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To: tdrenshaw@icloud.com



Oxford University Cross- Country Club

Alumni Newsletter

OUCCC logo v2



Our latest news and updates for the early part of Hilary Term 2024.

Dear Thomas,

I hope this email finds you well, and that you have by now had the chance to sign-up for our alumni garden party on Sunday 5 May to celebrate 70 years since the sub-four minute mile. If you have not, then please do so soon as tickets are selling out fast. Details and a link to sign up can be found below.

I am now writing about OUCCC's Annual Dinner, which will take place this year on Wednesday 6th March (Week 8). The dinner will follow on from Teddy Hall Relays, for which entries are now open on Opentrack. Details about the dinner and a sign-up form are found below. It is a highlight of the calendar, where we celebrate achievements and look forward to the year ahead. It would be great to see many

of you at both the relays and dinner.

Annual dinner will entail a three course meal with wine (optional). Continuing tradition, there will be speeches by the Captains and awards presented by our Social Secretaries. After the dinner, we will head to Vincent's Club for drinks.

Alumni and current students are both very welcome to attend. Spaces are limited to 80 people and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, so sign up as soon as you can to avoid disappointment. To secure your place and for more details, please complete the form below.

If you have any questions about annual dinner, please feel free to get in touch. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Best wishes,

Jared Martin

OUCCC Club Captain, 2023-4

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We don't have a comprehensive list of alumni so if you think there is someone out there who would like to be receiving these emails then please forward it onto them and ask them to sign up using the link below.

[Alumni Email Signup](#)



OUCCC Guest at Thames Surrey League Match

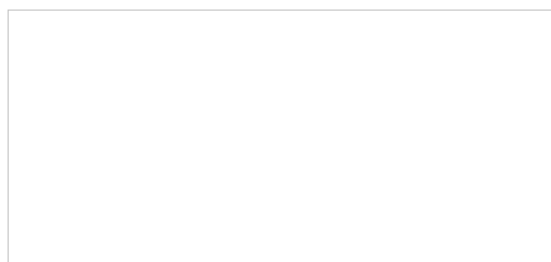
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Photo credits to Jerry Sun

On a surprisingly mild day for mid January, several OUCCC members and familiar faces took to Roehampton to tackle a course well-known to Thames and Oxford members alike. This was a part of our new initiative to really target the BUCS race after Varsity is over for the year. Thanks to the ever-organised Beth Murray, we were able to enter very easily and mostly compete as non-scorers. More lovely cake and a chance to catch up with alumni again after Varsity dinner were a welcome coda to a challenging but fun course which helped us to select some strong teams for the longer A races in the BUCS competition. It was also a chance for forgetful OUCCC members to reclaim shoes they'd managed to leave on multiple occasions, which, to our surprise, hadn't moved at all!

Notable results from faces old and new included:

Women's: Lizzy Apsley 2nd, Dani Chattenton 3rd, Beth Murray 9th, Lucy Thompson 13th; Men's: Jack Millar 1st, Thomas Renshaw 5th, Grahm Tuohy-Gaydos 6th, Jonny Cornish 8th





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BUCS Silver for OUCCC

Since our overall Varsity win back in Michaelmas, all eyes were set on the annual British Universities and Colleges Sport Cross Country Championships held this year in Temple Newsam, Leeds, in the first weekend of February. A recce a day earlier and some intel from the course planners reported a very tough course, with deep tyre ruts, long hills and hay bales. This proved not to deter OUCCC, with some incredible performances across the board after a long season of strength training on Exeter-Hertford playing fields and South Park.

The day kicked off with the Women's Short Race, with our women coping remarkably well with the steep uphill start and the never-ending U-turns of rutted ground. Charlotte Buckley was first Oxford home in 13th, with Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla (20th), Jemima Ridley (24th) and Maddy Williams (29th) all making it within the top-30. Such a strong showing would've put Oxford into third placed university, if Birmingham and Loughborough had been limited to one team.

The Men's Short was to follow, with similar gutsy performances from Indy Barnes (5th), Chris Parker (10th), and Jared Martin (12th). All three ignored the 'banter starters' hoping for a photo at the front of the race, remaining calm and pacing the race to perfection. The Men's Short differed slightly from the Women's Short with the inclusion of a steeper descent, but this obstacle wasn't an issue for the team.

The third race of the day was the Women's Long Race, the highlight in the calendar for student runners across the country (excluding Varsity, of course). Freshers Naomi Kingston (21st) and Beth Rawlinson (25th) were the best Oxford performers on the day - they both achieved some incredible positions for first years. The quality at the front this year was very high, with battles well-fought against others from a diverse spread of universities.

The finale to the successes already achieved by the club came in the Men's Long

Race, with the first Oxford silver medal in 20 years. The scoring team of Tom Wood (5th), Joe Morrow (11th), Alex Gruen (17th) and Thomas Renshaw (21st) all had the runs of their lives to split Birmingham and Loughborough on the team podium - the only university team to have done so across all the races. Thanks must go to coach Matt Seddon, whose incredible commitment and attention to detail are to blame for such a successful BUCS year.

See the full results here:

[Full Results](#)

Picture 1



Picture 3



Picture 2



Time Capsule - BUCS Cross Country 2006

In this feature, we travel back to memorable events in the club's history.

This time we head to Stirling in 2006, where a strong Oxford team took on the best of British university talent. On that day, Jonathan Blackledge won the Men's Short Race outright, while previous Club Captain, Ben Moreau, led the Men's Long Course team to a 4th place team finish. Ben finished 6th individually, gaining selection for the British team at the World University Cross Country Championships in Spain. Courtney Bishop (née Birch) was the first OUCCC finisher in the Women's Race, the team taking a strong 6th position.

Thanks to ex-club coach, Peter Thompson, for sharing the photographs.

1958-VarsityXC-NearStart-Dec58



Obituary to Harold Burnett

We have been informed that last weekend, Harold Burnett (St Peter's 1956-1959) sadly passed away. Harold read Jurisprudence and was joined at St Peter's by his identical twin Donald. Donald passed away in 2017 but both brothers were proud members of our Blues team.

H.W. Burnett (Blue number 231) appeared in the 1958 Varsity Match, as well as, running for Oxford in the Tortoises-Spartans race in 1957 (he finished third and Oxford won by 31 points to 50). In the 1958 race, he finished 15th and Oxford won by 36 points to 42. He was also a member of Thames H&H, a club he mentioned regularly, joining in 1961.

D.F. Burnett (Blue number 220) appeared in the 1956 and 1958 races. He finished 12th= and then 4th. The 1958 Oxford victory was our only one in the eight-year period between 1956 and 1963, so it was a good year for the twins to be in the team together.

The two would both have been awarded Half-Blues. At that time, the Blues criteria stipulated that a Half-Blue was awarded for appearing in the race and a Full Blue for finishing in the first three or ahead of all of the opposing team. The latter criterion was a concession that John Haddock, the 1952 Oxford captain, secured from the Blues Committee. Prior to that, a runner had to finish in the first three to get a Full Blue.

Our thoughts are with Harold's family and friends at this time as we remember his time at Oxford and running with the cross-country club.

Dates for the Diary

- **Sunday 3 March 2024** – Annual General Meeting, with the hustings for Club Captain and other committee roles.
- **Wednesday 6 March 2024** – Teddy Hall Relays and Annual Dinner (St. Hilda's College, Oxford).
- **Sunday 5 May 2024** – Alumni Garden Party at Merton College

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- **Monday 6 May 2024** – Bannister Miles, 70th Anniversary of the first 4-minute-mile.
- **Saturday 18 May 2024** – Oxford vs Cambridge Athletics Varsity (Iffley Road).

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Teddy Hall Relays

Teddy Hall Relays return! As in previous years, the races will start and finish at the iconic Iffley Road Track. In between, participants will complete a scenic seven kilometre course, taking in the Thames Path and Christ Church Meadow. As well as an extremely enjoyable event, Teddy Hall Relays is also a crucial revenue-raiser for the club and it would be great to see many alumni attend. Why not get

your old teammates back together for a running reunion? A wide range of category prizes are on offer as well as free post-race tea at Teddy Hall.

Date: Wednesday 6th March 2024

Location: Sir Roger Bannister Athletics Track

Registration Time: 11:30 am

Race Time: 1:30 pm

Cost: £11 per person (£44 per team)

Entries close: 28th Feb 2023

Free tea afterwards at Teddy Hall and prizes for category winners

THR Entries

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Date: Wednesday 6 March

Location: St. Hilda's College

Time: 6.30pm: pre-dinner drink at Cape of Good Hope pub; 7.30pm: dinner at St. Hilda's.

Dress code: Black tie (Blues blazers encouraged)

Cost: £49 (Optional extra: half bottle of wine - £7.50)

[Annual Dinner Tickets](#)

OUCCC/OUAC Sub-Four Minute Mile 70th Anniversary Garden Party

We cordially invite you to our alumni garden party on Sunday 5th May 2024, for which sign-ups are now open! The event forms part of a broader celebration of 70 years since Sir Roger Bannister ran 3.59.4 for the mile at Iffley Road Track. The garden party will take place in the Fellows Garden, Merton College (one of Sir Roger's alma maters), and will last from 2.30pm to 5.30pm.

In attendance shall be the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, members of the Bannister family and OUAC/OUCCC alumni stretching back to the 1950s. There will be food, drinks, music, and photography, nestled within the historic gardens of Merton College. With alumni from the last 60 years attending, it promises to be an enjoyable and historic gathering, celebrating Sir Roger's life, as well as the sport and clubs for which we all share a passion.

Spaces at the garden party are limited and will be distributed on a first-come-first-served basis. Once we reach capacity, we will operate a waiting list. To avoid missing out, sign up without delay by completing the following payment form:

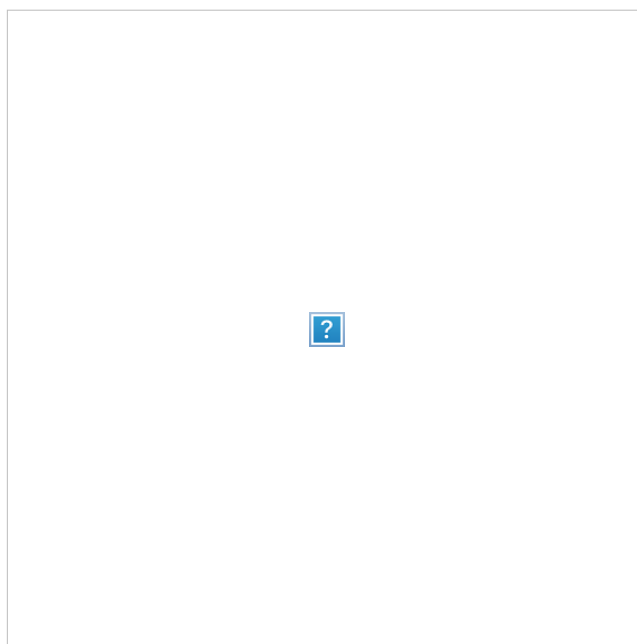
[Sign-Up Form](#)

If you have any questions about the event, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Please find your formal invitation here:

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Garden Party Invitation



Bannister Miles

The final stages of planning for the 70th anniversary celebrations are well underway. Elite athletes have been invited and past World Record holders sent invitations. The World Athletics Heritage Plaques have been delivered and the two main events of the day are nearly ready to open for entries. We hope the weekend's celebrations will help to promote high level athletic performance while recognising, like Sir Roger did by setting up what is now Sports England, the benefits of exercise and sport. We want to help bridge the gap between the University and local communities, whilst also inspire people to take part in athletics. Whether you want to run or just want to come down and spectate on the day, all the information is below.

Bannister Mass Mile

When: 6th May, approx. 9am-12pm

Where: Start on the High Street and finish on Iffley Road

Cost: £10-£20 tbc

This will be a mile race on closed roads from the town centre, down the High Street and finishing on Iffley Road. Athletes will then enter the post-event village

on the Iffley Road track to collect their medal and view some of the memorabilia we will have on display.

Bannister Miles Track Meet

When: 6th May, 1pm-6pm

Where: Sir Roger Bannister Athletics Track

Cost: Free to spectate, approx. £10 to run

The track meet will focus around bringing together some of the best junior and senior athletes in the UK and overseas to run a series of mile races. We are also working hard to ensure there are races for disabled athletes as combined able-bodied and disabled athletics meets are rare. The event will conclude with presentations of the two World Athletics Heritage plaques awarded to the club. First is recognising the site of Iffley Road as the place of the first sub-4-minute mile and the second is recognising OUAC for its contribution to the development and history of athletics. Following the presentations, we will have the Peter Coe and Frank Horwill Memorial miles for the best U15 and U17 athletes in the country, as well as the elite para-athletics event. Concluding the day will be the elite international women's and men's races, with the men's race setting off at 6pm, exactly 70 years since the 1954 race started. There will also be a pop-up museum and plans on display for the redevelopment of Iffley Road, including the new track. There will be food and drink on sale too and we hope that it will be an exciting day out for people to enjoy and watch some high-quality athletics.

[Bannister Miles Website](#)

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Late-February will see the inaugural meeting of The 1876 Trust, set up to fundraise for OUCCC, improve its alumni relations, and support the activities of the student committee. Our application to the Charity Commission has been submitted and our dedicated website has been completed. You will be able to find us here:

[1876 Trust Website](#)

It is our hope that The 1876 Trust will be of great long-term benefit to club and an effective means of securing its financial future.

Look out for further updates from The 1876 Trust in the coming weeks and months. For more information about the aims and objectives of this endeavour, please consult the attached summary document:

[Summary](#)

Sponsorship

The club currently does not have an official sponsorship agreement, but we are

The club currently does not have an official sponsorship agreement, but we are creating a branding package under the guidance of the University's Sports Federation to approach potential sponsor(s). A monetary sponsorship would be of incredible value to the club, allowing more of our members to compete at national fixtures such as the UK Cross Challenge and British Universities and Colleges Sport ('BUCS') Championships, and to pay for the incredible coaching we receive.

If you are interested in helping us through this process, or in becoming a potential sponsor, please contact Tom Wood, our sponsorship rep [here](#).

Thank you to Our Donors

A big thank you to all the alumni that have donated to the club in the past year. Your contributions allow the club to deliver a better experience to our members and make our sport as financially accessible as possible. To all of those listed below, heartfelt thanks is extended.

Andrew Arbour

Alice Beverly

Robert Bowyer

Jonathan Brooke

Fiona Brown

David Bruce

Jamie Darling

Alex Howard

Alex Gaskell

Amanda Martin

Larry Mathews

Christopher Phillips-Hart

Phillip Scarr

Nick Scroxtton

Bethanie Murray

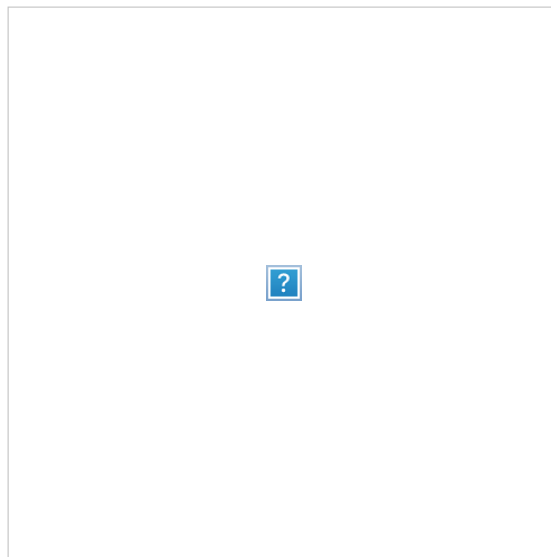
Simon Molden

Suggestions and Feedback

We are always looking for ways to improve our alumni engagement. To assist with this, it would be great to hear your feedback about what is working well and what could be improved. Suggestions – whether related to newsletter content, events, or anything else – would also be much appreciated. To share your views, simply follow the link below to our (short!) feedback form.

[Feedback Form](#)

Get in Touch



This will likely be my last alumni email as Club Captain so I would like to thank all those alumni who have reached out in the last year, and for the continued service of so many to this club – whether that be via donation, Varsity organisation, attendance at our events, or simply getting in touch to share your stories and photographs, thereby preserving aspects of our illustrious history for current and future members. If you have news you would like to share in a future newsletter, or any other questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours in Dark Blue,
Jared Martin

OUCCC Club Captain, 2023-4

Giving to the Cross-Country Club

Find us on social media:



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