



Oxford University Cross Country Club

Alumni Newsletter
December 2024

Dear OUCCC alumnus

Thank you to everyone who participated, supported, or sent good wishes across the two weekends of Varsity. It is a pleasure to write that the men's and women's Blues built upon the success at Shotover to secure a clean sweep of victories – 7-0! – over Cambridge. Last Saturday was a fantastic day for OUCCC, and an excellent advertisement for the sport of cross country running.

After some well-earned rest, focus will turn to the British University Championships on 1 February 2025. After a silver medal in 2024, can the club do better again, with multiple medals or even a first team gold since 2000 in the case of the women and 2000 in the case of the men? We certainly hope so.

For now, however, read on for reports, profiles, and information about upcoming events.

Newsletter contents

1. Report – Blues Varsity
2. 50th Women's Anniversary Alumni Profile: Lynne Fox (née Wightman)
3. Isle of Man Festival of Running 2025
4. OUCCC Annual Dinner 2025
5. Alumni Meet-Up: Cherry Blossom 10 Mile, Washington DC
6. Priorities for 2025
7. Time Capsule: Isle of Man Festival of Running
8. Thanking our supporters

Match Report - Blues Varsity



In what seemed to be one of the only races taking place across the UK that weekend, as Storm Darragh battered the British Isles, the Varsity Match concluded at Wimbledon Common on Saturday 7 December. Over the course of a damp and blustery afternoon, spectators witnessed the 32nd Alumni, 48th Ladies', and 13th Gentlemen's races. The going was heavy to say the least, while the stream crossing was deeper than many of us had ever seen it. This did not prevent 45 brave souls from tackling the Old Blues race, resulting in a win for Cambridge. Despite the team result, the first two individuals home were Oxford's Jack Millar (University) and Matthew Kunov (St Catherine's).

Thankfully that was the extent of light blue victory. In the Ladies' Race, started by OUCCC alumna Emma Huepfl (Jesus), a Cambridge 1-2 from Great Britain & Northern Ireland athletes Niamh Bridson-Hubbard and Bea Woods was not enough to overhaul strong packing from the Oxford team. The dark blues were led home by one of our own GB athletes, Rebecca Flaherty (St Catherine's), who finished 3rd overall. Next home was Charlotte Buckley (Oriol) in 4th, then Lauren Major (Merton) in 6th, Lala Casajoana Guardia (St John's) in 7th, Lauren Russell (Balliol) in 8th, Jemima Ridley (Lady Margaret Hall) in 9th, and Jo Auer (Magdalene) in 10th. With all eight Oxford runners in before the fourth Cambridge finisher, a 37-47 team victory was ensured and the Women's Blues title retained for another year.



That left only the Men's Blues. Victory had eluded this team since 2018, including by the narrowest of margins in 2022 and in 2023, when just 11 seconds separated 4th – 11th place. This year there were no such issues. Like a battering ram in a medieval siege, after knocking for years, the gates finally came crashing down, with Oxford securing an emphatic 21-61 victory. This was the largest margin of victory since 1952, when one Chris Chataway (a future 5000m world record holder) led the team home. All six Oxford scorers finished before the first of the Cambridge runners. They were Jared Ward (Keble), Matthew Kearney (Magdalen), Nick Whittaker (Wolfson), Alex Gruen (Keble), Joe Morrow (Queen's), and Tom Wood (St Anne's). The team was rounded off by my Chris Parker (Corpus Christi) in 9th and Thomas Renshaw (St Hugh's) in 15th.

It is safe to say that the afternoon's victories ensured enjoyable post-match celebrations at the Old Deer Park. Thanks to everyone at Thames Hare & Hounds for putting on another fantastic day, especially Simon Molden, Andy Weir, Bethanie Murray, and Maureen Poole.

[Full Results, Programme and Archives](#)

50th Women's Anniversary Alumni Profile

Lynne Fox (née Wightman)



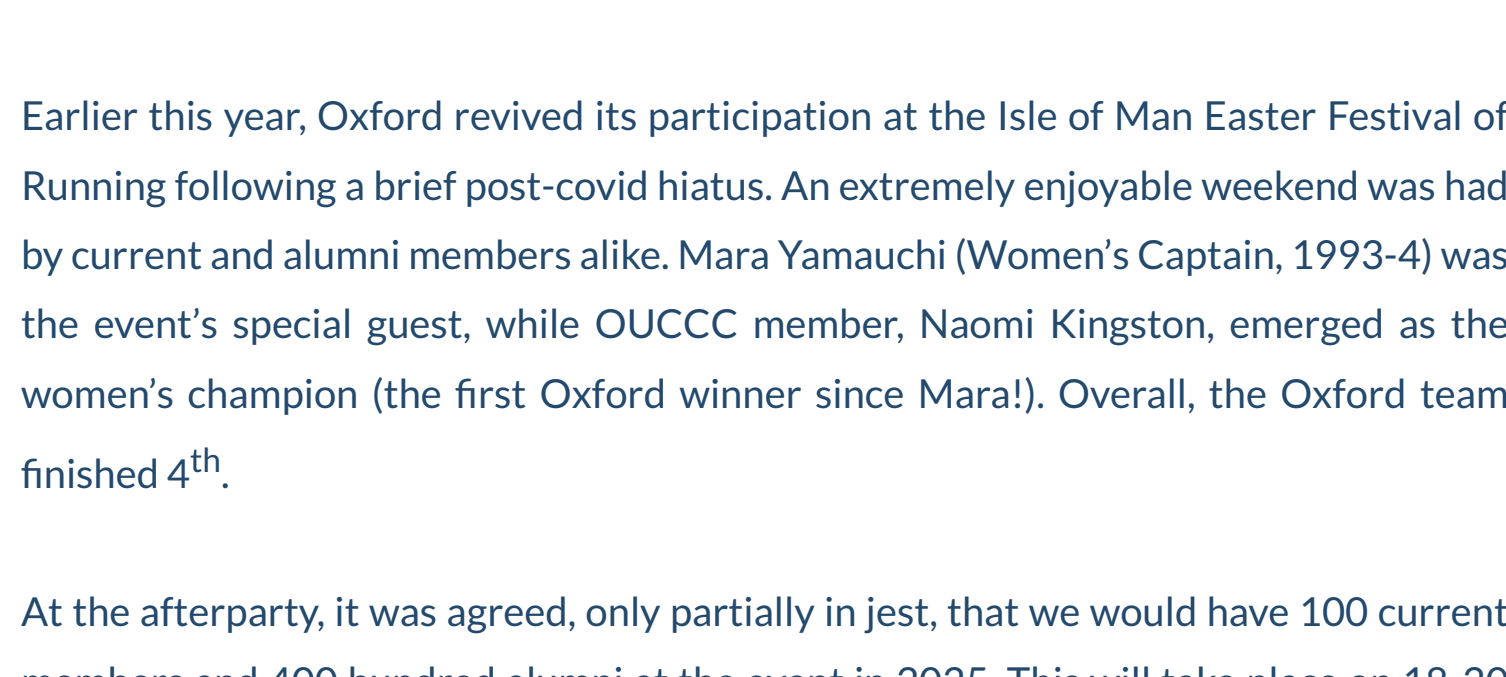
Over the last six months, OUCCC Club Captain, Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla has been in touch with OUCCC women from across the past five decades whose contributions – whether in terms of performance, leadership, or organisation – have shaped the club's history and positively contributed towards the club we know today, with over 100 female members. As we approach 50 years of women's participation in Varsity next year, these contributions will be featured in twelve monthly profiles, each highlighting the diverse contributions of OUCCC women across the decades.

Twelve is by no means sufficient to account for all of the incredible members that have passed through our ranks over the years. Yet, we hope these profiles will inspire your own memories, encouraging additional contributions, and producing a large collection of memoirs that we can share at our 50th anniversary celebration in December 2025. With these, we hope to humanise the journey on which the club has been on over the last five decades.

With that, we kick off our series with the first OUCCC Women's Captain, Lynne Fox (née Wightman). Participant in the 1975 match and winner of the 1976 match, Lynne was a leading figure in the introduction of cross country running for women at Oxford. You can read Lynne's profile by clicking the link below. Hopefully will trigger fond memories for many of you. Thank you Lynne for contributing.

[Read Lynne's Profile Here](#)

Isle of Man Festival of Running 2025



Earlier this year, Oxford revived its participation at the Isle of Man Easter Festival of Running following a brief post-covid hiatus. An extremely enjoyable weekend was had by current and alumni members alike. Mara Yamauchi (Women's Captain, 1993-4) was the event's special guest, while OUCCC member, Naomi Kingston, emerged as the women's champion (the first Oxford winner since Mara!). Overall, the Oxford team finished 4th.

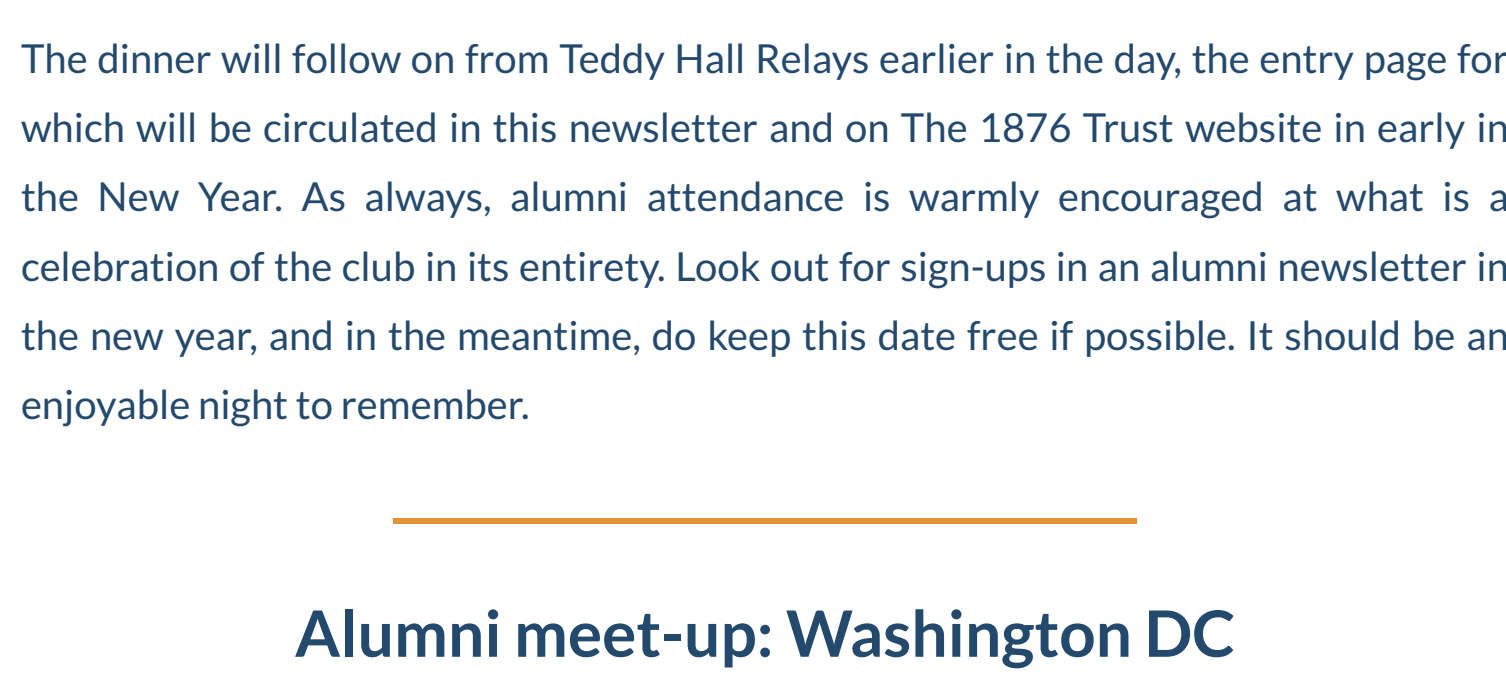
At the afterparty, it was agreed, only partially in jest, that we would have 100 current members and 400 hundred alumni at the event in 2025. This will take place on 18-20 April (Friday to Sunday) and sign-ups are now open. The club will be organising accommodation and alumni are very welcome to join, as is the case with many of the other universities that take part.

Complete the form below to sign-up for OUCCC accommodation by 30 December 2024. If you would like to attend but would prefer to make your own accommodation arrangements, let us know you are coming anyway so that we can look out for you.

Any questions, contact OUCCC Men's Captain, Sam Waite (samuel.waite@worc.ox.ac.uk).

[IoM Sign-Up Here](#)

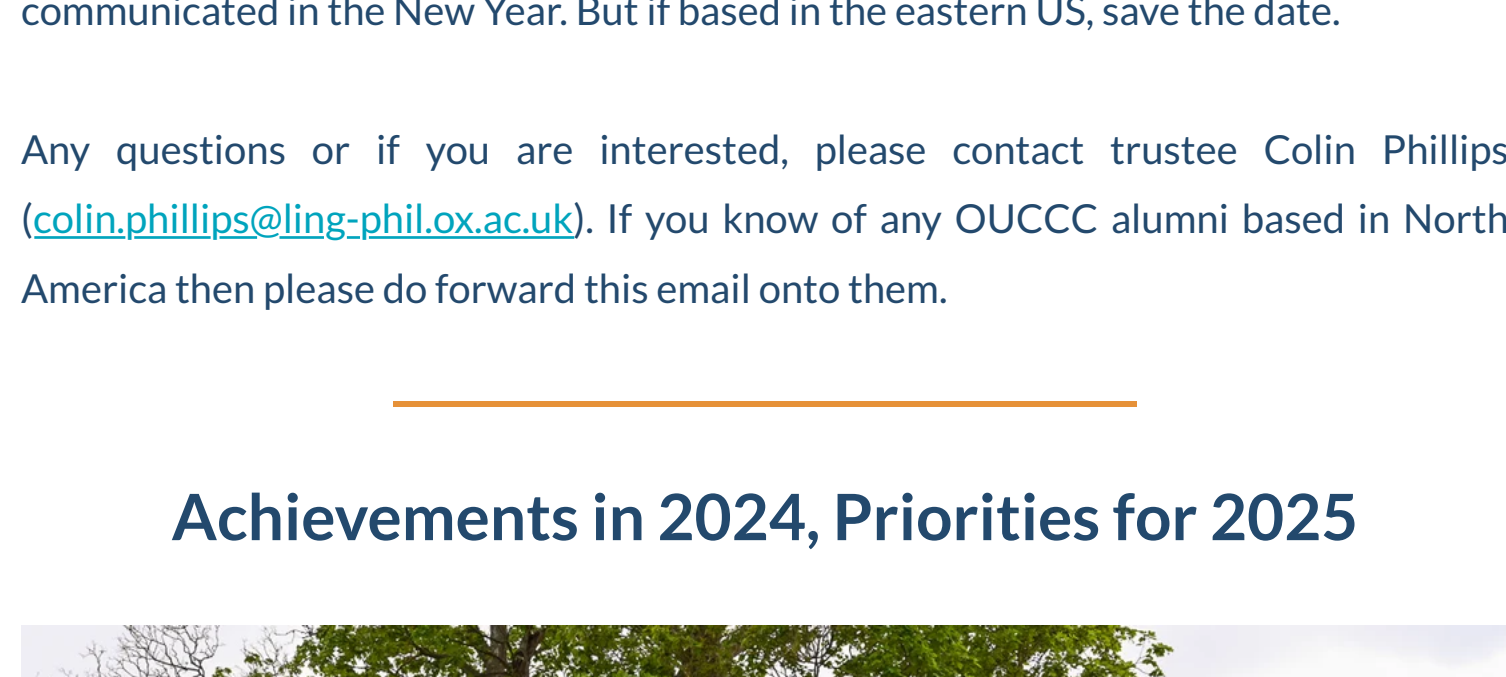
OUCCC Annual Dinner 2025



A date for your diaries: OUCCC's annual dinner will take place on **Wednesday 12 March 2025 at St Edmund Hall**.

The dinner will follow on from Teddy Hall Relays earlier in the day, the entry page for which will be circulated in this newsletter and on The 1876 Trust website in early in the New Year. As always, alumni attendance is warmly encouraged at what is a celebration of the club in its entirety. Look out for sign-ups in an alumni newsletter in the new year, and in the meantime, do keep this date free if possible. It should be an enjoyable night to remember.

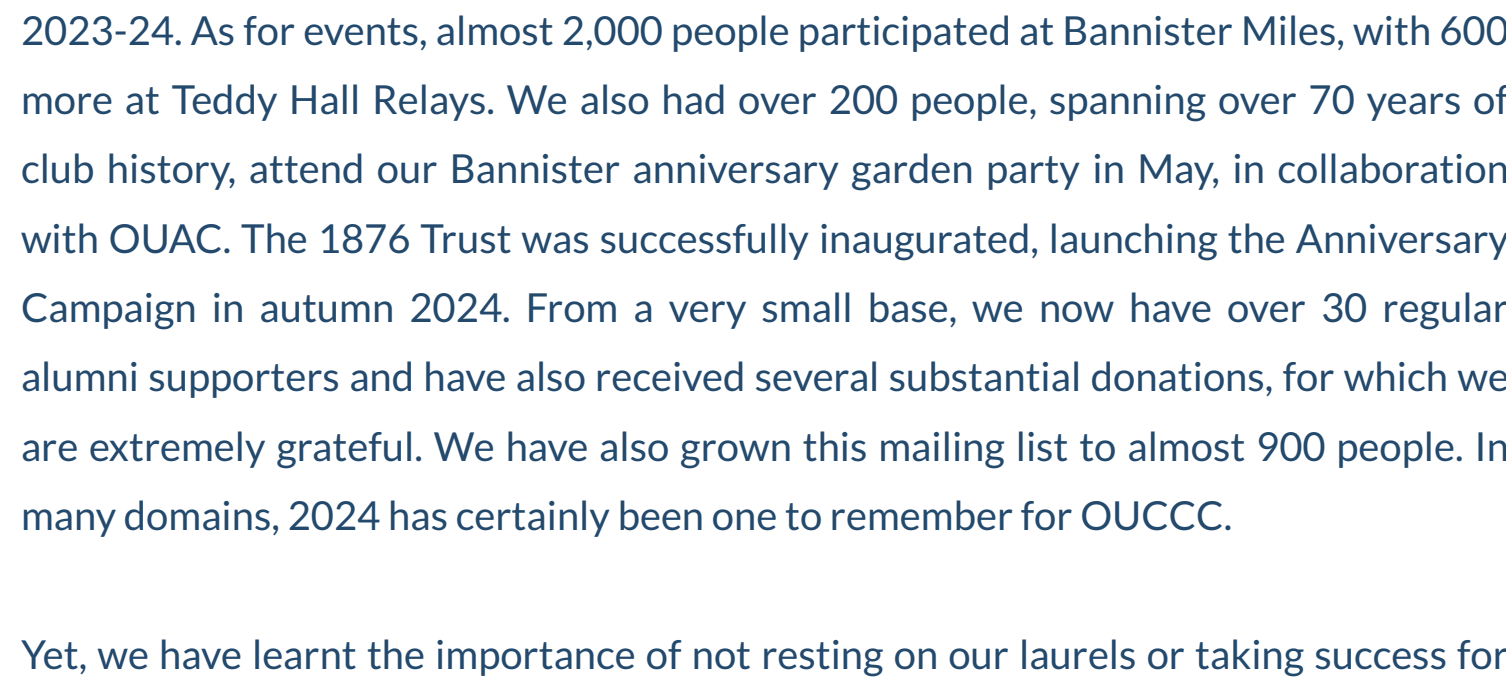
Alumni meet-up: Washington DC



We hope to coordinate a meet-up for North American-based alumni at the **Cherry Blossom 10 Mile & 5K Runs in Washington DC on Sunday 6 April**. More details will be communicated in the New Year. But if based in the eastern US, save the date.

Any questions or if you are interested, please contact trustee Colin Phillips (colin.phillips@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk). If you know of any OUCCC alumni based in North America then please do forward this email onto them.

Achievements in 2024, Priorities for 2025



As another year draws to a close, it is worth looking back on some of the club's key achievements over the past twelve months. Competitively, we have seen everything from a clean sweep at Varsity to a first BUCS team silver medal for 20 years. In terms of participation, we saw a record OUCCC membership of 218 people by year end 2023-24. As for events, almost 2,000 people participated at Bannister Miles, with 600 more at Teddy Hall Relays. We also had over 200 people, spanning over 70 years of club history, attend our Bannister anniversary garden party in May, in collaboration with OUAU. The 1876 Trust was successfully inaugurated, launching the Anniversary Campaign in autumn 2024. From a very small base, we now have over 30 regular alumni supporters and have also received several substantial donations, for which we are extremely grateful. We have also grown this mailing list to almost 900 people. In many domains, 2024 has certainly been one to remember for OUCCC.

Yet, we have learnt the importance of not resting on our laurels or taking success for granted. With that in mind, there is much to look forward to in 2025, including a resurrected match against Trinity College Dublin in March, Bannister Miles in May, and a landmark celebration of 50 years of women's Varsity participation in December. We also hope to accelerate progress on our fundraising objectives, with at least 50 regular supporters by the end of 2025 alongside the receipt of major gifts. Such support would allow us to sustain success long into the future. You can read more about our agenda and objectives on The 1876 Trust website.

Our supporters

Heartfelt thanks to all of those listed below, whose support over the past year has allowed OUCCC to continue to thrive, while also making progress towards its endowment fund ambitions.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Andrew Arbour | Alex Gaskell | Ben Moreau |
| Alice Beverley | Simon Gisby | Joe Morrow |
| Robert Bowyer | Luke Gribbin | Bethanie Murray |
| Jonathan Brooke | Matthew Holland | Jamie Parkinson |
| David Bruce | Bethan Hopewell | Rhiannon Paton |
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| Daniel Bundred | Emma Huepfl | Glen Power |
| John Coggins | Alun Johns | Thomas Renshaw |
| Chris Daniels | Daisy Jowers | Phillip Scarr |
| Jamie Darling | Larry Mathews | Nick Scroton |
| Anthony Doolittle | Jared Martin | Rachel Skokowski |
| Harrison France | Ian McAllister | Rachel Weatherseed |
| | Simon Molden | |

Thank you for making it to the bottom of this newsletter. We hope that you have enjoyed it, and we wish a happy Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year to everyone celebrating. If you have any suggestions or contributions, please send them to Alumni & Sponsorship Rep. Jared Martin (jared.martin@six.ox.ac.uk) or Club Captain, Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla (anika.schwarze-chintapatla@trinity.ox.ac.uk). We look forward to seeing you in 2025!

Yours in Dark Blue

The 1876 Trustees

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

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