



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER 2025



www.ouhc.co.uk



[@ouhockeyclub](https://www.instagram.com/ouhockeyclub)



[OUHC Alumni](https://www.facebook.com/OUHCAlumni)

VARSIITY DATES

2s3s4s/BDotY Varsity

Please join us on **Sunday 16th February** at Wilberforce Road Sports Ground | CB3 0EQ. There are 6 games, starting early in the morning with the 4s, and going into the early evening with the 2s teams.

Blues Varsity

This year, we are celebrating the **125th Varsity Match**, which promises to be an exciting day of hockey! From Super Cuppers and Alumni games to the headline events of the Men's & Women's Varsity matches.

SAVE THE DATE – Sunday 9th March, Southgate Hockey Club | EN4 0BW

More details will be provided in due course, such as the alumni lunches, which I strongly encourage members to book tables for and attend. For now, please follow the Instagram and keep an eye out on the website (both linked below) for exciting updates! Feel free to email me if you have any questions.



www.varsityhockeymatch.com



[@varsityhockeymatch](https://www.instagram.com/varsityhockeymatch)

ALUMNI DAY

Alumni Day is set for **Saturday 10th May** at The Fortress (Iffley Road Sports Centre | OX4 1EQ). Games will kick-off around 1/2pm and be done by 5/6pm depending on the number of teams. You are then encouraged to descend upon Vinnies to continue. It would be great to see a hearty contingent of alumni, both young and 'experienced', return to relive the "good old days" amongst friends.

<https://forms.gle/Y3BG3Mir1yf7cfAi7>

MAILING LIST SIGN-UP

We are looking to streamline and formalise our alumni mailing list and increase the communication links between the Club and our alumni. Please sign-up using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/80UcB7KG1y>

Alumni Secretary's Welcome

Welcome to the 2025 OUHC Alumni Newsletter. I trust everyone had an enjoyable Christmas break, and happy New Year to you all! This year's newsletter gives you an insight into the ongoing life at The Fortress with:

- *Alumni Events*
- *President's & Captains' reports*
- *Outreach & Community Engagement updates*
- *Sponsorship Appeal*

OUHC stands at the epicentre of Oxford's sporting world, seamlessly blending high-performance sport and an incredibly social and welcoming community. The Club routinely puts out 8 competitive teams thanks to a strong network of coaches comprised of dedicated student coaches, who consistently devote their time and talent to develop our 2s, 3s and 4s, and professional coaches for our Blues teams. Our Blues teams compete at the top level thanks to talented professional coaches, which is only made possible by the generous donations of our alumni.

I am excited to announce that the annual OUHC Alumni Day has been provisionally booked for **Saturday 10th May 2025!** More information can be found to the left of the page with details on how to sign up & enter your teams. The day will consist of a round-robin tournament of competitive but light-hearted, 6-a-side mixed hockey starting in the afternoon, followed by a dinner in Vincent's Club (Vinnies). If you're struggling to field a team, please drop me an email, and we can look to blend teams or supplement with some of the current "youth".

As I'm sure you are aware, the Club strongly relies on the generosity of its vibrant alumni network to function. Your support is vital to the future of OUHC, and I would like to extend my gratitude to all who have and continue to support the Club. More details from our Sponsorship Secretary, Amy Griffiths, can be found at the end of this newsletter. In particular, the Club is looking for renewed corporate sponsorship to maintain the financial longevity of OUHC.

If you have any questions about the Club or suggestions on how we can develop our alumni engagement, please feel free to email me or our Club President, Clare McFall – we would love to hear from you!

Very best wishes to all for the year ahead!

Matthew "Willo" Williams, Alumni Secretary

Email: matthew.williams@vincents.org

President's Report

The 2024-25 season has set-off amazingly, with OUHC still being the biggest (and best) sports club at the University. Preseason saw both Blues teams returning to the Iffley fortress at the end of August/beginning of September and allowed for both teams to welcome lots of new fresher talent and settle into the season with great conviction.

All 8 teams across the club have been thriving this season with the very first of my weekly round ups highlighting an overall score of 23-18 to OUHC against all the opposition teams! We have 12 Blues players acting as student coaches who were fortunate enough to get some specialist 'coaching for coaches' from external Reading Hockey Club coach, Todd Williams. Many thanks are extended to the donor that allowed this session to take place!

Our Outreach Secretary, Betrys, has been hard at work continuing our relationship with KEEN Oxford. We've had players from across the club volunteering to attend and run weekly accessible sessions at the Swan School in partnership with KEEN. Our development squad also continues to go from strength to strength with dedicated Dev Squad Director, Elliot Dennis, running weekly sessions on Friday afternoons. Inter-college hockey continues to take place weekly, with Catz x Somerville winning the competitive mixed league division 1 at the end of this term.

The start of the hockey season also saw the start of the social scene which, as ever in OUHC, was met with as much (if not more) enthusiasm as hockey itself. The annual Autumn Drinks Festival welcomed many new faces to the club. Cherwell Boathouse welcomed us back for our Christmas dinner which was a huge success thanks to the organisation of Johnny and Alannah.

Looking ahead to Hilary term, the teams are all very excited for an away BDotY (16th Feb.) and Blues Varsity (9th March) and we hope to see many of you there! Feel free to reach out as it would be lovely to meet/catch-up with as many of you as possible!

Happy New Year!!

Clare

OUHC President 2024-25

Email: OUHCPresident@gmail.com

OUHC's 'Ones-to-Watch'



Above: Fresher, Men's Blue, and winner of the prestigious *Vincent's Adrian Mee Scholarship for Team Sports*, **Caspar Beyer**, representing England U21s against Belgium



Above: Current Men's Blue, **Euan Dyer**, scoring a flare shuffle for Wales U21s against England U21s; Euan is trialling for the Wales Men's Senior Squad later this month



Right: Fresher, Women's Blue, and winner of a *Vincent's Award*, **Ella Robinson**, representing England U18s against Germany in the 4 Nations tournament



Above: Current Men's Blue and England U21 player, **Dan Cox**, battling it out against Cambridge in the 2024 Varsity match



Left: Magnus 'Quadzilla' Sesodia putting it all on the line for the Dark Blues at the 2024 Varsity Match

Right: Our Women's Blues showing off their Parkend-sponsored varsity jackets; ready and raring to take on Cambridge



Left: Corabella Hill with some precision tackling against Cambridge at the 2024 Varsity Match

Women's Blues

Women's South Central Premier Division: WLWVWWLDD
ICG Women's Premier South: WVVVDW

A new Saturday league and an outstandingly strong intake of freshers has led to a very exciting start to the season for the Women's Blues. With around half of last year's squad leaving, the departure of Pip Smith (heartbreak) and welcoming a new coach, Johann Perera, the slate was clean and we were ready to get working from the start of preseason, with Johann bringing new ideas and exciting new elements to our game. After many hours of basics, some gritty friendlies and a serious number of pulled glutes, we entered into the league season.

Entering into South Central after several years of Midlands Conference has allowed some seriously good competition, with many matches coming back from 1-0 down and some moments of magic from the freshers. The highlight so far was beating Reading 3s from top of the table with a final whistle winner to win 2-1. We are currently fourth, but only 2 points behind 2nd place and with a seriously competitive top 4 who have all taken points off each other, there is all to play for in the second half of the season!

BUCS has presented a challenge as always, having to travel to both Swansea and Exeter but the Women's Blues have risen to the challenge and currently sit at the top of the table. Wednesday has also brought as much off-pitch fun as ever, with the freshers taking on the role of leading the social charge every week, often sporting serious face paint/costume efforts.

Next term brings an exciting new challenge with double promotion still very much on the cards. Last but not least we return to Southgate on the 9th March when we will settle for nothing less than a win to bring the trophy back where it belongs!

Lucy Stopford, Women's Blues Captain

Men's Blues

Men's South Central Premier Division: WVLWLWLWVD
Men's BUCS National Prem: LLDLDL

The Men's Blues have once again made a solid start to the season, putting in some impressive displays while bringing together a mixture of strong returners, new joiners and an bustling contingent of Os. Following the departure of a number of key players last year, it has been especially encouraging to see so many new faces quickly develop into important members of the team.

Last year the Blues retained their place in the BUCS National Premier Division thanks to a nail-biting shuffles win over Cardiff, after a 2-2 draw in the playoffs. Staying at the top table of BUCS is always the team's top priority, as it provides a chance to test ourselves against the best University teams around. Despite an early start in minus third week, the team have shown a growing ability to compete in this league, picking up draws in a 4-4 thriller with Newcastle before taking a first ever point from Bath at this level. On a Saturday, we have once again ventured into the South Central Premier Division with the aim of returning to National League hockey. While at times we have got it oh so right, a combination of unavailability and injury has conspired to leave us with work to do after Christmas. The same could also be said of our socialising.

Looking towards the new year, the team is targeting the final two games in BUCS as great chances to secure a record extending fourth season in the top flight, while keeping in the hunt at the top end of the league on a Saturday. An end of term trip to Southgate on the 9th of March promises to be a big date in everyone's diary, as the Blues look to retain the trophy at the 125th Varsity Match.

Lewis Collins, Men's Blues Captain

Radicals

Women's South Central Division 1 North: LLLLLLWLWLL

ICG Women's Midlands Tier 2 – 2A: LWLWL

The Rads got off to a rocky start this term whilst the team was rebuilt with eight freshers joining our ranks. Unfortunately it took a while for us to fully unite as a team and materialize goals, as is often the case in the rads, but when we did we became a force to be reckoned with. Thanks to Joe and Archie's competitive training sessions and their camp-chair coaching we grew as a team, with our first win in Saturday league coming not a moment too soon, or rather much too late. This win was where I finally saw what I had believed all along, that the Rads were not to be messed with, and I will forever be indebted to our social sec Sophia whose Rads social the Wednesday before had clearly cemented our connections as a team, or at least cemented our freshers hair with baking products leading to some liquid hockey and a 5-0 win.

Our first BUCS game against Loughborough 5s also proved the potential and resilience this team has, a game which included a plethora of cards one of which was awarded to our keeper, who was sent off with a stroke awarded, the stroke was saved, and we continued playing managing to score against them whilst our goal line lay bare. Obviously a testament to our strength as a team and the final score, a 2-3 loss, a testament to our fortune in many of our matches. Despite this, two games against Worcester 1s saw a stable 6 points on our table, leaving us comfortably midtable.

In contrast, Saturday league often left us feeling deflated, having sat at 12th position for the first 6 weeks of the season. But we soon rose to 10th leaving us in a better place for the rest of the season, where I predict us winning a lot more of our games the second time around. I don't think I've quite seen the full potential of the Rads, who I know can beat almost every team in this Saturday league, and whose efforts have not been reflected by our scorelines. Let's hope round two suits us better!

Clare Tedder, Radicals Captain

Occasionals

Men's South Central Division 2: LLDLWLDL

Men's BUCS Midlands 2A: LDLLDL

As we approach the end of the first term, we reflect on a tough start to the season. It is a very new team, with only 5 players returning from the Os 2024 varsity squad. BUCS has been tough again this year, with four losses and two hard-fought draws. However, we remain determined and look forward to two pivotal matches against Warwick next term that will define our campaign and, no claim, secure our place in the division. In the BUCS Cup, we demonstrated our potential by taking an early 2-0 lead against Loughborough, but the result ultimately didn't go our way.

In the Saturday league (just one league below the MBs), a challenging start sees us sitting 9th out of 12 with five points from eight games and a more settled squad heading into next term, we are optimistic about turning things around. It must be noted that 3 of our losses on a Saturday came with just a one goal margin. Off the pitch, the Os continue to thrive. Socials remain a highlight, with high attendance and entertaining fresher participation, particularly in the revamped Park End. Hopefully the end of season report will be filled with more joy on the pitch but just as much joy off it.

Arj Puvanachandra, Occasionals Captain



Left: Poppy Hughes holding ground against Milton Keynes on a rare sunny day at The Fortress in Michaelmas Term



Right: Smiles all round for the triumphant Rads as they claim their first BUCS win in Michaelmas Term



Left: Last year's Os Captain, Oscar Hill, with a relaxed and composed celebration after scoring the winning shuffle against the Wandies at the 2024 BDoty



Left: The one and only “SDR” carving through the Cambridge press like a knife through butter at the 2024 BDotY



Right: The Mavs receiving another charismatic team talk from super-coach Adair



Left: The triumphant lads celebrating a well-earned varsity win at the 2024 BDotY

Mavericks

Women’s South Central Division 1 Cherwell: LLLLLLWWWW
BUCS Midlands Tier 3A: LLLL

With half of the Mavs from last year graduating, preseason saw a flood of fresh faces joining our team. These two weeks were full of tough training, sore muscles, dedication, team-boding, just a few pub trips, and a passion for hockey which has, eventually, led us to a brilliant winning streak in our Saturday league matches. The season was admittedly not looking great for the first half of term, but we had an unwavering belief that the Mavs were far too good to let this continue. Commitment, excellent coaching, and some enthusiastic team-talks (pictured) led to our fantastic show of 20 goals in the last 4 league matches of Michaelmas. This includes huge 5-0 and 6-1 wins against Milton Keynes and Bicester respectively. We must thank Tree and Adair, our wonderful coaches, for keeping our heads up and pushing us from strength to strength. They have really developed our liquid hockey, particularly with the successful short corner routines. Rumour has it that we are going to be undefeated in Hilary... Similarly, our stellar performances at crewdates and parkend are also undefeated, week in week out being the “most fun team to crewdate”.

On the other hand, despite climbing our way back up to 6th in our Saturday League, we remain bottom of the BUCS league, with Wednesday matches frequently bringing us back down to earth. We have, however, suffered some unfortunate postponements of home matches due to flooding and snow, so watch out for some big Wednesday wins at the fortress next term. Speaking of Hilary, we aim to continue our Saturday winning flair and climb further up the table, while perhaps securing a BUCS win or two. But, most importantly, we will go to the other place and once again give the B*ds a good shoeing.

We are very proud of how far we have come this term, with almost full turnout to every training and social, demonstrating our commitment to both the team and to each other. Hockey Hilary is looking very promising for the Mavericks.

Thea Primrose and Lola Record, Mavericks Captains

Infrequents

Men’s South Central Division 2 North: LLLLLDLLL
Men’s BUCS Midlands Tier 3 – 3B: LL

The Oxford University Men’s 3s, also known as the Infrequents (or the Ian’s), have had mixed success this term. With a third of last years squad graduating, and another third moving up to the 2s (Os), we were always going to struggle. Pre-season and start of term numbers were very limited, resulting in us turning out bare 11s both home and away, and even to manage this we struggled. The lower numbers led us to lose against bigger opposition squads. The advent of freshers trials was much anticipated, and we picked up nine freshers to bolster squad numbers. Whilst this solved the problem of numbers, it presented a new problem. We were a squad who hadn’t trained with each other, and half of us had only known each other for a week at most. Until we gelled as a squad, we would have to wait to see results.

Training on the pitch was important for this, but team socials were just as relevant. We won our first game in a BUCS match in week 4 against the University of Warwick in a gruelling 1-0 victory. In Saturday league, we earned our first points in week 6 in a 2-2 draw vs Eastcote 2s (A), which felt like a loss to many of us as we were 2-1 up with five minutes to go. An incompetent umpire got two players mixed up and green carded one of us for repeated stick tackles, when in actuality it was his first offence and the umpire thought he was someone else. In the two minutes when we were down to ten men, Eastcote clawed back a goal to draw the game. Even an Eastcote player came up to me after the game to apologise for their umpiring. Unfortunately, with the pitch being frozen in week 6 and flooded in week 7, we haven’t been able to build on our BUCS campaign and have missed out on Saturday League fixtures. We play again in week 8 which the team look forward to. Despite what the Ian’s Michaelmas campaign appears like on the surface, the promise shown in the latter half of the term shows the potential that this squad has, and we go into Hilary on the front foot and ready to go try shoe some tab.

James Grocock, Infrequents Captain

Renegades

South Central Division 2 Cherwell: WLLLLDWWWWL

The Renegades started off the season with an exhilarating 3-0 win against Kidlington 1s; while this was promising, the next few weeks would prove difficult. With a lot of returning Rens having moved up to the Mavericks and a grand total of five players frequently at training – it's safe to say it was a struggle to find a team of 11. But that being said, we have in no way let this slow start to the season define us.

Trials brought an exciting influx of freshers who have been a huge addition to the squad. Although it can be difficult to integrate such a large number of new players - with the invaluable effort of our coaches Johnny and Finbar, and the stellar attitude of our returners, the Rens have quickly moulded into a cohesive team. Whether through our short-corner routines, press, or attacking potential, improvements can be seen every week, which has been reflected in our ever-improving score lines as we progressed through the term. With notable mentions having to be our four-game win streak, and the weekend where we scored a massive 10 goals.

These wins have resulted in the Rens ending this term with 17 points and 6th in South Central Division 2 Cherwell. Although in a strong midtable position, with the team now settled and playing better than ever, we go into next term with the main aim, and every expectation, to move up the table. With the second half of the season also comes varsity, and the Rens have a strong history of shoeing. Having watched the team improve massively over the last couple months, and with the Rens having shoed the tabs last year, the Rovers should watch out. The Rens are more than ready for another varsity domination – this time in Cambridge.

Off the pitch, the Rens have been enjoying getting to know each other and other members of OUHC - and both our social and training turnouts are testaments of our commitment to the club. We look forward to lots more fun next term for what I'm sure will be a very successful (and entertaining) second half of the season!

Ella Hallett, Renegades Captain

Sporadics

Men's South Central Division 5 North: WWLDLLLWDLL

As always, it's been a mixed season so far for the Spos. We find ourselves just six points away from 3rd at the Christmas break... good for 10th place in the league. We've shown serious grit in some games, and have absolutely thrown the game away in others. We can't really decide what kind of team we are. That being said, we're just a few final touches and a bit of polish away from going home for the vac and thinking about the promotion charge next term.

Having retained a strong number of the Varsity team last year, the boys are getting better and better, and the chemistry and link-up play has been flawless. We've even added a third dimension to our game – the aerial. The Spos now love an aerial (or sometimes squaerial...) and the Bl*ndies need to hope they're on their best picking game come February 16th or it's going to be a long old game. With this dynamic new style of play, the Spos are an exciting team to watch. However, thanks to the hard work of Alex Mann, the Spos are now even more exciting to watch, after he spent the end of his summer coding 'FsPL'. For those unfamiliar with FPL, or Fantasy Premier League, it's an online game in which you select players within a budget for your personal team, and they score points based on in game events. You get points for things like scoring, assisting, making a goal-line save or winning MoM. You lose points for things like conceding too many goals, receiving a card, or getting DoD. Suddenly the pitch is ripe with FsPL chat, and some of the team have stopped celebrating goals if it meant they got fewer points in FsPL. It's no surprise that Alex, the man who coded the game, is currently at the top of the table, I smell corruption...

The Spos off-pitch season has been even more mixed than its on-pitch one. From the highs of crewdates with the WBs in Week 1 and with Lax in Week 7 to the lacklustre turnout at team-only socials, we can at least rely on the boys to turn up when we have oppo... We look forward to the New Year, and an early BDotY, chomping at the bit for Blundie blood.

Seb Page, Sporadics Captain



Left: "New Spos, Old Kit" – Sporadics Captain, Seb Page, welcoming a new Sporadic to the team with the presentation of the Spos legacy shirt



Right: The Rens looking game-ready for the 2024 BDotY varsity match



Left: Resident Renegades getting up to their usual off-pitch antics with some pre- or post-game beers (both are equally likely...)

Outreach & Community Engagement

This term OUHC have been running sessions with KEEN. They are a great organisation that creates an inclusive community for people in Oxford with disabilities and additional needs, running many projects spanning from sports sessions to performing arts. We came in and ran 4 sports sessions over a month, teaching hockey to a total of around 30 participants (most of whom had never picked up a stick before!).

It was so fulfilling to see how much everyone improved and enjoyed the sessions – with some wanting to come join OUHC after! Personally, the best part was seeing such a diverse group of people, all with varying physical abilities, get involved in every part of the sessions. 11 OUHC members (and Arj's housemate) were involved throughout, and it was really nice to see how we were all getting a lot out of the sessions too, meeting so many people from the local community.

We had a great time with all the participants and volunteers at KEEN, and I'm excited to see what the next collaboration with them will be (with a potential Iffley visit on the cards!).

Betrays Galloni, Outreach Secretary

OUHC's finest
dedicating
their time and
talent to give
back to the
local Oxford
community





Sponsorship Appeal

Firstly, on behalf of the committee, I would like to extend **heartfelt thanks for the generous donation from the following members of the 1970s Blues team**: Nicol Holladay, Andy Hughes, Charlie Carslaw, Jon Hunt, Martin Knight, Matthew Salisbury, Brian Griffiths and Peter Whittle. Between them, they donated £2,000 to the Hockey Club, which has been used to fund transport and coaching costs; we are eternally grateful for their kindness in supporting OUHC.

Secondly, I wish to take this opportunity to remind our alumni of the need for donations to sustain OUHC. I kindly ask all those who are in a position to consider donating to get in touch. Together we can ensure future OUHC members may experience the Club as fondly as you remember it. While all members of the Club contribute each term, the rapidly rising cost of running the Club is becoming unsustainable. Any donation would be welcomed, and would contribute to the vital transport, equipment and coaching costs. Without your support, we cannot hope to maintain the vitality of the Club, which would be devastating, as I'm sure you will agree. Donations can be made through the following website: www.development.ox.ac.uk/sport/clubs/field-hockey

Finally, beyond the option of donation, **we are looking for corporate sponsors** to establish a mutually beneficial relationship with the Club. In return for your financial support, we would offer visibility on our kit and at the pitch at Iffley Road, as well as the opportunity to circulate information and organise events with our current club members at Vincent's Club, such as recruitment events. Our sponsorship packages start at as little as £500, so please do get in touch with me by email (amy.griffiths@some.ox.ac.uk) or telephone (+44 7714794396) if you would like to discuss this further. I would be delighted to hear from you.

Thank you in advance for your support. I wish you a happy new year!

Amy Griffiths, Sponsorship Secretary

OUHC OUT-TAKES – ENJOY!!



New parkend just dropped 🔥🔥

"Is that THE quiz book" #notmysocialsec