

Cambridge University Athletics Club

Quarterly Newsletter



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Vision for the 2024-2025 year

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2. Beat O*ford

Save the Dates!

From Alvers Cocktails, to WWT, to the anniversary Varsity matches

Fundraising Opportunities

Help celebrate 50 years of the women's at varsity, sponsor our Allies!

... AND MORE!



A Message From the President

Jess Poon

With the start of the new academic year, and athletics year, now in full swing, I'd like to introduce myself as the new CUAC President for the 2024 – 25 year. Alongside Leonie Brunning (Emmanuel College- high jump & multi events) continuing as Honorary Secretary and Jess O'Flaherty (Robinson College – 200m/400m) and Oli Hector (Jesus - Hurdles) as Women's and Men's Captains respectively, we will be leading a twenty-three strong committee into what promises to be an incredibly exciting year for athletics at Cambridge and Oxford.

The past year for CUAC has been filled with memorable performances and achievements. Despite 3 of 4 O*ford wins at Varsity, there were many exceptional performances from our athletes – both at Iffley Road and elsewhere throughout the year. This included Blues standard performances by Pelumi Babalola, Morgan Treasure, Ikechi Mere, Barnaby Corry, Ella Colbourn, Niamh Thompson, Phoebe Barker, Poppy Craig-McFeely, Annie Durand-Marandi, Leonie Brunning, Johanna Schönecker, and Carys Ward. In addition to their Blues performances, Niamh Bridson Hubbard claimed the 5000m BUCS title, whilst Terry Fawden and Tom Dugre earned silver and bronze in the BUCS 3000m steeplechase, respectively. The year was rounded off by a garden party hosted at Clare College, where students, officials, alumni and Achilles members were invited to celebrate the talent of CUAC.

Looking ahead at the year to come, all eyes are fixed on the 150th Anniversary of the Men's Varsity Match, 50th Anniversary since the first Women's Varsity Match, as well as the 2nd Para-athletics Varsity Match, being held on home ground at Wilberforce Road on the 17 May 2025. However, there is still much excitement to come for the club before then. Michaelmas will see new athletes to CUAC travel to Iffley Road, Oxford for the Fresher's Varsity Match on 10th November, and shortly after Alverstone's Cocktails will take place on the 16th November at Wilberforce Road. Annual dinner is scheduled for Lent. The Easter Holidays will also be a busy time for CUAC athletes with the return of our Warm Weather Training camp at the end of March, before some athletes travel to America for the historic Transatlantic Tour.

With such anticipated events over the next year, I would like to extend a warm invitation to you all to take part in this journey, and continue to foster the relations between our alumni and students. I am incredibly proud to be President of this club and to be able to draw on the support of those who have been part of CUAC before me. Thank you all for being such an integral part of the CUAC story, and I look forward to meeting many of you, some for the first time, and others who are familiar faces, throughout the year, and hopefully to share in the celebrations of Varsity win!



Alverstones Cocktails

Jack Lipman & Ed Parker

We are excited to announce that this year's Alvers Cocktails event will be taking place on **Saturday the 16th of November at Wilberforce Road.**

As always, your donations are crucial in making this event possible and helping us to provide a memorable evening. Any contributions, no matter the size, will go a long way in ensuring everything runs smoothly.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and we thank you for your continued support. If you would like to donate, you can do so here: <https://www.paypal.com/pools/c/98Nfy75itZ>

Thanks again,

Jack and Ed

Celebrate 50 Years of Women's Athletics at CUAC

Jess Poon, Jess O'Flaherty, Susi Caesar, Joan Lasenby & Johanna Schönecker



Photo credit: Andy Hodge

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first Women's Varsity Match, and CUAC is celebrating this milestone with a special initiative to support female athletes. **We are inviting alumni, regardless of gender, to sponsor 50 female athletes by covering or subsidizing their annual membership fees, helping to reduce financial barriers and increase participation in athletics at Cambridge.**

Historically, female access to athletics has been limited compared to their male counterparts, and CUAC still faces challenges in fielding a full women's team. By sponsoring a female athlete, you can help bridge the gap and ensure that more women have the opportunity to train and compete at the highest level.

Our goal is to raise £6000, which will be used to subsidize memberships for 50 women. Any additional funding will be carried forward to support female athletes in future years. Sponsors can choose to support a specific athletic event and will receive regular updates on athlete progress, invitations to a lunch reception at the 2025 Varsity Match, and a commemorative anniversary pin.

We invite you to join this exciting initiative and help support the next generation of CUAC female athletes. For more information or to get involved, please complete the sponsorship form at <https://forms.gle/BdcFMU23moLMi1s18>, or contact our Sponsorship Officer, Reese Robinson.



Photo credit: Andy Hodge

Anniversary Varsity Matches

Milly Dickinson & Anise Mellodey

The 150th Men's, 50th Women's, and 2nd Para Varsity Match will be hosted by **Cambridge at Wilberforce Road on the 17th of May, 2025.** We would love for many of our esteemed alumni to join us on this special day to celebrate a landmark in the club's history – plans for many unique festivities are well underway. More information to follow; for now, save the date!



Photo credit: Samuel Clarke

Warm Weather Training 2025

Max Walk

The 2025 warm weather training (WWT) camp will be held in.... **Villa Real de Santo António, Algarve, Portugal!** We know it's different from our historical trips to the Canary Islands, but we hope that in choosing this new location, all of our squads will have exceptional facilities to train at and new memories will be made!

The trip is scheduled to take place over Easter Break, from 24 March to 31 March. We have created a form to gauge general interest – this is NOT the official sign up, so completing the form isn't committing to anything! An official sign up will be circulated later this year. You can tell us you're interested here: Provisional interest form: <https://forms.gle/yz3eCQGCGb1zUCC46>

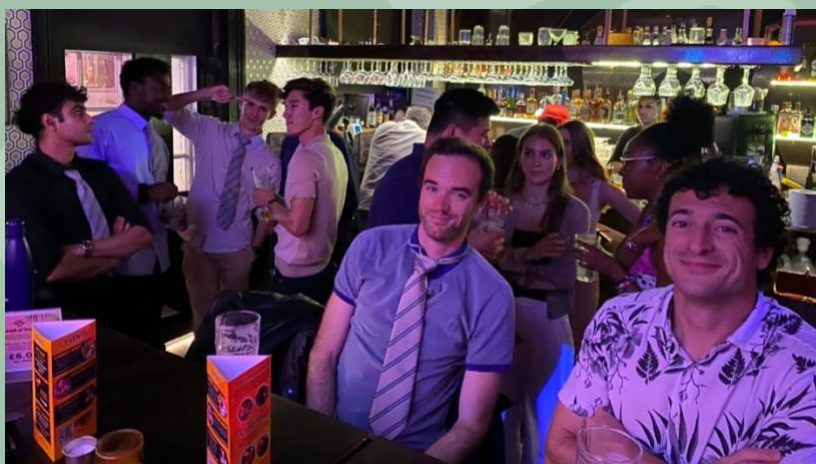
Freshers Varsity Match

Dillon Rinauro



SAVE THE DATE! The annual varsity match will be held on the **10th of November at Ilfley Road, Oxford.**

Cambridge hopes to reclaim the women's fresher's varsity trophy and retain the men's. If you're in the area, we would love to see you come and support our new athletes!



THANK YOU to all of our alumni for continuing to support the club. It was a real treat to see many of you attend our summer meet ups. If you would like to get involved more and help us plan future alumni events, get in touch! We always look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you very soon.