



## The Anniversary Campaign

September 2024

Dear OUCCC alumnus

We have some exciting news to share!

Today, on Sunday 15 September, OUCCC and The 1876 Trust launch the **Anniversary Campaign**. Starting from an existing pot of £30,000 - and as the club celebrates **50 years of women's Varsity** participation in 2025 and **150 years of OUCCC** in 2026 - our campaign aims to fundraise for an **endowment fund of £500,000**, with interest that provides an ongoing, **annual income stream of at least £20,000**.

Along the way, we aim to grow our group of regular supporters from ten at present to **150 by the end of 2026** to give the club a regular, predictable, and substantial income stream long into the future. Interest from funds accrued to deliver targeted, immediate improvements, responsibly supervised by The 1876 Trust.

[Read more](#)

In so doing, we will be able to affirm that:

- All members are aided to participate regardless of material circumstance.
- All the components of national-level competitive success are in place.
- There exist stable means of supporting the club for the next generation.

As we launch our campaign, we are asking you, a valued friend of OUCCC, to support our cause. You can do so through three simple steps:

1. **Donate:** Enrol as a regular supporter on our [donation page](#).
2. **Register:** Sign-up to our campaign [launch event](#) this October.
3. **Share:** Encourage your friends to sign-up to our [mailing list](#).

Finally, we note that many alumni have received letters earlier this year asking for donations to OUAC. To avoid confusion, we wish to clarify that the OUAC appeal is independent of our campaign and geared towards the provision of field equipment for the resurfaced Sir Roger Bannister Track. Please bear this in mind.

Read on to learn more about our motivations, objectives, and key events.

### Addressing rising costs and deterrents to participation



Delivering the services of a large and competitive running club are increasingly expensive, with running costs having soared since 2020. Annual transport costs have at least doubled and meeting this expenditure takes up a large and growing proportion of club expenditure. Likewise individuals must increasingly be asked to self-fund - partially or fully - travel to important races throughout the year.

OUCCC is also committed to offering opportunities for improvement and the pursuit of excellence to all. To that end, we employ a fantastic coach who serves members all year round. However, we have barely enough funds to pay him and he is spread across 200 members and employed on a part-time basis. Contrastingly, major rivals like Birmingham and Loughborough boast heads of athletics, lead endurance coaches, and additional coaches, to ensure all genders and abilities are supported.

To maintain current levels of provision, let alone close the gap to rival clubs, accommodate larger numbers of community members, or minimise additional costs throughout the year, necessitates raising membership fees and securing a bumper membership year after year. This reality - of limited long-term financial security and weak support for current members - is one that your support can help us overcome.

[Cuppers and Anniversary Campaign Launch Sign-Up](#)

### Immediate support, long-term development



Donations will be used to augment the club's pot of development funds. Interest from that pot will be made available to OUCCC to pursue immediate improvements, such as covering the expense of year-round performance coaching provision for all members. Funds will be managed by The 1876 Trust, composed of a dedicated, experienced, and talented team of alumni trustees alongside current and recent Club Captains. These trustees will ensure that any distribution of funds is responsible and geared towards maximum benefit.

Over the course of this campaign, we hope to grow our fund towards the £500,000 needed to set up an endowment fund whose annual return can support the maintenance and development of elements key to broad-based participation and competitive success. These include coaching provision, travel to major races, and team kit for Varsity. Should we surpass our fundraising target, we could unlock new opportunities, such as the employment of additional coaching staff or scholarships for talented students from underprivileged backgrounds.

[Donate here](#)

### Building a community for life



The aim of the 150th Anniversary Campaign is *not merely fundraising*. Building upon the success of the Bannister Miles celebrations earlier this year, we wish to use this campaign to bring old friends together, forge new connections, and strengthen the ties that bind us within and across generations. We want alumni of all ages and backgrounds to feel valued, invested, and involved for life, as well as through a series of anniversary events to commemorate the upcoming milestones in club history, notably the first Women's Varsity Match and the club's foundation. By the end of 2026, we want to be in a position of boasting a vastly expanded alumni mailing list, hosting annual alumni gatherings, and welcoming significant numbers of alumni supporters to key annual events like Varsity.

[Share the mailing list sign-up form](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and for your continued support. We look forward to sharing the anniversary celebrations with you over the next 30 months and to welcoming you to alumni events, starting with the 150th Anniversary Campaign Launch this October.

Yours in Dark Blue,

The 1876 Trustees

Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla  
Jared Martin  
Thomas Renshaw  
Jamie Darling

Bethan Hopewell  
Emma Huepfl  
Simon Molden  
Colin Phillips



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