



OTHCC

TT25

Mid-Season  
Newsletter





# OUCC NEWSLETTER



*Trinity 2025*

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## Welcome

On behalf of everyone at OUCC, welcome once again to our newsletter. In this edition, we discuss all the major updates since the start of the season - including our inaugural Alumni Dinner, Lord's and progress in inter-university competitions. We also delve into the archives, with a look back on the successful 2016 season and another Hall of Fame edition; this time on OUCC and England's Alan Smith.

Once again, we would really appreciate if you could pass this newsletter to teammates and friends, encouraging them to sign up at the following [link](#). We hope to build a wide network of friends of OUCC, sharing the success of the club on a termly basis.

*OUCC Committee 2024-25*



# Alumni Dinner 2025

OUCG were exceptionally proud to host our inaugural Alumni Dinner at St Edmund Hall in April, welcoming over 60 alumni representing more than six decades of club history.



It was great to see so many familiar (and new) faces back celebrating their memories of the club and hearing from OUCG and England cricketer Jason Gallian. We were particularly delighted to see such a strong presence from both current and recent women's Alumni, many of whom are recognised on our newly installed Honours' Boards in the Parks pavilion.



We hope all who attended had a fantastic evening. Looking ahead, we aim to make this a biennial event, with the next date pencilled in to celebrate the **Bicentenary Anniversary of the Varsity Match in 2027.**



OUCG would like to thank St Edmund Hall and Vincent's club for their excellent hospitality throughout the evening.





## OUCC vs The Counties

Several OUCC players have again represented the combined UCCE side with Oxford Brookes against professional sides in warm-up fixtures against Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Worcestershire.



*OUCC's Amogh Karpe on his way to 47*

Toby Brown and Amogh Karpe were selected for the first 3-day fixture against Derbyshire in unseasonably warm weather. Both players took time to adjust in the first-innings, but looked more comfortable with the bat in the second innings.

Amogh continued this form into the second fixture against Notts, where he compiled an excellent 47 against a full strength attack at the Parks. Captain Justin Clarke toiled away with the ball, creating several chances, none of which were taken.



*Nottinghamshire's Brett Hutton at the Parks*

Moving into the second half of the season, after strong T20 performances Saqlain Choudhary and Amogh Karpe were again rewarded by selection for 2xT20s vs Worcestershire. These matches provide an excellent opportunity for OUCC cricketers to test their skills against the professionals. For talented members of the squad, Oxford is the perfect place to study whilst pushing to play at the highest level of the game.



*OUCC Men's Blues Captain, Justin Clarke*



## T20 Varsity at Lord's

OUCG Men's and Women's Blues teams have recently played their annual T20 Varsity matches at Lord's Cricket Ground. This T20 day is always a highlight of the OUCG season and was watched on by hundreds of current and old OUCG members and families in the famous Lord's pavilion.

The women's match was up first, with captain Elodie Harbourne winning the toss and electing to bat. OUCG opened the batting with a Magdalen pairing of Hannah Sutton and Annys Thirkell-Jones. Assisted by some wayward Cambridge bowling, Oxford reached 37-0 off the powerplay. Soon after, the wicket of Thirkell-Jones brought Hannah Davis to the crease.



*Evie Mayhew celebrates one of her four early wickets.*



*Ella Gallagher beats a Cambridge batter.* Both Hannahs pushed the scoring along through the middle to get Oxford to a respectable score heading into the last few overs. Davis' destructive six-hitting in at the death helped her reach 55 and pushed the final Oxford score to 129-4 off their 20 overs.

In reply, Oxford thwarted the Cambridge innings before it started in earnest. Exceptional bowling from Evie Mayhew (4-13) dismissed three dangerous Cambridge batters, including last year's match-winner and now captain Boaden. Leg-spinner Davis then came on and rattled through the middle- and lower-order to record figures of 4-9. Despite some spirited Cambridge resistance, dual Rugby and Cricket Blue Sophie Goodman took the last wicket to seal a memorable 71 run victory. This was a brilliant result against a strong Cambridge team that had performed well in BUCS to start the season.





*Vivek Narayan batting at Lord's*

After a short break, it was the turn of the Men's Blues - who were put in to bat after losing the toss. Unfortunately, the Oxford innings was stunted by the loss of regular wickets throughout the innings. Disappointingly, there were some poor shots from the Oxford batters against tidy Cambridge spin-bowling. This was a particular shame, given the batting had performed so well in T20 warm-up matches against the Army and RAF. Oxford limped to 106 all out from 20 overs, with some late contributions from Max Kirkby and Chris Carnegie.

Needing early wickets to stand even a slight chance of victory, Oxford were rewarded immediately as Justin Clarke snagged opener Norman caught at square-leg.

However, Cambridge's other opener Kottler batted well for his 52 to take the game out of reach for Oxford. Cambridge cruised to an 8-wicket victory, despite economical bowling from Kirkby and Carnegie. The Men's Blues have a chance to hit back at Cambridge in our upcoming BUCS match on 19th May at Fenner's, where OUCC will be looking to avenge their poor performance at Lord's.

Overall, however, this was a great day for OUCC. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces in the crowd and in Lord's Tavern after the match. Everyone at OUCC would like to thank the Marylebone Cricket Club for the privilege of playing at Lord's and for their excellent hospitality on the day!



*Chris Carnegie steams in for Oxford.*



# OUCC's Hannah Davis

*Dan Mackay (Somerville) has interviewed OUCC's Hannah Davis about her 2025 season with OUCC and Middlesex in Tier 2 women's domestic cricket. Hannah has also just been shortlisted for Oxford University Sportsperson of the Year.*

**Women's cricket has come a long way in recent years, but still faces unique challenges around visibility, resources, and recognition. Have these dynamics shaped your experience as a player?**

Women's cricket has grown a lot in recent years, although there is still a long way to go. Growing up, I mostly played for boy's teams at club level and couldn't play in school until sixth form.

I enjoy advocating for the women's game and it's a privilege to inspire more girls to play the sport. It's great that we have the opportunity alongside the men at Lord's, both at Oxford and Middlesex.



**What should we hope to expect from the women's side this Trinity? I think this year, our UCCE BUCS team is looking particularly strong. I think it would not be an unrealistic target to win our league, having placed second last year. Hopefully we can build on last season's success and beat Cambridge 3-0!**

**How did it feel when you got the Middlesex call-up? An Oxford degree on the side must be quite the demand?**

It felt great to be offered a place in such a strong team and have some certainty over where I would be playing. Balancing cricket with my degree has definitely been challenging - I regularly have to travel home for training, which means making sacrifices and being disciplined with my time.



*To continue reading, please find the extended interview with Hannah on our website.*



# Mid-Season Update

There has been over 30 OUCC fixtures already played in 2025, with the season less than halfway through. So far, there have been great victories for all of our sides in competitive friendlies and BUCS.



*Vivek Narayan gets creative for OUCC*

The Men's Blues have beaten several strong opponents, including Teddington 1<sup>st</sup> XI, Oxford Brookes 1<sup>st</sup> XI and University of Exeter 1<sup>st</sup> XI. The latter victory was OUCC's first in the BUCS National Premier League. The transition to this league has been a great test for the Blues. Bowlers Saqlain Choudhary and Justin Clarke, and batters Toby Brown and Henry Nicholls have risen to the challenge and put in match-winning performances for the Blues. In the Men's T20 fixtures, OUCC recorded victories against the Army and the RAF. Unfortunately, some poor batting has seen the Blues struggle against Cambridge in our first fixtures.

In contrast, the Women's Blues have had an excellent time against Cambridge. Whilst in BUCS, they have recorded dominant victories against Lincoln and Loughborough 3s. Unfortunately, unavailability has left the Blues with only a slim chance of promotion.



*First OUCC vs OBUCC Women's Fixture*

A particular highlight for the Women's Blues season was the inaugural OUCC vs OBUCC Women's Derby match. The two universities team up in BUCS, but played against one another for the first time as part of the Women's Lord's preparation. The women's Blues will now be looking to continue their strong start to the season in the 50-over format; playing against the MCC, Birmingham and the Women's Alumni before their trip to Arundel for 50 over Varsity.



The Authentics have also played a healthy mixture of BUCS and friendly cricket to start the season, beating the SOA, HAC and Heretics in quick succession. The Heretics match was particularly enjoyable for all involved, with many recent alumni coming back to face their old side. In their T20 Varsity, the Tics pulled off a nail-biting one run victory. Batting first, the Authentics made their way to 145-6, largely due to the efforts of Tom Douglas (37) and Nathan Schofield (39\*). As the Tabs attempted to chase this total, early wickets from Tom Hilditch and Will Marriage seemed to put Oxford in the ascendency. However, an excellent innings from Cambridge's number 3 left them needing 7 runs from the last over. Up stepped seamer Gaurav Kocher, who took two wickets in a superb final over that only went for five runs, sealing the narrowest of victories for the Tics.



*Authentics vs Heretics 2025*

## Upcoming Fixtures

**Monday 26th May**

**Harlequins vs Quidnuncs**

**Sunday 1st June**

**Men's Blues vs Harlequins**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

**Men's Blues vs Oxford UCCE**

**Friday 13th June**

**Women's Blues vs MCC**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

**Men's Blues vs Arabs**

**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**



# A look back on the victorious 2016 season

*As part of the OUCC archive, we are revisiting an incredibly successful season for the club in 2016. This was the first year that the Men's and Women's Blues achieved the "treble" and "double", respectively. With thanks to Bob Marsden (Blue, 1982), father of Johny (2016 Men's Blues captain), we now have a bank of photos we are able to share.*

First off in the Varsity match season was a combined Men's and Women's Blues T20 Day at the Parks on 20th May. These two games were characterised by two standout innings; first by Sian Kelly's 102\* in the women's T20 and secondly Matty Hughes' 75\* in the Men's game. Economical bowling in the men's game secured a comfortable 38 run victory.



*2016 Men's and Women's Blues at the Parks after their Varsity triumphs*



*The men's Blues celebrate with some well-earned drinks. Matty Hughes' excellent 75 being the stand-out performance.*

In the women's game there was an even bigger margin of victory - the Oxford bowlers blowing away the Cambridge line-up for 42, winning by 162 runs. This day must have been even more special for the fact it was watched on by a large crowd at the Parks.



*The 2016 Varsity matches were watched on by plenty of spectators in the Parks. OUCC are attempting to recreate this atmosphere in 2025, recently attracting large crowds to derby matches against Oxford Brookes - where we trialed hosting a BBQ for spectators.*



After the great successes in the T20, next up were the dual Lord's One-Day matches - with Men's Blues and Women's Blues on 1st July. In the women's game, Sian Kelly again scored an excellent 118, ably supported by Christina Gough's 71. In reply, Cambridge struggled to 58-7 off their 30 overs - Sarah Attrill's 4-11 being the highlight. Meanwhile, in the rain-affected men's game Oxford batted first and with contributions right throughout the ordered managed their way to 192-9 off 40 overs. In reply, Cambridge were 140 all out despite the efforts of Angus Dalgleish with 77.



*Men's Blues celebrating the final Cambridge wicket to fall at Lord's. Dalgleish is distraught despite his excellent innings.*

Looking to complete the treble, next up for the Men's Blues was the final match of the season - the First-Class University Match. Oxford elected to bat first at the Parks and number 3 Matty Hughes piled on the runs, scoring 116 of Oxford's first innings 267. In response, Cambridge's first innings was stunted by an excellent 5-41 by Johny Marsden opening the bowling. Cambridge conceded a first innings deficit of 85 runs, compounded by a wonderful century on first-class debut by opener Daniel Escott. Supported by 76 again from Matty Hughes, Oxford pushed the scoreboard on to 316/5 before declaring to give themselves the best chance of bowling Cambridge out for victory.



*Oxford celebrating the second of their three varsity wins in the famous Lord's pavilion.*

The pick of the Oxford bowlers were captain Marsden and Owain Jones, the latter responsible for removing Dalgleish as the last wicket in the 35th over.





*Men's Blues once again celebrating in the Parks.*

Cambridge put up a dogged effort, with 500 balls faced between the top 3 batters alone. However, Escott backed up his batting performance with 6-71 in the second innings to leave Cambridge 9-down going into the last hour of the 4th day's play. Fittingly, just when it seemed like Cambridge would survive for the draw - Johny Marsden stepped up and took the last wicket to complete an historic treble victory for the Oxford side.



*Incredible scenes in the Parks as Marsden takes the final wicket in his last match as OUCC captain.*

*Links to all of the scorecards from these fixtures can be found below;*

[Women's T20](#)

[Men's T20](#)








[Women's One Day](#)

[Men's One Day](#)

[Men's First Class](#)

## OUCC Video Archive

We are excited to announce the launch of OUCC's new video archive on the club website. This section contains a record of all live-streamed fixtures that can be watched back in full. We also hope to launch a new "Highlights" section by the end of the season, where you will be able to watch 5 minute overview's of the day's play. If you want to watch OUCC live online, our YouTube channel can be found on our website.

Order by page title	
Descending	Clear
	2025 Oxford University vs Oxford CC Men's Town & Gown T20
	2025 Oxford University vs Oxford Brookes 50 over Pre-Season Friendly - Men's
	2024 Oxford University vs Cambridge University 4-day University Match
	2024 Men's BUCS Play-Off vs Solent University
	2024 BUCS Semi-Final vs Loughborough University
	2024 BUCS Final vs Cardiff University
	2023 Oxford University vs Oxford Brookes T20 Varsity Day



## OUCC Hall of Fame

*In the second edition of our 'OUCC Hall of Fame' series, we tell the stories of one of the greatest cricketers to play for OUCC. We are very grateful to David Walsh for his piece on the great Alan Smith.*

Alan Smith had the distinction of not only being Captain of OUCC for two years in 1959 and 1960 but also leading arguably the most successful Oxford teams of the post-1945 era. In 1959 they not only beat Cambridge by 85 runs, the first win for eight years, but had six wins against other first-class opponents including Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire and Sussex. In 1960 they had much the better of a rain-ruined game against Cambridge, beat Essex, Derbyshire and Hampshire, and would have beaten a full-strength Lancashire by an innings if rain had not come to save the county. These were the last two great Oxford sides, in which games against first-class counties were entered with an equal chance of winning.



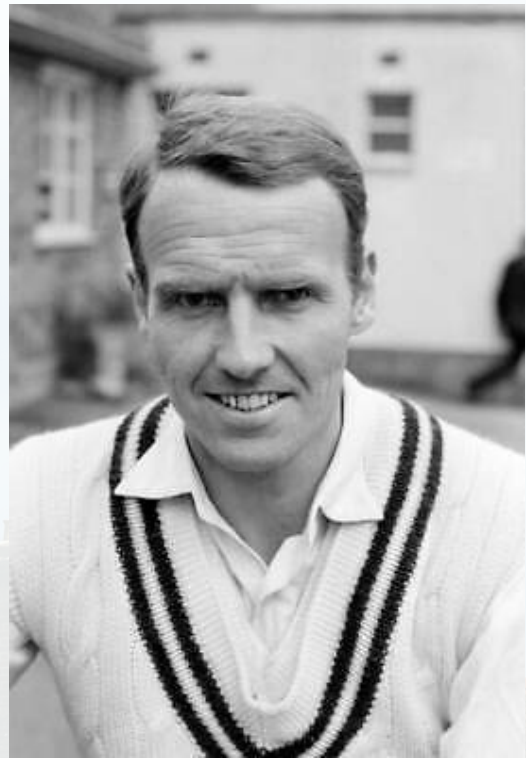
*OUCC's famous 1959 side, led by the great Alan Smith.*

Smith (often known as AC to distinguish him from his Oxford and Warwickshire contemporary MJK) came to Brasenose from KES Birmingham and won his Blue in 1958 before his two years as captain. Wisden records about the 1959 season that 'the great improvement in Oxford's cricket was due in no small measure to the enthusiasm and ability of their captain, Alan Smith'. That year he made hundreds in each innings when opening the batting against Hampshire and he ended the season with 822 runs. His 68 catches and 12 stumpings in his Oxford career are also the most by any Oxford wicket-keeper. He even shed the gloves on occasions to bowl his fast-medium, taking nine wickets in the match against Free Foresters in 1960 with his highly unorthodox bowling action off the wrong foot.



In those two seasons Oxford benefited from a host of very talented players, and nine of the 1960 team played in the County Championship. Among the batsmen were the Pakistani Test player Javed Burki, the Lancashire opener David Green and the Hampshire batsman, Charles Fry, who all played in both years. Oxford also had a formidable pair of opening bowlers in David Sayer of Kent, who was genuinely fast, and Andrew Corran of Notts, who took 76 wickets over these two seasons, including 12 wickets in the 1960 Lord's match. They were backed up by outstanding spinners in David Pithey, who subsequently played Test cricket for South Africa, Dan Piachaud of Hampshire and Alan Duff of Worcestershire.

Two particular stars stood out, however, and both came from India. Abbas Ali Baig came up as a freshman in 1959 and scored 1148 runs, including successive hundreds against Lancashire and Yorkshire. He then joined the Indian touring side and made 112 in the Fourth Test at Old Trafford. In 1960 the most exciting freshman was the Nawab of Pataudi, who had already played for Sussex as a schoolboy.



*Photograph of Alan Smith*

Pataudi made three hundreds, emulating his father by making a century at Lord's and later captaining his country, despite losing an eye in a motor accident just before the 1961 University match.

It was Alan Smith who knitted together this stellar company into such a successful team. He continued his success in County cricket with Warwickshire, captaining them from 1965-74. In 1965 against Essex, he achieved the very rare feat of taking a hat-trick as a bowler in a match where he had been selected as wicket-keeper.



He was in the last group of amateurs to play for England, winning six Test caps as wicket-keeper on the tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1962-63. After retirement he played a leading role in the administration of the game, as Secretary of Warwickshire, an England selector and Chief Executive of the Test and County Cricket Board from 1986-96, for which he was awarded the CBE in 1986. Former colleagues at Lord's remember him as an enlightened but rigorous boss who was happy to delegate to those he trusted. Alan Smith belongs firmly in OUCC's Hall of Fame for his enthusiastic leadership, his all-round cricketing talents and his lifetime of service to the game at county and national level.



*Alan Smith hoisted on his teammates' shoulders after Warwickshire's 1968 victory in the Gillette Cup Final.*

## OUCC Quiz Question

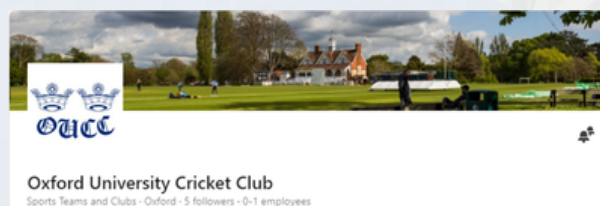
*The answer to our Hilary newsletter's question was, of course, Bob Hawke.*

Our Trinity term quiz question is as follows: What is unique about the side Oxford fielded in the 1839 University match vs Cambridge?

## OUCC LinkedIn

OUCC are proud to announce that we are launching our LinkedIn page. Our page can be viewed [here](#) - please follow to stay in touch with news from the club.

As a reminder, more regular updates on match days can be found on the club's Instagram account ([@oucc2025](#)).



## Thank you!

Thank you once again for reading our newsletter, we really appreciate your support. If you have any thoughts or questions related to OUCC, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.