



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY FENCING CLUB

[CUFC Old Blues Newsletter \(No. 1\)](#)

Dear CUFC Old Blue,

Unfortunately the club has been neglecting its Old Blues in recent years, but we're now in the process of rectifying this and will be letting you know about club events, and the successes of the Cambridge team.

The 2003 Varsity Match

The most important upcoming event is the 2003 Varsity Match, this year to be held on the 9th February in Fenner's Gallery, Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre, Gonville Place Cambridge. The match will be starting at 11:00, and all supporters would be most welcome. The men's team are in a strong position, looking for a fifth consecutive win that would level the overall score-line with Oxford, while the women have a recently unprecedented opportunity to beat Oxford in a Varsity Match. As usual the hotly contested cutthroats/assassins matches will take place alongside the first team matches.

BUSA Championships

Women's Team - the women's team surpassed themselves in the 2001/02 BUSA Championships by beating Oxford in the final to take the title. Their performance so far this year has also been extremely promising. Unfortunately three of the first team members left at the end of last year and the first match for the new team, against UCL, was narrowly lost. However after this initial defeat the team found their feet and excelled at the weekend tournament against the remaining teams in the Southern Premier Division. Cambridge was undefeated in this tournament, beating a previously strong Bristol side and Oxford's probable Varsity team, as well as making easy work of Imperial College. The final match of the term was against UCL at home. Despite being the only team so far to beat the Cambridge side the women's team fought strongly and beat the UCL team comfortably.

Men's Team - having successfully defended their BUSA title in 2001/02 the men have already made a strong start to the season in the Southern Premier Division, competing against UCL, Oxford, Southampton and Kent. A large influx of junior internationals to replace graduating team members has maintained a standard across all three weapons. A depleted UCL side was easily despatched in both home and away matches. An away match at Kent was also easily won. Their first match against Oxford allowed Cambridge to exhibit some of their new talent with junior internationals Matt O'Connell and Philip Nickelson devastating a currently weak Oxford sabre team. The only upset so far occurred when the team, missing some of its

key members, lost an away match to Southampton. However they were easily beaten at home. With the team's current form remaining matches against Kent and Oxford should not present too much of a challenge and if all goes to plan Cambridge are in line to win the league.

Individuals

In this year's BUSA Individual Championships Cambridge fencers performed well. Both Helen Wood (epee) and Lisa Hoole (sabre) managed to reach the last eight of their respective competitions, while Alex Most (foil) and Andy Culling (epee) both reached semi-finals.

First year Mark Adair (men's epee) recently represented Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Championships in Australia, coming 10th. His talent will no doubt benefit the club in future.

CUFC Training Camp 2003

A few of Cambridge's keenest fencers braved the Hungarian winter to train at Budapest's Honved club. The club, situated in a former synagogue, boasts both excellent facilities and coaches. The Cambridge fencers were able to benefit from training with some of the world class fencers this club has produced.

This term promises to be as successful as the last. Training for Varsity will be stepped up under the supervision of our coach, fencing professor Marek Stepien, and the novices will continue to benefit from his coaching, as well as brand new kit, purchased with a grant from the Sports Syndicate. Please contact us with any comments or suggestions by e-mailing Andrew Culling (ajc95@cam.ac.uk). We'll be in touch soon, with results of Varsity and BUSA Finals. Hope to see you at the Varsity Match,

Best wishes,

Andrew Culling (Old Blues Liaison Officer)