

Band Aid 30

Is the charity single still suitable in 2014?



Harriet Harman

The Labour MP talks about Leeds' push for City of Culture 2023



In The Middle

The films to see at this year's Leeds International Film Festival

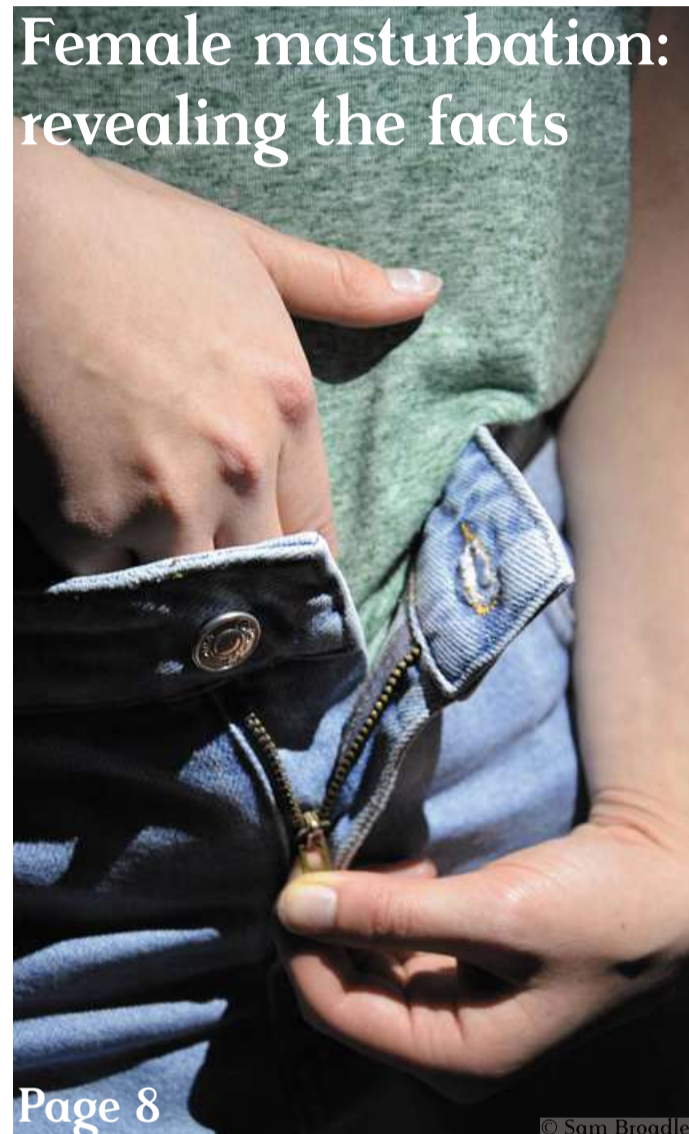
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LUU remove rugby club captain

Jasmine Andersson
Phil Mann
Editor-In-Chief
Associate Editor

The club captain and social secretaries of LUU's Rugby Union club have been removed from their positions, after Union disciplinary action brought as a consequence of a controversial social.

The events of 12th November, featured in *The Gryphon* previously, saw members of the society 'trash' Headingley Taps and set off smoke bombs in Devonshire Hall.

In a written official statement, LUU said,

"Leeds University Rugby Union Football Club (LURUFC) received a formal disciplinary from the Activities Executive on

Monday 24 November. This disciplinary action was taken as a result of some club members' behaviour on Wednesday 12 November.'

'As a result, the Activities Executive decided to enforce the following actions: The Club Captain to be removed from his committee position with immediate effect, the Social Secretaries to be removed from their committee positions with immediate effect. The club's committee are fully aware of these actions.'

The group were also reported to have caused trouble in The Original Oak, in Headingley, where one staff member told this newspaper 'We've dealt with their behaviour before. They constantly try to urinate in our pint glasses and leave us to clean it up. It's beyond a joke'

Fiona Metcalfe, Activities Officer, said: "As the representative of Leeds University Union's clubs and societies, I apologise to all those affected by the team's behaviour.

'The actions of certain members of the group are completely against Leeds University Union's social guidelines. The complaints received about their behaviour have all been taken seriously and the necessary disciplinary action enforced.' fair. LUU have made this decision.

One student who wished not to be named, said,

"The punishment seems way over the top. LUU have taken a knee-jerk decision to remove popular members of the club for no good reason."

The replacement committee members are yet to be announced.





28 11 14

Weather

		HI	LO
Friday	rain	11	9
Saturday	cloudy	10	6
Sunday	cloudy	9	6

Tweet of the Week

Frightful day for middle class. Andrew Mitchell loses libel action and chickens from M&S and Waitrose have more campylobacter than Tesco's.

-Channel 4 News' Tom Clarke on the resolution of 'pleb-gate' and the report on the quality of fresh chicken in UK stores

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Credits

Editor-in-Chief ~ Jasmine Andersson

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Features ~ Ruby Lott-Lavinga, Brigitte Phillips

Comment & Debate ~ Philippa Williams, Ella Healing

Science ~ Alice Hargreaves-Jones and Michael Owen

Sport ~ Adam LeRoux, Peter White, Alex Bowmer

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Black lives matter: remember Michael Brown

In a world where news stories filter through our fingertips, it can be something of a shock when our attention is held by one narrative. In the sweep of yesterday's criminals and tomorrow's stock figures, the world's audience ground to a halt as it paid attention to the story of Michael Brown, an unarmed teenager shot by a policeman. Although the atrocity of that crime is a case in itself, something else rested in the story -- a tale of injustice read too many times, a repetitive clause too close to home, resonating in the public consciousness with emotional poignance. As histories, nations and societies are said to evolve, this one narrative wears far too thinly. The officer was white, and the victim was black.

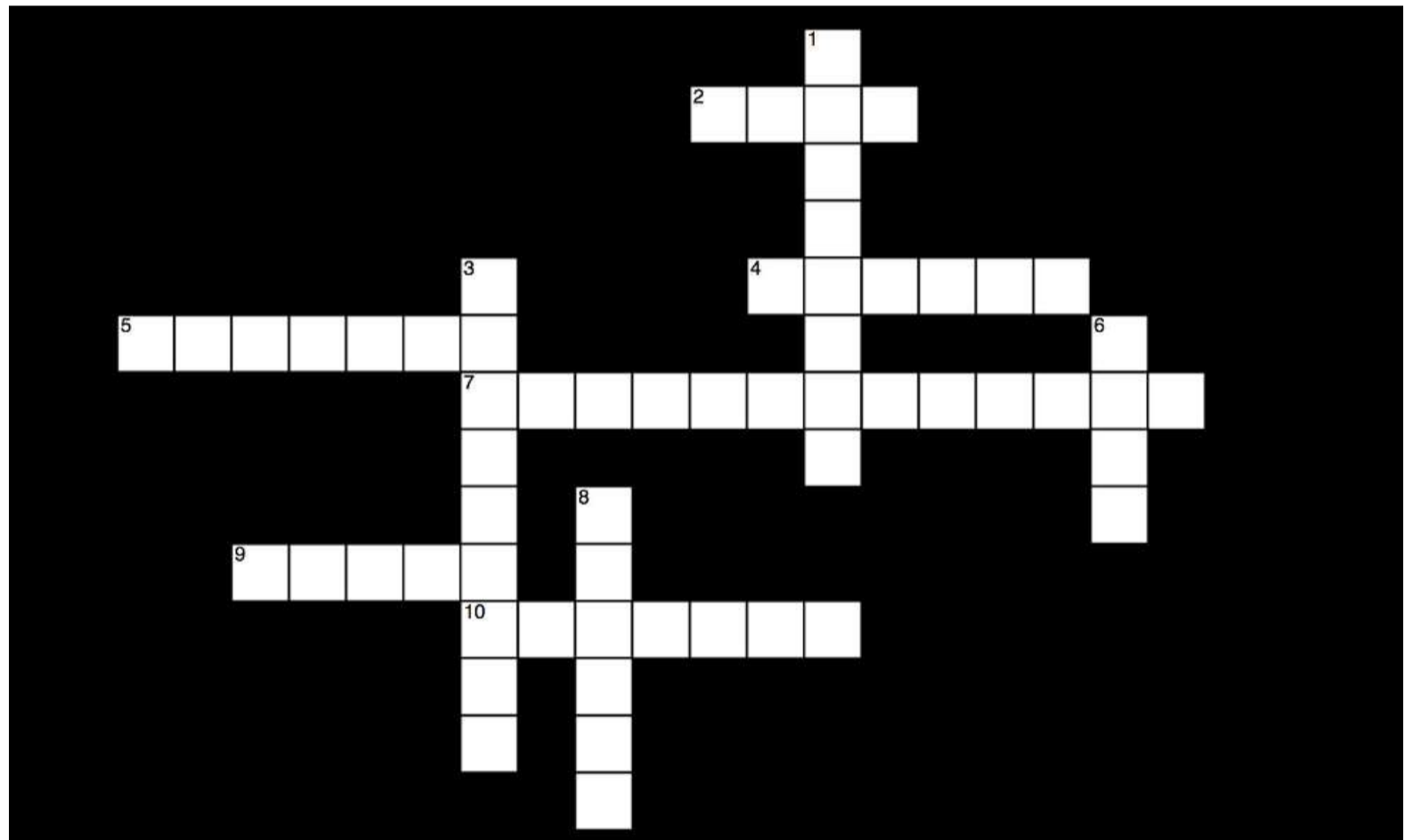
The most established institutions let us down. Although we channel so much of our concern into the notion that a higher power will deal with the wrongs accordingly, we fail to recognise the deep-seated prejudices that corrupt even our most considered social systems. In the wake of those six fatal shots, Michael's mother Lesley McSpadden requested one thing:

"No violence," she said. "Just justice."

Although some may find the crowd's reluctance to stay silent for four minutes -- the four minutes that represent the four hours that Michael remained on the street, ead -- somewhat disrespectful, it is worth noting how all of the words, the stories and the repression cannot be accounted for in a passive movement. As the crowd shouted, screamed and cried, they articulated a human despair, a sense of futility, a fierce anger that fails to be sated in the inherent injustice of justice. When the measures of the day fail to account for the atrocity committed, the world has to join hands and grasp the fraught story of reality. We may have read the same narrative a thousand times over, but that doesn't mean that the story has the right ending.

Jasmine Andersson
Editor-in-Chief

Current Affairs Crossword *The week's affairs in black and white squares*



ACROSS:

- Word that former Government Chief Whip Andrew Mitchell was judged to have used by a high court
- Phil _____ - Australian cricketer killed in freak on-pitch accident
- Where was a BA plane forced to land twice this week?
- Food Standards Agency revealed 70% of chickens sold in the UK are contaminated with this
- Favoured genre of novelist PD James, who has died aged 94
- BBC Radio 4 is to air a 10 hour long production of War & Peace on New Year's Day - who wrote it?

DOWN:

- Missouri city at the centre of US protests after failure to indict a police officer who shot and killed a suspect
- What is the Scottish Parliament soon going to be able to control?
- Brazilian football legend in 'special care unit' at a hospital this week
- David _____ - Former Tory MP in foul mouthed tirade against London taxi driver this week



Final 7k run to raise chemo funds



Chloe Beddoes
Elli Pugh

A Leeds University student is completing the tenth of a series of 7km runs on Friday 28th November to raise funds for her grandmother's cancer treatment in Ukraine.

Natasha Mykhalchenko, a second

year International Development student, explained she is hoping to raise £2500 to cover just under half of a six month course of chemotherapy treatment. Her grandmother, Elena Semenyak, was diagnosed with a malignant kidney tumour this summer, and has also been told that the cancerous cells have spread to her lungs.

Natasha has run a series of 7km routes departing from the Union over the course of the last four weeks and has said: 'I would be so happy if I could even raise just £1,000 as this would fund a month's treatment.' Natasha has been posting updates and pictures of each run on her 'Go Fund Me' fundraising page. Speaking of her running progress, she said,

'After the first run, it was very difficult to walk! But as I went along, it got better and better.'

The fundraiser, which is being supported by LUU's Cancer Awareness Society, aims to highlight an important healthcare issue.

Natasha explained: 'In Ukraine, you have to fund your own cancer treatment. Access to health care is a universal human right and efforts should be done to raise awareness and address the problem that takes away a chance to life of millions of people around the world.'

You can sponsor Natasha on her 'go-funeme' page or visit the Facebook page '70kmtopayforchemo'.

LUU backs sex-ed

Charlotte Mason
News Editor

The Union has come out in support of a motion to teach children about sexual violence against women.

The Sex and Relationships Education Bill proposes to improve sex education by introducing topics such as sexual abuse and bullying into the national curriculum.

Earlier this month, LUU Women's Liberation asked students about their experience of sex education in schools,

which most described as limited.

Supporters of the project include Union Welfare Officer Freya Govus and the University's Police Liaison Officer PC Matt Guy.

Speaking in LUU Women's Liberation's video, PC Guy said, 'What I see is that the laddish culture that you often see in night clubs says that it's OK to objectify and mistreat women. There is a link between that and sexual assaults that occur.'

The first reading of the bill took place in the House of Commons last Friday.

Union redevelop Raven theatre

Jake Hookem
News Editor

The Union has announced plans to invest in a redevelopment of the currently unused Raven theatre, and the Riley Smith Hall.

The plans will see the Union night-clubs having movable seating installed, allowing for a café-bar during the day for theatre performances at the adjoining Raven theatre.

On the club-nights, the seating will be moved and the clubs will function as normal. The Riley Smith Hall will also see automatic, sloped seating being installed allowing for a larger attendance at performances.

LUU's Union Affairs Officer Bradley Escorcio, 'Following approval from the University in January we'll be embarking on a multi-million pound scheme to refurbish performance spaces such as the Riley Smith Hall and the Raven Theatre, the Hidden Cafe and other locations, as well as improving access in and around the building.'

Activities Officer at LUU, Fi Metcalfe, added,

'The suitability of space has been a topic that our dance and performance societies have been talking about for years, so I'm really excited for them finally getting to use the upgraded space when the work is finished.'

Campus Watch

Nottingham University strip in stand against homophobia

Nottingham University's Men's Hockey Team have taken a public stance against homophobia in sport by playing a match nude in the freezing cold.

A video of the match has gained more than 250,000 views and was created in response to a study that revealed more than 20 per cent of LGBT students have faced persecution on campus.

Emily Willson

UEL Bans Homophobic Preacher

Imran Mansur, a Muslim preacher, has been banned from speaking at the University of East London due to homophobic remarks.

Mansur, was due to speak at an ISoc event at the University. The event was cancelled due to segregation between male and female attendees, and due to Mansur calling homosexuality a product of 'filthy Western culture' and stating that homosexuals have a 'disease'.

Suhail Dhanji

UEA cuts price of female sanitary products to cost price

The University of East Anglia will be the first student union in the country to sell sanitary products at cost price seeing some product's prices being cut by over a half.

The motion was passed by the Student Union's council in response to recent outrage when students found out that the government adds VAT of 5 per cent to sanitary products as they are considered as 'luxury items'.

Emily Willson

St Andrews Uni students complain to Tesco with sonnet

Two students from St Andrews University complained to Tesco about them not stocking their favourite popcorn with a poem.

The students were 'very impressed' when they then received a reply from the retail giant, in verse too.

They said, "We were disturbed by the lack of our favourite popcorn... so we resorted to the only medium we know, which is Shakespearean sonnet."

Hugh Baillie-Lane



Gym fees pushed over The Edge



Danny Anderson
Lucy Connolly

The Edge users could expect to see reduced membership fees in the future, as a Better University forum this week voted to make the gym more affordable.

Student Stella Vellendi, who proposed the notion, argued, 'Edge membership fees are too high for students to afford. Especially for those who aren't already very active or committed to sport, the price can put them off and they may choose to prioritise using their money on other things'.

The cost of membership for students not living in Halls of Residence ranges from £19.40 per month for basic membership to £30.80 for The Edge's Premium package. Students living in Halls receive free access to facilities during off-peak hours.

A student at The Edge told *The Gryphon*, 'The Edge is expensive but I think it's worth the money for the facilities you can access there'.

A panel of fourteen Union members voted unanimously to pass the idea.

The University's Head of Sport, Rob Wadsworth said, 'We review all of our prices annually in partnership with LUU. We are wholly committed to delivering value for money for our users and as a self funding service all income is reinvested in our facilities, programmes and services that give opportunities for all our students and staff to be active'.

A Better Union forum this week also voted to open a used-book shop in the Union, where students will be able to donate books in return for a percentage of the selling price.

The Student Exec will now work to best implement the new policies.

Union targets sexual harassment

Charlotte Mason
News Editor

The Union has pledged to tackle sexual harassment with a training and awareness scheme for nightclub staff across the city.

The 'We've got your Back' campaign, which launched on Tuesday, will teach staff in around thirty local venues how to deal with assaults and encourage them to provide a safe space for victims.

Speaking at the launch, Sandra MacNeill of Support After Rape and Sexual Violence Leeds said: "I'm very happy to be supporting the zero-tolerance campaign. It's not natural to go and touch someone you don't know. This kind of behaviour is learnt, and therefore it can be unlearned, too. We hope that every club that signs up to the campaign will display our posters and stickers to show direct support".

An NUS study found that one in seven

women has experienced a serious physical or sexual assault during their time as a student.

Sexual harassment is defined by 'any sexual activity you were exposed to that made you feel uncomfortable or unsafe'. It can involve anything from molestation to rape, including unwanted questions, lifting up a skirt and groping.

Speaking to *The Gryphon*, the Union's Welfare Officer Gemma Turner explained, 'The project launch truly showed how the wider city community can come together to highlight such an important issue. Hearing from the perspectives of two charities was so powerful and I'm really looking forward to seeing the project progress this year'.

The project was jointly funded by £11,457 from the Police Commissioner and the University's Footsteps Fund.

LS6 'fake letter scam' was performance

Greg Whitaker
Online News Editor

After days of confusion, it has been revealed that letters sent out to a number of student houses in Hyde Park appearing to be from a bogus letting agent are part of a University project ran by second-year Theatre and Performance students.

The letter, which asked tenants to tidy their rooms and keep internal doors unlocked, caused a social media firestorm earlier this week when the Union's Student Exec, along with student accommodation regulators Unipol, warned students that 'City Blue Housing', the apparent sender, is not a real company.

However, it emerged on Wednesday that the letters were in fact sent as part of a second-year project run by a number of University of Leeds students.

The project, which was a collaboration between Leeds University School of PCI (Performance and Cultural Industries), West Yorkshire Police, LUU's Knowledge campaign and the School of Healthcare, aimed to bring a fresh approach to police activity and how they deliver their crime prevention message, through the use of performance.

part in the project, said, 'The performers were allocated to houses and one particular house was visited by myself and two fellow students. We hand delivered a gift box containing the letter prior to the performance date on 26th November, and the household was told personally that it was in conjunction with the performance.'

As part of the project, every household involved was given full information in writing about the project and this was followed up by two visits from a uniformed police officer to discuss and agree participation.

Miss Skowronska added,

'The letter being taken seriously and going viral has only helped the delivery of the police's crime prevention message, which can only be a good thing.'

Despite this revelation, student accommodation regulators Unipol are still warning all students to be wary of any unusual letters or visits from so-called letting agents.

In an official statement they said, 'We urge you not to let anyone into your home who you do not know, or who does not carry ID for a reputable company. Your landlord / agent should notify you at least 24 hours in advance of an intended visit by themselves or a contractor.'

Zosh Skowronska, a PCI student taking





Mental health support 'woefully inadequate', claims MP



Charlotte Mason
News Editor

A Labour MP has criticised the Government's mental health policy during a visit to the Union this week.

John Woodcock also urged students at the University to 'seek support' for mental health problems following his personal experience of depression.

Mr Woodcock explained, 'If you want to seek treatment, services are woefully inadequate. Services across the country are under terrible strain and too many young people are contemplating or committing suicide because of this'.

He added, 'Treatments like cognitive behavioural therapy have gone backwards under the current administration'.

Mr Woodcock was first diagnosed with depression as a student at Edinburgh University and has struggled with the illness

during his time as an MP. He said, 'Mental health problems are such a normal thing, but have been treated abnormally for so many years. We need to treat mental health problems the same way we treat physical illness'.

Speaking of the transition to university, he said, 'It's probably the biggest change that will happen to you and understandably, a lot of people struggle'.

It is estimated that one in four people will experience a mental health problem in any given year.

The Union's Welfare Officer Freya Govus told *The Gryphon*, 'It's incredible that our societies are working in collaboration to spark a conversation about mental health in this context, something that is particularly relevant in the run up to the general election'.

President of LUU Mind Matters Lawrence Thompson said, 'It's great that a

public figure has come out to talk about his experience. Hopefully, the more people talk about mental health issues, the more people will seek help'.

Both LUU and the University signed the 'Time to Change' pledge earlier this year to challenge the stigma often associated with mental health problems.

1 in 4 people will experience a mental health problem in any given year

9 out of 10 people with mental health problems experience stigma and discrimination

Nearly three in four young people fear the reactions of friends when they talk about their mental health problems

Source: Time to Change

Burglary rise prompts police warnings

Elli Pugh
Valeria Popa

West Yorkshire Police has warned students to be vigilant after an increased number of burglaries in recent months.

Regent Park Terrace and Royal Park View in Hyde Park have been hit by a recent spate of break-ins, with residents warned to lock up as dark nights draw in.

Poor student security has also been highlighted as a contributing factor. Police discovered eighteen insecure properties on 7 streets during a recent patrol in Headingley. Fifty per cent of recorded burglaries were due to a door or window being left open.

The student areas of Hyde Park, Headingley and Woodhouse have been most affected by the rise.

The University's Police Liaison Officer PC Matt Guy told *The Gryphon*, 'The biggest crime trend we see within rented student accommodation are loads of properties with doors and windows left unlocked and open even when no one is at home.'

He was keen to stress that the number of burglaries in Hyde Park and Headingley has fallen within the past two years.

Speaking to this newspaper, a Hyde Park resident said, 'It's pretty scary. We're more cautious about protecting our house since the police have come round with leaflets'.

PC Guy advised students, 'If you live with folk who leave your house insecure, they are potentially allowing burglars easy access to your house and your bedroom. Don't accept this and make sure they don't put you and your property in danger.'

Students encouraged to help the homeless

Emily Willson

LUU is working in conjunction with Leeds Beckett's Student Union to raise awareness and increase support for the homeless across the city.

The scheme has introduced food banks across the two universities' student halls of residences as part of Homelessness Awareness Week organised by societies HOMED and STAR.

Students are encouraged to support the cause by using the facilities to donate excess food before they leave for the Christ-

mas period. Both unions have pledged to donate the food to shelters and homeless people living in Leeds.

The Hidden Café has agreed to contribute a 50p donation to any order made during the week towards St George's Crypt.

There will also be multiple stalls in the Union foyer collecting donations for gifts from homeless people on the last day.

Ella Foggit, a member of the Union's community team, helped to organise the Homelessness Week. She hopes that the event will 'raise public awareness and be of major help to the homeless of Leeds.'

LUU Community Officer, George Brad-

ley said, 'Giving information to students on how to help the homeless is an LUU policy and we've been working hard to make a fantastic and informative booklet which we've distributed all over the Union building. It features a couple of case studies from two companions at Emmaus, a charity in the city centre, as well as other helpful advice. It's also available to download as a PDF from the LUU website homepage. I'm so glad to see how much activity has taken place this week, and brought the Policy to life.'



BA Media ©



Vigil in solidarity with Michael Brown at the Parkinson Building

After US police officer Darren Wilson was cleared of facing charges for killing unarmed black civilian Michael Brown, Leeds student activists gathered in solidarity on Wednesday. 'This particular example isn't just happening in the US, it happens in the UK too. It's a personal issue for me coming from a black background. I think in the UK over 300 black men have died in police custody since 2000. There needs to be more awareness about it and there needs to be action taken.' – Nathan, International Development student.

Sam Bradley©

Breaking down the stories that matter.

The Digest.



WND©

Ferguson riots again after Grand Jury decide not to charge policeman

The US town of Ferguson has seen further violence and protests this week after a Grand Jury ruled that police officer Darren Wilson will not face charges for shooting dead Michael Brown.

The Police chief of Ferguson said that the rioting was "probably much worse" than that of any other night since African American teenager Brown was shot on the 9th August.

President Obama called for calm and asked people to respect the decision.

There were similar protests across the US. In Oakland, California, a major highway in the San Francisco bay area was blocked by protesters.

Hugh Baillie-Lane



Guardian©

Private schools could lose tax relief if Labour win the next election

Labour has warned private schools of losing millions of pounds in business rates relief if they don't support state schools.

Under a Labour government, independent schools will be expected to provide teachers, share university admissions knowledge and run joint extra-curricular activities with state schools under a new 'Schools Partnership Standard'.

A new law would mean that schools failing to do so will lose existing tax relief, worth up to hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Shadow Education Secretary Tristram Hunt has previously criticised private schools for the rift in British education.

Charlotte Stones



Facebook©

Internet companies urged to help police over terrorist material

David Cameron has spoken of a 'responsibility' for internet companies to act on terrorist material posted online after a report into Lee Rigby's murder.

An investigation found Facebook conversations had taken place between terrorists five months before the attack.

Intelligence agencies failed to observe the conversations between Michael Adebowale, one of the two charged with Rigby's murder, and an Al Qaeda extremist.

Facebook has said it does not allow terrorist content, however it is among several social networks that pose significant surveillance difficulties for intelligence agencies.

Charlotte Stones



Independent©

Cricketer Phillip Hughes dies

Australian cricket player Phillip Hughes has died after being struck by a ball during a domestic match in Sydney.

The 25 year old batsman collapsed during a match against New South Wales when the ball batted by opponent Sean Abbott hit the top of his neck.

Mr Hughes, who played for South Australia, was left in a coma for two days following the incident before being declared dead by doctor who said he never regained consciousness.

Team captain Michael Clarke read a statement on behalf of Mr Hughes family which said 'Cricket was Phillip's life, and we as a family shared that love of the game with him. We love you.'

Abla Klau



The Gryphon meets Harriet Harman MP



Jake Hookem
News Editor

Rachel Reeves MP led a round-table talk with prominent arts leaders and Harriet Harman MP on Thursday. The talk came after they had visited Headingley Stadium ahead of the Rugby World Cup in Leeds next autumn. The aim of the talk was an opportunity for prominent figures in the arts and performances community to provide their thoughts and ideas to Ms Reeves and Ms Harman for them to develop policy ahead of next May's General Election. The evening was also a starting point for promoting Leeds' European Capital of Culture bid for the year 2023.

The Gryphon spoke to Harriet Harman, the Shadow Deputy Prime Minister and Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport, after the event.

How big do you think that Rugby World Cup 2015 will be for the city of Leeds and, given that Rugby Union is a sport with a predominantly southern following?

Well I think it will open the eyes of everybody to the great rugby and the great sport that is already up here in the north. I think that Headingley is such an iconic place in the sporting world, and everyone knows what it's all about. I think it's an opportunity for a massive economic

injection into the city of Leeds because of all the people that are going to come here, not only for the matches but the training bases too. I'm just disappointed that the Government hasn't sorted the problems of the ticket touts, there's been such high demand and the fact that tickets are now on the market for several times their original price but none of that money is going to go into the sport is a real shame.

What do you think makes a good city of culture bid?

I think that first and foremost comes the absolute determination and ambition and creativity of the people in the city. There is bags of that in Leeds and there is a track record of being able to understand, appreciate and deliver on culture which there is here. Also required is an understanding between the public, private sector and education sectors, its really got to be everyone going for it. I think the thought about making an application itself engenders a great deal of good and positive thinking, so I very much pay tribute to Lucinda, Tom and the team at Leeds City Council for their leadership on this.

How does the Labour Party plan to facilitate the growth of the arts communities in Leeds, given the current government's failure to financially support the sector?

Well I think there are many ways to do that. I think there needs to be a fairer distribution of Arts Council funding across the country, There needs to be a fairer distribution of lottery funding, particularly when you consider most people who buy tickets are outside London, while most lottery money is spent in London. I think that working with councils, supporting them and giving them a strategic lead is very important, as a lot of the issues don't necessarily depend on money but on leadership and partnership. The government doesn't help support councils doing that and I think that needs to change.

How important do you feel student media is for the future of the British press?

I think student media is very important for not only communicating amongst students but also for giving students the opportunity to take part in the media and think about what they want to do when they leave university. At a time when the media is changing so much through the development of social media, people who are really brought up with that crossover between print, social and online media are very important.

How do you feel that the advent of social media over the last decade has affected the modern media and contemporary politics as a whole?

I think it has had a massive impact, not only in the last decade but in the last few years, I think it has had good and bad impacts. The good side is that it allows for direct communications, every individual can have their own say and communicate with who they want to. Also it has a great immediacy which is important. One of the problems however is that it can sometimes mean that quite wcomplex things are boiled down to very short statements which can be misinterpreted or misunderstood.

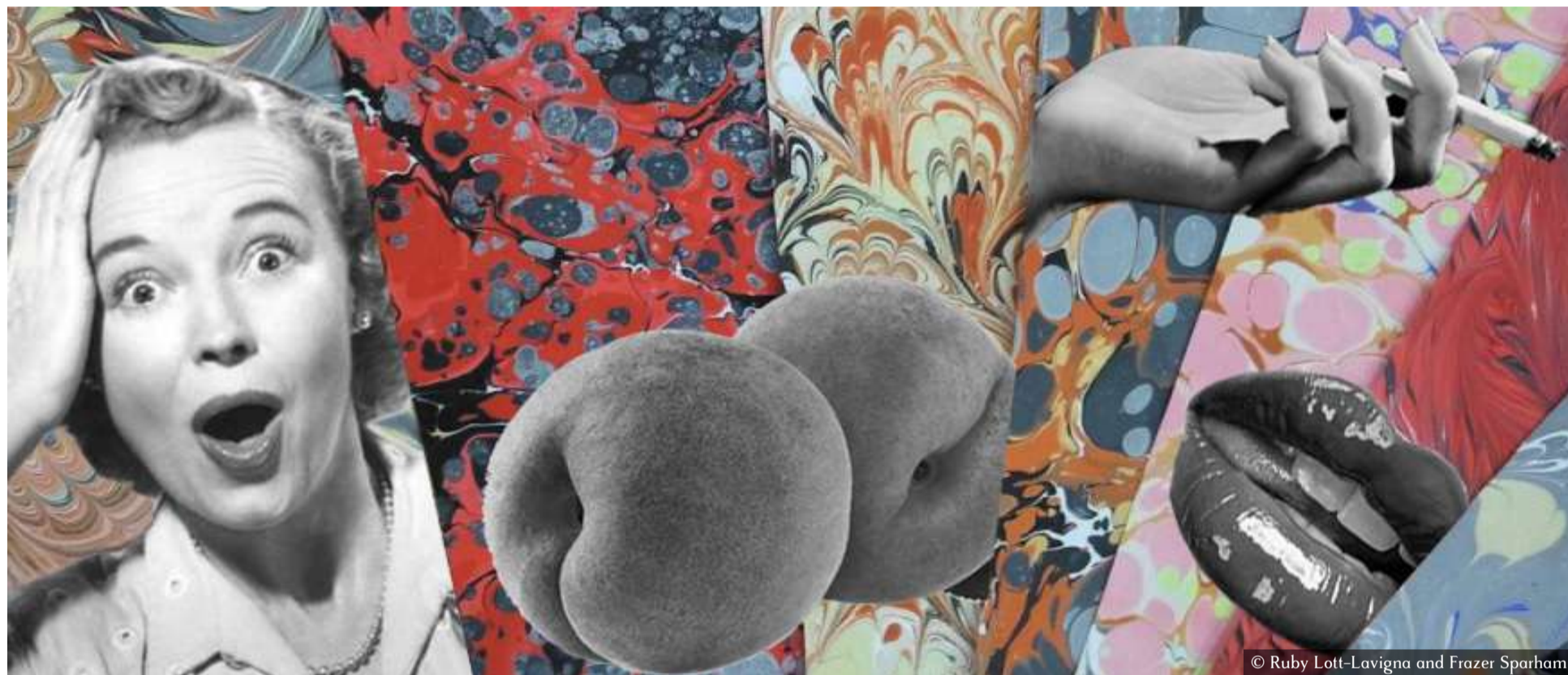
How important do you think it is for students to see more women, such as yourself, being successful in politics and do you think we need more women in political office?

I think that young women in 21st century Britain expect to have a future on equal terms, and older women don't expect to just be pensioned off when they pass 60 anymore, they expect their wisdom and experience to be respected. We all think these days that everybody should have a fair crack of the whip, we don't agree with prejudice and discrimination and that definitely applies to women as well as men in politics.



Female Masturbation: It's a touchy subject

A survey of over 800 people from the University of Leeds and beyond reveals that, unsurprisingly, 98% of women have masturbated before. *The Gryphon* touches on the results.



© Ruby Lott-Lavigna and Frazer Sparham

Ruby Lott-Lavigna
Features Editor

It's a Friday night. You're sitting around a table in someone's kitchen, drinking vodka out of a Deloitte promo mug. To disguise the uncomfortable atmosphere, you play 'Never Have I Ever.' It gets to one of the women, and they proudly announce 'Never have I ever...masturbated.'

Fear. Panic. You look at the men, who scoff at the mere idea of never having masturbated, and drink their beer (grr man steak etc) in conformation that they're all familiar with the wanking. Your eyes meet the other women at the table, sharing a questioning, pleading glance. Are you going to drink? Will you finally, publically, approach the subject that yes, women wank and it's no big deal?

Nope. You all leave your drinks sitting there, in silent shame. 'What? You must have wanked before?!' the men cry, met with choruses of, 'Oh no I, er, just don't know how um and also gross, but mostly weird right? Anyone want to call a cab?' And thus, the night ends, each woman feeling slightly more unsettled about the reality of their top secret self lovin'.

Being sexual, as a woman, can be a minefield. Try navigating the fine line that society expects you to walk, somehow trying to decode your sexual desires in a world that is constantly attempting to have its own say on it. The overarching narrative is: men get to be openly sexual, women don't. If women are sexual beyond the control of a man (because of course, sexist narratives deal mainly in the heteronormative), then they're a slut. Religions and cultures are imbued with a sense of

shame towards female sexuality, and sex education rarely approaches discussing sex for pleasure; it's mostly just how to avoid getting chlamydia and dying. In our sexist, heteronormative world, we're constantly told that our sexuality, our bodies, our pleasure, should be for the gratification of men. To do something so transgressive as to give yourself an orgasm without a man, is considered disgusting.

After talking to different people, it became clear boys and girls at a young age have widely varying experiences. 'At school people would hand around hard drives with a mixture of TV series, films, and porn on them,' a male friend told me. 'The idea of wanking and watching porn was completely normal.' He estimates that masturbation became a regular part of conversation around the age of 13, and that 'there wasn't any

Our survey said...

36%

of women said they masturbated a few times a week

11%

of women said they masturbated at least once a day

14%

of women said they would 'never even broach the subject' of masturbation

34%

of women said they masturbated both alone and with a partner



shame in not wanking – it's just that everyone did, and was very open about it.' Others have told me that admitting you didn't wank as a young guy would lead to ridicule. Compare that to the all-girls school I went to – mention masturbation and you would have been considered weird, disgusting, and probably a lesbian. One anonymous survey respondent commented, 'I remember being 16 and feeling like it'd be the worst thing in the world if anyone found out I masturbated. Seemed at that time we all knew guys did, but girls just didn't (I thought I was one of the only ones). It's only really been in the last few years I've talked about it with girl friends (at 30 y/o).'

I talked to a friend who attended the same Church of England all-girls school as me: 'Among the students masturbation was certainly not a suitable topic of conversation.' She explained how it all tied into the 'slut/good girl' dichotomy that was imbued into us from a young age. 'If you did anything sexual without a loving partner then you could get called a slut for it. That fed into the stigma around wanking, and that doing something for the pleasure of it was not a good thing to do.' She talked about her few friends who, as adults, are open about not having masturbated, noting that it could make them 'very aware of being alone.'

'I think that's really sad, and perhaps symptomatic of the fact that sexual desire in women is always viewed as something for someone else – a viewer, a partner... I wonder if guys feel more alone after they've wanked, perhaps they do too, but I've never heard that expressed. Girls are bombarded with the message that sexual desire is emotional; it's hardly surprising that wanking can end up feeling depressing.' For men, sex is no big deal, for women, it's political.

Popular culture does nothing to eschew these ideas. Think about the recurrent image of men masturbating in films (this was a dangerous Googling experience) – *Kick-Ass*, *The 40 Year Old Virgin*, *The Inbetweeners*, *We Need To Talk About Kevin*, *American Beauty*, *American Pie*, *American Pie 2*, other films beginning with 'American', *Jarhead*, the music video to *Stacy's Mom*, and so on. It's everywhere, and it's completely normalised.

Not only does the media rarely deal with

female masturbation, but when it does, it's often 'dark and edgy' (*Black Swan*), from the male gaze (*Blue is the Warmest Colour*), really creepy (*Skins*) or with a guy (*Misfits*). Female pleasure in any form is rarely shown in films, let alone masturbation – Rachel Evan Woods famously hit out at the MPAA for cutting a cunnilingus scene in her film *Charlie Countryman*, saying that 'this is a symp-

“In our sexist, heteronormative world, we're constantly told that our sexuality, our bodies, our pleasure, should be for the gratification of men.”

tom of a society that wants to shame women and put them down for enjoying sex, especially when (gasp) the man isn't getting off as well! It's hard for me to believe that had the roles been reversed it still would have been cut.' Film and television just reinforces the shameful silence: the unspeakable reality of female pleasure.

Considering all this, you'd be surprised how normal it actually is. A survey of over 800 respondents conducted by *The Gryphon* concluded that of those self-identifying as women, over 98% had masturbated before. And we're not even talking about 'I did it once and never again' – the most popular frequency was 'a few times a week'. Anonymously, people were supportive – 'Masturbating is FAB', 'Masturbation is beyond the best activity eve' and 'It's the shiz'. And yet only 39% of people said they would find it 'easy to talk to certain friends about it' and 14% of people said they would 'probably never ever broach the subject.'

If, then, we can consider the Wanking Woman as the status quo, what about those women who don't masturbate? I spoke to Sophia, who, as a sexually active person, has never masturbated. 'I didn't really feel the need too. I never felt that horny when I was alone. I also started having sex almost daily at quite a young age and so would always be satisfied through that. I think I've always separated my sexual life as being a time when I was with someone else and then my time alone would naturally not be sexual.' Like a good restaurant or musician, I feel inclined to

recommend masturbation to her. 'I want to want to masturbate. I want to want to start. But I think to myself, "when the hell do people have the time to masturbate?" I look at my diary and honestly I don't see when's a good day to start.'

It's clear that as time passes, and feminism becomes more normalised, discussions of female masturbation and female sexual pleasure as a

whole are becoming less taboo. Indeed, Sophia stated that, 'I actually feel more ashamed saying I don't masturbate than saying I do, because it feels like I'm going against this new tide of people publicly talking about female masturbation (which is excellent).' However, until you hit about 18, it can seem like the most disgusting, shameful thing to do.

Talking about masturbation openly has obvious benefits – the act itself is the perfect way to feel comfortable about your sexuality, and detach yourself from the widely disseminated myth that female sexuality is either shameful, or only there to satisfy men. Educating about masturbation from a young ages ties into an important message about autonomy. Instead of teaching young women about the pitfalls of sex, how about we teach them that our sexuality is their own, and not one else's.

Apart from all the clear benefits, the stress-relief, the autonomy, the power, we shouldn't forget that masturbating can just, in the end, be friggin' enjoyable. Make sure to explore deep within your opinions on the matter. Try and get a good feel for the idea. If you need a hand, there are some great online resources. And if you broach the subject with your friends, and it still feels awkward, don't get too down about it. Masturbation can be a touchy subject, and you've gotta hand it to yourself for trying. ■

54%

of women said they found it easier to orgasm alone

33%

of women said they masturbated mostly alone

48%

of women had purchased a sex toy

27%

of women said they watched porn occasionally



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Comment



Band Aid

Rod Ardehali looks at how Band Aid plays up to negative stereotypes and isn't as helpful as it seems

Facebook

Joshua Taylor discusses how our obsession with social media is becoming dangerous

Green Energy

Tim van Gardingen on how the UK is not doing enough with renewable energy

Band Aid is just Western self-indulgence

Rod Ardehali

Politics

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Another Christmas, another crisis. Ebola, a horrifying disease that is rampaging through Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, has already claimed the lives of almost 5500 people this year so far.

Clearly, people are in need of help, and so here comes 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' Everybody's favourite colonial festive classic – back to raise money and reinforce national stereotypes.

Let's be clear. Raising money for a good cause, particularly one as devastating as this, should be supported. This is something that Geldof and his assorted array of pop stars, rockstars and opportunists have done, raising over 1 million through single sales.

Although the Band Aid website does not specify which aid groups it shall be funding, it does state that the money "will be donated to the intervention and prevention of the spread of Ebola" – great, right? Maybe not. Sometimes in events such as these, we should ask whether the ends truly justify the means. No one would deny combating Ebola is a worthy cause, but the way in which it is conducted – namely Bob Geldof's ode to 'poor Africa' – is a painfully shortsighted and counter-productive measure.

This song will be many young children's first introduction to Africa, and

Sometimes in events such as these, we should ask whether the ends truly justify the means

with lyrics such as "there's a world outside your window and it's a world of dread and fear", it's hardly a positive message being portrayed. There are 54



individually recognised countries within the continent of Africa, all with varying cultures and economies, so this "dread and fear" appears to be a sweeping generalisation.

The rate of poverty in the continent is a concern – but Africa is also a resource rich, diverse and colourful continent that experiences more than just day to day misery. One can imagine a young, naive student listening to "where a kiss of love can kill you and there's death in every tear" whilst simultaneously crossing Africa off their list of possible gap year destinations. No disrespect to Geldof and his diverse musical talents, but I feel the subtle nuances of this lyric might be lost on those who don't have to contend with the daily nightmare of a highly contagious disease. But hey, it is catchy.

The worst is saved for last, however, Bono chiming in with, "well tonight we're reaching out and touching you" – sentiments that could at best be

described as ethnocentric, and at worst maliciously insensitive.

This is painfully indicative of the paternalistic mentality that we've adopted towards a continent far larger and rich in resources than our own – so much so, that we believe Ed Sheeran and a bunch of his back-slapping celebrity friends can have a profound effect on a nation's suffering.

It is possible that there was once a time where a song like this could ignite the sympathies of people in Britain; inspiring them to make a change, but today it serves more to reinforce negative stereotypes and perpetuate cultural myths about Africa that will be incredibly harmful in the long-term.

But let's be optimistic and assume that maybe one of the 400 million plus Christians living in Africa will realise that it is actually Christmas (although they probably wouldn't particularly care in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, whose population are largely of Islam-

ic faith) and let's hope that the money raised does go to fighting against the spread of Ebola. Then what? We are again left with the image of Africa as a desolate, hopeless, stricken land con-

This is painfully indicative of the paternalistic mentality that we've adopted towards a continent far larger and rich in resources than our own

stantly in need of our protection.

When something goes wrong, we wouldn't challenge the global economic policies that keep nations in debt, but just turn to Olly Murs and get him to sing a bit instead.

No need for a vaccine or challenges to cultural perceptions – we've got Rita Ora on deck. And so continues the perpetual cycle of poor Africa, the damsel in distress waiting to be saved from herself again – until the next time.



Chained to the desk: addicted to Facebook

Joshua Taylor

Philosophy

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I first met Facebook in the September of 2008, and have cordially disliked her ever since. She's too intrusive for my taste, incredibly arrogant, and makes me feel miserable most of the time.

She's a sort of 21st century deity: created by man, omnipotent, and apparently invested in our mundane daily activities. This digital big brother sits uneasy with me, more so than the countless Gods created by our ancestors. Unlike them, this one is very much alive and kicking.

I'm a child of the 90s, and grew up with a call to the hum of the machines. No longer a teenager, but a 'screenager' in light of our new digital horizons, as so beautifully phrased by Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising CEO, Kevin Roberts. We are, fundamentally, test-tube babies to the technological revolution – witnesses to the digitally interconnected global empire that is continuously expanding whilst we're sleeping uneasy in our beds, with our phones by our sides, our computers on 'sleep', and our TVs on standby – do you really expect a good nights sleep? I doubt even the Wachowski Brothers could have predicted their fictional reality of *The Matrix* could be edging one step closer to our own.

These are the heavy matters that underlie the reality of which us 'screenagers' know: it is killing us and yet we fucking love it. And in this digital empire,

it is Zuckerberg's Facebook that reigns supreme overlord over humanity: the number 1 internet search term, with 1.35 billion monthly users, generating billions upon billions of 'likes' which turns into cold hard cash for big business. The empire continues to grow as more and more people plug in, and it's time to face the truth.

It is truthful to say that I find the Facebook network abhorrent. It is an open sewer of vice and pretence, filled with the toxic sludge of endless – and ultimately pointless – 'liking' and sharing. Now I don't know about you, but with me a feeling of Facebook time consuming always lends extra zest to self-dissatisfaction and self-loathing. And still, I remain plugged in. I check my laptop and phone at any and every given time, unconsciously. It is as if blinking was a more arduous task.

Facebook's mission is to "give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected". They go on to say "people use Facebook to stay connected with friends and family, to discover what's going on in the world, and to share and express what matters to them". And I wouldn't disagree with all of this. Without Facebook, I wouldn't be able to communicate and engage in the lives of my friends who live all over the world. I wouldn't be able to easily plan or attend events, or use the site to enhance my experience outside of the digital realm. This is the fundamental reason why I have had an account with Facebook for over six years: I think it is useful; I think that

it aids to my life in a positive way which outweighs the negative.

Yet here is where my pessimism lies: perception and reality are completely different things. Why have I become so hateful of something that I apparently love using? It is because, I believe, Facebook is a powerful drug that leads to addiction, and we've become a generation of addicts. Even the psilocybin magic mushroom would have trouble competing with this digital mind bender. It is a drug that completely consumes our lives, and one that has built up a tolerance that leaves us begging for more. In this world of ever-growing consumption, with Twitter, Snapchat and a host of others, it has become clear that we are giving away our most precious stone: that of our identity. We're even giving it away without a fight, and we're even giving it away to the people who intend to use this information for their own selfish gains.

Facebook was once a service with a mission to connect the people of earth to one another, but is now a manifestation of our own physical world. Numerous research indicates that our experience of reality is dulled as we inaccurately examine the inflated lives of our friends online; that our long term memory becomes damaged as our brains unconsciously sift through massive amounts of junk-data, and – most worryingly – that we struggle to connect and form lasting and meaningful relationships with individuals outside of the digital sphere. There is a clear problem with this. In addition, the Facebook world now houses over 30 million dead people. With its own digital graveyard, it's increasingly difficult to adequately determine what sphere of reality we're actually residing in.

Now, I am certainly not campaigning for the annihilation of Facebook, that would be unreasonable. I am simply highlighting the dangers that Facebook poses to a host of human interactions, interactions that are vital to our mental well-being and survival. The fabulous and not so fabulous Facebook platform must really be measured on a spectrum of human freedom: from the marvellous ease to which friends can so easily connect, to the marvellous ease to which we can so freely sign off on our personal information. It's important to remember this fact – Facebook is a business. In my



own user experience, I am left focusing on the wrong things, or perhaps, not even being able to focus at all.

Ultimately, it is true to say that our minds are key factors in determining the quality of our lives, and sites such as Facebook are powerful tools that can physically alter our psychology, for better and worse. Its purpose should be to aid our lives, not leave us chained to our desks, and as technology continues to inhabit our waking and sleeping states, it may be high time to start thinking about whether the promise of better communication is in-fact an illusion that threatens to make us less human. If so, what can we do about it? It used to be a preposterous assertion to make such a connection; now it is a sign of how much the internet has changed our world.

There is hope, however, in all of these tangled wires, and this comes in the form of balance. Balance, I believe, can be a key component that can help provide towards a positive user experience that is fulfilling and enriching. Connecting with others online in order to connect offline; sharing valuable content online that will help shape activities offline. Sharing your ideas with your friends whilst valuing your privacy against big business. This balancing act is something that can provide stability and clarity in this world of ours. At the end of the day, time is our most precious resource, and I'm hopeful that if we scrutinise the time we spend online and refine our 'balancing act', it will allow us to reevaluation the question 'is it time well spent?' I'll leave that one up to you, dear reader.

Illustrations: Adam Quest and Factslides





Exciting eco-projects are ignoring the bigger picture

Tim van Gardingen
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With the ever-increasing threats of climate change, new plans for renewable and cleaner energy are virtually omnipresent in the UK. The question that is always asked, however, is whether these developments are actually contributing enough.

The current government's energy policy is focused strongly on gaining ground towards the EU's 20-20-20 targets for 20 per cent greenhouse gases emissions by 2020. Despite the government having a clear environmental goal, and admittedly making progress towards it, they have forgotten that energy actually requires infrastructure to work – and the UK has a national grid as old as the dinosaurs.

One cause of this problem may be from dire underestimations on the costs of an overhaul of the national grid. According to the Guardian, the Electricity Networks Strategy Group "has estimated that £4.7bn would be needed to upgrade the network" but an inquiry from The Energy and Climate Change Select Committee estimates the costs at nearly eight times that.

Nearly £40 billion is a lot of money for a required development, so delaying those developments too long is a massive risk. Imagine the government being in the position of having to spend that money over a period of only a few years, when the stretching of the outdated national grid becomes clearer.

Energy regulator Ofgem warned two years ago now that the UK's energy capacity would be reached in the winter of 2015. That's in one year's time, and there is simply no chance of the grid being upgraded in only 12 months. This essentially

means we may very well be experiencing energy shortages in the very near future.

In terms of reaching those 20-20-20 targets, the UK is definitely lagging be-

“Although there are some interesting developments in UK renewable energy, the government is essentially ignoring the most important piece... the base of it”

hind at an almost embarrassing level. The leading country, Estonia, is already at 14.9 per cent renewable energy consumption in comparison to the UK's 4 per cent. To put this into further perspective, Europe-wide, renewable consumption was at 13 per cent.

The Electricity Networks Strategy Group doesn't hesitate in its 2013 "UK Renewable Energy Roadmap Update" to mention the excellent resources we have in the UK just waiting to be exploited to produce renewable energy (such as our impressive amounts of wind on the coast), yet they somehow also appear content with the slow progress in reaching the EU's targets. That development will also unfortunately get even slower if the forgotten problem of infrastructure continues to be ignored.

Despite all this, we must accept that progress is being made, but projects such as the redevelopment of Blackfriars' bridge in London into a solar-panel-clad station is really a distraction from the most important concerns – actually being

able to use this energy once it has been produced. The great side of these major projects is that they will certainly drive forward research in to new renewable solutions and develop existing ones better than any minor plans.

Although there are some interesting developments in UK renewable energy, the government is essentially ignoring the most important piece of the UK's energy production puzzle: the base of it. Without the UK developing the national grid soon, all the fancy carbon-zero bridges in the world won't help our energy shortages. In fact, soon isn't quite soon enough. The grid needs to be upgraded now.



£8m

raised by Band Aid
in 1984

30m

dead people are on
Facebook

900

new wind turbines were
built in the UK in 2013



Debate

Has Bob Geldof taken Band Aid too far?

A new version of 'Do They Know It's Christmas' has been released by Band Aid 30 with the aim to raise money for the recent Ebola outbreak. The song features rewritten lyrics and a star-studded line up but Geldof has come under fire for demonising celebrities who refused to contribute, as well as being embroiled in a tax-avoidance scandal. Is Geldof's latest venture another opportunity for the rich and famous to help a good cause, or is the new Band Aid single just plain patronising?

Yes

The British national treasure is often a funny character. We love Prince Philip's doddering, inappropriate foolery and seeing the Rolling Stones swapping hedonism for orthopaedic shoes at Glastonbury. Bob Geldof, to me, used to fall into this category of flawed but loveable bastions of Britishness. That was until I saw his Band Aid 30 video.

I wouldn't blame you for trying to avoid it. Bono, One Direction, et al. rehashing an eighties Christmas hit sounds like a pretty horrific prospect. So for those of you who haven't had the pleasure of seeing Geldof's latest attempt at retaining his place in the limelight.

I'll fill you in: it begins with a shot of an ebola sufferer being carried out of her home by two figures in hazmat suits. Then there is an abrupt cut to a hoard of pa-

parazzi and British stars making their way into the studio to record 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' Immediately this is problematic, right? I mean, it's one thing to reduce the whole of the West Africa referred to in the song to an image of a helpless and weak victim. But then to suggest that the only people who can help stop the ebola outbreak are Western celebrities, posing their way up the red carpet of ostensible philanthropy? That's very unsettling.

This "us and them" image that Geldof puts across is, sadly, echoed in the new lyrics of 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' These have been altered in order to refer to ebola rather than famine.

You would think that this would have given Geldof a chance to redeem the often criticised, reductive picture of "Africa" that the original song portrayed.

Instead, the new lyrics offer up the

same set of problems.

A particularly disturbing image is conjured up with: 'Where a kiss of love can kill you and there's death in every tear'. Every tear, Bob? It's difficult to fathom how this made the cut. With one line, Geldof

The "us and them" image that Geldof puts across is, sadly, echoed in the new lyrics of 'Do They Know It's Christmas?'

uses his influential position to propagate the dangerous idea that all of West Africa is dying from ebola, that we should be scared, and that only we – 'in our word of plenty', as Rita Ora sings – are able to help. Yes, it is important to give aid, but it is also important to retain the dignity of a much-patronised area of the world.

The video ends with a group shot of



Illustration: Danny Wilson

Charlotte Gray

the contributors, reminiscent of a cringey school photograph. Geldof beams in the middle from underneath his shaggy fringe looking like an alcoholic geography teacher who's failed to remember that it's picture day.

Here he is as a comical British icon, an oaf with a big heart. He might have not gone about it in the right way but he's just trying to help, just trying to raise some money, right? Well, perhaps, and Band Aid 30 has undeniably raised a lot of money. But the image of "Africa" that he propagates is dangerous and unforgivable, even if he is funny, going on the telly shouting "Give us your fucking money!". He might be willing to misrepresent himself in the name of charity, but he can't do the same to an entire continent of people.

No

What better time to seek aid for a crisis than Christmas? People seem to become far more giving around this time, with donations to various charities increasing by up to 5 per cent in the festive period. In light of the recent Ebola outbreak in Africa, it would seem logical to capitalise on people's seasonal generosity to raise money in order to help those suffering, by any means possible – this has materialised in the form of 'Band Aid 30', produced by Bob Geldof, along with a host of famous celebrities.

What is baffling is the torrents of criticism towards Geldof, and the single itself. Its been branded patronising and offensive towards Africa, massively playing up to stereotypes, whilst also being self-indulgent on the part of the celebrities involved – as though they believe their en-

dorsement of such an enterprise will help alleviate, by some miracle, the suffering of thousands at the hands of Ebola. People have scoffed at how ridiculous it is that a

The truth is that celebrity endorsement does work. It has been proved time and time again.

song produced by someone more famous for his humanitarian work than his music career could possibly make a dent in the huge amount of money needed to really help those in need.

'The lyrics are incorrect!' the masses scream, 'it does snow in some places in Africa, and you can grow crops in some places in Africa, and...'. The horror is palpable that anyone should even attempt to raise money for charity by telling such

scandalous, vicious lies.

The truth of it is, though, that celebrity endorsement does work. It has been proven time and time again. Hate the celebrity-obsessed culture that we live in all you want, but the fact of the matter is that as soon as One Direction, Ed Sheeran and Ellie Goulding agreed to sing on this track, proceedings were bound to rocket, and with 312,000 copies sold in the first week.

Maybe it is patronising towards Africa, and I'm not suggesting that some quite sweeping stereotypes aren't made, but they are trying to make a song, not a documentary.

If the intricacies of each pocket of Africa was delved into, displaying how some people aren't starving and sometimes it does snow, it would be a 5 hour monologue, not a record attempting to resonate

Phillipa Williams

with people's preconceptions of a country in desperate need of aid.

Would it be more fitting, then, to simply say to the thousands suffering in Africa, 'well, we were going to raise you some money so we could provide you with food and medicine, but don't worry, some moral Westerners thought it was all a bit patronising, so we didn't bother'.

Sometimes, it's almost as though political correctness has gone mad, and while as a thriving Western country we can afford to do this, pushing such ideas onto those a lot less fortunate than ourselves is just plain ridiculous.

Instead of being bitter and cynical, how about, for once, we choose to see that Geldof's intentions are good, and even if you don't agree with his means, recognise that the money is going to a good cause.



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Philae and Rosetta: Deciphering the language of the solar system

Holly Edwards

Two weeks ago an amazing feat of space exploration took place. Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko received its first visitor from earth, 514 million km away, in the shape of a washing machine sized lander called Philae.

The European Space Agency seemed to deliver the impossible; getting a spacecraft to a comet 4km wide and travelling at a staggering 60,000km per hour, and then landing a tiny vessel on it. You can therefore appreciate the screams coming from those who have worked on the project when confirmation of Philae's touchdown was received.

For some this represents decades of dedicated work to achieve this. After approval for the project in 1993, Rosetta launched on 2nd March 2004. Ten years later in August 2014 the spacecraft finally made its rendezvous with the comet.

Tension mounted until finally on 12th November the world watched as the go was given to launch Philae from Rosetta, enabling it to make its last journey to the comet surface.

The livestream of the event lasted all day, although to be honest watching people watching computer screens made for pretty boring viewing. But it was impossible not to stay hooked. After all the closest we've come to landing on a comet up until now was watching Bruce Willis in the film Armageddon don a spacesuit, Liv Tyler crying a lot and singing 'I don't want to miss a thing' at



top of our voices.

In the end, the landing wasn't perfect, but after all neither was the landing in Armageddon and that was a movie. But the important thing is that Philae did land. Well actually it landed three times, with the first seeing the lander bounce 1km off the surface before landing two hours later with a smaller bounce. Philae finally found itself on the side of a rocky cliff face, a kilometre away from the spot where it was designed to land.

So why all the fuss? Well you only have to look towards the meanings of Rosetta and Philae, named after the stone and the obelisk, which were used to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphics. The spacecraft and the lander are subsequently set to decipher the language of the solar system.

Philae managed to perform its science and transfer its data to Rosetta before its batteries ran out of power. This data is still being analysed but we do have some early results. Scientists were surprised that hard ice lies only 10-20cm below the dust on the surface of the comet, whilst Philae bouncing actually helped with measurements of 67P's magnetic field, which will help model planet formation.

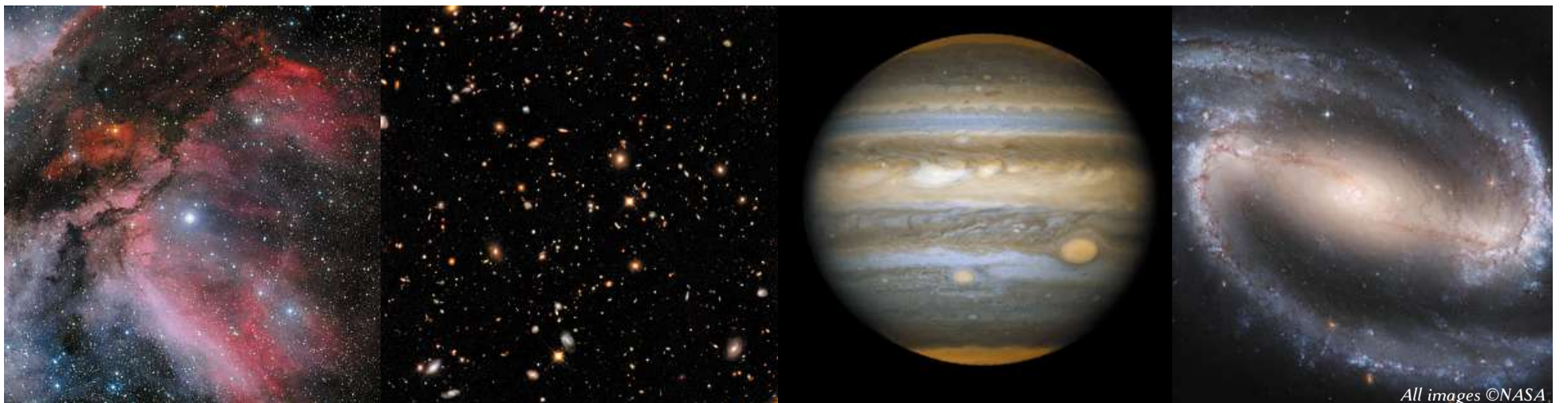
But the biggest finding was that the surface of the comet contains organic molecules. This has raised the question of whether a comet was responsible for life on earth, delivering molecules such as amino acids and water. Hopefully further results will be able to reveal if this is true and move us one step closer to discovering the mysteries of the uni-

verse.

New comet missions are already in planning with this project due to finish in December 2015, although Rosetta could still transmit data after this. The biggest question at the moment is whether Philae will gain enough solar energy during this time to wake up and perform more science. Only time will tell as 67P moves closer to the sun.

It is hard not to think of Philae as having human qualities. This is helped by it having its own twitter feed @Philae2014, with its last tweet being "My #lifeonacomet has just begun @ESA_Rosetta. I'll tell you more about my new home, comet #67P soon...zzzzz".. Sleep well little lander, we hope to see you soon.

As Rosetta beams back Philae's images, the Hubble telescope has amazed us with stunning images of the universe ever since its launch



All images ©NASA



Ducks in Yorkshire have bird flu, but are we in the disease's pecking order?



Harriet West

The identification of a single case of bird flu virus H5N8 on a duck farm in East Yorkshire led to the immediate enforcement of a 10km containment zone last week. Within just 24 hours, officials began the cull of 6000 ducks on the farm operated by Cherry Valley, the UK's largest producer of duck products.

This immediate and robust action leads to questions regarding the severity of an outburst of this globally experienced disease. More than 20 teams of environmental officers were at the farm in Nafferton, near Driffield last Tuesday afternoon. Considering it's only an hour's drive away from our university, should we be worried?

Background to bird flu

Bird flu – also known as avian influenza – is an infectious disease of birds, of which there are currently 15 different strains, some of which can be deadly. Wild birds worldwide often catch the virus but do not get ill from the infection; 84% of the susceptible population are chickens and farm birds. The virus can be highly contagious, spreading through

contact with infected excretions, secretions, feed, water or surfaces.

For poultry, some forms of the disease are rapid killers, with mortality rates of 90–100% owing to the shut down of organs occurring within just 48 hours of infection. In other cases, if the disease is of low pathogenicity the birds may show no symptoms, but remain as carriers.

Bird flu is a zoonosis disease. This means birds are its main target, falling foul to its capability to disturb the vascular system causing brain, heart and lung haemorrhages along with often a non-recoverable breakdown of the nervous system. However, mutations can result in a crossing of the species barrier with strains which put humans at risk.

Strains that have been found to infect humans include the H5N1 virus, and more recently the H7N9, which can be fatal for birds and humans alike. Human transmission occurs through close and continuous contact with infected birds, or through eating infected undercooked poultry.

Previous outbreaks

There is a geological pattern associ-

ated with incidences of bird flu.

The disease occurs more frequently in Asia, which is partly due to the cultural and economic situation; with huge chicken populations in unhygienic conditions kept in close quarters, the infectious disease is able to fester.

As for global transmission, the disease spreads through the migratory habits of birds, but also through legal and illegal poultry trades, as patterns of incidence have followed transport links, railways and cross-country borders.

In China, the new N7N9 strain of the virus emerged in March 2013 and became contagiously transmittable to humans. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the initial three people infected in China turned into a counting toll reaching 453 of human cases, 173 of which were fatal. As of yet no cases of N7N9 outside China have been reported.

This month in Europe

Despite the rarity of its occurrence in Britain, it seems the disease has been cropping up increasingly across Europe this November. Along with the recent identification of H5N8 bird flu in

Yorkshire, there have been outbreaks of the same strain earlier this month in the Netherlands and Germany. The World Organisation of Animal Health (OIE) tests have revealed that the strain found in these European countries was the same strain that swept through Korea earlier this year.

What's there to worry about?

The strain at the duck farm in East Yorkshire, H5N8, is not easily transferable to humans and, as confirmed by the British environmental secretary, is of low risk to public health.

However, what is worrying particularly for farmers is the source from which this bout of bird flu stemmed. It is thought that the disease arose from exposure to infected droppings, brought about by birds migrating across Europe. It is impossible to control this process of natural wildlife behaviour, which means the exclusion zone implemented at Nafferton farm has no real impact upon the primary source of the disease. This not only puts the other 2.5 million vulnerable farmed birds in East Yorkshire at risk, but also all other birds across Britain.

The avian flu virus has a high mutation rate; genetic material can be relatively easily interchanged due to the structure of the genome. This results in the birth of new strains or sub-strains, which are accompanied by the creation of new threats to humans and wildlife. Whilst the strain at Nafferton isn't easily transferable to humans, mutation is a potential worry. This was the case with the H5N1 strain, which evolved with a capability to infect humans, sweeping from Asia to Europe and then Africa, taking the lives of hundreds of humans and millions of poultry on its flight.

The Chinese case of H5N1 caused a panic, with the British government ordering 14.6 million courses of the drug Tamiflu, is a Swiss developed vaccine drug targeting symptoms of bird flu with the intention of decreasing its spread.

So as for the bird flu causing a ruffle an hour's drive away from you, there is no need to take flight from Leeds just yet, although under the circumstances, it's probably best to double-check that your Christmas turkey is fully cooked. ■



Phil Hughes: Cricket mourns a true talent

Euan Cunningham
Cricket

The cricketing world is in mourning after the tragic news that Phillip Hughes, international Test batsman for Australia and precocious talent, has died in hospital aged 25.

Hughes was batting for South Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground against his old team, New South Wales, when he was hit on the back of the neck by a bouncer from Sean Abbott and fell to the ground. He became unconscious soon after hitting the ground and was immediately taken to hospital.

Despite the best efforts of countless doctors and nurses, he never woke up. Various operations to relieve the pressure on his brain were sadly unsuccessful, with the official cause of death being 'vertebral artery dissection' - mass bleeding into the brain.

An exceptionally talented batsman, Hughes made his debut for Australia against South Africa in 2009,



and what a debut it was. Against easily the best pace bowlers at the time, he made two incredibly carefree, exciting centuries in his debut series.

More centuries followed, and despite being in and out of the side at times, his ability was never

questioned. Neither was his work ethic, and the way in which he continued to buckle down and score mountains of runs for his state epitomised his professionalism and class.

During the Ashes last year, despite being dropped again by the under-pressure Australian selectors, there was a sense amongst many learned observers that Hughes had turned a corner, and that it was now only a matter of time until this immensely likeable, charismatic young man became a mainstay of Australia's batting; a position which - it was widely assumed - could then be his for as long as a decade.

We will never know whether the selectors were going to call Hughes back into the squad for next week's Test against India, not that it matters in the slightest now. All that matters is that the game of cricket has lost an exuberant, laid-back, down-to-earth and effortlessly cheerful young man in his prime.

The tributes have poured in from all

over the world, with greats of the game united in grief at this tragic death. Gone but never forgotten, Phil Hughes will remain, in the eyes of all who love and watch cricket around the world, forever young and cheerful.

Everyone at *The Gryphon* offers their most sincere and heartfelt condolences to all concerned at this time.

Career Stats

Test Matches		ODIs
26	Matches played	25
49	Innings	24
1,535	Runs	826
160	Highest score	138
32.65	Average	35.91



Tributes from the world of cricket

Michael Vaughan @MichaelVaughan · 10h
Another huge talent was also just doing what he loved...doing his job...and is brilliant at it....#SeanAbbott #RIPHughes

Joe Root @joeroot05 · 13h
Awful to wake up to the news of Phil Hughes! Tragic day for the sport. Thoughts go out to those close to him! #RIPPhilHughes

Shane Warne @ShaneWarne · 11h
Woken to the horrific news about Hughesy !! I cannot describe the sadness I feel for the Hughes family & fellow cricket players, so so sad

Germany spoil women's Wembley debut

Nancy Gillen
Women's football

Women's football had already accomplished something spectacular before a single ball was kicked on Sunday afternoon.

55,000 tickets had been sold to watch England Women take on the German Women's team at Wembley Stadium, and more would have been sold if not for the organisers capping ticket sales due to transport concerns.

This would be the first time that an England women's team would play at Wembley, and who better to play than main adversaries Germany.

The brilliant atmosphere created by the spectators that braved the dreary

wet weather seemed to psyche the Three Lions up before kick-off.

This was evident from the first whistle as the team burst out of the starting blocks, stealing the ball from the Germans straight after they kicked the match off.

This resulted in England's Jordan Nobbs seeing her excellent shot deflected onto the crossbar by the German keeper in the opening seconds.

However, this was arguably England's best chance of the first half as proceedings went rapidly downhill and the impressive and clinical German side took hold of the game.

The visitors were 1-0 up as early as the sixth minute, as Alex Scott headed in to her own net under pressure from

the German striker Simone Laudehr.

By the twelfth minute, Germany had doubled their lead after a series of defensive errors which saw Celia Sasic running through on goal and finishing decisively.

After this setback, the game seemed to calm down and England began to create some chances.

However just before half-time, after a good period of pressure by England, Germany broke and put the game out of the Three Lions' reach before the half-time



whistle had even been blown. Sasic got her second of the game with a free header in the box.

The second-half saw an improved England side which created more chances and seemed to be more defensively solid.

Having said that, with the game all but won, the Germans were less threatening.

The game finished 3-0 to Germany, a disappointing result for England and the thousands of supporters at Wembley, but one which accurately reflected the run of play.

The Three Lions have a lot of work to do before competing against the top teams at the Women's World Cup next year in Canada.



England need to finish year with a flourish

Chris Chadburn
Rugby Union

Many people believe that this Saturday's match against Australia is the most important for England under the Lancaster regime.

Defeat this weekend will mean England have failed to beat any of the big three in their last eight attempts – hardly the results to instil real belief that England can compete at a home World Cup.

England ended a five-match losing streak last weekend with a patchy but not entirely convincing victory over an anxious Samoan outfit, whose attention could hardly have been fully focused on the game given the current administrative turmoil concerning the nation's RFU.

England did enough to win and with some air of control, however they will need to be far more precise and clinical if they are to have any chance against the Wallabies.

George Ford looked far more creative at fly-half than Owen Farrell has done this autumn, yet the two seemed to be in a constant duel to take control at critical moments against Samoa.

Despite Ford's post-match comments praising Farrell for his guidance, there didn't seem to be enough dynamism or penetration for that pairing to persist at 10 and 12.

The selection of Ford and Billy Twelvetrees sees Farrell drop to the bench for Saturday's clash. This change is

necessary and Lancaster should be praised for dropping his out of sorts fly-half.

Ben Youngs brought an improved kicking game last time out; his selection

in favour of Danny Care at scrum-half is no doubt due to the increased control and accuracy that he demonstrates in this part of the game.

Billy Vunipola's injury hands Ben Morgan a deserved start at number 8, unfortunately not in combination with James Haskell at blindside flanker who should have replaced the ill-disci-

plined and out of sorts Tom Wood.

Even so, the England forwards should be able to assert significant dominance over the Aussie pack and really disrupt the service that their deadly backs thrive on.

England will have to be smart to beat the Wallabies, something they have really struggled with recently. The lack of discipline and accuracy shown in the previous three matches has not been good enough, and poor individual decisions at key moments have often cost them dearly.

Assuming conditions are reasonable and England drastically improve their discipline, they should have enough power, control and precision to bring victory. However, anything less than a marked improvement could bring the autumn series to a humbling end.



London ready for British boxing bonanza

Peter White
Boxing

London's ExCeL Arena plays host to a mouth-watering night of British boxing on Saturday with two ties that the public have been anticipating for months.

While the WBO lightweight and IBF featherweight titles will be contested over the pond in America, Britain will be very much focussed on the top-of-the-bill rematch between Dereck Chisora and Tyson Fury, and the grudge match between Billy Joe Saunders and Chris Eubank Jr.

Much has changed in the worlds of Chisora and Fury since their last meeting at Wembley Arena in 2011 when the latter won unanimously on points.

Despite suffering three further defeats, Chisora has proved himself as a top-class fighter by taking Vitali Klitschko the distance in 2012 and since putting together a string of five successive wins which has seen him claim the European heavyweight title.

While Fury remains unbeaten, he has had little chance to really prove himself on the world stage as his last three scheduled fights, including two clashes with David Haye, have been either cancelled or postponed. A victory over Chisora could provide the opportunity that he has craved to finally have

a shot at Wladimir Klitschko and the WBO crown, although some experts are wary of the effect that such a frustrating 18 months will have had on Fury.

Ultimately, Chisora's progressive development and Fury's natural ability suggest that the fight is destined to be a close affair and a spark of genius may be required to swing the tie in either's favour.

There is certainly no love lost between Saunders and Eubank Jr and the build-up to their fight has seen a trade of insults that has put their battle for Saunders' British, Commonwealth and European Middleweight titles very much in the spotlight.

Eubank Jr attracts a significant amount of attention as a result of his demeanour and attitude that he has seemingly inherited from his father; former middleweight and super-middleweight world champion Chris Eubank Sr. Eubank Jr often talks about how he wants his own 'flavour' and how it is important to be either

loved or loathed rather than be boring.

His father has labelled Eubank Jr as 'the most dangerous young man I've ever come across in boxing' and this kind of talk has certainly helped him land such a prestigious fight at a stage where up until now he fought no-one of note.

While both fighters are undefeated, former Olympian Saunders will certainly be the favourite having already claimed the unbeaten records of four boxers on the way to claiming his three titles.

Saunders has also demonstrated his confidence by promising to retire from professional boxing if he doesn't emerge victorious on Saturday.

Both fights promise an exhibition of passion and determination for a variety of reasons. The eagerly-awaited return of Chisora and Fury in the limelight and the personal battle between Saunders and Eubank Jr will undoubtedly provide a night of entertainment and will prove to be a stepping stone for the victors in their quest for world dominance.





Aguero keeps City's knockout hopes alive

Daniel Nixon
Football

This week's Champions League line-up threw up a variety of mouth-watering spectacles that would have glued any football fan to their TV.

Tuesday night saw the champions of England, Manchester City, face the champions of Germany, Bayern Munich, in a major European heavyweight showdown. Munich were heavily fancied and led for the majority of the game despite being down to ten men, but two goals in the last five minutes from superstar Sergio Aguero turned the game around and secured a 3-2 victory for City. CSKA Moscow and Roma drew in Tuesday's earlier kick-off, leaving the fight for second place in group E delicately balanced. Three teams are now on five points, meaning that all will be won or lost in the final round of fixtures in two weeks' time.

Meanwhile, Chelsea continue to cruise

at the top of group G after a 5-0 win over Schalke. The victory secured the Blues' progression to the next round of the competition with a game to spare and on this evidence they will prove tough opposition for any side.

Barcelona thrashed Apoel Nicosia 4-0 as Luis Suarez got his first goal for the club and Messi scored an all too familiar hat-trick, breaking the all-time Champions League goalscoring record in the process. Despite the impressive scoreline, they still couldn't top their group as rivals Paris Saint-Germain recorded a 3-1 victory over Ajax.

The two European giants have dominated group F, leaving their competition rooted in the bottom half of the table. Nevertheless, the fight for third place is still an interesting prospect.

Wednesday night saw a 2-0 win for Arsenal over Borussia Dortmund; a

result that is impressive considering the German side's Champions League form, but expected when looking at their recent record in the Bundesliga. The result leaves the race for top spot in the balance as Dortmund lead the group by two points with one game to go. A slip-up by the Germans could see the Gunners take advantage when they face Galatasaray in their final game.

Liverpool can be thankful to Real Madrid for maintaining their Champions League status, as Real's 1-0

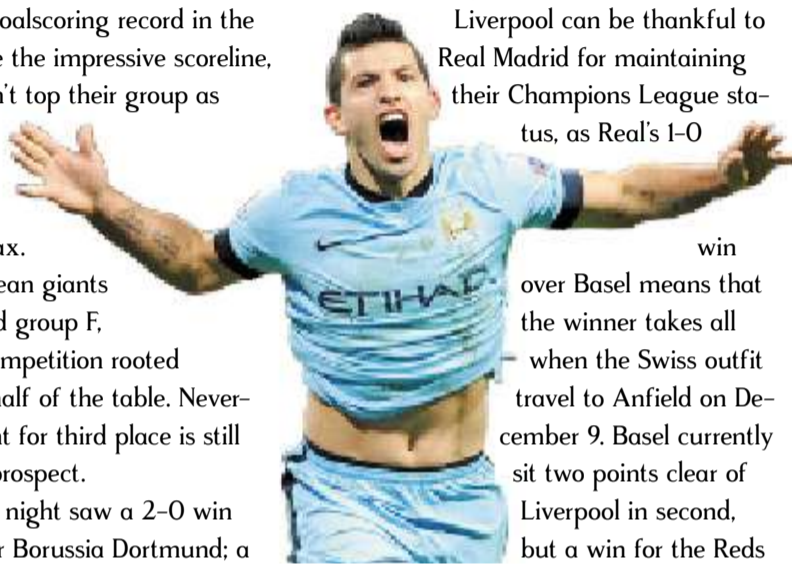
win over Basel means that the winner takes all when the Swiss outfit travel to Anfield on December 9. Basel currently sit two points clear of Liverpool in second, but a win for the Reds

would see them qualify for the last 16 after a campaign of highs and lows which was epitomised by this week's 2-2 draw away to Bulgarian minnows Ludogorets.

There were also big wins for Atletico Madrid and Juventus in group A. Madrid progressed to the knockout stages with a 4-0 win over Olympiakos, while Juventus beat Malmo 2-0 in Sweden. The Italians sit three points ahead of Olympiakos and their superior goal difference should see them qualify comfortably.

The fate of group C hangs in the balance with Monaco, Zenit St Petersburg and Bayer Leverkusen all within two points of each other. All will be hoping for a win in their final fixture meaning that this will be the group to watch on the final day.

As we head into the last round of fixtures, many fates have already been settled. However, for a select few their futures are still up for grabs, and it will undoubtedly provide utter excitement next time out.



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Uni thrash Warwick

Euan Cunningham
Men's Rugby League
Leeds Uni 1s 60-8 Warwick 1s

On a bitterly cold afternoon at Bodington, the Leeds University men's rugby league 1s managed to warm to their task and progress to the next round of their cup competition after a thoroughly convincing 60-8 victory over a Warwick side that started brightly, but faded rapidly as the game went on.

The Gryphons set the tone right from the off, an impressive move down the wing leading to a try from Theo Thompson. Another quickly followed from Jack Blagbrough after a rampaging run. Blagbrough is on the books at Sheffield Eagles in the Rugby League Championship and it is easy to see why with his imposing physical presence and strong running causing countless problems for the Warwick players. Tries followed fairly regularly from then on, with Blagbrough getting his second before captain Ben Finder got in on the act. With Jacob Morgan regularly knocking the conversions over, the scoreboard was already starting to look a touch worrying for the visitors.

While Warwick did manage a try of their own in the 35th minute, this did little to stop the Leeds onslaught and after the break they carried on in exactly the same manner. Morgan scored and converted his own try, before the visitors scored again in the corner in the 53rd minute. Again, this failed to dampen Leeds' spirits, and the try-fest continued. With rolling subs, the hosts could ensure all players stayed fresh and that there were constant replacements on hand. This was necessary after a particularly unpleasant-looking injury where one of the backs emerged from a tackle with a dislocated finger.

Sam King, Nacho Hurtado and Finder all added late tries, as well as Blagbrough who completed his hat trick. By this point the Gryphons were carving open the tiring Warwick defence with ease, and it was simply a question of how many they could get before the final whistle saved the visitors from any further damage. With the final score 60-8, the Gryphons could reflect on an excellent performance and they will now take plenty of confidence into the next round of the competition.



Leeds knocked out despite brave effort

Charlotte Stones
Netball

Leeds Uni 3s 22-47 Manchester Met 1s

The University of Leeds netball 3s failed to make the quarter-finals of the Northern Conference Cup after an unfortunate defeat to a strong Manchester Metropolitan side. A tough game was expected with Leeds' opponents three leagues above the Gryphons, yet careless mistakes in the first quarter interrupted the potential for skilled passing by Leeds, while penalties were needlessly conceded. Manchester's tough and focused defence restricted space in Leeds' attacking third, making passing around the semicircle nearly impossible and preventing scoring opportunities.

A more determined Leeds team returned to the court for the second quarter, though the Gryphons' passing was at times off target which saw the ball often fall into Manchester hands. The away side got their noses ahead as Leeds failed to intercept their hurling

passes. Strong attacking play from wing attack Wild, goal attack Ingrouille and goal shooter Duncan gave Leeds the chance of a comeback, but steely defence by Manchester kept them at bay.

With a halftime score of 17-12, Leeds were in need of an energy boost to turn the game around. After conceding two goals within the opening minute of the third quarter, the confidence of an already overwhelmed Leeds team took a beating. Tensions rose between Manchester's defence and Leeds' attack and with frustration impeding the skill of the game, shots on target lacked the required level of aim and concentration.

Despite a score of 28-16, Leeds looked like a fresh team ready to give a last push in the final quarter. A change in the Manchester defence cooled the tension in a now determined Leeds attack, and Ingrouille and Duncan netted thanks to driven passes from Cummins and Gee. Just as Leeds looked like they were getting themselves back into the game, Manchester took control

of the frantic game, bringing a final score of 44-27.

Although this was a disappointing loss for the Leeds team, they put up a great fight against strong opposition

and they can certainly take the positives into next week's league match away against York 1s.



© Alice Greenfield

Third successive regional title for frisbee

Sarah Norman
Ultimate Frisbee

Leeds University women's ultimate frisbee team have won regionals for the third year in a row.

Last weekend saw 22 women's teams from all over the North compete for six places at the nationals; Leeds 1s took the top spot with Loughborough 1s and Newcastle 1s taking second and third place. The victory is particularly notable considering the size and strength of the region with both Bangor and Durham finalists at outdoor nationals last year.

Captain Alice Beeching described the final as 'the toughest the girls have faced yet, with Loughborough being another strong women's team in the region, so to have won is an incredible achievement.'

The final got off to a rocky start as Loughborough scored the first point, but Leeds quickly scored in quick succession, with experienced handlers Claire Taylor and Katie Lear working the disc to Alice Beeching to score.

Beeching dominated in the endzone

for Leeds, scoring the majority of points for the team. MVP Cath O'Neill also scored and assisted two points demonstrating her skill with the disc and her deserved place on the team, having joined Leeds this term from Australia.

Coach and Great Britain Under-23 player James Mead described the team's performance as 'flawless'; the best they have played during his time as coach.

This was shown by the team's 88% pass completion rate during the final, as the whole team were invaluable in passing consistently down the pitch to the end zone to score.

Winning the tournament was not the only success for Leeds this weekend. The strength and depth of the club was demonstrated by having three large teams competing in the tournament.

Many universities struggle with recruitment of women, something that is clearly not a problem for Leeds with a squad of 32 women playing this weekend.

Only three universities in the country were able to enter three teams to region-

als, a real achievement and a credit to all those involved with recruitment at the freshers' fairs.

The second team came 16th, beating many other second teams as well as a first team. The third team, made up mainly of beginner players, came 21st,

beating a second team and managing to put up strong fights against many first teams.

This weekend it is the turn of the men's first team as they head to Coventry to compete in the Indoor Division 1 nationals.



© Sarah Norman



Women's footballers go through in style



© Carlotta Grimaldi

Adam LeRoux
Women's Football
Leeds Uni Is II-I Robert Gordon Is

As Robert Gordon University came to town in the first round of the Trophy, nothing less than a convincing Leeds victory was expected.

The Scottish side had lost all five of their league matches this season, conceding at least five goals on each occasion, whereas the hosts were unbeaten and second in their respective league.

The Gryphons took this as an opportunity to rest some first team players, with Saskia Walker being brought in from the second team to partner Fiona Worts in attack.

With a lack of officials in attendance the referee delegated the task of running the line to none other than myself. What had been an innocent sports report turned into an impromptu 'Try something new with Adam LeRoux' escapade.

The considerable gulf in class was evident from the first whistle as Leeds piled on the pressure. The Gryphons forced a flurry of corners early on but

could not find the opening goal, much to the frustration of the expectant hosts.

Fiona Worts was causing RGU all sorts of problems as she effectively used the channels, proving to be a constant menace for the opposing backline.

After a number of saves from the visiting 'keeper and spurned chances from Leeds, the opening goal came just after the 20-minute mark.

Good vision from Maggie MacDonald from a throw-in gave Saskia Walker more joy down the right flank as she outmuscled the defender. Her dangerous low cross was too hot to handle for the Scots and ended with the ball trickling over the line off a defender.

For a team that has had such poor form this season, Robert Gordon may have been forgiven for letting their heads drop, but to their credit they made a game of it in the first half. Shots on goal were at a premium though, and this could have been what led to goalkeeper Gaby Noé's miskick straight to an RGU striker.

Although saving the first attempt and Mim Chadwick saving another off the line, the visitors eventually managed

to level the scores against the run of play.

Meanwhile, I was pleased with my performance on the line, as things were going swimmingly. This was all to change though as Leeds regained the lead; contrasting views from myself and the referee led to a controversial Leeds throw-in given, much to the annoyance of several RGU players. Whilst I was being berated by several irate Scots, Leeds weren't messing around and a quick throw to Fiona Worts saw her clean through on goal to slot past the keeper. Needless to say the barrage of abuse afterwards was aimed at the makeshift linesman.

Leeds were soon dominating the centre of the park, with Doncaster Belles and England under-23 international Kasia Lipka proving herself to be a cut above the rest.

Her impressive technique and composure often gave the impression she had an age to pick a pass, even though she was constantly hounded by several determined Scotswomen. It was Lipka herself that scored the third before a winding run through four defenders set

up Worts for her second to leave the score 4-1 at halftime.

The second half was all Leeds, as they exposed RGU's high line time after time. If it wasn't for a Manuel Neuer-like 'sweeper keeper' performance from the visiting goalkeeper, more one-on-ones would have been converted. She had no chance though, as Lill Stanton converted from the spot after Becky Hopkins was taken out when she was clean through on goal.

The game plan of working the wide areas continued to bear fruit and Worts must have thought Christmas had come early with the number of chances gifted to her. Her third goal was another simple finish, but the fourth was a superb fierce drive that fizzed into the net. Another three for the striker left her on seven for the day whilst Hopkins grabbed a goal of her own late on to seal the deal.

With bottom of the table Manchester Is visiting next week, another strong performance is to be expected from the Gryphons as they challenge Sheffield Is for the title this year. With such a strong all-round performance here, promotion is well within reach for Leeds this year.



Manchester Met their match as Gryphons show class on court



© Alice Greenfield

Alex Bowmer
Men's Squash
Leeds Uni Is 4-1 Manchester Met Is

Leeds men's squash 1s signalled their intent with an impressive 4-1 win against a strong Manchester Metropolitan side.

Kieran Pollitt kicked off proceedings and immediately established a big lead, varying up the pace and weight of his shots to keep his opponent constantly off-guard.

After wrapping the first game, the second game was even more of a formality, with Pollitt showcasing his full range of shots. To his credit, the Manchester Met man came back with a vengeance after that, and led for much of the third game as he began to find his range. However, Pollitt refused to panic and slowly pegged him back, before sewing up the match.

James Taylor was next up on court and was immediately locked in a tough battle with his bandana-wearing adversary.

The two were neck-and-neck in the first game, but the Leeds man edged it,

and then clinched the second game in similarly tight fashion.

Taylor's opponent halved the deficit and threatened to run away with the fourth game as he began to utilise all areas of the court. However, the Gryphon roared back and, after a tense conclusion to the fourth game, managed to pull through.

Joey Subert was then entrusted with the opportunity to put the match to bed, and he duly did so with a consummate display. His solid movement and accurate groundstrokes stood out and he closed out the match comfortably.

At this stage, Manchester Met were playing for points rather than the win, but despite the fact that the outcome was a foregone conclusion, the best was yet to come.

In the match of the day, Henry Worrall pipped his opponent to the post in five energy-sapping games. The most jaw-dropping point came early on, as both players managed to retrieve lost cause after lost cause, exploiting every nook and cranny of the court. Worrall eventually came out on top on

that occasion, and while he closed out the first two games with little fuss, the contest was far from over.

The rallies continued in the same breathtaking vein, as Manchester Met came from two games down to level the scores. Despite being pegged back, the Leeds man did not let the disappointment get to him.

There were some tense moments in the latter stages of the decider as it remained very close. However, Worrall was the calmer of the two during the pressure points and secured the match with an 11-9 triumph in the fifth.

Last up was Captain Stephen Worrall. This match was also played at an unforgiving pace from the outset, with Manchester Met's top player showing just why he was their No.1. Despite Worrall's best efforts, their talisman was on fire and he made short work of the final singles rubber.

Overall, the match was a hugely positive one for the team and suggests that the Gryphons can go toe-to-toe with Newcastle and Durham in their quest for promotion. ■

Results



Badminton 2s (M) 3-5 Bangor 1s (Cup)
Badminton 1s (W) 3-5 Durham 1s
Badminton 2s (W) 3-5 Durham 2s (Cup)

Basketball 3s (M) 29-30 Bradford 2s
Basketball (W) 58-13 De Montfort 1s (Trophy)

Fencing (W) 93-133 Nottingham 1s (Trophy)

Football 1s (M) 1-1 (4-3 pens) Bangor 1s (Cup)
Football 2s (M) 0-1 UCLAN 2s (Cup)
Football 4s (M) 6-0 UCFB (Burnley) 2s (Plate)
Football 1s (W) 11-1 Robert Gordon 1s (Trophy)

Golf 6-0 Keele 1s (Cup)

Hockey 1s (M) 2-5 Nottingham 1s
Hockey 2s (M) 2-3 York 1s
Hockey 1s (W) 2-2 Nottingham 1s
Hockey 2s (W) 6-0 Leeds 5s (Cup)

Lacrosse 1s (W) 4-16 Nottingham 1s
Netball 1s 22-33 Northumbria 1s
Netball 2s 31-33 Sheffield H 1s (Cup)
Netball 3s 27-44 Manchester Met 1s (Cup)
Netball 6s 38-30 Sunderland 2s (Plate)

Rugby League 1s 60-8 Warwick 1s (Trophy)
Rugby League 2s 0-46 Sheffield 1s (Cup)

Rugby Union 1s (M) 17-23 Durham 1s
Rugby Union 2s (M) 8-7 Sheffield H 1s (Trophy)
Rugby Union 3s (M) 39-8 Manchester 3s (Cup)
Rugby Union (W) 5-5 Leicester 1s (Cup) (ET)
(Abandoned due to bad light. Replay in Leeds)

Squash 1s (M) 4-1 (12-6) Manchester Met 1s
Squash 3s (M) 3-0 (9-1) Keele 1s (Cup)
Squash 2s (W) 4-0 (12-0) Durham 3s (Cup)

Table Tennis 1s (M) 5-12 Nottingham Trent 1s
Table Tennis 2s (M) 7-10 Sheffield H 2s (Cup)

Tennis 1s (M) 8-0 Coventry 1s (Trophy)
Tennis 3s (M) 2-10 Durham 4s
Tennis 1s (W) 6-6 St. Andrews 1s (Trophy)

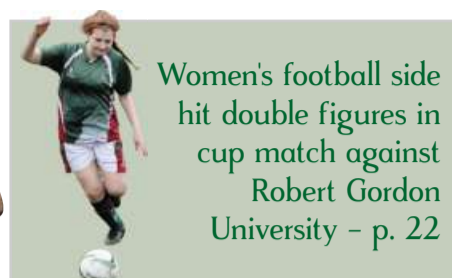
Volleyball (M) 3-0 Newcastle 1s (Cup)
Volleyball (W) 3-1 Durham 2s (Cup)



Netball 3s face stern test against Manchester Met in Northern Conference Cup – p. 21



Chisora vs Fury: Big weekend of British boxing in store – p. 19



Women's football side hit double figures in cup match against Robert Gordon University – p. 22



The Gryphon pays tribute to Australia batsman Phil Hughes – p. 18



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Unbeaten Gryphons continue cup run as Newcastle brushed aside

● Leeds win fifth straight game to start the season ● Tough Yorkshire derby with Huddersfield awaits in quarter finals

Tim Short
Men's Volleyball
Leeds Uni Is 3-0 Newcastle Is

Leeds University men's volleyball built on their resplendent league form in the cup this Wednesday as they brushed Newcastle Is aside for the second time in as many weeks to progress in the Northern Conference Cup.

The visitors started slowly, with mistakes gifting Leeds early points. The home side built on this and quickly found their stride, with strong serving from Mark Elgar helping the team cruise to a 14-5 lead – forcing the Newcastle coach to call a time-out.

This did little to stop the onslaught though, as composed link-up play helped assist a series of well-executed spikes from captain Nigel Sibanda and Leeds wrapped up the first set 25-8.

Leeds continued to combine both power and skill in the early stages of the second set to further add to Newcastle's misery, but sloppy mistakes began to creep into their play and the teams were soon tied at 9-9.

Blows were continually exchanged, as the momentum of the game was very much in the balance. A succession of successful blocks and spikes from Newcastle's number 25 had given the visitors a glimpse of hope.

It didn't take Sibanda's men long to

realise he was their star-man however, and starving him of the ball through some tactful play soon meant Leeds were back on top, winning the set 25-20.

As the two sides took to the court for the third set, the Gryphons looked hungry to secure their second whitewash over their Newcastle counterparts this season. Lucas Vigroux typified this desire, helping Leeds to take the lead after some tense rallies.

As Leeds continued to accumulate points, it appeared Newcastle's minds had turned to the evening's Champions League fixtures as one player proceeded to use his foot to kick the ball over the net; Leeds duly replied with an elegant

volleyed return – winning the point. The home side continued to apply pressure and a powerful smash from Tomasz Deeg sealed Newcastle's fate as a 25-18 third set victory secured the match at 3-0 within the hour.

Sibanda, who led brilliantly from the off, was delighted with the team's win as they progressed to the quarter-finals of the Northern Conference Cup.

The team are host to a universities tournament this Saturday and they then travel to face Teesside University next Wednesday. Based on this week's performance, they can go into both with confidence as they search for their first piece of silverware this year and look to extend their unbeaten run.