



# Oxford University Cross Country Club

## Alumni Newsletter

October 2024

Dear OUCCC alumnus

The leaves are turning brown and the streets of Oxford are filled with parents unloading boxes, kettles, and toasters from car boots as they leave off their daughters and sons to university. It can only mean one thing: the start of a new academic year, and with it a new season for OUCCC. Our members are already focused on the challenge of Varsity at the far end of this term. However, there is much excitement before then, including Cross Country Cuppers on Saturday 26 October. This year Cuppers is open to alumni as well as university students, staff, and members of the wider community. It will be followed by an alumni-friendly lunch at Vincent's Club and the launch of the Anniversary Campaign, to which all are invited.

[Sign-up form for Anniversary Campaign launch](#)

Find out more about what has been happening at the club and what is coming up below.

### Anniversary Campaign Launch

Next year will mark 50 years of women's Varsity participation, while in 2026 we will celebrate OUCCC's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To mark these important milestones, we are launching a landmark campaign, aiming to reconnect different generations of the club, celebrate our history, and secure an exciting and prosperous future. To inaugurate the campaign, we are inviting alumni from all generations to join current students for lunch at Vincent's Club on Saturday 26 October, followed by a presentation explaining the Anniversary Campaign's motivations, objectives, and milestones in greater detail. We already have sign-ups from over half a century of alumni but it would be great to see some more of you there. If desired, there is the option to run at Cuppers too! So do sign up if able, and if already attending, please encourage your friends to come too. Registration for the lunch will close **next Thursday (17 October)**.

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



### Michaelmas at OUCCC

Michaelmas term kicks off with the welcoming of new members at Freshers Fair and our very own Freshers Run this week. The term concludes with the eagerly-anticipated Varsity matches. In between, we are looking forward to a busy schedule of social events and to training on the beautiful new (and blue) track at Iffley Road. It would be great to have some alumni support at our major competitions this term.

Some of the key dates are listed below:

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIMINGS
<b>Saturday 26 October</b>	Cross Country Cuppers Anniversary Campaign Launch	South Park, Oxford Vincent's Club, Oxford	Cuppers: ~10am, Lunch: ~12.30pm
<b>Saturday 30 November</b>	II-IVs Varsity Matches	Shotover Country Park, Oxford	From ~12.30pm
<b>Saturday 7 December</b>	Blues Varsity Matches Alumni Race Post-Varsity Dinner	Wimbledon Common, Roehampton	From ~1pm



### Oxford Half Marathon



This weekend will see Oxford's largest annual running event, as 13,000 people descend to take on the Oxford Half Marathon. Each year many current and former members of OUCCC take part. This year we plan to have a club presence at the event village, so if participating, please do come and say hello – it would be great to chat! Please also feel free to share your race number with us: we would love to keep an eye on your progress and cheer you on come race day.

### Social Running at OUCCC



Did you know that OUCCC leads free social runs open to all members of the community each week? Social runs allow anyone to get into running and offer a friendly and relaxed environment. Sam Hollins, one of our Social Running Reps this year, tells us more:

*"We meet for a social run three times a week, on Monday and Wednesday mornings and Friday evenings. These runs are all about 5k at a nice and relaxed pace and are aimed at runners of all abilities. This has been a great way for runners who are not fast enough for club runs to get involved with the club. I have really enjoyed leading these runs as it has been a brilliant way to make new friends and just to enjoy exploring the sights of Oxford. The current group consists of about 15 runners, and was slowly increasing in size over last term. Going into the coming year, we plan to expand the group further by advertising more on social media."*

Each Friday at 5pm, we also collaborate with Oxford Refugee Health Initiative to provide social runs for locally-based refugees and asylum-seekers. For those that attend, they are a great way of improving physical fitness, developing friendships, and exploring Oxford.

### English National



They may have been several months later than planned, but the English National Cross Country Championships (held on 14 September) nevertheless witnessed a great deal of success for current and former OUCCC members. Notable individual achievements included 7<sup>th</sup> in the Senior Women's event for Ellen Leggate and 8<sup>th</sup> in the Senior Men for Jack Millar. In the team competition, Jack Millar, Milan Campion, Naphtali Moulton, and Joe Morrow all contributed to a gold medal for Bristol & West AC, while Lizzy Apsley, Bethanie Murray, and Claire Hammett helped Thames Hare & Hounds to a fantastic team silver. Well done all!

### Pre-Season Training Camp



Last month, over 30 attendees assembled in the picturesque Shropshire village of Much Wenlock for OUCCC's annual pre-season training camp. The next several days included an abundance of training, team-building, and organised fun. There was community outreach, with volunteering at Telford Parkrun, as well as activities such as trips to Ironbridge and an afternoon of football as a group of us became Kidderminster Harriers fans for the day (alas, a late own-goal meant a 1-0 win for Alfreton Town). It was great to welcome large numbers of incoming students keen to get involved with the club. And thankfully, camp concluded just before swathes of Shropshire were submerged by floods.

### Fundraising Update

Since we introduced the Anniversary Campaign last month, we have had an excellent response, with significant numbers of one-off donations and new regular supporters. It has been especially gratifying to see a substantial take-up of regular giving among final year students. Should you wish to make a donation to OUCCC, you can do so below.

[Donate Here](#)

### Our supporters

OUCCC could scarcely function, let alone progress and grow, without the generous support of current and former members. Sincere thanks therefore goes to all those listed below who have donated to the club in the past year, and especially to those who signed up as supporters since we introduced the Anniversary Campaign last month.

- |                   |                 |                           |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Andrew Arbour     | Simon Gisby     | Joe Morrow                |
| Alice Beverley    | Luke Gribbin    | Bethanie Murray           |
| Robert Bowyer     | Matthew Holland | Jamie Parkinson           |
| Jonathan Brooke   | Bethan Hopewell | Rhiannon Paton            |
| Fiona Brown       | Alex Howard     | Colin Phillips            |
| David Bruce       | Jay Howard      | Christopher Phillips-Hart |
| Matthew Bryant    | Emma Huepfl     | Glen Power                |
| Charlotte Buckley | Daisy Jowers    | Thomas Renshaw            |
| John Coggins      | Larry Mathews   | Phillip Scarr             |
| Jamie Darling     | Ian McAllister  | Nick Scroton              |
| Harrison France   | Simon Molden    | Rachel Skokowski          |
| Alex Gaskell      | Ben Moreau      |                           |

We hope that you have enjoyed this email. If you have any updates that you would like to share on a future newsletter, or any suggestions about how to improve our communications, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing our Alumni & Sponsorship Rep (Jared Martin - [jared.martin@stx.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jared.martin@stx.ox.ac.uk)) or our Club Captain (Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla - [anika.schwarze-chintapatla@trinityox.ac.uk](mailto:anika.schwarze-chintapatla@trinityox.ac.uk)). We also warmly welcome written submissions, especially those focused on the history of the club.

Yours in Dark Blue

The 1876 Trustees

- |                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla | Bethan Hopewell |
| Jared Martin               | Emma Huepfl     |
| Thomas Renshaw             | Simon Molden    |
| Jamie Darling              | Colin Phillips  |



Oxford University Cross Country Club, Iffley Road Sports Centre, Iffley Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire

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