



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY FENCING CLUB

[CUFC Old Blues Newsletter \(No. 4\)](#)

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www.cufencing.org.uk

Dear CUFC Old Blue,

Please read on to find out the results of this year's Varsity Match, BUSA Team Championships, the CUFC Winter Training Camp, details of the 2004/05 committee and, perhaps most importantly, information regarding next year's double header of Old Blues matches and dinners.

[Varsity Match Report - February 2004](#)

Oxbridge's finest swordsmen converged on the Oxford Exam School on 22nd February 2004 for the 107th Fencing Varsity Match. The great hall was reminiscent of a French art gallery with its oak panelling and numerous paintings of famous Oxford Alumni adorning the walls. Fortunately, in such appropriate settings no-one tried to swing from chandeliers to re-enact a scene from Dumas' 'Three Musketeers'.

Women's Team - The Women's 1sts were boosted by the fact that two key members of the Oxford team were unavailable due to Varsity eligibility rules. This year's captain, Lisa Hoole, led from the front as the Sabre team showed the required tenacity to win their tie 45-33. After a small blip in the Epee, which was lost 45-30, the Women's Foil team of Georgie Osborne, Anna Robinson and Chie Kobayashi used a flurry of well timed lunges and fleches to win their match 45-20 and win the tie for Cambridge 124-92.

Men's Team - Cambridge veteran Andy Culling, who recently won the BUSA Individual Championships, was a calming influence on new caps such as Danny Ryan and Rob Shaw in the Men's Blues tie. Captain Alex Most had one of those enjoyable selection crises that Claudio Ranieri must face everyday. With a plethora of Senior and Junior Internationals such as Adair, O'Connell, Culling, Ryan, Allen, Rumney, Plant, Shaw and Nicholson all vying for places, Cambridge were always favourites to win their sixth Varsity Match in a row. Sabre, was the first weapon on the piste and was fenced as aggressively as always. Some hits were delivered so quickly that it was hard for the spectators to see what had happened. Nevertheless, Keith Smith presided expertly throughout the match the Cambridge Sabreurs eventually prevailed 45-21.

The Men's Foil team have been plagued by injuries all season and were somewhat lacking in match fitness in the run up to Varsity. Undeterred, debutant Greg Hodder kept the Cambridge in the tie by brining back 10 hits midway through the Foil. Even though Cambridge lost the match 45-41 the overall score going into the Epee match was 86-66 to the Light Blues. With only 25 hits needed to secure their fifth Varsity Match Shield in a row, Mark Adair and Andy Culling led the Light Blues home to a comfortable 131-97 win over their arch rivals.

BUSA Championships Indoor Finals Report - March 2004

Women's Team - The Cambridge Women's 1sts won the Southern Premier League this season and as one of the highest seeded teams, had a bye into the Last 16 of the Knockouts. In March, Bristol University were comprehensively defeated 135-77 in the quarter finals held at Fenners'. This victory set up a semi-final tie against Oxford: the fourth time the teams met this season.

Cambridge were taken by surprise in the first match of the semi-final as the usually reliable Sabre team were defeated 45-33. This early loss put pressure on the other two teams and with the experienced Oxford Epeeists defeating Cambridge 45-29, the whole tie would be decided in the Foil match. The Light Blue Women's Foil team are one of Cambridge's most successful as they demonstrated by annihilating Oxford in this year's Varsity Match. On this occasion, they needed to win 45-12 for Cambridge to progress to the final. Unfortunately this was too much to ask and although they put in a brave performance, winning 45-33, the Dark Blues edged the overall tie 123-107 and Cambridge were not to progress any further in the competition.

Foil - G Osborne (Caius), A Robinson (Queens), C Kobayashi (St Edmunds)

Epee - C Walls (Girton), L Davidson (Trinity Hall), R Gwilliam (Darwin)

Sabre - L Hoole (Girton), K Treiber (Fitzwilliam), A Scaife (St Edmunds)

Men's Team - As winners of the Southern Premier league, the Men's 1sts had a relatively easy run to the BUSA finals, defeating Reading 135-77 in the Last 16 and Newcastle 125 - 88 in the quarter-finals. In the semi-finals, Cambridge easily dispatched Nottingham University 135-73 to progress to the final where they would cross swords with old foes Northumbria.

The Men's Final was a repeat of 2003 and produced some pulsating fencing. With only one recognised Epeeist in their team, Northumbria were reluctant to attack and relied on defensive negative fencing to try and score their hits. This produced a very tactical but not spectacular Epee match which Cambridge won 45-28. With memories of last year's Sabre final in mind (a thriller that Cambridge won 45-44), the Light Blues took on the undefeated Northumbria Sabre Team in the next match. Cambridge began well but in a nail-biting finale, Northumbria scored the final hit to take the match 45-44. The Cambridge Foilists showed no signs of nerves and used some quick ripostes to win their match 45-33 and take the overall tie 134-107. This victory enabled captain Alex Most to lift Cambridge's fourth BUSA Fencing Team Championship Trophy in a row.

Both the Men's and Women's teams would like to extend their thanks to their coach Prof. Marek P. Stepien who travelled to Birmingham to offer his advice and encouragement and to all the parents and friends who turned out to support.

Foil - A Most (St Catharine's), R Shaw (Robinson), G Hodder (Homerton)

Epee - M Adair (Selwyn), A Culling (Emmanuel), G Raccagni (Hughes Hall)

Sabre - M O'Connell (St. John's), D Ryan (Caius), R Allen (Caius), P Nicholson (Downing)

Special mention should also go to the Cambridge Men's 2^{nds} team. We are the only University to field two men's teams in BUSA Fencing. The 'Cutties' were well enough placed in the Midlands BUSA league to go through to the quarter-finals of the BUSA

Shield competition. In a gruelling away match at Edinburgh they were cruelly defeated two weapons to one, after drawing the overall tie 116-116.

[BUSA Individuals Report - December 2003](#)

In this season's BUSA Individual Championships, Cambridge fencers performed magnificently. As previously mentioned, Andy Culling (Emma) took home the Gold Medal in the Men's Epee, defeating many top UK Fencers along the way. The Women made it a day of double celebration with Lisa Hoole (Girton) winning Silver in Sabre and Georgie Osborne (Caius) winning Bronze in Foil. Other notable performances came from fresher Anna Robinson (Queens') and Tom Plant (Emmanuel) who both reached the last eight of the Foil and Sabre events respectively.

[CUFC Winter Training Camp 2004](#)

In January, an intrepid party of Cambridge fencer's travelled to Milan to train at one of Italy's most prestigious clubs. Many of the club's coaches had won Olympic and World Championship Medals and everyone gained something from the top class training that was on offer. Milan is a beautiful city and during an occasional break from fencing, we visited cultural landmarks such as an art gallery, which contained an original Da Vinci painting and a Cathedral, which is apparently the third largest in the world.

[CUFC History](#)

Apart from looking at the Varsity Shield results and the fact that we used to be part of the CU Boxing club, we know very little about the history of CUFC. One of our members is interested in building up a full history of the club, so if anyone knows of any major events in the club's past, or can suggest useful sources, then they can email Gianluca Raccagni (gr239@cam.ac.uk) (if you prefer Royal Mail, you can get in touch with me at the address below and I will forward the information to Gianluca.)

[New Committee Elected](#)

The CUFC AGM was held on 8th May 2004 at King's College and the following were elected for the 2004/2005 committee:

Men's Captain: Matt O'Connell (St. John's)

Women's Captain: Georgie Osborne (Caius)

Treasurer: Rob Shaw (Robinson)

Secretaries: Robin Allen (Caius), Anna Robinson (Queens')

Social Secretary: Danny Ryan (Caius)

Old Blues Officer/Publicity Officer: Mark Adair (Selwyn)

Computing Officer: Shu Yan Chan (Girton)

Presidents: Alex Most (St. Catharine's), Lisa Hoole (Girton)

Armourer: Richard Broughton (Sidney Sussex)

Beginners Secretary: Stuart Clarke (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](#)

The Old Blues section on the CUFC website continues to have the facility to register your details online. Simply fill in your contact details, the years and teams you fenced in and any committee positions held to help us continue to build up a database of past teams (personal details are only available to the CUFC Committee).

Please do get in touch with any of your friends/other ex-blues and get them to enter their details.

The website can be found at: www.cufencing.org.uk

In addition, if anyone wants to be added to the Old Blues email or postal list can they get in contact with me at the address below.

Cambridge vs. Oxford Old Blues Match and Dinner

Jonathan Rose (Oxford) and Edward Ben-Nathan (Cambridge) have arranged the **Oxbridge Old Blues Match** for the **18th September 2004**. The match will be fenced in Fenner's Gallery, Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre, Cambridge from 12 noon until 17:00. For a map please see <http://www.kelseykerridge.co.uk/>

The black tie dinner will be hosted by Gonville & Caius College. Edward asks you to kindly put this date in your diary. He would be delighted to hear from you confirming your availability, which weapons you are prepared to fence, and in what priority. He can be contacted at ebn@dsl.pipex.com. Alternatively you may write to me at the address below and I will forward you details to Edward.

Current Blues vs. Old Blues Match and Dinner

Following the success of last year's match, CUFC will be again be hosting an **Old Blues vs. Current Blues** match on **13th November 2004**, in Fenner's Gallery. The match will take place the weekend after the Welsh Open and it would be pleasing to see a good turnout of Old Blues. The format of the match will be 45 Hit Italian relay and we hope to put out as many teams as possible. If you would be interested in fencing for an Old Blues team then e-mail Edward Ben-Nathan (ebn@dsl.pipex.com) or write to me at the address below. There will be room for substitutes, so every Old Blue will have an opportunity to fence. The Gallery will be open from 12noon and we aim to start the match promptly.

The match will be followed by drinks and a black tie dinner at St Catharine's College at 7pm. If you are interested in attending this dinner please e-mail me (oldbluesofficer@cufencing.org.uk) or write to me at the address below indicating if you will be bringing any guests and any dietary requirements. Tickets should be approximately £35. Final details will be sent out at a later date.

Best wishes,

Mark Adair

Mark Adair (Old Blues Liaison Officer)

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