

Nomination of Anne-Marie Hughes for *Honorary Life Membership* to Scottish Student Sport

Anne-Marie Hughes started her new job as teaching assistant in the Centre for Sport and Recreation at the University of Strathclyde on 1 December 1990. Little did she know that when it would come to her retiring, over 30 years later, her name would not only be synonymous with sport at the University, but across the entire student sporting sector.

Hired to teach fitness classes and coach students in variety of sports, Anne-Marie quickly evolved her remit and began contributing to academic teaching modules. In 1995 she was given the Sport Bursars programme to oversee, which at the time supported 10 students by affording them academic flexibility where possible and free access to the gym.

Fast forward 30 years and the now Performance Sport Scholarship Programme supports 60+ students year in year out. Under her guidance Anne-Marie has implemented policy that guarantees flexibility for scholars who now also receive financial, S&C, physiotherapy, and psychology sport.

Since 1995 over 300 students have passed through the University's Performance Sport Scholarship programme including several Olympic and Commonwealth Games medallists, and Anne-Marie has acted as a mentor to every single one of them. To this day, many of these athletes have Anne-Marie as one of their first ports of call after success on the world stage, a testament to the value students place on her impact on their sporting and academic careers.

For 18 years now she has been the Assistant Head of Department and was heavily involved in the transition from the CSR to Strathclyde Sport, the University's £31m student sport facility in 2018, which now allows even more people to benefit from sport and active health on Strathclyde's campus. As part of the senior leadership team that lead the department to winning 3 awards since 2018, her strategic contribution was pivotal to the development of bold and ambitious facilities and opportunities to be active. This resulted in a doubling of the student membership base and participation levels, delivering far reaching impact.

In 2014, the Strathclyde University community named her Strathclyder of the year and nominated her to carry the Commonwealth Games baton as it arrived in Glasgow.

Away from her day job Anne-Marie was an excellent athlete herself, competing for her country at road- running, cross country and fell running competitions, including the World Mountain Trophy Championships. Her expertise has often been utilised by Scottish Athletics where she has acted as a selector for the national programme.

For over 30 years now she has also coached her beloved Shettleston Harriers and has taken the University's running club to, and volunteered at, every single BUCS cross country and track championships since 1991, only missing the ones she was unable to attend due to COVID.

The Strathclyde Sports Union recognised her with their Drew Manzie award for Outstanding Contribution to Coaching in 2018 which also acknowledged her commitment to be the GB students cross country coach 2006 – 2012.

For 15 years she also acted as the Cross-Country co-ordinator for Scottish Student Sport. There was no job too big or small, be it organising tournaments and taking teams to the Celtic games in Ireland to signing students in at the registration desk at outdoor championships, Anne-Marie has been an ever-present figure at SSS events for as long as most can remember.



The place of useful learning

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Be it as a running coach, a mentor, a class teacher, a programme leader or even just a friendly face in the facility, Anne-Marie has had a positive effect on thousands of lives during her tenure and Strathclyde Sport and student sport across Scotland is not going to be the same without her.

It is therefore asked that in recognition of her service to our sector, that Anne-Marie is considered for Honorary Life Membership to SSS. This nomination has been endorsed by colleagues from University of Glasgow, Robert Gordon University and University of Dundee.

Neil Brown
Director of Sport & Active Health
20/04/2023