



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY FENCING CLUB

[CUFC Old Blues Newsletter 7](#)

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The 109th Varsity Match 2006

This year's **Varsity Match** will be held in Oxford, at the Examination Schools (75-81 High St, Oxford, OX1 4BG) from 10am to 5pm on **Saturday 18th February**. The Men's Blues are looking to follow up last year's rout of the Oxford team (the biggest margin of victory since the Italian relay system was introduced to the Varsity Match) with another victory to make 8 consecutive wins. However, Oxford's team this year looks a great deal stronger than it has done in the past and they look set to put up a much stronger challenge than in the past. The Women are also stepping up to the bar to attempt to take their 4th consecutive Varsity victory. All Light Blue supporters are welcome to attend and lend their support on the day. There will be a black-tie dinner hosted by Oxford in Somerville College and will cost £40. Old Blues are also welcome to attend the dinner, but I must be told within the next week.

Current Blues vs. Old Blues Match Report (05/11/05)

The match this year fell rather unfortunately on Guy Fawkes night (the only weekend in the term without a big national or international competition on it) meaning that many of the Old Blue fencers were not able to make it. At one stage it looked as if the match would not take place. However, in the end the Old Blues were still able to rustle together a team and so the match went ahead. It was held once more in the Fenners' Gallery, Kelsey Kerridge.

Men's Match

Due to the slightly smaller OB squad than we had last year, the format of the individual matches had to change. We started with sabre. As in last year's match, only one men's sabre team was put out by either side. The old blues consisted of Tom Plant, Jon Fittall and Robert Shaw (a team-filling current blue, who fences foil and epee), whilst the current blues consisted of Robin Allen, Nick Rumney and Stuart Clark. The match saw-sawed between the teams and was close till the final fight with the old blues just reaching ahead and gaining victory with a score of 45- 42

Next up was the epee. Since there were 4 old blue fencers, it was decided that we should turn the epee into a 4 man match (extending the match to 80 hits) rather than having a reserve, and denying anyone a full match. The old blues team consisted of Peter Jacobs, Mark Adair, Paul Norris and Mark Beith. They were to fence Andy Culling, Rob Shaw and Dave Beckett, with the fourth man's fights being shared out by these three. Epee normally turns out to be a long match anyway, but with an extended target, the match did indeed become a marathon, with the Old Blues always looking the stronger side and steadily increasing their lead throughout the fight to win 80-58

Lastly came the two foil matches, the five old blue fencers who came divided themselves into two teams of equal strength, with the sixth man being shared out by whoever felt up to the challenge. Edward Ben-Nathan, Paul Abrahams, Alex Most, Philip Wilson and Ted Briscoe represented the old blues, whilst Rob Shaw, Dom O'Mahoney and Greg Hodder fenced for the Current Blues. Passions ran high during these matches and there were several moments where the abilities of the presidents were called into the question fairly or unfairly (depending on your point of view). The scores were even in both matches in the first few fights. However, the Current Blues managed to quickly pull away near the end, resulting in 2 weapon victories to the Current Blues giving an overall foil score of 90-57. Despite the occasional inevitable flaring up on the piste, the match was overall very good humoured and joviality restored by the time of the dinner.

The days matches resulted in an overall result of the Current Blues beating the Old Blues with a scoreline of 190-182

Women's Match

The women's Old Blue team this year lacked numbers and many people had to double up in some of the weapons. First match was foil. The match was good-humoured and was close down to the very last hit, with the Old Blue team of Georgie Osborne, Chie Kobeyashi and Helen Wood, beating the Current Blue team of Anna Robinson, Carmen Pinto-Ward and India Martin 45-44.

This was followed by the epee. Jenn Semon and Helen Wood were joined by sabreur, Lisa Hoole and the match was again very close against a current blue team with the luxury of a reserve. The Old Blue team always stayed a few hits ahead of the current blue team of Emma Foster, India Martin, Ailanore Harper and Ailsa Keating with the end result that the old blues won with a score of 45-42.

Lastly came the sabre match, the Old Blue team had only one sabreur, Lisa Hoole, but she was joined by Jenn Semon, who had fenced sabre during her time here as a current blue. Foilists Georgie Osborne and Chie Kobeyashi stepped up also, to share the responsibility of fencing as the last member of the sabre team. The Current Blues team of Anna Scaife, Alina and Kyle Treiber always looked the stronger team and won by the slightly larger margin of 45-35.

Overall the women's match was very enjoyable and with so many of the recently departed current blues coming back, the atmosphere was very relaxed and reminiscent of the team that had fenced for the past two years. The women's match final score was a very close 131-125 in favour of the old blues.

Post-match Dinner

The match was followed by a dinner at Corpus Christi College. A small champagne reception was held, before going onto the dinner in the neighbouring Parker room. The room was a vast improvement on last year, being much more personal and having a generally warmer feel to it. The meal was delicious and was washed down with a few lemonades and sip of college port to round things off. After the meal we all departed en masse to a Queen's Ent, where I am told everyone had a good time. My memories of the night are fond ones and I hope everyone had an equally good time. I hope that the OB match does on improving every year, as we learn how to run the organisation of the match better and make the meal and post-meal entertainment more and more enjoyable. I look forward to seeing many of you there at next year's match and also hopefully at the Varsity match in Oxford this February.

BUSA Individuals

2005 saw a much smaller entry from Cambridge into the BUSA individual competition and correspondingly, the university failed to continue taking at least one gold in this year's event.

BUSA League

Last year, both the men's and women's teams were undefeated all season, both within the BUSA league and outside of it, resulting in one of CUFC's most successful seasons ever. This year has seen a slight weakening of the Cambridge team with a quite a few of the core of both the men's and women's teams leaving. Correspondingly, this year has seen the end of the Men's Blues 2 year and Women's Blues 1 year undefeated runs. There were also some unfortunate circumstances that prevented some members of the team from competing in all the matches. However, with the return leg of our matches with Oxford and Bristol coming up in the next couple of weeks, we are confident that we will hit the same form as last season.

CUFC Training Camp

This year, the CUFC training camp returned to Club Honved in Budapest. The trip was larger than ever and fortunately more or less coincided with the Budapest Junior A-grade, which was convenient for some of our team members who were already in Hungary. Fencers of all standards were present and we were ably looked after by former British Olympic Sabre Coach, Peter Frohlich. The standard of fencing in Hungary is so high, that good opposition was in ready supply and after a week's training, great improvement was very apparent amongst the ranks of CUFC.

OB Mailing List

During the past term I have tried to update the mailing list with people's correct/ new emails, cleaned out the list of incorrect/old addresses and tried to add all new requests to the list. Inevitably I am sure I will have managed to miss some people out, so if anyone knows of anyone else who is still not receiving emails on this list, please tell me and I will sort it out. Also, there were some people who had asked to be removed from the list. If you are still getting this email and do not wish to anymore, please email me and I will remove you from the list. (oldbluesofficer@cufencing.org.uk)

Best Wishes,

Robert Shaw

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