



Oxford University Cross Country Club

Alumni Newsletter

January 2025

Dear OUCCC alumnus

Alongside bouts of freezing weather, the January invariably brings predictions and assessments about the year to come. Where OUCCC is concerned, one can safely predict that 2025 will be memorable, kicking off with the British University Championships (can we build on last year's silver medal?) and concluding with a celebration of 50 years of women's participation in the Varsity Match, the first major landmark of our [Anniversary Campaign](#).

There is a lot to look forward to along the way, and we hope that you will be able to get involved in some form. In particular, we encourage you to sign up for our fixture against Trinity College Dublin on 8 March, Teddy Hall Relays on 12 March, and OUCCC's annual dinner on the evening of the same date. Sign-up links for each event can be found below.

For now, feel free to settle down with a cup of tea or coffee and read on for important dates for your diary, sign-up information for upcoming events, a profile of alumna Gill Suttle, and much else besides.

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Key dates for 2025

We have a busy schedule of events this year, open to current and former members alike, which we hope will give meaning to the ideal of OUCCC as a true community for life. Details of some of the events later in the year are still to be threshed out, but as we are able to confirm the dates, please feel free to note them now.

We would particularly like to draw attention to our celebration of 50 years of women's Varsity participation. We intend to celebrate this at a central London venue the evening before the Alumni and Blues Varsity Matches – that is, Friday 5 December. Everyone is welcome at both this reception and the Varsity Match itself.

All of the key dates for 2025 are listed below. We hope that you will be able to join us at some point during the year.

- **Saturday 8 March** - Oxford University vs Trinity College Dublin Cross Country Match and post-match social.
- **Wednesday 12 March** - Teddy Hall Relays & OUCCC Annual Dinner.
- **Friday 18 – Sunday 20 April** - Isle of Man Festival of Running.
- **Monday 5 May** - Bannister Miles 2025.
- **Sunday 11 May** - Town & Gown 10k 2025.
- **Saturday 25 October** - Cross Country Cuppers (inc. Alumni Race & post-match lunch).
- **Friday 5 December** – 50th Anniversary of Women's Varsity Celebration.
- **Saturday 6 December** – Alumni & Blues Varsity Matches.

Oxford University vs Trinity College, Dublin - Cross Country Match

Oxford University vs Dublin University



As part of the Anniversary Campaign, we are keen to resurrect some of the historic fixtures in which Oxford teams of yore competed. Doing so provides several opportunities. We can deepen relationships with other universities across the British Isles; give athletes an additional focus for performance as well as an additional chance to race as part of an Oxford team; and allow current and former members to come together.

To these ends, we will be hosting a contingent of around 60 people from Trinity College Dublin on Saturday 8 March, with a return trip to Dublin planned for either this autumn or next spring. The match will be comprised of selected men's and women's teams of eight, as well as a mass participation race open to all. Teams will be open to student, community, and alumni members alike. There will be a dinner and social in Oxford on the Saturday evening. A summary of the key information is provided below:

- **Date:** Saturday 8 March.
- **Time:** –12.30pm – 3pm.
- **Location:** South Park, Oxford.
- **Cost:** Free!
- **Social:** Dinner in central Oxford and night out for those that want it.

If interested in participating in any part of the proceedings – whether racing or not – please complete the form below. Any questions, contact Jared Martin at jared.martin@stx.ox.ac.uk.

[Sign-Up Here](#)

Teddy Hall Relays 2025



We are delighted to announce that entries for this year's edition of Teddy Hall Relays are now open. So start getting your team together for this enjoyable relay 4x7 kilometre race through central Oxford, fully organised by OUCCC. Free tea will be provided afterwards, this year in the Rugby Club Pavilion (as Teddy Hall gets ready for our annual dinner!).

Full details about the race are provided below:

- **Date:** Wednesday 12 March.
- **Time:** Registration from 11.30am, race start at 1.30pm.
- **Location:** Iffley Road Sports Centre, Oxford.
- **Cost:** £11 per person, £44 per team.
- **Entry:** [Teddy Hall Relays - Odntrack](#).

If you would like to participate but lack a team, get in touch and we can arrange a team for you. Please direct any more specific questions about the event towards event organisers, Alex Hammond (alexander.hammond@sjc.ox.ac.uk) or Rose Sheppard (rose.sheppard@mansfield.ox.ac.uk).

[Teddy Hall Relays Entries Here](#)

OUCCC Annual Dinner 2025



Following on from Teddy Hall Relays, we will be holding our annual dinner at St. Edmund Hall on the evening of Wednesday 12 March. This is always an enjoyable evening, providing an opportunity to catch up with old friends, meet new people, and celebrate the year that was. This year's event will also feature a guest speaker whom we look forward to announcing soon. Alumni attendance is welcomed and encouraged, and it was great to catch up with alumni at last year's edition.

Dinner will be preceded by drinks at (provisionally) the Turf Tavern, where we have booked tables from 6.30pm, and succeeded by a visit to Vincent's Club afterwards. Plus ones are very much welcome. And if attendance still feels a little daunting, please see this testimony from alumnus, Colin Phillips, on his attendance last year:

"I would encourage any alumni to come along to the OUCCC annual dinner, to talk with fellow alumni and current students, and to learn about what Oxford running has become in the 2020s. Last year I went along to the dinner with some apprehension. It was my first OUCCC event in decades – well, aside from the Teddy Hall Relays earlier that same day – and I remembered the, ahem, "spirited" club dinners of my youth. It turned out to be a brilliant evening of conversation and celebration, that left me feeling that Oxford running is in great hands with the current generation."

- **Date:** Wednesday 12 March.
- **Time:** Drinks from 6.30pm; dinner at 7.30pm.
- **Location:** Turf Tavern (provisionally) for pre-dinner drinks, St Edmund Hall for dinner.
- **Cost:** £55 (non-drinking), £60 (drinking).
- **Dress Code:** Black tie or equivalent (Blues blazers encouraged).

[Annual Dinner Tickets](#)

50th Women's Anniversary Alumni Profile:

Gill Suttle



Our second profile in this series is one that not all might expect to see in an OUCCC newsletter, as this name does not appear on the results of the Cross Country Varsity series. This month's feature is, instead, an athlete who had a tremendous impact on the early years of female involvement in Oxford's running scene. This is the story of Gill Suttle, one of the first female members of OUAC (with which OUCCC was then associated) and a key player in the development of women's involvement in the clubs. She was the first Oxford woman to receive a full blue for running and went on to compete internationally in Modern Pentathlon.

We hope that you enjoy this profile and thank Gill for sharing her story.

[Read Gill's story here](#)

Time Capsule: Oxford vs Trinity, 1925

While it has long lain dormant, the Oxford University – Trinity College Dublin match used to be a pretty regular occurrence. Numerous fixtures took place in both Oxford and Dublin, spanning the years between 1898 and 1928. Just shy of 100 years ago – Saturday 14 February, 1925, to be precise – the two universities competed over a seven mile course in Dublin, with the going 'extremely heavy'. In a dominant display, the Oxford team won by a margin of 21-57, occupying each of the first eight finishing positions. V.E. Morgan (Christ Church) was the individual winner, followed by A.S. Walford (Oriel). While we hope for an Oxford victory on Saturday 8 March, let us also wish for a more competitive affair than 100 years ago.

Fundraising Update

We are happy to say that we raised around £11,000 in alumni donations in 2024, including several generous one-off donations and an increase in our number of regular supporters from 10 to 30. We hope to grow our reserves substantially in 2025 as part of the ongoing Anniversary Campaign, allowing us to achieve our target of 50 regular supporters by year-end, as well as building up the reserves of our future endowment fund and using the interest to deliver immediate, costed improvements to the club's activities. You can find out more about the Anniversary Campaign and how to become a financial supporter on The 1876 Trust's website. We are extremely grateful for all of the support that we receive and would like to thank those listed below, who have generously supported the club in the past year.

1876 Club Supporters

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Alumni Supporters

- | | | |
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| Alice Beverley | Simon Gisby | Bethanie Murray |
| Robert Bowyer | Bethan Hopewell | Jamie Parkinson |
| Jonathan Brooke | Emma Huepfel | Colin Phillips |
| David Bruce | Alun Johns | Christopher Phillips- |
| Matthew Bryant | Daisy Jowers | Hart |
| Chris Daniels | Larry Mathews | Glen Power |
| Jamie Darling | Ian McAllister | Phillip Scarr |
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| Charlotte Buckley | Luke Gribbin | Joe Morrow |
| Daniel Hundred | Matthew Holland | Rhiannon Paton |
| Harrison France | Jared Martin | Thomas Renshaw |
| | | Miles Weatherseed |

Thank you for making it to the bottom of this newsletter. We hope that you have found it enjoyable and informative. If you have any suggestions or contributions, please get in touch with 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).

Yours in Dark Blue

The 1876 Trustees

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla | Bethan Hopewell |
| Jared Martin | Emma Huepfel |
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| Jamie Darling | Colin Phillips |

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