



# CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY FENCING CLUB

## [CUFC Old Blues Newsletter \(No. 3\)](#)

Dear CUFC Old Blue,

Please read on to find out the results of this year's Old Blues match, BUSA league and individual competitions, details of the upcoming Varsity match and our initial attempts to build up a proper history of the club.

### Old Blues Match Report

Women's Team – Things did not look too promising for the current women's blues squad; their only epeeist had been struck down by illness and they faced a team largely consisting of last year's squad. Starting with the foil, the current blues team of Georgie Osborne, Chie Kobayashi and Rhian Gwilliam took a quick and substantial lead. Despite a few moments where the old blues team of Harriet Brown, Helen Wood and Fran Bedford showed that their experience counted, notably Harriet's regaining of the ground in the last leg, the current blues always kept ahead and ended it 45 - 40 in their favour.

However, with their strongest weapon fenced and the addition of Laura Davidson to the old blues team, the epee match was not going to be easy for the current blues. They were never able to get themselves in a threatening position and the old blues won convincingly, 45 - 36, meaning the match went to the old blues 85 - 81 overall.

Men's Team - Starting with the sabre, the current blues team of Matt O'Connell, Pip Nicolson and Robin Allen had good reason to feel confident being undefeated for over a year and recently topped up with more fresh talent. However, they started slowly against a team of very recent old blues, Paul Kiang, Kiyotaka Tanaka and Michael Pandazis, dropping the first fight. A couple of large scorelines in favour of the current blues followed and once ahead, they pulled away winning 45 - 23.

The foil went much the same way with the current blues team of Alex Most, Patrick Agar and Rob Shaw, despite the odd fightback, looking comfortable to win 45 - 29 against the old blues team of Edward Ben-Nathan, Carl Waldmann and Michael Pandazis.

Finishing off with the epee, where much keenness on the part of the old blues meant that both sides would be fielding two teams. The old blues allocated their teams randomly, so possibly being a little over confident the current blues did the same (a mistake we would regret). Both old blues teams proved to be very strong, with one team of Mark Chacksfield, Mark Freestone and Carl Pereira in the lead from the start to beat Andy Culling, Felix Reide and Chris Aylett 45 - 28. In the other match the current blues team of Mark Adair, Mark Beith and Rob Shaw managed to stay ahead

for the first couple of fights before the vastly more experienced team of John-Jo Hammill, Peter Jacobs and Kiyotaka Tanaka pulled away to win 45 - 30.

Adding all the men's score together, this gave a narrow victory to the current blues 148 - 142. The match was followed by a black tie dinner in St. Catherine's college where, as far as I can remember, a very good time was had by all. I would like to thank everyone who came along; it was very pleasing to see so many people still wanting to maintain ties with the club, and this will now become a regular event. There are also ongoing negotiations with the Oxford old blues to organise a match with them hopefully for sometime in May.

#### Details for 2004 Varsity Match

The 2004 Varsity Match will be held in the hall of the Oxford Union on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February between 10am and 5pm. The men's team is looking for its 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive win and the women's team will be keen to defend last year's hard won title. All support would be welcome.

#### BUSA Individuals

This year's BUSA individual championships produced another good crop of finals places for Cambridge fencers. Tom Plant came 7<sup>th</sup> the men's sabre, Anna Robinson was 5<sup>th</sup> in the women's foil and Georgie Osborne started the medal tally by making the semi-finals of the same weapon. Women's captain, Lisa Hoole, after a very convincing semi-final win over Meg Schofield, was denied the gold by Oxford's Roz Hull in the women's sabre final. In the men's epee, after being seeded 1<sup>st</sup>, Andy Culling fought through to the final where he beat James Taylor 15 - 11, to give CUFC its first individual gold medal for some years.

#### BUSA League

Both men's and women's teams have got off to a good start in this year's BUSA premier division. The men are still currently undefeated, having crushed all their opposition so far (UCL, Oxford, Southampton and Aberystwyth) by margins of over 40 hits. The women have gained well fought victories over UCL, Bristol and Reading but lost to Oxford 116 - 126. However, Oxford's best women are ineligible for Varsity, so they should get their revenge in February.

#### CUFC History

Apart from looking at the varsity shield and the fact that we used to be part of the boxing club, we know very little about the history of CUFC. One of our members is interested in building up a full history of the club, so if anyone knows of any major events in the clubs past or can suggest useful sources then could they email Gianluca ([gr239@cam.ac.uk](mailto:gr239@cam.ac.uk)).

Best wishes,

Andrew Culling (Old Blues Liaison Officer)