



# CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY FENCING CLUB

## [CUFC Old Blues Newsletter \(No. 2\)](#)

Dear CUFC Old Blue,

Please read on to find out the results of this year's Varsity match and BUSA finals, new committee members and, perhaps most importantly, details of next year's planned Old Blues match and dinner.

### Varsity Match Report

Women's Team – The women's team approached Varsity with a lot more confidence than in previous years, having beaten Oxford twice in BUSA over the last year. First up was the sabre team of Leonie Hicks, Lisa Hoole and Kyle Treiber, they all fought well and despite a couple of tense moments won relatively easily 45 – 37. Next was the foil, a weapon at which Cambridge had consistently beat Oxford. The team of Harriet Brown, Georgie Osborne and Rhian Gwilliam beat the Oxford foilists, leaving the epee team only needing to score 33 hits against a strong Oxford team to secure victory. The Cambridge epeeists performed astoundingly well, reaching their target of 33 with relative ease, with several fights to go. Helen Wood, Laura Davidson and Stephanie Ferring fought tactically well and managed only to lose 45 – 40, giving the Cambridge women their first victory in 8 years. The women's cutties lost out 90 – 79 to a more experienced Oxford team, but with the experienced gained in this match many will be fight for places on next years blues team.

Men's Team – Coming into the match as acknowledged favourites, having retained the varsity shield for the last four years, the Cambridge men's team started out with an impressive victory in the men's sabre. The team of Matt O'Connell, Pip Nicolson and Joel Couillandeu dominated the match to win 45 – 20. The foilist followed next, the team of Alex Most, Patrick Agar and Michael Watt fought well but allowed Oxford to pull away in the last few fights, losing 45 – 35. The epee team of Andy Culling, Mark Beith and Mark Adair finished the match off comfortably for Cambridge winning 45 – 32 meaning the Varsity shield would stay in Cambridge for yet another year. The men's cutties also performed brilliantly winning 117 – 99, including an amazing 45 – 10 victory in the sabre.

## BUSA Finals Report

Women's Team – Having finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in their BUSA league, the women's team were never really challenged on their way to the final, beating Reading 90 – 66 in the L16 and Cardiff 90 – 66 in the quarter-finals. In the semi-finals Cambridge were drawn against UCL, who had both beaten and lost to Cambridge in this year's league matches. In the epee, the Cambridge team produced a good performance in the face of some very strong opposition on losing 45 – 40. The foil started excellently with a 5 – 0 victory for Cambridge, a lead that would only be extended throughout the match, ending in victory for Cambridge, 45 – 35. In the finals the women's team faced Northumbria, the epeeists did well to stay in touch with a very strong team, containing two Commonwealth fencers, only losing 45 – 35. This left the foilists with some work to do, but against a much weaker foil team. Despite some tense moments in the later fights, the Cambridge foilists performed excellently, winning 45 – 30, meaning that the Cambridge women had won BUSA for the second year in a row.

Men's Team – Cambridge were placed as the highest seeded team after winning the Southern Premier league, meaning a relatively easy run to the BUSA finals, awarded a bye for the L16 and a 125 – 94 victory against Manchester in the quarter-finals. In the semi-finals the men's team faced British Centre of Excellence Durham, but our sabreurs did Cambridge proud, winning 45 – 35 against a very strong team. Next in the epee, where despite a rather slow start Cambridge won pulled away in the later stages to win 45 – 37. The foilist faced quite strong opposition and did well to only lose 41 – 36, still enough to put Cambridge through. In the final the men also faced Northumbria, producing an epic sabre match between two excellent teams. The lead swung either way and ended up going to the last hit for Cambridge to claim victory. The same scenario happened in the foil meaning that Cambridge had a very slim lead going into the epee. Any fears were clearly misplaced as the epee team pulled away in the middle of the match to win 45 – 25, giving the Cambridge men a third BUSA title in a row. Special mention should also go to the Cambridge 2<sup>nd</sup> men's team (Cambridge being the only university in BUSA fencing to field two men's teams) who finished as winners of the Midlands BUSA league and fought their way through to the semi-finals of the shield competition before losing 121 – 98 to the eventual winners, Kings College London.

### New Committee Elected

The CUFC AGM was held on 4<sup>th</sup> May and the following were elected for the 2003/2004 committee:

President: Tom Plant (Emmanuel)  
Men's Captain: Alex Most (St. Catherine's)  
Women's Captain: Lisa Hoole (Girton)  
Treasurer: Pip Nicholson (Downing)  
Secretaries: Matt O'Connell (St. John's)  
                  Georgie Osborne (Caius)  
Armourer: Dan Shouler (Pembroke)  
Social Secretary: Claire Walls (Girton)  
Publicity Officer: Mark Adair (Selwyn)  
Computing Officer: Shu Yan Chan (Girton)

The Club wishes them the best of luck in their new positions and hopefully we can look forward to yet another successful year for CUFC.

### Old Blues Section on CUFC Website

There is now an old Blues section on the CUFC website with the facility to register your details with us as well as let us know what years and teams you fenced in, so we can hopefully build up a database of past varsity teams. The website can be found at [www.srcf.ucam.org/cufence](http://www.srcf.ucam.org/cufence)

### Old Blues Match and Dinner

CUFC will be having an Old Blues vs. Current Blues match on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November in the Fenner's Gallery, Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre, Cambridge. The format will be Italian relay and we hope to put out two men's teams and one women's team, including women's sabre. If you would be interested in fencing for an Old Blues team then e-mail Edward Ben-Nathan ([ebn@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:ebn@dsl.pipex.com)), there will be room for substitutes, so every old blue that wants to fence will get to fence. The Gallery will be open from 12pm and we aim to start the match promptly at 1pm.

The match will be followed by a black tie dinner at St. Catherine's college at 8pm. If you would be interested in attending please e-mail Andy Culling ([ajc95@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ajc95@cam.ac.uk)) indicating if you will be bringing any guests and if you have any dietary requirements. Tickets should be approximately £35; this along with payment details will be confirmed closer to the time.

Best wishes,

Andrew Culling (Old Blues Liaison Officer)