



NEWSLETTER VI – OCTOBER 2007

Welcome, once again. Well, the nights are getting dark before we leave the office, rain and cold setting in, injuries playing up: yes, the cross-country season is upon us and the OUCCC Old Gits' newsletter rears its ugly head to lighten these dreary winter nights.

The shocking news to lead with is that the august institution that is Thames Hare and Hounds has allowed one Larry Mathews Esq to be its Captain for the next two seasons. If you are concerned by this potential instability to the *status quo* of Britain, I suggest you write to *The Times*, to your local MP and to anyone else you can think of with some degree of urgency! You may wish to come to the Thames annual dinner as a guest to listen to Lazza's speech and see whether he can be carried out in a drunken and babbling state still trying to finish it, like in the good old days of his OUCCC Captaincy. Email Simon or myself (or Lazza for this once in a lifetime opportunity – Saturday 16th February 2008).

The other important issue is funding.

We did manage to spend just over £5,000 of the money in the Old Gits' coffers on a new track surface at Iffley Road. Simon Molden and I were privileged enough to go along to the official track opening in May alongside Seb Coe, Sir Roger himself and various "greats" of the UK athletic past. A very memorable day and OUCCC Old Gits donation was much appreciated and even commemorated in a plaque to mark the day that you can see at Iffley Road if you pop down there.



However, this means the coffers are now empty. If we are to do anything meaningful for OUCCC in the future we should all try to donate a few quid a month. The University has got itself organised extremely well now and you can fill in the form and they get all Gift Aid and keep it in a ring-fenced pot for the use of OUCCC, but with us controlling when and how it gets spent. So, please take a moment of your time to fill in the attached forms.

There will, of course, be an Old Blues' Race at the 'Varsity Match, and it would be great to see as many of you there as possible. It starts at 1.00 pm and is a "kind" four miles with optional watersplash. The date for your diary is **Saturday 1st December**.

See you all there, and in the interim, happy training, loafing or whatever else keeps you well these days!

Yobs

Email: chrisdaniels@bostreasury.com



OUCCC OLD MEMBERS' WEBSITE

The new website is now up and running and contains a lot more information than the old one. In addition, it has the new forms for donating to the Old Members' Club. Please visit www.ouccc-old-gits.co.uk to see it in full. Also, if you have anything that would add to it – old photos, articles, etc – please do send them in to Simon Molden (ouccc_oldmembers@yahoo.co.uk).

In addition, the club now has a **Facebook** group – Oxford University Cross-Country Club Old Members Club. If you are on Facebook and want to join it, please do. We will keep this up-to-date with information along with the website.

2007 INTER-'VARSITY CROSS-COUNTRY RACES

The 2007 'Varsity Matches are fast approaching and this year will be taking place on Saturday 1st December. The races start from the usual place – the Memorial Playing Fields, Roehampton Vale, just off the A3 at Robin Hood junction.

Last year, Oxford narrowly lost both the men's and ladies' races, but the OU Old Gits scored a 319-348 win over the 'Tabs.

It would be great to see as many of you as possible on the day to support the Dark Blues in their attempts to overturn last year's results. With a number of promising freshers, particularly on the men's side, there should be two exciting contests once again.

In addition, it would be great to see as many old gits turning out in the Old Blues' Race, which is run over the ladies' course before the two Blues races. This race is now run as a Mob Match, so everyone has the chance to score and contribute, hopefully, to a resounding win for Oxford. In addition, there is now a trophy for the first man home, which was originally won by Yobbo and co at the 1990 Cric Relays in Paris.

Those who ran for Oxford in the race last year were:

Phil Killingley	Steve Marshall	Andy Robinson
Andy Weir	Simon Molden	Phill Scarr
Mark Dewhirst	Ed Catmur	Juan Coderch
Oli Mytton	Gareth Davies	John Barker
Chris Daniels	Doron Shultziner	John Bryant
Chris Millard	Dave Barker	
Jamie Darling	Emily Ferenczi	

The timings for all the races are as follows:

- 16th Old Blues' Race 4 miles 1.00 p.m.
- 32nd Ladies' Race 4 miles 2 .00 p.m.
- 117th Gentlemen's Race 7½ miles 2.45 p.m.

As custom, the old members will be gathering afterwards in Ye White Hart in Mortlake prior to the post-race dinner and party. All of you would be very welcome to join us. If you would also like to attend the dinner, please let me know. Tickets are £20 and include a meal.

The weekend before the Blues' Races sees the traditional II^{nds} to IV^{ths} Races, which this year Oxford will be hosting over the Shotover course. The programme for the day will be headed by the 64th Tortoises-Spartans race.

Best wishes to you all and happy running.

Simon Molden
ouccc_oldmembers@yahoo.co.uk

TEDDY HALL RELAYS

Three Old Gits' team took part in the 2007 Teddy Hall Relays. The 'A' team, consisting of Andy Weir, Pete Haarer, Yobbo Daniels and guest Tom Kingsnorth finished an excellent fourth, only four seconds behind the Cambridge 'A' team. The 'C' team finished 11th and the 'B' team 26th out of a total of 103 participating sides.



The 2008 event will be held on Wednesday 5th March over the usual course starting and finishing at the Roger Bannister Track at Iffley Road. There will be further details in the next newsletter, but if you are interested in taking part, please let me know.

An idea discussed after the 2007 event was to try to put out a team of the 2000s, 1990s, 1980s, 1970s, etc. If there are any volunteers out there to co-ordinate a team – either men's or women's – for any of these decades, once again, please let me know.

Simon Molden
ouccc_oldmembers@yahoo.co.uk

FUNDRAISING

Over the summer, we have been working with the Oxford University Development Office to set up a new account for the Old Members' Club within their Development Fund. The main benefit of this is that all donations will be able to receive Gift Aid Relief and thus be increased by 28%.

Those of you who are currently donating to the club will be receiving a letter from us very soon asking you to switch over to this account. For anyone who wishes to start donating to the Old Members' Club Fund, please use the new forms, which are included with this newsletter and are on the website now. They can be found at <http://www.ouccc-old-gits.co.uk/fundraising.html>.

All donations are very much welcomed and appreciated and contribute to the ongoing health and success of OUCCC.



THE INTER-UNIVERSITY CROSS-COUNTRY RACES 2007

OXFORD UNIVERSITY CROSS-COUNTRY CLUB



v



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY HARE AND HOUNDS

From Thames Hare and Hounds Headquarters,

Memorial Playing Fields, Putney Vale

on SATURDAY, 1st DECEMBER 2007

ORDER OF EVENTS

1 p.m.	16 th Old Blues' Race (all old members welcome)	4 miles
2 p.m.	32 nd Ladies' Race	4 miles
2.45 p.m.	117 th Gentlemen's Race	7½ miles

The Memorial Playing Fields are located on the edge of Wimbledon Common, to the east of and on the opposite side of the A3 to Robin Good Gate (to Richmond Park), near Beverley Bridge. All races start from in front of the Pavilion:

http://www.multimap.com/map/browse.cgi?client=public&search_result=&db=pc&cidr_client=none&lang=&pc=SW153PQ&advanced=&client=public&addr2=&quicksearch=SW15+3PQ&addr3=&addr1=

There will be a post-race function at Ye White Hart in Mortlake (on the junction of Mortlake High Street, White Hart Lane and The Terrace). The OUCCC Old Members' Club will be gathering there for drinks and all old members are welcome:

http://www.multimap.com/map/browse.cgi?client=public&search_result=&db=pc&cidr_client=none&lang=&pc=SW130NR&advanced=&client=public&addr2=&quicksearch=SW13+0NR&addr3=&addr1=