

TASS FUNDING <http://www.tass.gov.uk/>

The year gone by and year ahead - Date Added: 31/10/2006

The year gone by.....

Zena Wooldridge, Director of Sport, University of Birmingham:

"Last year was outstanding in many respects for TASS at Birmingham. With 20 TASS scholars and 20 bursars alongside 30 of our own university scholars, the performance team at Birmingham showed incredible commitment and professionalism in delivering a first-class integrated service of coaching, sports science, strength & conditioning and sports medicine to almost twice as many athletes as in previous years. The impact that this level and quality of integrated TASS support has on the development of student-athletes is reflected in four of Birmingham's TASS scholars winning medals at World University Championships in September: two gold and a bronze in squash and two bronze medals in golf. These are Birmingham's first medals at world university level, presenting some fantastic marketing opportunities around those successful athletes.

I was also privileged to witness Team GB win team gold (beating France in the final), plus two individual bronze medals and Chris Rider's individual gold at the World University Squash Championships in September. All five of this GB team were either current or former TASS scholars, plus, TASS funding to help prepare and support the team for this event. TASS support was instrumental in this success, not only in terms of medal count, but also in the unforgettable experience for those student-athletes who will graduate to become accomplished squash professionals.

We're obviously looking forward to continued success this year..."

And the year ahead...

Guy Taylor, TASS National Manager:

"Well it's hard to believe that already, two years have gone by since the TASS scheme began. We are now entering a new award year and, as a result of the alignment of the scheme with other areas of funding and the elite athlete development pathway, there have been some significant changes made which can only see benefits for athletes, National Governing Bodies of Sport and Institutions. It's also great to see the award fund increasing to £5 million, an increase of £1 million from last year.

Since TASS began we have already seen the benefits that such support brings, a fine example being the fact that this year we had the best ever World University Championships, a record medal haul for the British Team. Interspersed throughout the year, we have also seen some magnificent individual performances by TASS athletes.

Since UK Sport took on responsibility for TASS earlier this year, we have seen a much closer alignment developing of this programme to World Class Pathway resulting in a higher standard of athlete on the TASS programme. So in 2006 and 2007 we can expect to see even greater performances of TASS supported athletes.

Another area of change has seen the consolidation of bursaries and scholarships, so now we purely have scholarship awards for TASS and TASS 2012 equivalent to £3,000 and £10,000 per annum respectively, which simplifies the process for all involved. Coupled with this, the Additional Athlete Support Fund has been increased enabling greater support to disability athletes and additional educational, competition and hardship support to all TASS athletes, which is welcomed.

As a result of the new 2012 funding distributed to Summer Olympic sports, the focus of TASS 2012 is now on the support of Winter Olympic and Paralympic sports which is great news for them as they will certainly see the benefits that increased funding will bring to their sports.

We recognise the support yet again from the Institutions, who have once again raised their standards of delivery in supporting TASS athletes, receiving increased support from TASS to enable this.

So all in all, an exciting new year for TASS athletes...."