



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER 2026



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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

As September quickly approaches, the Club is beginning to reset for the new season. New committee and coaches, new club goals, and of course new kit being ordered. As I go into my third year, I am looking forward to stepping up into the role of President, having been Secretary last year. The past season has been full of success, on and off the pitch. Highlights include 4 Varsity wins out of 8 across both BDotY and Blues' Varsity, and successfully partnering with Shutterly Fabulous, the new principal sponsor of OUHC. As we head into the new season, with Blues Preseason starting in less than a month, the committee is focused on and embedding the changes introduced during the 2025/26 season. One of the biggest developments has been the Club's transition to Pitchero, which has already proved to be a valuable addition!

As President, my main priority will always be to have a club that is welcoming, inclusive and enjoyable for everyone. I look forward to working closely with our new welfare team to ensure that every individual has the support they need. The performance of the Club is also an important focus, with the Women's Blues going for a big push up the ranks in Conference this season, after a 5th place finish on their return to the National League. The Men's Blues are looking to push up the league table too, with a full-time coach secured for the new season. BUCS, as ever, remains highly competitive and eyes are on the Infrequents (University Sports Team of the Year 2025/26) who look to continue their unbeaten run... Finally, we look to retain both Blues Varsity trophies and get some great results at away BDotY (as well as winning the social, obviously)!

College hockey also remains a highlight of the calendar, with Teddy Hall retaining the coppers title, aiming for the three-peat next season. We are also looking to improve the accessibility of college hockey, potentially switching to a 7-a side format and getting more integration with the Development Squad too. Exciting stuff for all involved!

As always, we love to see and hear from alumni, whether pitch side, in Vinnies, or online – so please do stay in contact and follow along via Instagram for daily updates about OUHC! I would love to hear new ideas, favourite memories and OUHC stories from former times.

Enjoy the rest of the summer while it lasts!

Evie Chappell, OUHC President 2026-27

Email: ouhcpresident@gmail.com

VARSITY RESULTS

2s3s4s/BDotY Varsity

Sunday 1st March at Iffley Road Sports Centre, saw 6 awesome displays of hockey from both Oxford and Cambridge. This year Cambridge took the overall win, bringing it to 4-2.

Blues Varsity

This year, we took the double win at the **126th Varsity Match**, it was such a great day that I was incredibly fortunate to be part of. The Men's Blues started the day off strong with a dominating 3-2 win, which was soon followed by another tight game for the Women's Blues which went 0-0 at the final whistle but was ultimately won by Oxford in shoot outs 4-3!

The day was made that much more special by both Men's and Women's Alumni teams also ending up on top. I would like to say thank you to all of you who came to watch on the day, despite the abysmal weather – your support was greatly appreciated!



ALUMNI SECRETARY'S WELCOME

Welcome to the 2026 OUHC Alumni Summer Newsletter! I hope you're all having a great summer! This newsletter will hopefully give you an insight into OUHC life - with a round-up of our Alumni Day and our captain's reports.

To introduce myself, I'm Ella – I'm a biologist and have spent the last two years playing for the WBs, and also coaching the mighty Infrequents this past season (proudly Oxford's team of the year 2026). I've got a lot of love for the Club, and I'm super excited to be starting this season as Alumni Secretary – hopefully, I'll get to meet lots of you this year.

I'm looking forward to continuing to build the incredible network that is The Marcon-Dyer Club – facilitating connections and friendships, and building bridges between generations of OUHC players – watch this space for upcoming alumni events :)

OUHC relies on the kindness and generosity of our amazing network of alumni to function - allowing every member of the club to have an amazing experience. Thanks to this support, we can field eight competitive teams, with professional coaches for both the Blues and the Rads/Os, and a growing Development Squad introducing free hockey sessions to new players. If you would like to support the Club in any capacity – either through sponsorship or donation, please do get in touch! We would be incredibly grateful for any support that you can offer, and it makes a huge difference.

We are always looking to develop our alumni engagement - if you have any questions about the club, or suggestions of how we can develop our alumni network, please do feel free to email me or our new President Evie Chappell. We would be thrilled to hear from you.

Best wishes,

Ella Robinson, Alumni Secretary 2026/27

Email: ella.robinson@keble.ox.ac.uk

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

FRED NEWBOLD: OUHC TO THE 2026 HOCKEY WORLD CUP

My four years at The Queen's College and in particular OUHC really set the foundation for all that followed both on and off a hockey pitch. From four Blues Varsity matches (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023) and helping to return the club to the BUCS Premier Division to completing my Master's in Biology, Oxford showed me what it takes to balance elite sport with academic work.

Since leaving Oxford, my hockey journey has progressed rapidly across multiple fronts:

Club Hockey: After graduating, I spent a year in Hamburg playing in the German Bundesliga for Der Club an der Alster before returning to the UK and then later moving to the Netherlands to compete in the Hoofdklasse, the world's strongest domestic league, for Hurley.

Great Britain Setup: After trialling for the GB senior programme for the LA 2028 Olympic cycle in October 2024, I was awarded a full-time contract. This has been my primary training environment for the past two years.

Wales National Team: Alongside GB duties, representing Wales remains my ultimate personal privilege.



In February, this year we travelled to Chile for the qualifying tournament and secured Wales' place at the 2026 Men's Hockey World Cup in the Netherlands and Belgium this August (15th-30th). This is only the second time in history that Wales has qualified for this prestigious event, the first I was fortunate enough to play in whilst studying at Oxford back in 2023. In this edition, we have been drawn in a pool alongside England and two historic powerhouses of the sport, India and Pakistan. You can watch all games either on Watch Hockey (the app) and then specifically the home nations games will be shown for free on Channel 4 Sport YouTube.

However, whilst the World Cup is the pinnacle of international hockey outside the Olympic Games our campaign comes with harsh reality. Unlike the fully professional nations that we will face, our programme operates as a largely part-time setup. Many of us balance international competition with careers or postgraduate study (I begin a part-time PhD in antibiotic resistance this September). Furthermore, because Wales Hockey receives no direct Olympic funding, players personally are currently expected to contribute over £4,000 each to cover basic tournament and preparation costs.

To keep the programme viable, we launched a squad Crowdfunder which has raised over £20,000 to date but significant financial gaps remain for the squad as we head into the tournament.

(continued below)





ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

FRED NEWBOLD: OUHC TO THE 2026 HOCKEY WORLD CUP

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

For those who remember what it takes to compete for Oxford, or in any elite programme, support from the OUHC community makes a genuine and tangible difference.

- 1. Squad Crowdfunder** – Every contribution goes directly towards supporting players across the entire squad.
- 2. Player Sponsorship** – I am also seeking individual corporate or private sponsorship opportunities as I balance international competition with my PhD research.

OUHC has played a huge role both in my hockey career and life to date. I hope to make the Club proud on the world stage this summer.

To support the squad Crowdfunder please visit this link = <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/walesworldcup> – or to discuss individual sponsorship please contact me directly at frednewbold2001@gmail.com.

All donations are being matched by our new front of shirt sponsor, **Ranmore Fund Management**, and so any generous donations are doubled to maximise their impact!

Thank you,
Fred Newbold

ALUMNI DAY ROUND-UP

This year's Alumni Day was a particularly special one, as we welcomed more than 30 alumni back to Oxford for an afternoon of hockey, sunshine, and plenty of familiar OUHC faces.

With glorious weather overhead, it was fantastic to see the pitch filled once again with members of the Club past and present, all brought together by a shared love of hockey and of OUHC. Alumni returned from across both the men's and women's sides of the Club, joining current student members for an afternoon that captured exactly what Alumni Day is all about: old friendships renewed, new connections made and plenty of competitive spirit on display.

The hockey itself certainly did not disappoint. After a closely fought afternoon, the tournament came down to a final showdown between **'Yo's Yippers'** and **'Frank's Tanks'**, with both sides battling it out for Alumni Day bragging rights. The standard may have varied at times, but the enthusiasm certainly did not!

Once sticks had been put away and the sun began to set, attention turned to Vincent's for an evening of drinks, stories, and the sort of fun and laughter that will be familiar to generations of OUHC members. It was a delight to have alumni and current members together off the pitch as well as on it, swapping memories and enjoying the friendships that have always made the club so special.

Above all, it was simply lovely to see so many of you back in Oxford. Thank you to everyone who made the journey and helped make the day such an enjoyable one. We hope you enjoyed being back with OUHC as much as we enjoyed having you – and we very much hope to see even more familiar faces returning next year!





Left: The WBs celebrating at the Blues Varsity Ball dinner, post 4-3 win against Cambridge



Right: The WBs after the final shuffle was taken at the 2026 Blues Varsity Match



Left: Men's Blues captain (George Davidson) during the Varsity Match 2026

Women's Blues

Women's Conference West: 5th
ICG Women's Premier South: 2nd
Varsity Result: 4-3 (W-on shuffles)

The Women's Blues have had a very exciting season, ending a comfortable 5th in our return to national league and 2nd in BUCS with the highest goal difference after some dominating results at the fortress. Additionally, the Varsity Trophy came home with us again! The match unluckily held itself right in the middle of a freezing rainstorm but the WBs pushed through and put on a strong performance.

Both teams had some very high quality sides, with both teams playing National League on Saturday and coming 1st and 2nd in our BUCS league. It was a back and forth match which led to a 0-0 draw putting the decision to shuffles. Our shuffle takers - Jess, Ella, Sophie, Connie and Henriette put in stellar performances and our keeper Hilary showcased incredible composure taking us from 3-2 down to a 4-3 victory. With déjà vu for all returning players (we also won from shuffles last year after 0-0) and an earlier victory from the Men's Blues, celebrations were one for the memory books.

It has been a pleasure being captain this year, the team has gone from strength to strength and a really positive team culture has continued to build. Our new coach Stevo has been a great new addition and I look forward to seeing what's next for the team!

Betrays Galloni, Women's Blues Captain

Men's Blues

Men's South Central Premier Division: 8th
Men's BUCS National Prem: 8th
Varsity Result: 3-2

This year has been characteristically chaotic yet nevertheless very enjoyable, as always is the case with the MBs. I'm incredibly proud of the way the group has developed and of the culture we've built as a team throughout the year.

Unfortunately, our 4-year stay in the topflight of BUCS has come to an end this year, some spirited performances brought us close to an upset on multiple occasions, but it was never enough to get us over the line. Some great performances in Saturday league reminded us of the quality we're capable of showing, but ultimately we lacked the consistency needed to mount any kind of push for the promotion places.

Without a doubt the highlight of the season for us came at Southgate on the 15th of March when we managed to reclaim the Varsity match trophy. We put together a dominant and cohesive team performance to come away victorious in what was a dramatic final quarter. It was a very proud moment for me personally to stand on the iconic balcony and lift the trophy with 15 incredible teammates around me.

It's been an incredible experience to captain the blues this year and one I will take a lot from and cherish for a long time to come. I'm excited to see what's next for the squad going forwards!

George Davidson, Men's Blues Captain

Radicals

Women's South Central Division 1 North: 8th
ICG Women's Midlands Tier 2 – 2A: 5th
Varsity Result: 4-0 (W)

This season has been, in many ways, a true reflection of what it means to be play for the Rads. It's been a bit rocky at times, with a mix of standout wins and some frustrating losses, but also a season defined by some moments of genuinely excellent hockey, fun socials, and team growth.

As is always the case with the Rads, the squad has been constantly evolving. With players moving between the Blues and the Mavs, we've had to adapt week by week, learning to play with new combinations and building cohesion. While this was difficult early on, it ultimately strengthened us as a group and contributed to the steady improvement we saw over the course of the season. Our improvement was most evident during Varsity, where we hit our peak and played the best hockey of our season. The performance against the tabs was a particular highlight, with our 4-0 win we showcased how great the Rads can be. In terms of results, finishing mid-table in the Saturday League reflects both our competitiveness and the inconsistency we battles at times. Our BUCS campaign was tougher, and the standings don't fully reflect our potential.

Off the pitch, the season has been just as memorable. We've had a brilliant run of socials every Wednesday, which have been a huge part of what's made this year so enjoyable. From darts with the Spos, to sign-making in the build-up to Varsity, to hearing the freshers' songs about their favourite Rads, there's been no shortage of highlights-rounded off perfectly with an unforgettable Varsity night out as Dalmatians.

Overall, this season has been a success with coaches Tam, Jess and Adair leading the way! Our fab coaches helped us grow as players and as a team. We've shown real flashes of quality and proven that we can have fun both on and off the pitch. There's plenty to build on, and a lot to be proud of. I can't wait for the final showdown on derby day!

Poppy Hughes, Radicals Captain

Occasionals

Men's South Central Division 2: 11th
Men's BUCS Midlands 2A: 3rd
Varsity Result: 0-2 (L)

It's been an up and down season this year for the Os. Following a difficult year last year, we had high hopes of bouncing back but were given a bit of a reality check by some of the teams in South Central, and on top of a few tough trips to Birmingham we didn't quite have the year we were hoping for.

Our Saturday league has been a bit of a struggle, the year has been tainted by some unfortunate results towards the start of the season, not helped by a seemingly never-ending string of injuries and illnesses along the way. With a few results not going our way at the end of the season, we ended up being relegated and we'll be playing in division 2 next year. This is obviously disappointing, but it gives a great opportunity to aim high next year and build some momentum back up. BUCS has been a bit more positive, after some heroic performances we ended the season a very solid 3rd in the league. Having struggled in recent years I hope this result gives us the confidence to push for the top places next year.

Varsity was a pretty tough day for us, and for OUHC in general. The result flatters the W*ndies a little, it ended up being quite a close, hard-fought game that was ultimately decided by short corner outcomes where we were 2nd best on the day. Now the penalty shuffles trend has hopefully been broken, and we are already targeting bringing the Williams-Grimshaw trophy back to where it belongs.

I also want to express a massive thank you to Tam and Willo who have given a lot of their time this year coaching our sessions and running our sidelines. They both helped us establish a great O's brand of hockey and I am very proud of the team we became this year, as well as the effort everyone put in to get there.

It's been a privilege to be able to captain this year, and I wish the best of luck to whoever gets the honour next year.

Thomas Parry, Occasionals Captain



Left: Katie Ardern-Jones celebrating after scoring during the Rads Varsity Match



Right: The Os lining up after their loss at the 2026 Varsity Match



Left: A sunny display of the Os, after a post term Saturday league match



Left: The Mavs at their last Saturday league match



Right: The lams during the 2026 varsity match vs. Cambridge



Left: Infrequents celebrating winning the BUCS Open Midlands Conference trophy

Mavericks

Women's South Central Division 1 Cherwell: 2nd
BUCS Midlands Tier 3A: 5th
Varsity Result: 3-2 (W)

What a Hilary it has been for the Mavs! With the bucket-loads of hard work and dedication that have been shown across the team, the stats we have achieved this year come as no surprise. Tabs successfully shoed, a promotion play-off approaching and 102 goals scored from 33 games are just some of the Mav's achievements from the season. In our Saturday league we have continued our streak of domination and, having only lost one game all term, have ended the season second on our table. As a result, we are eagerly awaiting the play-off day on the 18th April where we will be hoping to secure a well-deserved promotion!

BUCS on the other hand annually proves to be a much tougher challenge for us and consequently we have ended this season 5th out of 6 teams. While this result is disappointing for us as it is not an accurate representation of the skill and potential of the squad, we are pleased to have avoided demotion. Looking to next year we can only hope the Mavs will be finally able to show BUCS just how talented we are!

Socially, this term has been spellbinding for the Mavs. Our welcome drinks delivered a night of penguin-themed madness, where hidden tap-dancing talents were uncovered and gaps in penguin-trivia exposed. Special mentions must also go to the LGC and BDOTY socials, which also resulted in unforgettable evenings.

And finally, this report cannot be completed without mentioning our magical victory over the B*ds on BDotY. A brutally tense game which resulted in a well deserved 3-2 victory for the Mavs after some of the best hockey we have played all season. This result was undoubtedly the best reward for all of the hard work put in by players and coaches alike throughout the year and was celebrated thoroughly in the evening that followed!

Catherine Hayton and Candida McNair Scott, Mavericks Captains

Infrequents

Men's South Central Division 3: 8th
Men's BUCS Midlands Tier 4 – 4B: 1st
BUCS Open Midlands Conference Trophy: Winners
Varsity Result: 3-4 (L)

Beating Aston in the final, the lams rounded out the 25/26 season with silverware, and it is nothing if not thoroughly deserved. The team took some time to recalibrate following a difficult period last season, yet through the efforts of our brilliant coaches and the work ethic of the lads themselves we quickly found a structure that played to the teams strengths. Fast, transfer-heavy, lams hockey is a beauty to both watch and play, and we have it to credit for much of the reversal of fortunes this season. This structural rewrite in combination with a great crop of new talent of both freshers and ex-Spos were instrumental in racking up that scorecard, with BUCS scorelines of 8-0 and 9-0 abounding. Due to this, the lams won every BUCS match we played this season, and confidently reasserted ourselves in Saturday League. Beyond the pitch the team has coalesced well, projecting a strong social presence week upon week and generally being good blokes.

Varsity was in many ways a good representation of the lams as a whole. With Cambridge scoring a heartbreaking late winner with 1 minute to go, the match ended 4-3 to the Tabs. This was after being 2-0 down at half time: the energy, fight, and fluidity the boys displayed was exemplary, and I wholeheartedly believe that BDOTY was the best match we ever played as a team. Although the result was not to go our way, it was nonetheless a testament to the grit and hard work of the team across the season, and the opportunity to exhibit that was a privilege. Needless to say, BDOTY social was cracking too.

It was an honour to lead the team through this season and I can only express my sincerest gratitude to the coaches, my committee, and every player who represented the tie across the season for bringing the ls back to where they should be. 15 crates

Alexander Mainds, Infrequents Captain

Renegades

South Central Division 2 Cherwell: 2nd – promoted
Varsity Result: 1-2 (L)

The Rens have dominated South Central Cherwell Division II and ended the season undefeated in a league match since October. At present the Rens sit at the top of the league (although lower teams have a few games in hand). We have scored 101 goals this season and are the only team in the league to have beaten every other team. The only thing holding the Rens back from what would be guaranteed promotion is an unfortunate forfeit against bottom of the league that was forced due to a change in Varsity date. Regardless, the Rens have had a fantastic season this year and have grown into a truly remarkable team that have played some of the best hockey that has ever been seen in South Central Cherwell Division II.

On the 1st March the Renegades played the Rovers in the 2026 Varsity Match. The Rens took to the pitch full of energy, excited to do each other proud. The game was intense from the very start and despite a few close chances from the Rens we went into half time 1-0 down. After a rousing half time team talk from Toj and Jules, the Rens started the second half hungry for an equaliser. The Rens' rescue came in the form of Connie Digges' impressive solo effort to steal the ball from their 16 and execute a clinical hit that found the backboard. However, unfortunately a late goal from a Rovers short corner meant the scoreboard showed 2-1 to the Rovers, and despite a series of late shorts for the Rens, the final result was unchanged. Nevertheless, I couldn't be prouder of how the Rens have played throughout the season and of the team's performance that day, and I know that the Rens certainly won the social!

Eliidh Quinn, Renegades Captain

Sporadics

Men's South Central Division 5 North: 5th
Varsity Result: 1-3 (L)

What a year it has been! As the sun sets on yet another season of the hallowed South Central Men's Division 5 North league. Varsity, was of course, a disappointing result, yet I cannot fault the commitment shown in the run-up to the big day, as well as the game itself. Things can't always go our way, but the boys showed as much grit and determination as any captain could have asked for. One positive consequence, however, is that defeat has bred a generation of radicalised freshers, hungry to reclaim our Varsity supremacy. Roll on next year!

This season signalled the last dance for several departing Spos - from seasoned veteran Alex Goldie, the absolute goal machine Mark Eid or the ever-reliable Adam Thomas. There was not a dry-eye in sight as "Father of the Sponation" Alex Mann perfected his last Spaerial, and as John Cheeserights final, MLK-esque halftime team talk contribution drew to a close. In pursuit of an ever-elusive Spool, goalkeeper extraordinaire Seb Page even stepped outfield for a series of bolshy midfield performances. Given the abundance of confidence in the freshers abilities, there is zero doubt that they will continue to carry the Sporadic flame to future greatness. On a personal note, it has been an absolute pleasure coaching this years' team. Commitment has been second to none, and it has been particularly great to see the freshers become fully-fledged Sporadic men as the year has progressed.

As the PB whistle blew at 8.50 am on that March morning, we knew we had a fight on our hands. The Blundies had won 14/18 of their league games, and were still riding high after their 2025 victory. Yet, the boys were locked in and focused – the selection process and pre-game training had yielded a collection of battle-ready men, prepared to do whatever it took for the W. However, we were only mortal, applauding the real winner of the game... hockey. We congratulated the Blundies on their victory, but also took heart from the fact that we left everything on the field... and with a guaranteed social victory that evening, all that was left for us to do was rebalance our blood alcohol content post-drinking ban.

Rory McCabe, Sporadics Captain



Left: Renegades
2026 Varsity squad



Right: The
Spos action
shot during
their Varsity
match vs.
Cambridge



Left:
Renegades
team talk
during
BDOTY

OUHC OUT-TAKES – ENJOY!!



Wishing you all the very best for the rest of 2026!