

ATHLETICS

2017 WAS ANOTHER STELLAR YEAR FOR THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC CLUB (SUAC), ENJOYING GREAT SUCCESS AT CLUB, STATE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.

On the international front, the Club had more than 20 athletes represent Australia with Annie Rubie, Nick Hough, Nicola McDermott, Jack Colreavy, Milly Clark, Rohan Browning, Ella Nelson and Angie Ballard all representing at the World Championships.

SUAC proudly launched the Target Tokyo program in 2017 raising a significant amount of funding from the Club's alumni to establish a training and racing base in Belgium, with the purpose of giving our athletes competition in the summer European season against the world's best. Year one of the four year initiative was a phenomenal success. Of the nine athletes that stayed at the training base in Leuven, Belgium, seven went on to represent Australia later in the year.

The generosity displayed by our alumni in supporting this initiative is something the Club should be very proud of and is greatly appreciated by all of our high performance athletes.

On the domestic front, the Club had a record number of athletes compete at the highest level with an incredible 61 athletes qualifying to compete at the National Championships which were held in Sydney. From this, nine SUAC athletes were crowned National Champions.

At State and Club level, SUAC continued its dominant run. 14 SUAC athletes won State Championships. SUAC's men won the Winter Premiership for the 7th consecutive year and SUAC's women won the Winter Premiership for the 5th consecutive year. On the track the Club won the NSW Club Championships in both the men's and women's competition and won the medal tally at the NSW Relay Championships. Pleasingly, the Club experienced record participation throughout the year. Further to this, at a community and recreation level the Club had another year of membership growth.

The Club held its' 139th Anniversary dinner in the TAG Family Foundation Grandstand in December where World Para Athletics dual Silver medallist Angie Ballard was crowned the SUAC Female Athlete of the Year and Nick Hough the Male Athlete of the Year.

Many thanks to the hardworking committee of SUAC and the many athletes of all abilities who made this possible.

Dean Gleeson - Director of Athletics

BADMINTON

2017 WAS A YEAR OF CHANGE AND GROWTH FOR THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY BADMINTON CLUB.

With surplus from previous years, the Club has been able to remain financially strong to fund Club sessions and players representing at the Australian University Games. The Club has upgraded some of the equipment, such as nets and the grade of shuttlecocks. There are always new faces joining in the club activities as well as familiar faces of members continuing their support. Having an extra session for a few months indicated that the Club has grown its number of members and has drawn more attention than previous years.

The Sydney University Badminton Club were represented by a strong team consisting of five men and five women at the 2017 Australian University Games on the Gold Coast. The Club understands what an honour and privilege it is for players to represent the University at the Games and so the team had prepared well and wanted to exceed the 2016 results of Men's finishing 4th and Women's winning Gold.

As with every year, badminton is an extremely competitive sport with many universities fielding their strongest players at the calibre of the National team. The Men's level was one of the strongest ever, with many international players present and even a 2016 Rio Olympian competing for Monash University. The Men's team finished with a 3rd place achieving the bronze and was hard-fought. There was a tough loss in the semi-finals to Monash, 3-6. Any of the top 4 teams could have taken the gold medal but it seemed not so for the Men's team this year.

The Women's team was also extremely competitive with many of the teams able to beat each other in the round robin stages and no team was clearly ahead of the others leading up to the play-off stages. The Women's team finished with 4th place which was not as a high achievement as last year, however, the result was quite pleasing considering our best players had injuries.

Overall, the Games were an extremely hard-fought one with results improving from previous years. Despite the doubt in fielding a Women's team and their relative inexperience, they produced amazing results. A huge congratulation to both teams with the 2017 results as follows:

- Women's team taking 4th place
- Men's team taking 3rd place

The University of Sydney Badminton Club would also like to make a special mention to Pit Seng Low and Yuran Zhang who received a 'Green & Gold' medal at the 2017 Australian University Games for their sportsmanship and on-court performance. Seng has received the Green and Gold medal for two years in a row.

Despite changes in the committee and some obstacles, the Club is able to overcome this and ensure a smooth journey for its members. The Club would like to thank its members for their support of the Club over the years. Sydney University Badminton Club is looking forward to an even greater year of growth for 2018.

Hansung Kim - President