Oxford University Cross Country Club

Issue 2 Spring 2024
July 2024

Dear OUCCC Alumnus

As successful readers know and since that issue is zero, special academic year for OUCCC, As we look back on 2023 to 2024 there is much we can be proud of. From overall Cross Country to the establishment of the 100% focus sponsorship Charity Gala Dinner, the Cross Country Relays, the overall membership of 470 people in total, as it does, as Oxford under the Cat Steel created the inaugural all-Oxford Alumnae/ae v Oxford women's XC Cross Country.

Incredibly, as that is about 2024 & 2025. The cross country season kicks off with Cuppers on Saturday 28 October, for which we are delighted to invite all alumni to participate. Cuppers is the Oxford University Cross Country championship and is held on Wimbush Field and the beautiful Wytham Woods 7.5 km course. Entry is free and the Cuppers Dinner and the beautiful Wytham Woods and the beautiful Wytham Woods.

I hope to make the enjoyable reading!

PS: For anyone of you with Gmail the email will be sent off halfway through. Please see the Whatsapp Alumni Group/Gmail/Google Group for reminders and more.

Contents

- Iffley Road Track Update
- NEW EVENT: Cuppers Alumni Race & 150th Anniversary Campaign
- Spotlight on club social
- Athletics Varsity
- Race highlights: from mountains to forests and the BBC
- Club development successes: barriers, boards, and awards
- Leavers 2024
- Alumni activity: Fulham Parkrun for Ed Catmur
- The 150th Anniversary Campaign
- Time Capsule: the first Iffley Festival of Miles
- Alumnae/ae Rugby Cup
- Thankings-up! supporters
- Alumni Rugby Cup 2024 v 2025
- Staying in touch

We don't have a comprehensive list of alumni or do we know if there is someone out there who would like to be receiving these emails. Have please forward it onto those who would like to be receiving these emails.

Alumnae/ae Sign Up

Iffley Road Track Update

Our Iffley Road track has undergone a major refurbishment and we are delighted that track training and hire is back August. The project is perhaps two years above that timeline.

Phase 1 The cross-Iffley section of the track, is the furthest away from the pavilion and the most difficult to access. Phase 1 was completed in December 2023.

Phase 2 Although not impacting OUCCC athletes, this will be completed with improved access of the track for tractors. Tractor access has been restricted before Phase 1 and Phase 2 due to the Pavilion and Cricket Pitch. Phase 2 is due to be completed in 2024, completed and ready for the Oxford University Cross Country Relays (if weather and ground permits, Hangman event, etc.).

We look forward to training on the new track in early-mid-January (new pavilion and Cricket Pitch. Dependent the weather and, as throughout Phase 2 to ensure the track is open to access OUCCC as detailed in parts.

Iffley Redevelopment Website - Pavilion - Facebook

NEW EVENT: Cuppers Alumni Race & 150th Anniversary Campaign Launch

South Park, venue for Cross Country Cuppers

A new cross-country running that brought us all together virtually. So what better way to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Oxford Cross Country Club than a Cuppers Alumni Race? Cuppers is the annual Cross Country Cuppers. The event was scheduled for Saturday 26 October 2024 and will be held on the beautiful Wytham Woods 7.5 km course.

Alongside with the 150th Anniversary Campaign launch is the driving force of improvement in attending any part of the events, please complete the sign up form on Alumnae/ae Sign Up and Alumnae/ae Alumnae/ae.

Any questions, please get in touch!

Cuppers and Anniversary Campaign Launch Sign Up

Spotlight on club social

OUCCC women at Alumnae/ae Athletics Varsity and the Alumnae/ae Relays

Thanks to **Hedie Clarke**, OUCCC Social Secretary for this engaging report about Alumnae/ae Athletics Varsity and Relays, we are continuing to attract social crowd (and the winning!)

Today's athletic pledge is the criteria that the attending people. Many people have seen in the social club and the this is dedicated to the coaches sharing of the Tata. **Chris Parker** and **Ed Catmur** have been instrumental in the development of the social club and have made a real difference to the social club and have made a real difference to the social club and have made a real difference to

slowest, race, was won 6:00.37; I wonder if the athlete was disappointed to not 'break 6'. The top race was won by Stephen Emery of Coventry/L'boro Uni in 4:15.64, with Cambridge Uni stalwart and future BUCS 10000m silver medallist Chris Bannon in second place.

Buoyed by our success, we planned a bigger event in 2012. BMC Treasurer Pat Fitzgerald led their involvement, and together we held the newly rebranded 'Iffley Festival of Miles' on 28th July 2012.

We were excited as our top entrants included world medallist Craig Mottram, and 3:37 1500m man David Bishop; a four-minute mile was on the cards. In the event, Mottram triumphed in the A race in 4:01.28. Rosie Clark took the women's A race in 4:54.38, and the BMC also held their Peter Coe and Frank Horwill Miles for young athletes. Jake Shelley was the highest placed OUAC/OUCCC athlete, running 4:13.39 to finish eighth in the A race.
A series of open races preceded the BMC event, ensuring the meeting remained open to everyone. We achieved some modest press coverage, including a shout-out on BBC Radio Oxford and an article in the Oxford Mail. The event was growing.

In 2013 the BMC announced that they would like to make the event one of their prestigious Grand Prix meetings. This would raise the profile of the event substantially, and ensure a plethora of high calibre athletes entered. I found myself juggling processing the entries of local school children with liaising with the agents of international athletes who wanted entries.

As the day approached, we started to believe that we could see a four minute mile at Iffley Road for the first time in almost a decade. Leading men's entrant, Richard Peters, had a 3:56 mile to his name, and the leading woman, Racheal Bamford, was aiming for 4:30. We also had top talent turning up the Grand Prix 800m, including Abraham Kiplagat (Kenya, 1:43 800m and Commonwealth Bronze Medallist) and Diane Cummins (Canada, 1:58 800m, two-time world championship finalist).

The big day dawned on 20th July 2013. The BMC used the day to double as their 50th anniversary celebration, adding to the sense of history and occasion.

The meeting began with a series of hotly contested open races, followed by top class performances in the Grand Prix 800m and 5000m. Then, the stadium went quiet as the men's and women's mile A races took place.

The women's race featured a duel between Alison Lundy and Stevie Stockton, with Lundy narrowly taking victory in 4:42.39. Then, the men's race went off at a scintillating pace. Multiple athletes jostled for position right from the gun and the bell was reached in under three minutes. The stadium held its breath. One lap later Richard Peters hurled himself across the line, edging in front of Jonny Mellor by just 7/100ths of a second. The time?
3:58.70

I graduated from Oxford in 2013 and handed over the reins to Rose Penfold and Hugo Flemming, who did a fantastic job organising the 2014 and 2015 meetings, respectively. It was wonderful to see the event flourish, and I am hugely grateful to all the volunteers we have had helping every year. In particular, I take my hat off to Thomas Renshaw and Tom Barrett, the 2024 organisers. Never did I anticipate such a large-scale, prestigious event with legends such as Hicham el Guerrouj, Noureddine Morceli and Steve Cram in attendance, continuing to cater to top end athletes whilst also involving the community.

Sir Roger's spirit certainly lives on. Long may it continue.

Alumni Bob Graham Round attempt – call for supporters

Past members Hugh Baker and Tommy Lees are attempting the gruelling Bob Graham Round on Saturday 13 July and are looking for a few more support runners. If interested in helping out, contact Hugh at hugh.b@hotmail.co.uk.

Sponsorship

OUCCC has managed without any corporate sponsorship for the last half-decade, but obtaining sponsorship would likewise go a significant way to improving our financial position. We have a lot to offer a potential sponsor: positive association with national-level excellence and supporting grassroots participation in running; promotion across our social media, mailing list, and events, all of which reach thousands of people per year; and access to a large group of intelligent, driven, talented young people. If you know of a company that might be interested in sponsoring OUCCC, please let us know so that we can get in touch.

Dates for your diary (2024-25)

- **Saturday 26 October (morning/afternoon)** – Cuppers (inc. Alumni Race), alumni launch, The 150th Anniversary Campaign Launch. South Park/Vincent's Club, Oxford.
- **Saturday 30 November (afternoon)** – II-IVs Cross Country Varsity. Shotover Country Park, Oxford.
- **Saturday 7 December (afternoon/evening) –** Old Blues and Blues Varsity, post-Varsity Dinner. Wimbledon Common, London.
- **Wednesday 12 March (afternoon)** – Teddy Hall Relays. Iffley Road Sports Centre, Oxford.
- **Wednesday 12 March (evening)** – OUCCC Annual Dinner. St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford.
- **Friday 18 – Sunday 20 April –** Isle of Man Festival of Running. Douglas.
- **Monday 5 May (morning/afternoon)** – Bannister Miles, Community Mile and Track Races

Thank you to our supporters

A heartfelt thank you to all of those who have donated to the club in the past year as well as those who have contributed to cover the cost of Varsity Kit. We are extremely grateful. They are listed below:

Andrew Arbour	Alex Gaskell
Alice Beverly	Alex Howard
Robert Bowyer	Larry Mathews
Jonathan Brooke	Bethanie Murray
Fiona Brown	Simon Molden
David Bruce	Christopher Phillips-Hart
John Coggins	Phillip Scarr
Jamie Darling	Nick Scroxton

Sponsorship

OUCCC has managed without any corporate sponsorship for the last half-decade, but obtaining sponsorship would likewise go a significant way to improving our financial position. We have a lot to offer a potential sponsor: positive association with national-level excellence and supporting grassroots participation in running; promotion across our social media, mailing list, and events, all of which reach thousands of people per year; and access to a large group of intelligent, driven, talented young people. If you know of a company that might be interested in sponsoring OUCCC, please point them in our direction.

Hearing from you

We hope that you enjoyed this email! If you would like to contribute content to a future email, or have a suggestion about how we could further improve our alumni relations, please get in touch (either anika.schwarze-chintapatla@trinity.ox.ac.uk (Club Captain) or jared.martin@stx.ox.ac.uk (Alumni & Sponsorship Rep)).

Yours in dark blue,

Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla
Club Captain, 2024-25

Jared Martin
Alumni & Sponsorship Rep, 2024-25

Oxford University Cross Country Club, Iffley Road Sports Centre, Iffley Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire
Unsubscribe Manage preferences

Send free email today
HubSpot