have a whole load of rights for physical health, what gets cut is mental health and particularly children's mental health. It's completely irrational and so self-defeating because if you don't invest in those early interventions, the cost will be much higher later on. We launched Task Force to bring in experts and give a significant role to young people to redesign how we do things. It's an exciting opportunity to modernise services for young people, giving a much greater focus on prevention. But we need extra resources as well in the next Parliament, and that's what I will make the case for.

What can you promise people ahead of the General Election?

We've introduced rights in mental health which will force clinical groups to treat mental and physical health equally when they're allocating money. But my view is that along with this equality of rights, you also need to have extra funding. The Lib Dems have pledged £500m extra for mental health per year. The moral and the economic case for investing in mental health is overwhelming. There are lots of things we've done in this Parliament which, alongside those really frustrating pressures on finances, are really good. The rollout of a national liaison and diversion service to divert people away from the criminal justice system, so when you turn up to the Police or Court and you have mental health problems, you get diverted to treatment. That's world-leading. There's no other country in the world which is doing that on this scale. We've massively increased access to psychological therapies, so this year, 900,000 people will get access to talking therapies that actually work. That's tripled within the last five years which is a massive improvement.



LGBTQ: a community speaks

*More often than not, the most visible members of the LGBTQ community in the media are gay men. In reality, queerness is far more diverse than Stephen Fry and Elliott Spencer getting hitched. Features Editor **Brigitte Phillips** speaks to the Leeds LGBTQ community, who share their personal stories about living with their identities, and the misunderstandings and misrepresentation that comes with it.*



Ruby Lott-Lavigna ©

Brigitte Phillips
Features Editor

When asking the average cis-gendered, heterosexual member of the public about the LGBTQ community, they would probably think of gay men. Whether it be their favourite celebrity couple, or even a bizarre fetishisation of platonic male relationships à la Sherlock and Watson, the 'G' of LGBTQ is often discussed predominantly and excessively. As a result, other identities under the queer umbrella can be underrepresented or misunderstood. Whether it be that bisexual people are greedy and indecisive, or that asexuals have suffered from sexual abuse, society makes misguided assumptions that are offensive at the very least, and damaging at the worst. *The Gryphon* spoke to five members of the Leeds LGBTQ community about their experiences as queer people.

Ryan's Story

If it wasn't for persecution about my sexuality I wouldn't be studying this degree, and I certainly wouldn't be in Leeds. It's strange for me to

think about, that out of something negative has come something so positive. If you'd have asked me 12 months ago what the future had in store for me, I'd have told you I expected unhappiness, disappointment and, if I'm honest, probably a short end. Now I'm in a

the off. Our First Minister's wife denounced same sex relationships as worse than bestiality and there weren't exactly an abundance of role models out there to look up to, especially not as a politically active person. So I began to gain a hunger to change that, and an interest

“ I can assure you that when your mother sits you down and tells you that you are sick... it hurts just as much whether you are gay or bi ”

new country surrounded by people I love being around, I'm on my dream course and I have the best boyfriend in the world.

For those who are unaware – living in Northern Ireland as any type of social 'abnormality' is pretty uncomfortable. It's a society where less than 1/5 of our politicians are women, where abortion and same sex marriage are still illegal, and where our ministers deny evolution and climate change. It's pretty backwards. So, as a young bisexual, things weren't great from

in improving society for everyone. This is arguably where my interest in politics started, and my desire to reside in Northern Ireland ended.

Whilst publicly using my role as a Member of Youth Parliament to lobby vocally on LGBTQ rights, I was dealing with the delicate issue of privately telling my friends and family I was bisexual. To all those who deride bi as being a 'stepping stone' or a coward's way of coming out as gay, I can tell you that you are wrong. Your breathing is just as ragged, your palms just as



sweaty, your heart just as worked up. And I can assure you that when your mother sits you down and tells you that you are sick, you need help, you are ruining her life and all of your achievements mean nothing to her, it hurts just as much whether you are gay or bi or any other gender or sexual minority. There is no 'easy way' to come out. And it's little wonder that so many LGBTQ teens suffer from depression, as I do, or other mental illness.

I also found backlash from an unexpected group - the LGBTQ community themselves. I had heard all the jokes - greedy, indecisive, the list goes on - but the dirty looks and dwindling friendships told me it might not have been all just jokes after all.

I implore you all to not forget your bi friends in the struggle for LGBTQ rights. As a community we face unique difficulties and rampant misinformation. I'm okay, I survived, and I wear my battle scars on the inside as war paint in my fight to change to world. Many aren't, and in this month we remember and we salute them. May they never be forgotten.

Claire's story

For as long as I can remember, I have never identified as straight. I dated mostly boys throughout high school, with the exception of one girl when I was fifteen. When we started dating, I did not think of myself as 'gay' all of a sudden. I did not feel like I had to come out of the closet to anyone. I was just dating a girl. Gender is fluid, sexuality is fluid. I knew this, though I didn't have the language to say these things. I certainly never identified with the term 'bisexual' either. There is a myriad of different genders and the word 'bi' never seemed very inclusive to me.

“I was never super happy with myself, but I couldn't put my finger on why - I just felt different”

When I was fifteen, telling my parents I was dating a girl was awkward, at best. They asked me what I meant. I didn't know how to answer. No-one (including them) had ever asked me to clarify what I meant when I stated that I was dating a boy. Why was the idea so difficult to understand when it was someone of the same gender? I didn't know how to explain it, so I didn't. I closed in on myself and hid our relationship as much as I could.

Like many high school loves, ours didn't last. We broke up, and dated other people. Now, some seven years after my first girlfriend, I feel much more comfortable telling people about my wonderful current partner, who also happens to be a woman. I have learned the language and gained the skills and tools to be a queer person dating another queer person in this world. Unfortunately, this often involves dealing with confused looks when I say the word 'partner' casually in a sentence. It involves people looking away and changing the subject when I later refer to my partner as 'she'. I could say 'girlfriend' and maybe ease their confusion a little, but honestly, neither me nor my partner likes the term or identifies with it. Why is it anyone's business what gender my partner identifies as?

Recently at a pub, my female friend and I were chatting about our respective love lives, which involved my friend's ex-girlfriend and my current partner. The pub happened to be small and cozy, with the tables closely set near each other. There was a somewhat

inebriated man sitting near us and many times he interjected to ask us questions about ourselves, such as where we were from, and how we knew each other. It was hard to say whether he was overhearing our conversation or not. When he was leaving, he uninventedly clasped his hands onto my friend's shoulders and told us that we talk very loudly, and that he could hear all we were saying. We were both like, "Yeah, what of it?" And then he went on to (somewhat drunkenly) assure us that we should not be ashamed. With heavy sarcasm, we tried to convey to him something along the lines of, "Thanks Mister Hetero Drunk Man, really glad we could have your assurance that we aren't fucked up after all."

My experiences in navigating the world as a cis-gendered queer woman have often been frustrating and upsetting. However, my parents are now, as far as I can see, mostly accepting of my sexual orientation, or what they understand of it. I have a small network of lovely, supportive, queer, and queer-positive friends. For these things, I am grateful, and I wish all the queers in the world could have support like this. I know this is not the case. I hope that someday, we can work towards a world where it is.

Jude's Story

My mental health worker claims she understands exactly what I'm going through, and that it must have been terrible growing up, tormented, always feeling like I'd been "born in the wrong body." Well, actually, I wouldn't know what that feels like. I didn't really ever feel like that at all.

When I was first exploring my own gender identity,

only a couple of years ago, I felt bad and confused. I assumed I couldn't have possibly been transgender, simply because I hadn't always felt like I'd been "born in the wrong body." There are indeed transgender people who do very much feel that way. There are also transgender people that actually feel very happy with the bodies they have been born with though, and don't want to begin any form of medical transition, even though how they feel and identify may not align with the gender they were assigned at birth. I'm not sure where I fall on that 'scale'.

I was never super happy with myself, but I couldn't put my finger on why - I just felt different. I felt awkward. I really wanted to wear masculine clothing and I wanted to cut my hair short as this made me feel most comfortable - but I thought that was just because I was a bit butch and probably a lesbian. I'd always wanted to play male roles in plays, and had always felt more comfortable pretending to be the man in all the childhood play scenarios - but that's just pretend, right? I'd very much pushed the idea of identifying as transgender out of my mind because I felt like I didn't fit the narrative I've heard so often, and I felt guilty.

Sometimes I still don't feel like I'm "trans enough", mainly because I don't want to completely 'grieve' for the loss of the identity I once had - I'm very much still the same person just with a different presentation, name and way of thinking, really (plus a much snazzier wardrobe and cuter sideburns).

I treasure plenty of the memories and things I had before beginning my transition, even if parts are still uncomfortable. Sometimes I worry that to be 'believed' as a transman, particularly by others within the LGBT community itself, I should be really manly and completely abandon my pre-transition self in case people don't take me seriously; like I need to keep the act up 24/7.

Day to day, that's not my only worry, though. I stand in front of the toilets. My choice lies before me. I often really don't feel like I 'pass' as a man fully, yet - I'm pre-hormones and surgery, and I don't always 'bind' my chest. So do I use the women's or the men's? Thankfully at LUU we're blessed with a few gender neutral loos which make this easier, but at work or out

“We certainly don't hate people who have sex. In fact, we love you all. Just not like that”

in public I've had to perfect the art of holding it. At the doctor's, the receptionist refers to me as 'she' to her colleague. She looks at my notes and reads 'Mr.' She blushes.

My trans' friend tells me about how wonderful it is they're finally getting hormones because they can afford to go privately. I'm happy for them and I know how long they've had to wait, but my heart sinks, because that's no option for me right now. It shouldn't have to be an option for anyone (the waiting list for the Leeds NHS Gender Clinic is about 2 years and it's pretty much the same throughout the country).

At work, one of my colleagues admitted he sometimes doesn't mention me in conversation or involve me in discussions because he's worried he'll get my pronouns wrong and misgender me. I wasn't upset when he said this. I was relieved. Finally, someone being honest with me and not beating around the gender bush. We talked it through and we were both far more comfortable about it all afterwards. We had a brilliant discussion about our experiences - he's an older gay guy and I'm a young bisexual queer-identifying trans guy - and our different perspectives on our community as a whole have taught us both a great deal.

I often worry the T in the LGBT acronym is just tagged on at the end, and that it doesn't always mean something. Last year a sponsored Facebook post flashed up on my feed advertising Leeds Pride as an event to "showcase equality in sexual orientation" with no mention of gender identity, and I personally felt forgotten and silenced.

I guess that's what we have to aim for next - giving trans' people that voice. Education. Trying to chip away at the stereotypes, starting to dismantle them. Making it clear that ALL experiences of transgender people are valid no matter what their backgrounds and feelings might be. Better representation of trans' people everywhere - especially in the media and within the LGBT community itself. This is something we need to work on together.



Tasha's story

My relationship with my sexuality has been a volatile, confusing and quite frankly exhausting part of my young adult life. I think one of the most frustrating elements of any queer person's day-to-day life is having to justify or explain repeatedly a core part of yourself to others in a way which heterosexual or 'straight' people don't have to. The very notion of homosexuality is still an 'event' in even the most modern of cultures, an excuse to invade and marvel at people's private affairs purely because they may differ ever so slightly from the 'norm.' Personally, I think that kind of reaction belongs somewhere in the realms of the 20th century. Where there's any number of things to be astounded by, homosexuality should cease to be a subject of such bewilderment.

I knew from the age of twelve that I had some interest in people of the same sex that differed slightly from other girls my age. I felt compelled to keep quiet about my feelings for years, convinced by a girl that I was involved with that we would receive abuse and rejection on a large scale if we told anyone how we felt. When, aged sixteen, I eventually came out as bisexual, the reaction could not have differed any more from what I had anticipated. Most people were adamant that it was just a 'phase', despite my insistence that this wasn't the case.

My recent decision to identify as 'queer' as opposed to 'bisexual' has stemmed from years of battling artificial myths regarding bisexuality. People often assume that bisexuality is essentially a camouflage for promiscuity, or greed, or simply a 'transition' period before coming out as gay. 'Queer' is a term that allows

for self-definition, you can adapt the phrase to suit your own sexual identity. You are in control of defining your own identification, whereas with bisexuality society often does this for you, and usually inaccurately. The room for manoeuvre with the term 'queer' personally provides me with a much more relaxed and refreshing approach to expressing my sexuality.

However, the societal obsession with labelling and penning people into different categories is a convention that should not necessarily apply to sexual identity. Sexuality is not a fixed anomaly; it is a journey that is fluid and shaped through a person's growth and experience. I think it's unhealthy to assume that one person has to be one identifiable 'something' when human beings are made up of so many parts. Speaking personally, my sexual identity has evolved through several different stages of being, and I believe it's probably time we stopped herding people into different groups and just let people be who they are.

Stephen's story

I realised I fancied other guys when I was 12, but it took until I was 24 to realise I didn't want to have sex with them. It's quite a difficult realisation to reach in a society where sex is often portrayed as an essential part of being human; people who don't have sex are to be pitied or mocked. So when you're one of those people who genuinely doesn't want to have sex, it can feel quite isolating.

The hardest part about being asexual is that it doesn't get talked about, so a lot of people don't even realise it exists. Like many other asexuals, before I heard and understood the term, I felt broken and alone.

I couldn't maintain relationships, as I used to find intimacy terrifying (there was always an assumption it would lead to sex eventually). I kept trying to enjoy sex (because I felt I had to) and as a result had some experiences I could really have done without. When I realised I was asexual, it was like I'd been living underground all those years, and had finally stepped out into the sun. I've never looked back.

There are many misconceptions about asexuals – and trust me, we've heard them all. I've been asked whether I was abused as a child (Why would you ask that? Seriously?), whether my penis still works or not, whether I hate everyone who has sex, or whether I'm just a sex-starved bitter virgin. But being asexual has nothing to do with any of those things, just the same as your sexual orientation. I didn't choose to be this way, but I certainly see no problem with it, and given the option, I wouldn't change it.

Not all asexuals desire romantic relationships, but many do, and this can be hard to navigate at times. I've never dated another asexual (it's hard to find others out there) but since coming out, I've found that lots of guys aren't bothered by it. I was really expecting that no one would want to date an asexual, and I'm quite pleased to say I was wrong. Being open about my asexuality has made dating far more rewarding, as intimacy no longer feels threatening.

So remember: asexuals aren't sex-hating killjoys. We smile, we laugh, we bake cookies. We experience love, intimacy, rejection and hope just as anyone does, we just don't always express those things in the same way. We certainly don't hate people who have sex. In fact, we love you all. Just not like that.



Sam Broadley ©

The average Briton knows 3.1 lesbians

Around 30% of homeless youth identify as LGBT

48% of trans* people under 26 have attempted suicide

40% of the LGBT population are thought to be bisexual



Comment

'Coming out'

Liam Kerrigan considers why non-heterosexuals still have to announce their orientation

Gender

Eleanor Healing: Why shouldn't boys wear dresses?

Sex education

Jessica Bradley examines the failings of the British sex education system

'Gay' as an insult

Sophie Bell: Using the term 'gay' as an insult is straight-up homophobia

Being straight about 'coming out'

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It is hardly an original or acute observation to note that heterosexuals feel no need to 'come out', but that LGBTQ people do. And yet it raises a very important point; immediately there is a separation between the two which specifically singles out the queer community. Why, then, is this is the case, and is 'coming out' actually a good thing?

For many within the LGBTQ community, 'coming out' is undoubtedly one of the most significant, and most difficult, moments of their lives. But why is 'coming out' something that occurs at all? After all, if you heard that a heterosexual had decided to announce to their family and friends that they were 'straight', you would, I imagine, find this a bit weird. However, if you heard that a homosexual had felt the same need to declare their sexuality, this would not seem strange at all— but why? After all, they are both just simply forms of love and attraction. The answer is found in the disparity of attitudes towards heterosexuals and queer people.

In our increasingly tolerant and diverse society, it's extremely strange to consider that fifty years ago, homosexual acts between two consenting men over

The answer is found in the disparity of attitudes towards heterosexuals and queer people

the age of twenty-one were illegal in England and Wales. It's even stranger to think that there are still seventy-eight countries with criminal laws against sexual activities that aren't heterosexual. More worrying is the fact that, according to a poll conducted by the Pew Research Centre in April last year: 72 per cent of Russian citizens, 61 per cent of Chinese citizens, 45 per cent of Greek citizens and 37 per cent of US citizens think that homosexuality is 'morally unacceptable', with only 23 per cent of US citizens stating that it is "morally acceptable" (Thankfully Britain's statistics are more encouraging;



just 17 per cent say that homosexuality is 'morally unacceptable'). Clearly, whilst significant progress is being made for the rights and equality of LGBTQ people, there is still a significant stigma and narrow-minded beliefs are still in existence.

There are various reasons behind an individual's motivation to 'come out': pride, acceptance, honesty or even guilt. No matter the individual motivation, it seems that the overarching reason for the need to 'come out' is caused by society's suggestion that queer people are in some way 'different'.

The act of 'coming out' only helps perpetuate a cycle of injury. Society says that they are 'different', causing people to feel as though they need to 'come out' to the world, which then helps restate the idea that they really

are 'different', and so society continues to retain this idea. There is a worry here in that many young people identifying as LGBTQ might be stifled, scared or suppressed by the feeling that being anything other than heterosexual is something that needs to be announced

The act of 'coming out' only helps perpetuate a cycle of injury. Society says that they are 'different'... 'coming out' helps restate it

or confessed, but that it is dangerous to do so. This is reinforced by the almost habitual application of the word 'brave' to anyone, particularly in the media, who 'comes out'. Yet the sad thing about this is that it shouldn't need to

be a 'brave' thing because it shouldn't need to happen at all. By labelling it as such, we are simply reinforcing the need to declare your sexuality if it doesn't coincide with heterosexual norms.

So what should we hope for, then? What is the answer to an obviously complex and personal problem? For what it's worth, I think the answer is quite simple: addressing the problem at its roots. If we were to be able to successfully rid the stigma and feelings of 'difference' towards the LGBTQ community from society then there would be no need to 'come out'; it would simply be as accepted and normalised as it is to be heterosexual. To do this, though, we need to challenge the idiotic, bigoted, sexually xenophobic views that make this ridiculous concept a necessity.



Let's reset the a-gender

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I applaud Germany's 'indeterminate sex' law. The measure, introduced in 2013, allows parents to register their child as being neither male or female at birth. For children born with characteristics of both sexes, this law saves them from brutal operations and trauma. Before this law was brought in, indeterminate sex babies were given operations to make them as much like the sex their parents had chosen as possible. Finally, we are coming to our senses and realising that gender never was a strict binary, but something fluid and self-determined. Backlash has included critics stating that children will 'grow up confused' if they are not assigned a gender, but isn't restricting someone to a set gender identity and not allowing them to explore confusing anyway?

It's not just indeterminate sex children who should be allowed to choose and form their own gender identity. Children born one sex and

assigned a particular gender should be allowed to explore their own identity and mould it for themselves. Telling a young boy he cannot wear a dress is infinitely more confusing and cruel than allowing him to wear it. Telling a young girl she can't go into a scientific or technological profession because of her gender is a confusing concept. Teaching an indeterminate sex child that they must conform to an identity they don't feel familiar with is arbitrary. Parents and society may think they are doing the right thing by pigeonholing

“Telling a young boy he cannot wear a dress is infinitely more confusing and cruel than allowing him to wear it”

their child, but they are wrong. Take Brad Pitt and Angelia Jolie: their child recently decided to start identifying as a boy called John, when he had previously been known as a girl named Shiloh. All parents should take Pitt and Jolie's example when it comes to their children's identity. Despite being young, John Jolie-Pitt knows his identity. His parents recognition of this when others

would discredit it as 'confusion' is highly commendable and sets a fine example to all parents.

Sometimes, a person may not want to identify as any gender at all, and not categorise themselves when it comes to their sexuality. These identities should also be recognised and not marginalised; it seems odd that there are people in this country who get so offended by someone's individual identity or choices. Comfort comes in being able to label and categorise people, when someone defies this, then this comfort is dislodged. We should not be afraid to cast aside all categories when it comes to gender and sexuality, categorising yourself should be a personal choice of identity, not a requirement.

It's not just Europe that is making steps to recognise the fluidity of gender. The hijras of the Indian subcontinent have been present for thousands of years, but have only recently been permitted recognition as a third gender by the Bangladeshi government. Hijras are born with male sex characteristics, but adopt feminine dress and gender identity. The same can be seen in the Kathoey of Thailand (commonly

referred to as 'ladyboys' in the West); these are people born male, but who identify as women. Many have surgery to achieve the more feminine look they desire, but even then, there are those who are reluctant to recognise them as

“...categorising yourself should be a personal choice of identity, not a requirement”

such. Because a person is assigned a gender at birth doesn't invalidate their chosen identity. In fact, 45 per cent of Thai Kathoey identify solely as women, and 36 per cent a 'second kind of woman'. Gender can be defined in whichever way an individual chooses, whether they decide to. Sex organs should not matter.

In the UK alone, half of young transgender people have attempted suicide. Worldwide, transgender individuals have a lower life expectancy. Change is needed, acceptance and measures to protect people's identity is needed. It just isn't fair to demonise someone for who they are, but this seems to have been forgotten.

Let's Get (non)Binary Trans* Queer sex ed on the map

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Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is dramatically failing the LGBTQ community. It seems ridiculous that in 2015, a government who has legalised same-sex marriage within the last year cannot produce a SRE policy that sufficiently informs young individuals of LGBTQ issues.

Sex education within schools serves to properly inform students when they experience changes to the body and new emotions. It was put into place in order to reassure school pupils everything they are feeling is perfectly 'normal'. Therefore, the government failing to properly address the issues of sexual identity is outwardly suggesting it is not 'normal' to have a different sexual orientation. How can we expect young people, easily influenced, that being gay, bisexual, transgender or any other form of sexuality is just as acceptable as being heterosexual if their learning environment does not directly express that it is?

Having read the SRE policy recently published in October 2014, I was shocked

to find that within the fifteen page document only three clauses, totalling one hundred and ninety seven words, were dedicated to sexual identity and sexual orientation. One of the clauses did not even include the topics that should be taught. Instead it was concerned with the care that schools should take in not upsetting parents during its teaching, with the two other points remaining extremely vague in their dealing with the issue. It is safe to say that this is highly unacceptable. The government seem terrified of causing

“One of the clauses did not even include the topics that should be taught. Instead it was concerned with the care that schools should take in not upsetting parents during its teaching”

offence of what in recent years, and to this day, can be a very controversial topic. What they are seemingly unable to recognise is the offence and harm they are causing to all parties involved.

Anti-bullying policies to prevent mistreatment of any vulnerable individual will remain redundant if the issue is not combatted at the source. Through the lack of education provided about the LGBTQ community, the government are allowing

and condoning the belief that anyone who does not fit into the heterosexual guidelines is different. We are in control of our own bodies and are entitled to enjoy the pleasure it can bring in any way we please. Everyone should be entitled to information regarding this to form healthy relationships. Correct sex education is key to this.

It is not only the teenage community that are drastically affected, but also the younger generation in primary schools. After the introduction of the Same-Sex Marriage Act in March 2014, same-sex parenting is becoming far more common. However, when their children reach schooling age they are thrust into an environment where the happy, family dynamic still revolves around having a male and female parent. Their children, and their children's peers, must be informed that any family as long as they are supportive and

happy are completely regular, regardless of the genders of their parents.

In my eyes, any relationship that is happy and loving is a relationship that I would want to have. Unfortunately, I have had to reach that conclusion by myself without the guidance of my education. This needs to stop. We should be educating children from the start that any sexual orientation or sexual identity is perfectly fine, then maybe we can begin to eliminate any prejudices towards the LGBTQ community.



It's not 'gay' to be gay

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When does a petty insult go too far? Whether meant as an attack on a person's sexuality or not, the word 'gay' is surely not necessary to express distaste for something. Though it could be argued that 'gay' has now taken on a new meaning, I struggle to see how using it as an insult is not offensive.

Worryingly, the place that 'gay' as a derogatory term takes the most precedent, is in schools. A study in 2008 by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) concluded that the word 'gay' was the most common insult overheard by teachers. Although several initiatives surrounding the acceptance of sexuality have taken place since 2008, the use of this word is still evident today.

Relating negativity to homosexual orientation is not good for a society that endeavours towards equality

Arguably, the word 'gay' has taken on different meanings since it was brought in to the English vocabulary. Originally (and still) meaning 'bright' or 'lively', the word 'gay' as meaning homosexual was first recorded around 1940s, but etymologies date back twenty years prior to this. So how has it become a playground insult?

The use of 'gay' connoting negative emotions for young people in schools is certain to have an effect in later life. Even if the word is not said in jest of a person's sexuality, it is still meant to insult. Relating negativity to homosexual orientation is not good for a society that endeavours towards equality. The word 'gay' is an important part of many people's identity; why should this word be coded with disapproval?

This is not a case of 'political correctness gone mad'. Language is powerful, especially when it serves to ostracise a significant portion of our society. Words have a latent effect, with some choice phrases carving their way into our memory for the rest of our lives. Education - of school children especially - is vital in ensuring they do not thoughtlessly speak to offend. When exclaiming that 'that lesson was so gay', I'm sure that a young teenage student is not launching an attack on homosexuality. However, several minor incidents such as this can slowly erode at a person who has insecurities. Persistently wearing down at someone verbally could be considered as bullying, intentional or not. School is often, unfortunately, already a difficult time for people surrounding sexuality. Removing an insult from this environment, and society more widely, which is linked to

homophobia is certainly a step in the right direction.

Could you argue that the word 'gay' has completely reversed in meaning? Has it gone from meaning 'joyful'

This is not a case of 'political correctness gone mad'. Language is powerful, especially when it serves to ostracise a huge portion of our society

and 'merry' to simply 'crap'? How has language changed it? Meanings of words change to fit in to the slang of our generation, now 'sick' means good and 'bare' means a lot of. Arguably the word 'gay' slots in to the same bracket, but has the former meaning been eliminated? Until the prior meaning of a word has been completely eradicated from our consciousness, it has to be considered.

Therefore, in whichever manner the word 'gay' is used, using it to mean bad still resonates a feeling of homophobia, even if it is completely involuntary.

Struggling to eliminate the word 'gay' from your vocabulary? Look no further than a WikiHow specifically designed to assist in this purpose. The remedial article teaches its reader to modify and improve their vocabulary in an effort not to be prejudiced. Most importantly the article demands the reader to think before they speak. Undoubtedly, this is a lesson everyone was taught as a child. However, if we all thought about all the meanings of the word 'gay', would we ever use it as a negative way?

Ultimately there are enough insults as it is, we can filter something out that could be detrimental to someone's self worth or damaging to their identity.



A brief history of LGBTQ rights

Death penalty for homosexuality abolished



1861

Campaign began to make homosexuality legal in UK



1958

Homosexual acts between men decriminalised



1967

Civil Partnership Act passed



2004

Same-sex marriage legalised



2014



The Big Debate

Should Civil Partnerships be open to heterosexual couples?

“It just seems so logical and reasonable that any social institution in a democratic society should be open to anybody. A civil partnership is a much more accurate reflection of our relationship...”
 —Rebecca Steinfeld and Charles Keidan



Illustration: Danny Wilson

YES

Civil ceremonies were initially introduced as a poor cousin to marriage in order to not only demean LGBTQ relationships, but to heighten the virtues of marriage. Although this agenda still sits stiffly with the conservative preserve-makers of British society, it left the youth of the population juggling a problematic charge: are civil partnerships a better deal than marriage?

According to the 2011 census, 25% of the British population are atheists. Although weddings now take place in anything from a registry office to a bouncy castle at Bestival, the religious undertones of a wedding ceremony render several individuals to classify non-church weddings as secondary alternatives. British society is obsessed with purity. Once-married, virgin,

wedlock-canonised citizens are treasured possessions that are used to exemplify the excellence of our social stratification. Validation is found in innocence. The idea of deviating forms of uniformity frightens people. For me, moralistic agendas of exclusion frighten me more. As the joining of two people who love each other is a commitment of openness, patience and kindness, partaking in a ceremony that aims to celebrate the individuality of its wedded-to-be avoids the box-ticking, grandparent-approving catechisms of a religious ceremony.

However, the condemnation of religious narratives that are perhaps not our own is not the only issue. After all, marriage is an institution steeped in patriarchal conditioning. The bride in question would be used as a commercial

bargaining chip, traded from father to husband in exacting pride. Hangovers from the tradition remain today. Whether its the jarring appearance of ‘obey’ in a marital vow, the offer of the father of the bride paying for the wedding, or the fact that the bride decides to present herself in the marriage ceremony alongside her father at all, proves to be an odd leaning of modern society. This is a ceremony designed to celebrate the omnipresence of the nuclear family, which sits mother and father, brother and sister and husband and wife in artistic harmony. Nuclear families are in the decline, and there’s a good reason as to why — people no longer feel obliged to endure circumstances of a rigid unit that presents itself in Mills and Boon novels and 1960s textbooks.

To introduce civil ceremonies for every sexual orientation in the UK would democratise the manner in which we see all relationships, be it romantic or familial. To introduce heterosexual civil ceremonies is to accept a right to choice. It’s time to repossess the structures that aim to term us as inferior beings for celebrating all walks of life. Removing the shackles of capitalist and religious exchange in regards to who we love puts a finger up to social stigma. Whether the state has any right to interact with relationships as a whole, however, is another question.

Jasmine Andersson

NO

Rebecca Steinfeld and Charles Keidan, a couple from London, are attempting to lobby the government to allow them to have a civil partnership, an option currently only available to same-sex couples in the UK. Steinfeld and Keidan cite the oppressive patriarchal traditions of same-sex marriage as the reason for the campaign. Their actions have included an attempted civil partnership at their local registry office and appealing to the High Court, but just how justified is their campaign?

While I agree with the need to adapt and change the traditional model of marriage, an opposite sex couple demanding to have a civil partnership on the basis of ‘discrimination’ seems very reactionary to me. After hundreds of years of oppression, I think it’s only fair that same sex couples have more

options for partnerships than opposite sex couples. The couple claim that the government continually ‘discriminate against the co-habiting of opposite-sex couples’, but this view to me seems very blinkered and unaware of where the real oppression lies.

Sex between consenting males was only legalised in 1967, and even after this decriminalisation, gay and lesbian relationships were stigmatised and discouraged on the basis of being ‘immoral’. The age of consent for gay couples was only equalised in 2001 (2008 in Northern Ireland), prior to this you had to be 21 and later 18. When we consider just how long it has taken for the LGBT community to hold the same legal rights as the rest of the population, it’s only right for them to have more partnership options.

Heterosexual marriage does have a long history of being very misogynistic however, marital rape was only decriminalised in 1991, and everything a woman owned would pass to her husband until the late 19th century. Even today, some women pledge to ‘honour and obey’ their husbands in their wedding vows.

But if it’s bowing to the traditional expectations of ‘marriage’ that worries heterosexual couples, it doesn’t have to be the patriarchal institution is used to be.

As previously mentioned, traditional expectations can be stifling, especially for women, but these don’t have to apply. You can alter your vows, or not have them at all. You can keep your surname or change it as you wish. The father doesn’t have to ‘give away’ his

daughter and the groom doesn’t have to dominate the reception speeches if he doesn’t want to. You don’t even have to exchange rings. I know I plan to stray from the traditional path if I ever marry, but then again, I might even decide to go down the route of being given away by my Dad and taking my husband’s surname if it comes to it. It would be a matter of choice.

The options are open, and couples can have the ‘marriage’ ceremony as they want it. You don’t even have to get hitched at all. It’s not an obligation anymore, and plenty of couples are opting for this.

To try and encroach on one of the few laws where the LGBT community have an advantage paints Steinfeld and Keidan as being against the improvements of rights for this

Ella Healing





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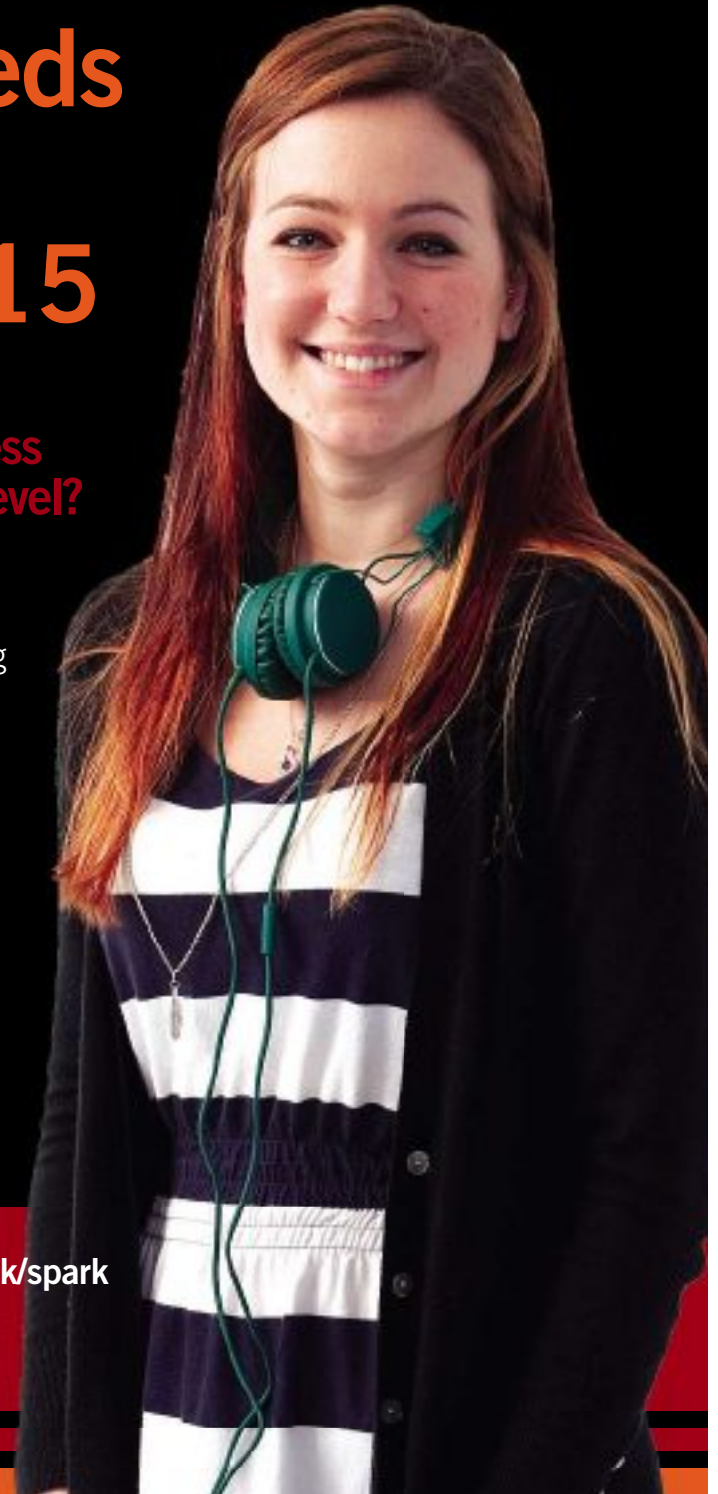
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Sex, gender and gender dysphoria

Hilary Robinson

In a large proportion of the population, the words gender and sex are seemingly interchangeable – a boy will both have male reproductive organs and believe himself to be male. However, there is an important distinction between the two that applies to every human being, but unfortunately is only acknowledged and understood by a limited number of people. The definitions of these words are important.

Sex refers to the biological make up of an individual's reproductive anatomy and secondary sex characteristics (features which appear during puberty).

Gender is the category (male/female) that individuals privately assign themselves to, based on a variety of factors.

It is thought that gender is normally determined by sex, which is in turn determined by the 23rd chromosome – either XX for a female, or XY for a male. Without hormonal intervention, the brain of an unborn baby will develop into a 'female brain'. However, a gene on the Y chromosome in males (the SRY gene) causes the gonads (organs which produce sperm/eggs) to secrete a high level of testosterone. Testosterone acts on a specific area of the brain known as the hypothalamus, influencing the brain to develop into a 'male brain'.

A US team at the University of Pennsylvania scanned the brains of nearly 1,000 men, women, boys and girls and found striking differences. Male brains appeared to be wired front to back, with few connections bridging the two hemispheres. In female brains, the pathways criss-crossed between left and right. According to researchers in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, these differences "might explain why men, in general, tend to be better at learning and performing a single task, like cycling or navigating, whereas women are more equipped for multitasking". Happily, this distinction isn't observed as vividly in reality.

Unfortunately, gender is not quite as simple to define. There are plenty of scientific women and multitasking men. In the extremes, there are people with female sex organs who define themselves as male, and vice versa, who are diagnosed with gender dysphoria – a condition where an individual is uncomfortable with the mismatch between their biological sex, and their gender identity.

It is largely unknown how many individuals live with gender dysphoria, as the condition is still heavily stigmatised, meaning that not all those with the condition seek help. However, a survey by the Equality and Human

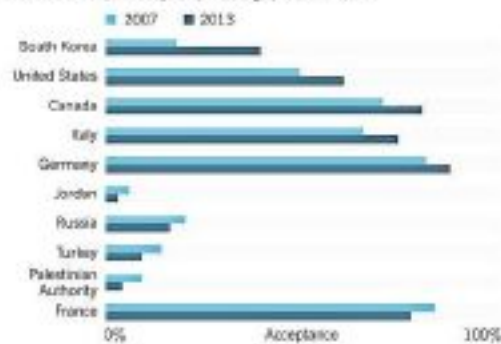
DEGREES OF ACCEPTANCE

In 2013, as part of a survey on global attitudes, the Pew Research Center in Washington DC asked people in 39 countries: "Should society accept homosexuality?" (It did not ask about transgender people.)



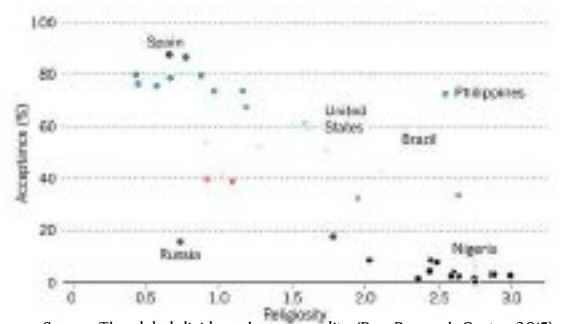
STABLE VIEWS – MOSTLY

Opinions had not changed much since 2007. But there were some notable exceptions: South Korea, the United States and Canada each increased acceptance by ten percentage points or more.



TOLERANCE AND RELIGION

The Pew data show that tolerance tends to be low in countries with high religiosity, a measure of how much importance people place on proper ritual and belief. Countries with low religiosity tend to have high acceptance.



Source: The global divide on homosexuality (Pew Research Center, 2013)

Rights Commission in 2012 concluded that roughly 1% of the population has the condition, and it's thought that this figure will rise over next few years as the condition is increasingly understood and publicised.

In lesser extreme cases,

“I am not suffering from gender dysphoria. I am suffering from social stigma, prejudice and discrimination”

transgender is defined as the state of one's gender identity or gender expression not matching one's assigned sex; they identify outside the gender binary, they are neither strictly male or female. Currently, there are several high profile transgender individuals in the media, including *Orange is the New Black* star Laverne Cox, who also

plays a transgender character in the series. Cox gave an interview with *The Times* recently, when she described the difficulty she faced growing up as an effeminate boy within a Christian family in the US: "I learned in church that [being gay] was a sin, I just

it was, I thought that they would kill me but they didn't."

Luckily, Cox has stated how much happier she is, since 'transforming' into a woman (many would argue that she always was a woman, not transforming). She currently raises awareness for transgendered individuals on her 'Ain't I A Woman? My Journey to Womanhood' university tour.

Another example of the struggle that individuals with gender dysphoria experience is shown by Isaac – a 17 year old, born with the biological sex of a girl, but the gender identity of a boy. Isaac is the first child in Australia to be given the right to access puberty suppressants, testosterone replacement therapy and any surgery related to his gender, without the permission of his parents. He stated, "I am not suffering from gender dysphoria. I am suffering from social stigma, prejudice and discrimination against trans and gender-diverse people." As the stories of Isaac and Cox show, it is vital that the stigma surrounding gender dysphoria is quelled.



The science behind the smooch



Jasmine Andersson ©

Alice Hargreaves Jones
Science Editor

Kissing can mean many things to many different people. It can be an expression of mutual affection, an act of reconciliation, a desperate attempt at midnight on New Years Eve, or even a tad of Valentines haste.

The notion of exchanging 80million bacteria with another person in one fell swoop may seem repulsive, but scientists in the Netherlands have reported this is exactly what happens during a 'passionate ten-second kiss'.

Still repulsive? Take heed, we're more likely to get sick from shaking hands throughout the day. Alongside all the germs, there are many benefits shared between partners as a result of smooching.

The positive sensations felt from kissing are engrained in us from an early age. In early life, the neural pathways in a baby's brain begin to develop quickly.

Babies tend to get their first experiences of love and security through behaviours such as bottle feeding or nursing – both of which involve lip pressure and stimulation, and mimic kissing. Such early events that associate lip pressure with positive emotion lay

down important neural pathways very early on in our lives, and these neural pathways continue to be well trodden in later life.

Ever noticed a pouting cat? Or noticed a severe lack of advertisement for canine lipstick? There is a reason for this; unlike other animals, human lips are uniquely everted, meaning they purse outwardly. The lips are the most exposed erogenous zone on our bodies. Even the slightest sensations are felt on the lips due to the high concentration of nerve endings found here, which can send torrents of 'feel-good' information to the brain during a passionate kiss.

The section of the brain activated by kissing is associated with sensory information, influencing our thoughts and feelings by setting off a whirlwind of hormones and neurotransmitters throughout the body. These neural impulses bounce between the brain, lips, tongue, skin and facial features, producing chemical signals from nerve connections around the body.

Dopamine levels, a neurotransmitter linked to feelings of desire, are known to spike during a passionate kiss. A fluttering heartbeat and sweaty palms can be accredited to adrenaline boosts, while stress levels drop due to a dip in cortisol. The so called "love hormone"

oxytocin can flood the brain, nurturing feelings of attachment and intimacy. Temperatures rise, breathing deepens and cheeks flush. Overall, kissing – the mere act of touching lips with another human – can foster the described sensations of falling in love.

Kissing isn't all about romance and neural fireworks. Most people will have experienced what they would class as an 'unpleasant' kiss during their lifetime. A team of evolutionary psychologists at the State University of New York at Albany found that 59 percent of men and 66 percent of women within a sample group had discontinued a blossoming romance as a result of a bad kiss.

In fact, a kiss acts as the 'make or break' moment for the brain, urging us to be most attracted to those that we judge to be the best genetic partners. The close proximity of a passionate kiss can aid partners in learning about each other by highly engaging their senses of smell, taste and touch. As unaware as we may be about it, kissing can act as a form of 'DNA proficiency test'.

A team of Swiss scientists led by Claus Wedekind found that prospective partners can read subconscious clues about a man's DNA through his scent, to which they will be highly tuned during a

passionate kiss. Wedekind reported that women are found "to be most attracted to the scents of men who carry a different genetic code for their immune system in a region of DNA known as the major histocompatibility complex or MHC."

There is some logic to this: scientists are now considering that a couple who carry distinctly different genetics for combating disease and illness will produce children with stronger immune systems. (However, Wedekind also found that women who are taking a contraceptive pill show the opposite preferences, being attracted towards men with similar MHC genetics, suggesting the contraceptive pill may fool female bodies in more ways than currently thought).

Kisses can come in many varieties, and are inherently linked to the most significant and meaningful moments of our lives – they provide a means of communication beyond the power of words. Scientists have barely touched upon a real study of kissing, despite clear evolutionary significance, but what we currently know tells us that there is a whole lot more going on than meets the eyes, or lips.

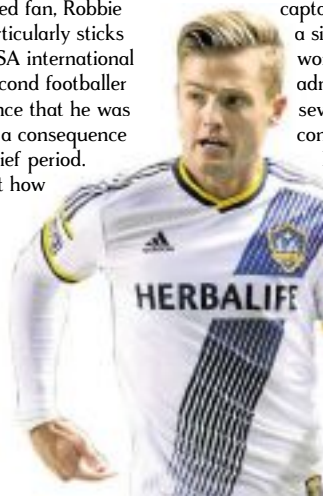


LGBTQ: The acceptance within sport

Peter White
Comment

Sexuality is certainly a sensitive subject when it comes to sport. Despite an ever-increasing list of openly gay athletes including Olympic bronze medalist Tom Daley and former Aston Villa midfielder Thomas Hitzlsperger, who both came out in the last year or so, the reality is that it is still largely a taboo topic that causes sports stars distress and desolation.

As a Leeds United fan, Robbie Rogers' struggle particularly sticks in my mind. The USA international became only the second footballer in Britain to announce that he was gay in 2013 and as a consequence left football for a brief period. Rogers talked about how it was "impossible" to come out in football because of the hype surrounding the fact that so few had. Indeed, his only predecessor, Justin Fashanu, had a once-promising career dogged with homophobic abuse



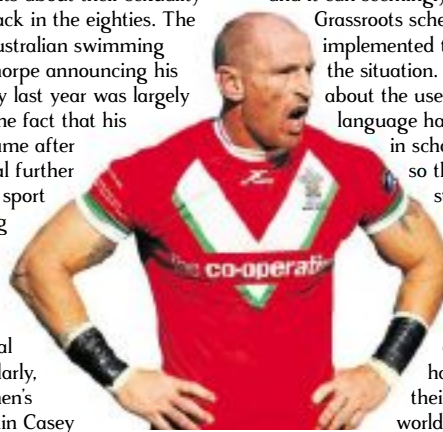
and he eventually committed suicide in 1998 after being accused of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old. Rogers had left Leeds shortly before he made his announcement, but suggested that he wouldn't have done so had he still been with the Elland Road club.

However, three months after coming out he signed a contract with LA Galaxy and has since said that the only way things can change is if more people come out and continue to play.

Former Wales and British Lions captain Gareth Thomas suffered a similar experience in the world of rugby. Thomas admitted that he had made several suicide attempts after confessing to his wife that he had been gay since he was 16 and described how he used his feelings of 'absolute despair' to become one of the toughest rugby players in the world in an attempt to hide his sexuality. Thomas became Britain's first openly gay professional rugby player when he

came out in 2009, but admitted that he feared his announcement would derail his career. Like Rogers, Thomas has urged fellow sports stars to 'break the taboo' of homosexuality in sport and insists that coming out might inspire young, gay athletes to continue playing.

Away from typically 'macho' sports such as men's football and rugby, progress has clearly been made, but there are still concerns. Billie-Jean King received death threats after she came out, while her and fellow tennis star Martina Navratilova both lost out on huge endorsements when announcements about their sexuality were made back in the eighties. The reaction to Australian swimming legend Ian Thorpe announcing his homosexuality last year was largely positive, yet the fact that his declaration came after years of denial further suggests that sport still has a long way to go in providing a welcoming environment for professional athletes. Similarly, England women's football captain Casey



Stoney tweeted a photo last September of a letter she received warning her of the health hazards of homosexuality, giving a stark reminder that despite the huge strides that may have been taken in changing attitudes over recent years, there are still intolerant issues associated with homosexuality in sport.

Generally, the message seems to be that increasing the number of openly gay sports stars will help create an atmosphere where men and women feel it is okay to come out and continue to play. The response to recent revelations has been hugely positive and it can seemingly only get better.

Grassroots schemes are also being implemented to try and improve the situation. Increased education about the use of homophobic language has been introduced in schools across the UK so that homosexual students are not deterred from participating in sport. It is hoped that someday soon, the sexuality of an athlete will have no bearing on their role in the sporting world.

Yorkshire Terriers: LGBTQ-friendly football

Adam LeRoux
Comment

There are plenty of examples within sport of people not coming out until they retire, and the struggles and torment they experience throughout their career. Sadly, we live in a world where not everyone can accept differences in sexuality, and within the microcosm of sport this seems to be magnified.

So having a club on our doorstep in Leeds that is LGBTQ-friendly like the Yorkshire Terriers can make all the difference to those who might need it. As assistant manager Chris Cannings explains, "the reason I chose to play for a gay club was the social side of things. That is a major part of the club, as we all go for a pint after the game together. It's a huge social network."

The Terriers ply their trade in the Gay Football Supporters Network League, which has 15 teams in three tiers, showing the growth of LGBTQ sport across the UK. Within a squad of 30 Cannings says there are eight straight players in the side, and with regard to homosexuality in sport, he says attitudes are changing, but not completely.

"They are changing quickly, we play in a league that isn't GFSN

on a Thursday night and I've never experienced any sort of abuse on the pitch. Though there are people's perceptions in the changing room with a gay man."

Is it something the governing bodies of sport can do something about?

"The thing about local sport is that it is self-policed if you like and anything goes, whereas the workplace has policies in place to support homosexual people. The workplace, in comparison, is a lot more comfortable, and I feel it to be normal now."

The controversial aspect of the GFSN is its specific 'gay league' label, which could be interpreted as endorsing

separation, but as Chris explains, the league, and the team, are a great help for many gay men.

"There are people that have differing views on the idea of a 'gay league', but I can see why there is one. From a personal perspective it hasn't always been easy coming out, but the gay league provides some structural environment for gay communities. Straight players are always welcome, so it isn't exclusively a gay man's league."

From grass roots to professional football, homosexuality seems to be a taboo subject, and as Cannings says that "if you look at the law of averages there must be a few gay players out there, and

it must be holding them back personally if they feel they can't come out. It will be a brave man that is the first man to come out."

When pressed on homophobia within football today, Cannings is not blind to the fact it still occurs. "It is still there, there are campaigns to stop it but it still does go on in pockets, with narrow-minded football fans that cause the problems."

Some may feel it is the media reaction that is stopping such a high-profile sportsman coming out, but Cannings believes the press do a great job. "The media are always standing up against other things such as racism, so why would it be any different for homophobia? I think they would be very supportive if anyone ever came out."

That final line is perhaps the one to be remembered. At the end of the day it doesn't matter who you are, and how you live your life, you shouldn't be stopped from doing what you enjoy. If that means being able to play sports and not feel like you're holding yourself back, no one should be able to stop you.

If you would like to get involved in LGBT friendly sport, you can contact the Yorkshire Terriers through their website <http://www.terriersfc.co.uk> or follow them on twitter at @yterriersfc



England steal the Six Nations show

Chris Chadburn
Rugby Union

By stunning Wales on their own turf in a thrilling spectacle on Friday night, England undoubtedly produced their best 40 minutes of rugby under the current regime. The brutal and relentless pressure inflicted upon a helpless Welsh outfit in the second half has certainly made the rest of the rugby world sit up and take notice. In truth, a performance anything like that seen against Wales will see off the disappointingly flaky Italians in Saturday's encounter at Twickenham.

Whereas England displayed intensity, accuracy and tactical nous, the Italians struggled to muster anything more than directionless physicality in their 26-3 defeat to Ireland. England will certainly be endeavouring to deliver a more expansive and creative display against Italy and produce the 80-minute performance that has eluded them thus far. Italy must be far more disciplined and aggressive if they are to have any chance of a avoiding a

significant defeat.

Of all the three opening game losers, Scotland will feel the most positive. They showed signs of promise in Paris, yet the persistent problem of inaccuracy in the final third meant that their impressive play was not converted into points. Their encounter with a wounded Wales is a must win for both if either are to achieve relative success in this year's Championships and Wales will need to be far less one-dimensional to defeat a gradually improving Scotland.

The game of this weekend is at the Aviva. Patient Ireland eventually wore down a defensive

Italy showing only sparks of life in what was a fairly comfortable win, whereas the French abandoned all flair and style in a controlled and territorial demonstration, in an efficient, albeit uninspiring, win against the Scots. The French will be looking for revenge after defensive heroics from the Irish denied *Les Bleus* the Championship in this fixture last year. However, they will need to significantly improve their attacking game if they wish to trouble the resolute Irish line. The stage is set for another blockbuster.



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England hoping for strong ODI showing

Euan Cunningham
Cricket

The World Cup is the prize that all ODI cricketers want to win, the glittering trophy that only a privileged few manage to lay their hands on. This year's competition takes place in Australia and New Zealand, and will no doubt be full of drama, passion and excitement.

Australia will be most people's favourites for the tournament. They have home conditions and the vociferous backing of an entire cricket-mad country on their side, not that their team really needs much help. They have a batting line-up overflowing with power and the ability to hit the ball miles, with Aaron Finch, Shane Watson, and David Warner all capable of taking the game away from the opposition. Their bowling is lethal too, with Mitchell Johnson looking to carry on where he left off against England last winter, when he was both extremely hostile and extremely fast.

England face Australia in their first game of the tournament, and they will be quietly confident of turning a few heads. While they may not be heralded as much as other teams, Eoin Morgan's side has some exciting and innovative young batsmen like Joe Root and Jos Buttler, as well as two extremely capable fast bowlers in Jimmy Anderson and Stuart Broad. They need to ensure that they produce a good performance against Australia in their first match though; a comprehensive defeat could cause them to crumble.

If England do get to the quarter finals, depending on where they finish in their group they could come up against another one of the pre-tournament favourites, South Africa. On the face of it, the Proteas have everything

needed to win a major tournament – explosive batting led by AB de Villiers and Hashim Amla, and bowlers such as Dale Steyn and Vernon Philander. The problem with South Africa has always been holding their nerve at the moments of maximum pressure; the term 'chokers' has often been applied to them. If they can manage the mental side of things, they have more than enough talent to win it.

The same could be said of India, the 2011 winners who still have a ridiculously good batting line up. MS Dhoni will as always be a threat as a captain, a wicket keeper and a batsman, and he'll be ably backed up by men such as Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan. It's the bowling that's the concern for India, with no one available who's anywhere near the level of Johnson, Steyn or Anderson. Their plan will be to pile up enough runs to make it virtually impossible for the opposition to chase down the total, no matter how poor their attack may be.

Other teams in with a shout will be New Zealand, on home turf and with pitches exactly how they like them (with plenty in it for the bowlers), Sri Lanka, who will be desperate to give Jayawardene and Sangakkara a good send-off from ODI cricket, and Pakistan for whom anything can happen on any given day – they're probably the most unpredictable side of the tournament. The West Indies meanwhile will view getting through the group stage as a success given their abysmal recent record as well as the off-field upheaval currently going on.

It's hard to make predictions for a tournament that so many teams will justifiably believe they have an excellent chance in. For England, expectations are not being set.

Europe's big guns set to fire in knock outs

Daniel Nixon
Football

This week sees the return of football's most glamorous competition and there are some mouth-watering fixtures to get excited for. French giants PSG host England's highest-placed club Chelsea in what is bound to be a tight affair.

Mourinho, having failed to win the competition in his last tenure at Chelsea will be desperate to do so this time round. However, PSG, with the likes of Cavani and Ibrahimovic, will be by no means an easy test for English side. With such exceptional footballing talent on show, this is going to be one of the must watch fixtures of the round.

German champions Bayern Munich are also in action this Tuesday, as they travel to Ukraine to face Shakhtar Donetsk and are widely tipped to be one of the front-runners in the competition.

Munich cruised through their group, only dropping points away at Manchester City, and should come out on top against one of the lower-ranked teams left in the tournament. Bayern's main rivals, Real Madrid, also face

an away trip to lesser opposition as they take on Schalke on Wednesday night.

Madrid will be hoping to lift the trophy for a second year in succession, a feat that has not been achieved since 1990 when AC Milan overpowered Benfica, following their thrashing of Steaua Bucharest in the final the previous year. Schalke have never enjoyed major success despite their regular participation in this competition. However, the German fans will create a hostile atmosphere and will relish the chance to pull off an upset and knock out the reigning champions.

Basel complete this week's line-up as they play host to Porto in what will be an intriguing encounter. Porto comfortably topped their group, whilst Basel snuck through at Liverpool's expense. Neither team is expected to go on and win the competition, but that by no means diminishes the importance of the tie.

We can expect a high-quality, entertaining match, where Porto probably fancy themselves as favourites, but Basel are sitting comfortably at the top of the Swiss Super League and will put up a good fight against the Portuguese giants.



Durham defeat tests experimental Leeds

Anna Gray
Women's Lacrosse
Leeds Uni Is 1-20 Durham Is

For the final league game of the season, the women's 1s lacrosse side entertained a strong Durham side at Weetwood. With the match having been cancelled last week because of a frozen pitch, both teams were raring to have this game over and done with so they could focus on the upcoming cup and potential play-off matches.

Both teams used the match to their advantage – Durham were able to try out some of the moves they had been working on, while the Gryphons took the opportunity to practice their defensive work; pushing up the pressure on the ball carrier with support on either side, but hanging back when they didn't

have the ball.

Communication between the Gryphons was nice and high and good defensive play was teamed with some nice short, sharp passes from midfield. While Durham had the overall edge over Leeds, the home side did get some time in attack and there were around four or five shots including a beautiful goal from Georgie Single. Considering Durham's goalie is an England international, Leeds were understandably chuffed.

Although the final score of 20-1 was a bit disappointing, Leeds came away with their heads held high. Durham are unbeaten in the league and are a really tough team so with this match, and the scheduled friendly against Durham 2s this weekend, Leeds should be sufficiently prepared for the Nationals Tournament next weekend.



Do you believe in life after Lough?

Alex Bowmer
Women's Badminton
Leeds Uni Is 1 - 7 Loughborough Is

Leeds battled hard, but Loughborough ultimately had too much quality in the badminton women's Is fixture on Wednesday.

First on court was Serena Midha, who struggled to find her feet early on, as her opponent found the baseline at will and exploiting the full dimensions of the court. As the match wore on, Midha managed to get more joy, and a couple of good smashes served as a reminder of her talents. However, the Loughborough player still managed to keep the lead and her excellent movement meant she nullified Midha's attacking threat to take the first game.

The second game was much closer, as Midha began to find her way through her opponent's defences. At 6-5, the two engaged in an epic rally, with both varying up their shots nicely, before Midha clinched the point with a killer smash. However, the Loughborough starlet upped her game and pulled away to win the match. Ashleigh Buck also lost her opening singles rubber, meaning

that the Gryphons faced an uphill task.

Rae Larmour and Harriet West are the experienced heads in the team and they were able to draw on this as they recorded a hard-fought three-game triumph. Loughborough edged the opening exchanges, but Leeds never allowed the score to run away from them. Many of the rallies were played at a ferocious tempo, with both teams often resorting to last-ditch defending in a desperate attempt to keep the points alive. Despite some deft shot-making from the Leeds pair, it wasn't enough to wrap up the first game. Undeterred, they came out fighting, and put clear water between themselves and their Loughborough adversaries at the start of the second game. Larmour and West started to play with real flair and seemed to be home and dry at 14-3. However, the visiting pair slowly hauled their way back into the match, and got the score back to 16-12 with some big hitting. However, the Leeds pair remained calm and levelled the match to force a decider.

Loughborough returned to the court with renewed vigour and quickly established a 5-2 lead. However, Leeds soon got back into their stride and

won six points on the bounce, before Loughborough closed the gap once again. The match continued to be tight, with both teams displaying incredible reserves of energy, but Leeds held their nerve to secure the win. Jojo Minihan and Lizzie Hunt found the going match tougher in their opening doubles encounter, and despite some flashes of brilliance, they went down 7-21, 10-21.

Ashleigh Buck is in her first season with the team, and found the quality of the Loughborough opponents a challenge. Saying this, she did keep the score close during the opening stages, before her opponent started to pull away and seal the first game. The Gryphon did not let this get her down, and some aggressive hitting saw her go 5-4 in front in the second. From this point on, however, the experience and quality of the Loughborough hitter shone through.

Following a narrow defeat for Midha in the other singles match, the match was beyond Leeds, and the remaining ties were more about boosting the goal difference than anything else.

The final game saw Minihan and Hunt face off against Loughborough's second-string doubles pair. The two

sides exchanged points early on, but once again the East Midlands outfit got their noses in front. Both Gryphons were producing some inspired play at times, but the problem was that so were Loughborough. The highlight of a frenetic opening game saw Leeds hit numerous smashes that kept getting repelled by Loughborough, who then went on the attack themselves. Leeds stood strong though, and eventually the pressure told, as the shuttle was caressed into the net by Loughborough. However, the Leeds women could not build on that rally, and soon found themselves one game down.

Once again, Leeds did not their heads up and kept pace with Loughborough during the early stages of the second game. Loughborough were clearly in a hurry to get back to their minibus and go home, and racked up a succession of quick points to pull away.

It was a disappointing outcome for Leeds, but bearing in mind that Loughborough are arguably the best sporting university in the country, there is no shame in the result.

Leeds Celtics finally get long awaited victory

Nick Knight
American Football
Leeds Celtics 14 - 6 York Centurions

Looking for redemption following the defeat to Beckett in Varsity, Leeds Celtics travelled to York to face the Centurions on what turned out to be a sunny afternoon. Both teams were yet to record their first victory of the season, so tensions were running high.

York won the toss and elected to receive the kick off. Their offence weren't on the field long though before they were forced to punt, and the Celtics offence came out with a point to prove, having been absent from the scoreboard for three games. However, neither team were able to put up points in the first quarter, but York were left knocking on the door in the Celtics' red zone following an unfortunate interception after a ricochet on a nicely thrown ball.

As the second quarter began, the Celtics' defence held strong and kept York out of the end zone. This gave the offence a very long field to work with, but thanks to a 20 yard run from quarterback Adam Smith and a penalty on the York defence, the Celtics were at midfield and still driving. Smith then launched a pass 50 yards

down the field and found wide receiver Connor Robson down the side line for a huge completion, and just inches from a touchdown. A short pass to tight end Alex Hall and a two point conversion later, the Celtics found themselves 8-0 up going in to the half.

The third quarter began with the

Celtics receiving the kick off, and went much along the lines of the first quarter. Both teams exchanged possessions and York came close to the end zone but were kept out by strong play from the defence.

The Celtics again put together another lengthy drive in the fourth

quarter. This started off with strong running up the middle from running back Tiane Nyashanu, and a 20 yard run from John Leadbeater. Leadbeater was brought down hard by three York players, and required the assistance of the medical staff to leave the field. Thankfully, he suffered no serious injury. Then came the play of the day, as Adam Smith found Alex Hall one more time down the side line, and Hall was able to fight off three defenders on his way to running in a 45 yard touchdown pass, sending the score to 14-0.

York spent the rest of the game desperately trying to put some points on the board with a combination of runs and passes, but safety Ben Smith was able to rip the ball out of the York running back's hands for a turnover, and later cornerback Jamal Cole-Dickson was able to intercept a pass from the York QB to potentially ice the game.

The hosts did get one more possession though, and on the last play of the game, threw up a pass that was deflected, and caught by a receiver on the edge of the end zone, and was generously ruled a touchdown, leaving the final score 14-6 to the Leeds Celtics.



Goals galore as Uni snatch draw

Daniel Nixon
Men's Football
Leeds Uni 3s 2-2 Sheffield 3s

The scores ended square on Wednesday as the Leeds Uni 3s took on Sheffield in a thrilling 2-2 draw at Weetwood. Uni sat three places below their rivals before kick-off, but the difference in form was certainly not evident during the game.

Uni started the match brightly, dominating possession and working a couple of decent moves into the Sheffield area. Intense pressure from the Uni front line kept creating openings for Jamie Whiteford up front but there was still no breakthrough.

A Sheffield throw deep in their own

half was sloppily messed up finding its way back to their goalkeeper. Whiteford seized the opportunity and quickly closed down the Sheffield keeper who blasted the resulting clearance straight at the Uni forward, sending the ball looping into the Sheffield net to make it 1-0 in the 19th minute.

Leeds continued to dominate play and looked likely to add to their tally before half time, whilst any Sheffield breakaways were halted by the solid Gryphons' defence. Kaleem Luthra was putting in some excellent tackles throughout the first half and looked particularly unbeatable.

In the last few seconds of play a momentary lapse in defensive quality saw Sheffield break through. The initial shot was well saved but there was no stopping the rebound to make the score 1-1. Despite numerous offside calls from the Uni team the goal stood earning Sheffield an undeserved draw at half-time.

Again Uni started the second half brightly with plenty of possession, but five minutes in Uni conceded

a free kick about 25 yards out. The resulting shot swerved around the wall and into the bottom left-hand corner, giving Sheffield a fortunate 2-1 lead. That lead didn't last long though, as straight from kick off, Laith Nashashibi picked up the ball in the centre of midfield. The winger took a few steps and unleashed an unstoppable shot which flew into the top-left hand corner from 25 yards out. Uni were back on track and pressing for that all important

winning goal.

Uni had more chances to win the game late on; Nashashibi again showed his quality from range but this time was denied by the woodwork. Uni then hit the woodwork again as a whipped in corner came straight off the bar and out of play. The game ended in a 2-2 stalemate, a result which will have disappointed the home side who need important points heading into the final part of the season.



Jack Roberts ©

Stats		
Leeds		Sheffield
4	Shots on Target	5
6	Shots off Target	5
5	Fouls	4
4	Corners	4

Late equaliser really hurts like Hull

Euan Cunningham
Men's Hockey
Leeds Uni 3s 1-1 Hull 1s

On a bitterly cold afternoon at Weetwood, Leeds Hockey Mens 3s managed a highly creditable 1-1 draw with Hull 1s, although the hosts were left pondering of what could have been.

Hull started the brighter, with neat combination play and passing often allowing them to break into the Leeds area and look to create opportunities. Leeds' defence stood firm though, and even when Hull did manage to break through, the reliable figure of keeper Tom Mclean was in the way to produce several excellent blocks.

Leeds slowly started to grow into the game, and worked on getting their passing routine going. They would attempt to draw the Hull players out of their defensive shape, before attacking at speed and catching them out. Several times the ball flashed dangerously across the visitors area, but no one quite managed to get the decisive touch from a Leeds point of view. Jack Fairs impressed, and his trickery in evading a tackle helped to set up a chance for the hosts.

After 17 minutes Leeds were deservedly rewarded for their pressure

with the opening goal. A neat move eventually broke down on the edge of the D, but their persistence in preventing Hull from breaking out got its rewards when the ball eventually fell to Tom Slaney only a few yards out, who gleefully drove the ball home.

Leeds held on to the lead until half time with minimum fuss, and after the break initially looked to extend their advantage further, with a couple of dangerous short corners not quite leading to that all-important second goal. At the interval, captain Matt Shock was vocal that the lead should be well protected.

As time wore on, Hull slowly started to get a foothold in the game, and Leeds started to tire. Mclean was being called upon more and more as the match entered the last 15 minutes, with several spectacular saves from Hull short corners. Leeds did have several chances of their own to extend their lead on the break, but poor decision making and desperate Hull defending frustratingly prevented them putting the game to bed.

And the home team were made to pay in cruel fashion for these missed chances. Despite Hull losing a player on a five minute yellow card for persistently arguing with a referee, Leeds were

forced to sit deep and gave several free hits away around the edge of the area. Right in the last seconds of the match one of these bore fruit for Hull, as the ball ricocheted around the area, with no Leeds player ever quite being able to get the ball clear. Eventually a Hull player managed to latch onto the ball and slam it past Mclean and into the goal, sparking wild celebrations on their

bench.

A cruel late blow for Leeds, but the ending should not mask the overall high quality of their performance, against Hull's first team. Concentration and composure in the last few minutes will no doubt be the watchwords next week as they play two games in three days against Newcastle and York St John.



Carlotta Grimaldi ©



Beckett edge rugby thriller



Jack Roberts ©

Chris Chadburn
Men's Rugby Union
Leeds Uni 2s 34-41 Leeds Beckett 2s

Both Leeds University and Beckett produced excellent performances in a high intensity, high quality, and high scoring match, which ultimately saw Beckett achieve a seven point victory.

After an even first few minutes in which defences dominated, Beckett made their territory pay, breaking off from a well formed maul five metres out to score. This converted try began a 15-minute spell in which the visitors controlled territory and possession, scoring again from a deft grubber into the corner.

At 14-0 down Uni finally got into gear and although they dominated the next 10 minutes, struggled to find the final pass. Inevitably Beckett struck

again, demonstrating fast hands as they burst down the right to take a 21-0 lead.

Ill discipline then crippled Beckett, conceding penalty after penalty, and fine kicking from fly-half Jake Blakely-Edwards pinned the visitors into their 22.

Finally the pressure told after Beckett were reduced to 14 men thanks to a cynical offside; slick handling allowed Elliot Thompson to score in the corner. The fine touchline conversion from Blakely-Edwards made the halftime score 21-7.

The Gryphons stormed out of the blocks in the second half, playing with pace and accuracy for many phases, including one of countless strong carries from the relentless Dan Fox before Ryan Taylor finished off a flowing phase for an unconverted score in the corner.

Beckett were visibly rattled and coughed up errors and possession.

Another fine, sweeping attack - which meandered from touchline to touchline - was capped with a dazzling outside arc from full back Tom Harding, who slid past the helpless defence to score the home side's third try. Blakely-Edwards' conversion reduced the deficit to just two.

A breathless five minutes followed with chances and breaks for Uni, but with the aid of some potential crossing in midfield, the Beckett flanker slipped through midfield, offloading to their winger for a seven pointer against the run of play.

The Gryphons' response was swift and fruitful. Huge midfield defence caused the turnover from which Tom Harding's outside arc was once again too good for the scrambling Beckett defence.

The seesaw scoring continued as Beckett once again extended their lead with a close range try, quickly cancelled out by a second try from Ryan Taylor.

At 31-35 going into the final ten minutes, the free flowing rugby succumbed to tactical and territorial sparring. Beckett opted for three points from a close range penalty and Uni soon followed suit with one of their own.

A well taken drop goal then extended the visitors advantage to seven points going into the final moments, all of which were spent on the away team's line, defending wave after wave of Uni carries. Resolute Beckett defence and an unlikely scrum turnover allowed them to frantically see the match out.

Plaudits must go to both teams for a brilliantly contested and entertaining affair, played with passion, commitment and much skill.

Leeds Uni	Stats	Leeds Beckett
5	Tries	5
3	Conversions	5
1	Penalties	1
0	Drop Goals	1
9	Penalties Conceded	14



Badminton 1s (M) 8-0 Leeds Beckett 2s
Badminton 2s (M) 5-3 Sunderland 1s
Badminton 3s (M) 2-6 Northumbria 2s
Badminton 1s (W) 1-7 Loughborough 1s
Badminton 2s (W) 6-2 Liverpool 1s

Basketball 1s (M) 69-68 Leeds Beckett 2s
Basketball 2s (M) 64-80 Hull 1s
Basketball 3s (M) 64-35 York 2s

Fencing (M) 135-71 Bangor 1s
Fencing (W) 127-129 York 1s

Football 1s (M) 0-0 York 1s
Football 2s (M) 5-5 Sheffield Hallam 2s
Football 3s (M) 2-2 Sheffield 3s
Football 4s (M) 3-0 Sheffield 4s
Football 1s (W) 1-4 Sheffield Hallam 1s
Football 2s (W) 0-7 York 1s

Golf 5-1 Liverpool 1s

Hockey 2s (M) 1-2 York 1s
Hockey 3s (M) 1-1 Hull 1s
Hockey 4s (M) 1-2 Sheffield 3s
Hockey 2s (W) 0-1 York 1s
Hockey 3s (W) 1-2 York St John 1s
Hockey 4s (W) 1-1 Newcastle 4s
Hockey 5s (W) 2-1 Sheffield 3s
Hockey 6s (W) 2-2 Sheffield 4s
Hockey 7s (W) 2-5 Huddersfield 1s
Hockey 8s (W) 0-2 Sunderland 1s

Lacrosse 1s (W) 1-20 Durham 1s
Lacrosse 2s (W) 2-16 Hull 1s

Netball 2s 39-37 Durham 2s
Netball 3s 34-32 Northumbria 3s
Netball 4s 32-25 Newcastle 4s
Netball 5s 32-50 Sunderland 1s
Netball 6s 58-7 Leeds Trinity 3s

Rugby League 1s 42-18 Leeds Beckett 2s

Rugby Union 1s (M) 27-25 Nottingham 1s
Rugby Union 2s (M) 34-41 Leeds Beckett 2s
Rugby Union 3s (M) 5-57 Hull 1s
Rugby Union (W) 51-5 York 1s

Squash 1s (M) 5-0 York 1s

Tennis 2s (M) 6-6 York 1s
Tennis 4s (M) 4-8 Leeds Beckett 5s

Volleyball (W) 0-3 Northumbria 2s





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Beckett come out on top in Varsity rematch but Leeds ran them close p. 23



A look ahead to cricket's ODI World Cup and England's chances of glory p. 20



Leeds Celtics get their first win in a while with victory over York Centurions p. 21



Jack Roberts ©

Uni's promotion push continues

● Woodburn-Hall inspires Uni to vital victory with dominating display ● Uni top of the league with two games left to play

Peter White
Rugby League
Leeds Uni Is 42-18 Leeds Beckett 2s

The Leeds Uni Is kept their promotion plans on track with a 42-18 win over local rivals Leeds Beckett on a bitter afternoon at Weetwood. Despite their opponents battling at the opposite end of the table, the home side knew that Beckett would be well up for this fixture in particular, yet it was Uni who came flying out of the blocks to score the game's first try after just five minutes. Sam King evaded two tackles to go over, before James Woodburn-Hall added the extras to make it 6-0.

It was evident that the home side were oozing confidence after recording six wins out of seven prior to kick-off, and they were unlucky not to extend their lead straight from the restart. Beckett dropped the ball from a kick following the fifth tackle and despite regaining possession, Uni just couldn't quite get over the line and an

unfortunate knock-on meant the chance went begging.

Uni didn't have to wait too long to increase their advantage however, as some good work from the home forwards released Woodburn-Hall to score his first try of the day before adding the conversion to make it 12-0 with just over 10 minutes gone.

The home side were starting to look like they were in a different class to their opposition and two further tries were added to make the score 22-0 before the midway point of the first half. Pat O'Brien was at the centre of both attacks and he was duly rewarded with his first points of the match.

Uni were in full control of the game and the talent of Woodburn-Hall was clearly evident as he and Harry Tabb pulled the strings for the home side phase after phase. Beckett weren't ready to lie down though, and their vocal following inspired them to remind the home side that there were two teams in this contest. A sloppy knock-on in a

dangerous position offered the away side a great opportunity to get back into the game, but Uni defended well to avert the danger and boldly responded by going straight up the other end of the pitch to score their fifth try of the day.

Woodburn-Hall was striking fear into the opposition every time he had possession, and a great offload from Dom O'Connor set him up for a great breakaway try. Matt Wright bagged himself two points with the conversion, which extended the home side's emphatic lead just before half-time.

Uni could be forgiven for taking their foot off the gas in the second half, but Beckett emerged from the break in a determined mood and they got their first try of the game following a period of scrappy play between the sides. Nonetheless, the home team remained in the ascendancy and were unlucky not to regain their large advantage on two occasions; Beckett managed to hold the ball up following good Uni pressure, before Tabb escaped the away defence

but didn't quite have the legs to make it over the line.

Beckett responded strongly and they proved to be the more clinical side in the second half as two quick tries brought them back into the game. With further pressure from the away side, it looked like Uni might rue their missed chances, but the re-introduction of Woodburn-Hall with 10 minutes to go helped put any Beckett hopes of a comeback to bed and Dan Bent grabbed a late try. Tabb added the extras, which gave Uni a 42-18 win.

Uni stay top of the Northern 1A division, and on this evidence it is hard to imagine that they won't win promotion this season. Despite an inferior points difference, Manchester Met are hot on Leeds' trail with the same amount of points so there is still all to play for with two games remaining. Uni face a strong Liverpool John Moores side next week and the team knows that a victory will edge them ever closer to the Premier North league.