



OTCC

HT25

Newsletter



NEWSLETTER



Hilary 2025

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Welcome

Welcome to OUCC's new mailing list for friends and members of the club. With the support of the central University, we are now able to remain in regular contact with our wide network of alumni and supporters.

We will aim to bring you termly updates, including news of the club and a few trips down memory lane. As the OUCC committee, we would really appreciate if you could pass this newsletter to teammates and friends, encouraging them to sign up at the following [link](#).

If you have any suggestions or would like to contribute to the termly newsletter, please don't hesitate to get in touch through our website.

OUCC Committee 2024-25

Alumni Dinner 2025

In conjunction with the launch of our new mailing list, OUCC are very excited to announce our inaugural Alumni Dinner in 2025, building on our on-field successes in 2024.

The event will be at St Edmund Hall on Friday 4th April from 7pm. Further information can be found [on our website](#) and tickets can be purchased at this [link](#). This will be an excellent opportunity to reconnect with old OUCC friends and celebrate memories (from off and on the field!), while hearing from the club today.

We hope to continue this alumni dinner every three years, to give every OUCC student a chance to connect with alumni during their time at the University.



Harlequins vs Quidnuncs Match 2024

We are excited to announce OUCC alumni and England test cricketer, Jason Gallian, as our after dinner speaker. We are also working with Vincent's to open after the dinner for those who wish to continue their evening.



England Cricketer Jason Gallian

There will be a photographer at the Dinner to capture photos of OUCC teams gone past.

Additionally, we will have a special award for the Blues team with the most attendees at the dinner!



Women's Alumni Match 2023



Oriel

WARMLY INVITES YOU TO OUR INAUGURAL

ALUMNI DINNER



7PM FRIDAY 4TH APRIL

ST EDMUND HALL

ALUMNI: £70

STUDENTS: £65

[CLICK FOR TICKETS](#)

[CLICK FOR EVENT INFORMATION](#)

2025 Fixtures

With the season approaching, OUCC are delighted to announce our 2025 fixtures. All fixtures and details can be viewed on our [Play Cricket Website](#). We are excited to continue to host our regular fixtures; including the MCC, Free Forresters, Harlequins and Nomads.



Arundel Castle Cricket Ground 2024

We are also looking forward to hosting 4 BUCS national league fixtures in the Parks - bringing the highest level of University cricket to Oxford. Across the page some of the biggest fixtures for the OUCC season are highlighted.

Hopefully, there will be plenty of alumni and friends of the club enjoying the sunshine at the Parks this summer.



Authentics vs Crusaders T20 Varsity 2024

Friday 2nd May

Authentics, Women's and Men's
Blues vs Oxford Brookes T20 Day
Food & drinks served in the Parks

Friday 9th May

Men's and Women's Blues
T20 Varsity Matches

Friday 23rd May

Authentics vs MCC

Sunday 1st June

Men's Blues vs Harlequins

Friday 13th June

Women's Blues vs MCC

Saturday-Monday 21st-23rd June

Women's & Men's Blues and
Authentics

50 Over Varsity Matches

Arundel Castle Cricket Ground

Tuesday 1st - Friday 4th July

Men's Blues 182nd University Match
at Fenner's

Lord's T20 Day

OUCC will play both Men's and Women's T20 Varsity matches at Lord's on Friday 9th May. The Lord's fixtures are the highlight of the OUCC calendar and we look forward to seeing many alumni in the stands cheering on the Dark Blues! OUCC will be looking to repeat their victory in the Men's fixture, whilst trying to go one better in the women's T20.



Women's Blues at Lord's 2024

Tickets are yet to be released but more information will be available nearer the time on the [Lord's website](#). Tickets will also be available to purchase on the day!



Men's Blues at Lord's 2024



A recent photo inside the Pavilion at University Parks

Honours Boards

Over the Winter, the OUCC committee have been hard at work to push for the installation of new Honours Boards in the Parks pavilion. These boards will bear the names of the Men's Blues XI from the 2023 and 2024 seasons.

With funding from the Vice Chancellor, we are excited to be able to retrospectively recognise the achievements of the 38 Women's Blues recipients between 2016-2024. These boards will be visible in the Parks pavilion for the first game in April.



**LORD'S
FRI 9TH MAY
T20 VARSITY**



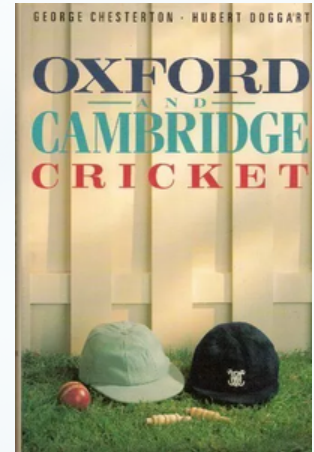
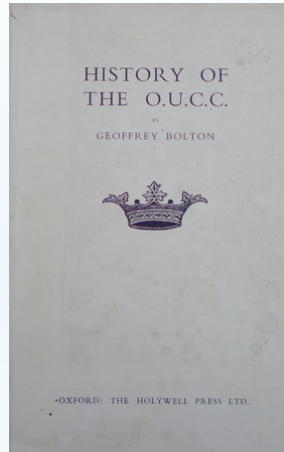
Blues Cap Numbers

OUCC can now announce that we have a record of individual Blues cap numbers. With the help of the Honour's Boards in the Parks pavilion we now have names and cap numbers for all OUCC Blues. If you would like to know your or your teammates' Blues cap number, please do get in touch.

Notable former Blues include Imran Khan (*cap no. 704*), The Nawab of Pataudi Sr. (*cap no. 491*) and Jr. (*cap no. 636*). Martin Donnelly, featured later in this newsletter, was the 556th man to represent Oxford in the University match.



A Blues Cap, handed out at the Men's 4 Day & Women's 50 Over Varsity



Covers of both the currently published books on the history of OUCC

OUCC Archives

We have just launched the new OUCC Club archive on our website ([Club Archive](#))! We will post articles delving into past OUCC teams, players and officials.

We are also keen to publish any contributions from members of the OUCC community, so please get in touch through our website. For those who would like to learn more about the club's history, we can recommend the following two books:

History of the OUCC by Geoffrey Bolton

Oxford & Cambridge Cricket by George Chesterton and Hubert Doggart

OUCC Hall of Fame

In this 'OUCC Hall of Fame' series, we will tell the stories of some of the greatest cricketers to don the Dark Blue cap. We are very grateful to David Walsh for his first piece on Martin Donnelly.



Martin Donnelly

Who is the greatest Oxford cricketer of all time?

Perhaps Colin Cowdrey with his 114 Test caps; or the younger Nawab of Pataudi whose career was blighted by the loss of an eye in a car crash on the eve of the 1961 Varsity match; or perhaps more recently Imran Khan, Pakistan captain and World Cup winner.

However, John Woodcock, long-serving cricket correspondent for The Times, who came up to Oxford in 1945, was adamant that the greatest Oxford cricketer was one that he watched in The Parks all through those post-war summers of 1946 and 1947 – the New Zealand left-handed batsman, Martin Donnelly.

Martin Donnelly played all three Tests for New Zealand as a nineteen-year-old in the side that came on tour to England in 1937. His career was then put on hold by the war, in which he served and fought in North Africa and Italy as a tank commander with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, reaching the rank of Major. He scored a dazzling 133 for the Dominions against England at Lord's in 1945 before coming up to Worcester College later that year to read history on a two-year postwar course.



Donnelly in 1937

In his two years for Oxford, he made 2400 runs at an average of 65.4, including six centuries in 1946 and another three in 1947, when he captained the side and was named as one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year. In the winter he played rugby for Oxford and won an England cap in 1947.

It was said by John Woodcock that when word went round that Donnelly was batting in The Parks, lecture halls emptied quickly, and the crowd could be three or four deep round the boundary. In 1946, in two matches when Oxford had the better of a draw with the Indians and beat Lancashire, Donnelly's scores were 61, 116 not out, 139 and 95.



New Zealand 1949, when Oxford was the only side to beat the touring team. Martin Donnelly kneeling front left.

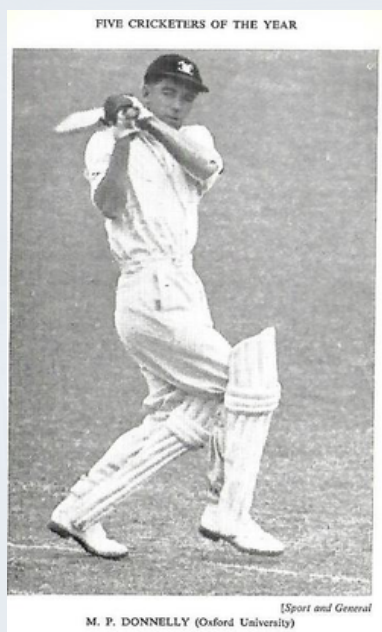
In the Varsity match of that year he made 142 out of a total of 261 as Oxford won by 6 wickets. In 1947 Oxford beat Middlesex, Worcestershire, Sussex and Leicestershire and had much the better of a draw with Cambridge, Donnelly making 81 in his only innings. In 1949 he returned to England with the New Zealand touring team (see photo below) when Oxford remarkably became the only side to beat them, Donnelly being cheered in The Parks by a vast crowd all the way to the wicket.

In the Lord's Test that year he made a brilliant 206, as New Zealand remained unbeaten in four drawn Tests against England. It was to be his last Test series as he retired from cricket in 1950 to take a job in industry in Australia. Wisden remarked on this loss by saying that he entranced cricket followers in the immediate post-war years in a manner surpassed only by Denis Compton.

Martin Donnelly only played seven Tests, his batting average 52, but he was a victim of the war, the lowly status at the time of New Zealand as a Test-playing country and the need to earn a living outside the poorly paid world of cricket.

When he died in 1999, Wisden recorded that 'he had certain similarities with Bradman, the build, the hawk-eye, the determination to establish a psychological supremacy over the bowler as soon as possible'. In those immediate post-war years English cricket-lovers, especially those who rushed to The Parks to watch him bat, were indeed privileged.

David Walsh



Martin Donnelly

Your thoughts...

We would be very grateful for your comments on the Newsletter and would be delighted to publish any memories of your time at the Club. These will be featured in the Trinity edition of the OUCC Newsletter. Please get in touch through our website or by replying to this email.

OUCC Quiz Question

Which future world leader reputedly featured for OUCC as 12th man in the 1950s?

Answers to the question will be provided in the next edition of the newsletter.

Thank you!

Thank you for getting to the end of our first termly newsletter! We look forward to hearing from you with any suggestions or feedback.

As the OUCC committee, we would also like to thank you for your continued support of the club. We hope 2025 will continue the successful year of 2024! For those who are interested, we will be announcing the date of our AGM in the coming weeks.