



Oxford University Cross Country Club

Alumni Newsletter

Varsity 2024

Dear OUCCC alumnus

Two years ago, at II-IVs Varsity, the overall match result was Oxford 2-3 Cambridge. Last year it was Oxford 3-2 Cambridge. This year, it was Oxford 5-0 Cambridge as we achieved a clean sweep of victories at Shotover. These results reflect years of hard work to grow the size of the club and provide quality training for all members, led by the exemplary Matt Seddon. The full report for II-IVs can be found below.

Now, however, we look ahead to the Blues and alumni matches at Wimbledon Common this weekend, where we will look to make the overall score a perfect 8-0. Yet regardless of the outcome, 2024 has been a fantastic year and we have been grateful for the alumni support received along the way. Here's to an equally successful 2025!

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Upcoming event - Blues Varsity



Come along to Wimbledon Common this Saturday for the 133rd Gentlemen's, 48th Ladies', and 32nd Alumni Varsity race. Support out on the course really does make a difference, so if you are free, your attendance would be greatly appreciated by the teams as they attempt to achieve a historic 8-0 series victory. All the details of the teams, race timings and location can be found below. If you would like to race in the alumni race you can sign-up on the day in the Thames H&H clubhouse.

Men's Team

Alexander Bampton (Green Templeton)
 Alexander Gruen (Keble)
 Matthew Kearney (Magdalen)
 Joe Morrow (Queen's)
 Christopher Parker (Corpus Christi)
 Jared Ward (Keble)
 Nicholas Whittaker (Wolfson)
 Thomas Wood (St. Anne's)

Reserves:

Thomas Renshaw (St. Hugh's)
 Jared Martin (St. Cross)

Women's Team

Josephine Auer (Magdalen)
 Charlotte Buckley (Oriol)
 Laia Casajoana Guardia (St. John's)
 Rebecca Flaherty (St. Catherine's)
 Lauren Major (Merton)
 Beth Rawlinson (St. Hugh's)
 Jemima Ridley (Lady Margaret Hall)
 Lauren Russell (Balliol)

Reserves:

Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla (Trinity)
 Clara Hartley (Queen's)

Order of Events

- 1:00 p.m. 32nd Old Blues' Race (4 miles) (Mob Match, all alumni welcome)
- 2:00 p.m. 48th Ladies' Race (4 miles) (Eight-a-side, six-to-score)
- 2:45 p.m. 133rd Gentlemen's Race (7½ miles) (Eight-a-side, six-to-score)

Location:

[Thames Hare and Hounds' Headquarters](#), Memorial Playing Fields, Roehampton Vale, SW15 3PQ

Finally, we would like to say a big thank you to Simon Molden and the rest of Thames Hare & Hounds for their organisation and support in hosting this year's Varsity Match. Year in, year out the whole event is meticulously organised, saving the club committee a significant amount of stress and ensuring a very special day for all involved.

Find this year's programme, course map, and historical results via the link below.

[Varsity XC website](#)

II-IVs Varsity Match 2024 - Match report



The last outing at Shotover was a difficult day for the club. While our Men's IVs and Women's IIIs managed victories, each selected team suffered heavy defeats. Since then, sustained efforts have been made to grow the size of the club, improve the quality of training (including regular practice at Shotover!), and increase the overall professionalism of our approach. It was therefore all the more special to achieve five victories out of five at Shotover this year, amidst record participation in the Men's and Women's Mob Matches.

Team Results

Turtles (Women's IIs)	Won 27 - 55.
Sloths (Women's IIIs - Mob)	Won 2496 - 1633.
Tortoises (Men's IIs)	Won 21 - 63.
Snails (Men's IIIs)	Won 23 - 65.
Men's IVs - Mob	Won 2334 - 1833.



Individual results

1st Louise Shanahan (Cam); 2nd Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla; 3rd Clara Hartley
 1st Rose Sheppard; 2nd Catherine Westhead; 3rd Annabelle Parbrook
 1st Thomas Renshaw; 2nd Jared Martin; 3rd Ethan McColgan
 1st Daniel Bundred; 2nd Henry Coop; 3rd Carlos Gonzalez Perez
 1st Anthony Addison; 2nd Matthew Luney; 3rd Levi Berger

In the selected team races, only two Cambridge athletes beat an Oxford scorer, and one of them is an Olympian. Oxford had the first seven home in Men's IIs, eight of the first nine in Men's IIIs and the first twelve home in Women's IIIs. Unsurprisingly, some records were broken on Saturday including the biggest Oxford win in the Men's IIIs match and the third biggest Oxford win in the Men's IIs match.

Success was about much more than the top-end performances, and the Mob Match Captains, Sam Day and Tamsin Sangster, deserve huge credit for mobilising so many participants. Before the races, the Oxford committee was somewhat worried about whether the Shotover course would be able to handle so many participants. In the end, 265 athletes completed the Mob Match courses without serious issue. This represented a record participation, 139% up on two years ago, and in the case of the women, 181% greater. There was also a first run-out for our selected Women's IIIs team, ahead of the expansion of women's matches to four in 2025.

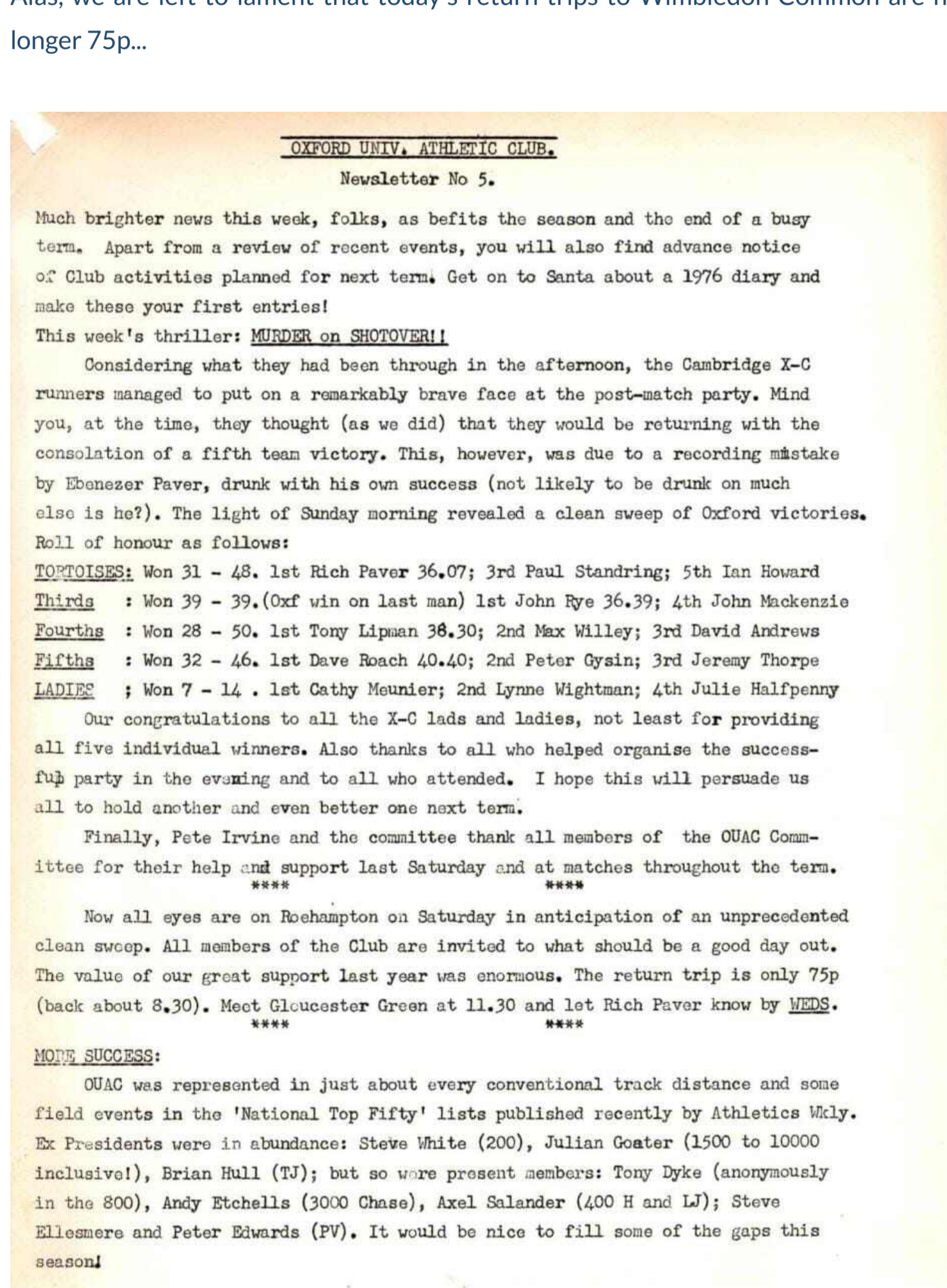
II-IVs Varsity thus really was a case of 'excellence for all' made real.

[Full Results Here](#)

Time capsule

The last few decades have seen a few Oxford clean sweeps in II-IV/Vs - specifically in 1998, 2002, 2019 and 2021. In 1998, Oxford even achieved an 8-0 clean sweep despite the match taking place in Cambridge. However, in this newsletter we cast our net back further to 1975, when, as this newsletter records, there was 'Murder at Shotover'. Under the captaincy of Peter Irvine and Lynne Wightman, the Men's Blues also went onto win this year, completing a clean sweep across all matches.

Thank you to Andy Etchells (1st in the 1974 Blues Match, 2nd in 1975) for sharing. Alas, we are left to lament that today's return trips to Wimbledon Common are no longer 75p...



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) or our Club Captain (Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla - anika.schwarze-chintapatla@trinity.ox.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
 Jared Martin
 Thomas Renshaw
 Jamie Darling

Bethan Hopewell
 Emma Huepfl
 Simon Molden
 Colin Phillips



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