



**Name:** Lucy Craig

**College:** St Hilda's

**Degree:** Engineering

**Years of Study:** 1983-1986



Our next profile is Lucy Craig, the first Oxford finisher in the inaugural Women's Ilds match: Turtles (Oxford) vs Cheetahs (Cambridge). As one of the first athletes to benefit from the expansion of Women's racing opportunities at Oxford and Cambridge we are excited to share her story.

### **Early Years**

Lucy became a runner during her school days, taking part in her school crosscountry races, and being part of their team from around the age of fourteen. Before that, she hadn't been significantly involved in sports activity, but, with a father who was a keen mountaineer, her family were used to the joys of hillwalking during the school holidays. *'That probably got me quite fit.'* Upon starting running, Lucy discovered that she was a decent middle distance runner, and with her results made it onto her school athletics team. Her PE teacher at the time started up a cross-country running team, and she got involved. *'I really enjoyed it.'* As a result, Lucy further increased her involvement with running, joining a local running club in Glasgow, where she trained a couple of evenings a week. By the time Lucy left school, she was running every day.

### **University Days**

Before joining university, Lucy took a year out - getting work experience as a trainee engineer with British Steel in Sheffield. During this year, she kept up her running and was keen to continue it at university. *'OUCCC was an obvious choice for me in my fresher's year.'* Here, Lucy found herself amongst other runners, and continued on her running trajectory throughout her time at Oxford. For Lucy, running was about keeping fit, and also in Oxford it was very sociable! *'I remember another team member from St Hilda's went running twice on some days – but I very rarely did that!'* As with so many of our alumni, the running routes in and around Oxford are memorable for Lucy. *'There were so many lovely places in and near Oxford to go running. One of my frequent routes was an easy run*

*around Christ Church Meadow.’ Whilst the women’s team wasn’t coached at the time, the captains would take on the responsibility of organising group training sessions. ‘I don’t remember having a coach, but Liz, our women’s team captain, organised team training sessions.’*

In the Varsity Match of 1983, Lucy became a member of the first ever Turtles team. With women’s participation growing, it was time to introduce a IIs team. *‘I remember very little about the race itself – except for the nerves I had beforehand!’* With Cambridge’s women being stronger at the time (the Cambridge Blues team had won the previous three races since 1980), the pressure was on. But Lucy held her own, placing as the first Oxford finisher. *‘There was a great team spirit - I really enjoyed the team training sessions.’*

### **Post University**

Since graduating from Oxford, Lucy has continued to run for enjoyment. Whilst no-longer competing, she is regularly active and uses running as an easy and quick way to keep fit. *‘An early morning run has become a lifetime habit- usually three or four days a week.’*

Lucy has ventured into new distances as well as new sports, a love that is shared in her family as well! *‘My longest distance has been a half marathon, which I did with my husband and his brother, in the foothills of the Pyrenees near where I now live. Our main sport is (ski-)mountaineering, but we do occasionally go on trail runs as a family, with my teenage son.’*



*Lucy with her family in the Pyrenees*

*“My degree was in Engineering Science, and I had a strong interest in renewable energy, although when I left Oxford in 1986, there were not many jobs in that field. I was lucky to end up working for one of the first wind turbine manufacturers in the UK, and have stayed in that field all my working life. It remains a fascinating area of work - not least being part of the transition to a low carbon energy future, which in 1986 seemed quite improbable. Work took me from the UK to Spain and the Netherlands”.*

Written by Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla

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