

THE UNIVERSITY CROSS-COUNTRY RACES 2024



OXFORD UNIVERSITY CROSS-COUNTRY CLUB v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY HARE AND HOUNDS



From Thames Hare and Hounds' Headquarters,
Memorial Playing Fields, Roehampton Vale
on Saturday, 7th December

ORDER OF EVENTS

| | | |
|-----------|--|----------|
| 1:00 p.m. | 32 nd Old Blues' Race (Mob Match – all alumni welcome) | 4 miles |
| 2:00 p.m. | 48 th Ladies' Race (Eight-a-side, six-to-score) | 4 miles |
| 2:45 p.m. | 133 rd Gentlemen's Race (Eight-a-side, six-to-score) | 7½ miles |

Starters

Ladies' Race: Emma Huepfl (née Slinger) (Jesus)
O.U.C.C.C. 1991

Gentlemen's Race: Richard Ollington (Pembroke)
C.U.H.& H. 2014

England Athletics Event Licence Number: CC2024/1397

www.varsityxc.run



WELCOME

Welcome to the 133rd Gentlemen's and 48th Ladies' University Cross-Country Races. Thames Hare and Hounds is privileged to be hosting them once again to continue a tradition that dates back to 1896. We hope you enjoy the afternoon's sport and what should be two exciting races.

The ladies' race will be started by **Emma Huepfl**, who ran for Oxford in 1991, finishing seventh in a race the Dark Blues lost narrowly by 17 points to 19.

The gentlemen's race will be started by **Richard Ollington**. Richard ran for Cambridge in 2014, finishing 13th on a day when the Dark Blues' strong packing brought them victory by 35 points to 43. Richard is also a former captain of Thames Hare & Hounds, serving for three seasons from 2019 to 2022, including the Covid pandemic period.

The teams this afternoon will be wearing the following colours and numbers:

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cambridge Ladies | White vest and white shorts | 1 – 8 (reserves 9 & 10) |
| Oxford Ladies | White vest and dark blue shorts | 11 – 18 (reserves 19 & 20) |
| Cambridge Gentlemen | White vest and white shorts | 21 – 28 (reserves 29 & 30) |
| Oxford Gentlemen | White vest and dark blue shorts | 31 – 38 (reserves 39 & 40) |

ENGLAND ATHLETICS LICENCE

Today's races have been licensed by England Athletics (**Licence Number: CC2024/1397**). The event officials are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Referee: | Richard Weston Thames Hare & Hounds |
| Race Director: | Simon Molden Hon. Secretary, Thames Hare & Hounds |
| Clerk of the Course: | Andrew Weir President, Thames Hare & Hounds |
| Medical Officer: | Dr. Andrew McLeod Hon. Medical Officer, Thames Hare & Hounds |
| Chief Pioneer: | Michael Farmery, Thames Hare & Hounds |
| Recorders, Timekeepers & Pioneers: | Members of Thames Hare & Hounds |

Website: www.varsityxc.run

CAMBRIDGE LADIES

1. **Niamh Bridson Hubbard** (*Newstead Wood School & Magdalene*)
(2022 – 1st; 2021 – 2nd; 2019 – 1st; 2018 – 3rd; 2017 – 2nd; 2016 – 5th)

Niamh Bridson Hubbard is by far the most experienced runner in the Cambridge side, having notched up six previous appearances, including two individual victories. Last year, she missed out due to European selection. Her form this season suggests she should again be involved at the front of the race, having finished seventh in the senior race at the Liverpool Cross-Challenge.

2. **Eleanor Colbourn** (*St Aidan's C of E High School, Harrogate & Jesus*)
(2023 – 16th & Cheetahs, 8th)

Eleanor Colbourn was a late call-up to the Cambridge team in 2023. This year, fifth place in Cuppers secured her second appearance in the race.

3. **Milly Dickinson** (*Brighton, Hove & Sussex 6th Form College & Caius*)
(2023 – 11th; 2021 – 10th; 2022 – Cheetahs, 5th)

Milly Dickinson is a former captain and another experienced runner for Cambridge, having previously competed in 2021 and 2023. She won the Light Blues' opening fixture of the season – the Megacross Invitational – and followed this up with 23rd in the under 23 race at the Liverpool Cross-Challenge.

4. **Maia Hardman** (*Lewes Old Grammar School & Selwyn*)
(2023 – 10th; 2022 – 11th; 2021 – 13th)

Maia Hardman is another former captain and experienced runner in the Light Blues' team. She finished third, just behind her captain, at Cuppers to secure her fourth appearance in the race.

5. **Lea Meinecke** (*University of Glasgow & Selwyn*)

Lea Meinecke has stepped into the Cambridge team to replace captain Poppy Craig-McFeely, following the latter's European selection. A new arrival at Cambridge this autumn, she finished third in the Megacross Invitational and sixth in Cuppers.

6. **Niamh Thompson** *(Surbiton High School & Homerton)*
(2023 – Cheetahs, 14th; 2022 – Cheetahs, 3rd)

After two years running at second team level, Niamh Thompson has made the step up to the Blues team this year following second place in the Megacross Invitational and fourth in Cuppers.

7. **Stella Wernicke** *(Heidelberg University & Emmanuel)*
(2023 – Cheetahs, 10th)

Stella Wernicke is the second member of the Cambridge team to have moved up from the Cheetahs in 2023, securing her place after finishing sixth in Cuppers. Earlier this year, she registered a time of 2:46 in the London Marathon.

8. **Beatrice Wood** *(South Wilts Grammar School & Lucy Cavendish)*
Having missed out due to European selection and injury for the past two seasons, Beatrice Wood will be making her debut today. However, she is an exceptionally talented runner – as shown by finishing fourth on her leg at the National Cross-Country Relays in November – and should be involved right at the front of today's race.

Reserves:

9. **Beth Rogers** *(Ilkley Grammar School & Jesus)*
(2024 – Cheetahs, 8th)

10. **Rosie Vallance** *(Durham University and Peterhouse)*
(2024 – Cheetahs, 10th; 2023 – Cheetahs, 11th)

- Poppy Craig-McFeely (Captain)** *(Putney High School & Robinson)*
(2023 – 7th; 2022 – 6th)

Today would have been captain Poppy Craig-McFeely's third appearance. However, she has been ruled out following selection for the Great Britain and Northern Ireland team for the European Cross-Country Championships.

OXFORD LADIES

11. **Josephine Auer** *(Magdalen)*
One of four new faces in the Oxford ranks this season, Josephine Auer opened her season by finishing sixth in Cuppers. She followed this up with seventh at the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Championship to secure her place in the team.
12. **Charlotte Buckley** *(Oriel)*
(2022 – 10th; 2021 – 7th; 2023 – Turtles, 1st)
Having missed out on the Oxford Blues team in 2023, Charlotte Buckley has recaptured her form of earlier years and returns to the team. She should be one of Oxford's higher scorers having finished third in Cuppers and 15th in the under 23 race at the Liverpool Cross-Challenge.
13. **Laia Casajoana Guardia** *(St. John's)*
Hailing from Spain, Laia Casajoana Guardia is a new face to the Dark Blues ranks this season. In her two races for Oxford, she finished sixth in Cuppers and then fifth in the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Championship to achieve selection for the Blues team at the first time of asking.
14. **Rebecca Flaherty** *(St. Catherine's)*
Rebecca Flaherty arrived at Oxford this autumn with an impressive track record from school, including finishing 13th in the English Schools Championship in March. She opened her Dark Blue career with victory in Cuppers and then finished eighth in the under 20 race at the Liverpool Cross-Challenge.
15. **Lauren Major** *(Merton)*
(2023 – 5th; 2022 – 7th; 2021 – 8th; 2018 – 7th; 2021 – Turtles, 2013 – C.U. Cheetahs, 5th)
Lauren Major is a member of Thames and the most experienced runner in the Dark Blue octet. She will be notching up her fifth appearance today. Her record in the race is incredibly consistent and eighth place for Thames in the Surrey League Division 1 race in November suggests she should again be one of Oxford's key scorers.

16. **Beth Rawlinson** *(St. Hugh's)*
(2023 – 14th)

Beth Rawlinson will be making her second appearance today, hoping to improve on 14th place on debut last year. She did not compete in either of Oxford's races this autumn; however, ninth place in the Midland Women's League Division 1 race in November was a very strong performance and indicates she should be among the Dark Blue scorers.

17. **Jemima Ridley** *(Lady Margaret Hall)*
(2023 – 12th)

Another runner making her second appearance today, Jemima Ridley will also be looking for a strong run this afternoon. She has been highly placed in both of Oxford's races this season with fourth in Cuppers and third in the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Championship. She also finished tenth in the junior women's race at the re-arranged National in September.

18. **Lauren Russel** *(Balliol)*

The second of two undergraduate freshers, Lauren Russel boasts a similarly impressive school running pedigree to Rebecca Flaherty, having finished seventh in the English Schools Championship. She was second in Cuppers and then just three places behind Flaherty at the Liverpool Cross-Challenge.

Reserves:

19. **Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla (Captain)** *(Trinity)*
(2024 – Turtles, 2nd; 2022 – Turtles, 9th)
20. **Clara Hartley** *(Queen's)*
(2024 – Turtles, 3rd; 2023 – Turtles, 5th)

CAMBRIDGE GENTLEMEN

21. **Cameron Deverill** *(Williamwood High School & St. Catharine's)*
(2023 – Barbarians, 1st)

Cameron Deverill has made the significant step up from third to Blues team in one season. He secured his place after finishing sixth in the Megacross Invitational and seventh in Cuppers.

22. **Thomas Dugré** *(International School Basel & Jesus)*
(2023 – 14th)

Thomas Dugré is making his second appearance and his form suggests that he should be able to improve on 14th place in 2023. This was shown when he opened the season with victory in Cambridge's Megacross Invitational race.

23. **Terry Fawden** *(Loughborough University & Wolfson)*
(2023 – 6th; 2022 – 14th)

Terry Fawden had a very strong run in 2023 to finish sixth for the Light Blues and being heavily involved in the eight-runner pack that ultimately decided the team score. Third place in Cuppers and a very strong run in the rearranged National in September, where he finished 19th, suggests that he should again be in amongst the action.

24. **Joseph Massingham** *(Wickersley School & Sports College & Pembroke)*
(2023 – 2nd; 2021 – 5th; 2019 – 9th; 2018 – 14th; 2017 – 14th)

Joe Massingham is Cambridge's most experienced runner, competing for the sixth time today. Having won Cuppers and run strongly in the various regional and national relay competitions over the autumn, he looks to be in the form to repeat his 2023 performance.

25. **George Ogden** *(Trinity School, Croydon & Trinity)*
(2023 – Spartans, 6th; 2022- Spartans, 5th)

George Ogden is one of two new faces for the Light Blues, having run for the Spartans for the past two seasons. Fifth place in Cuppers was enough to secure his place and he followed this up with 36th in the under 23 race at the Liverpool Cross-Challenge. He should finish among the Cambridge scorers.

26. **Ewan Spencer** *(Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School & Trinity Hall)*
(2022 – 3rd; 2021 – 12th; 2023 – Spartans, 8th)

Ewan Spencer returns to the Light Blue team, having dropped down to the Spartans in 2023. Second place in Cuppers behind Joe Massingham and seventh place on his leg at the National 6-Stage Relay in October suggest that he has recaptured his form of 2022 and he should be one of Cambridge's top scorers.

27. **Thomas Spencer** *(Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School & Christ's)*
(2023 – 15th; 2022 – 10th & Spartans, 1st; 2021 – Spartans, 7th)

Like brother Ewan, Thomas Spencer is making his third appearance in the race. His performance in Cuppers, where he finished two places behind Ewan suggests that he should be looking to improve significantly on 15th place last year.

28. **Max Walk** *(University of Birmingham & Caius)*
(2023 – Spartans, 4th)

Max Walk is the other new face for Cambridge, having been reserve 12 months ago. So far this season, he finished third in the Megacross Invitational and sixth in Cuppers to earn his debut in the Blues race.

Reserves:

29. James Egerton *(The King's School, Macclesfield & Jesus)*
(2021 – 1st; 2019 – 11th; 2024 – Spartans, 8th; 2019 – Spartans, 2nd)

30. Dillon Hobbs *(Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys & Girton)*
(2024 – Spartans, 9th)

OXFORD GENTLEMEN

31. **Alexander Bampton** (*University College, London & Green Templeton*)
(2023 – 10th; 2017, 15th; 2017 – Tortoises, 2nd)

Alex Bampton is one of Oxford's most experienced runners, having first appeared in the race back in 2017. After injury ruled him out in 2022, he returned last year to finish right in amongst the pack. He has raced sparingly this autumn; however, he had a strong run in the Gloucestershire League race in November to finish third.

32. **Alexander Gruen** (*Melbourne Grammar School & Keble*)
(2023 – 3rd; 2019 – 8th; 2017 – Tortoises, 3rd; 2016 – Tortoises, 2nd)

Alex Gruen produced an outstanding run in 2023 to head home the Dark Blues. His only race this autumn has been the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Championship; however, second place in that suggests he should be highly placed again today.

33. **Matthew Kearney** (*Massachusetts Institute of Technology & Magdalen*)

A Rhodes Scholar, Matthew Kearney is one of two Americans in the Oxford octet and has brought with him an impressive university track record. Although only ninth in Cuppers, he moved up very strongly in the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Championship, finishing fourth, to secure his selection.

34. **Joseph Morrow** (*Alcester Grammar School & Queen's*)
(2023 – 13th; 2022 – 2nd; 2021 – 3rd; 2019 – 10th; 2018 – Snails, 11th)

Joe Morrow is the old hand in the Oxford team and will be looking to bounce back after a disappointing run in 2023. Results this season are promising, including second place in Cuppers and 39th in the rearranged National in September. Joe should be back among the top Oxford scorers today.

35. **Christopher Parker** (*Reading Blue Coat School & Corpus Christi*)
(2023 – Tortoises, 5th)

Chris Parker was a reserve last year as a fresher and has moved up strongly in the past 12 months. After finishing third in Cuppers, he won the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Championship, leading home a pack of four Dark Blues. He should be involved at the sharp end of the race.

36. **Jared Ward** *(Brigham Young University & Keble)*

The other American in the Oxford team, Jared Ward arrived at Oxford this autumn bringing with him an impressive international running pedigree. He has a best 5km time of 13:34 and marathon time of 2:09:25, set at Boston in 2019. In 2016, he represented the USA in the Olympic Marathon in Rio, finishing sixth. For the Dark Blues, he won Cuppers in October and he should be right up at the front of today's race.

37. **Nicholas Whittaker** *(University of the Witwatersrand & Wolfson)*

South African, Nicholas Whittaker, adds to the international flavour of the Oxford team and is another newcomer. He has recorded a personal best in the 1500m of 3:44.89 and marked his arrival for the Dark Blues when he finished third in the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Championship.

38. **Thomas Wood** *(Ysgol Santes Ffraid & St. Anne's)*
(2023 – 5th; 2022 – 4th; 2021 – 8th; 2019 – Tortoises, 14th)

Thomas Wood is another experienced face in the Oxford team and will be making his fourth appearance. He has not raced so far this autumn; however, his prior experience should stand him in good stead for this afternoon's race.

Reserves:

39. **Thomas Renshaw** *(Hale School, Western Australia & St. Hugh's)*
(2023 – 9th; 2022 – 9th; 2021 – 7th; 2024 – Tortoises, 1st; 2019 – Tortoises, 3rd)

40. **Jared Martin** *(Regent House Grammar School, Newtownards & St. Cross)*
(2023 – 8th; 2022 – 15th; 2024 – Tortoises, 2nd; 2021 – Snails, 2nd)

Captain

Samuel Waite *(Worcester)*
(2023 – Snails, 16th; 2022 – Tortoises, 14th)

THE 2023 UNIVERSITY RACES

(held over Thames Hare and Hounds' courses at Roehampton Vale on Saturday, 2nd December)

The 47th Ladies' Race: Oxford won by 32 points to 46

| | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1. | P.R.A.Barker | Robinson | Cambridge | 23:12 |
| 2. | E.J.Apsley | St. Hilda's | Oxford | 24:19 |
| 3. | N.S.M.Kingston | Queen's | Oxford | 24:44 |
| 4. | M.L.Williams | Corpus Christi | Oxford | 24:50 |
| 5. | L.Major | Merton | Oxford | 25:00 |
| 6. | M.L.McDonald | Linacre | Oxford | 25:03 |
| 7. | P.E.G.Craig-McFeely | Robinson | Cambridge | 25:09 |
| 8. | L.T.M.Lewis | St. Catharine's | Cambridge | 25:13 |
| 9. | G.L.Shanahan | Trinity | Cambridge | 25:25 |
| 10. | M.A.Hardman | Selwyn | Cambridge | 25:32 |
| 11. | M.D.E.Dickinson* | Gonville and Caius | Cambridge | 25:40 |
| 12. | J.E.Ridley | Lady Margaret Hall | Oxford | 25:48 |
| 13. | H.M.Sprosen | Christ's | Cambridge | 25:54 |
| 14. | B.K.Rawlinson | St. Hugh's | Oxford | 26:14 |
| 15. | R.S.Woolfe | Keble | Oxford | 26:16 |
| 16. | E.Colbourn | Jesus | Cambridge | 27:02 |

(* denotes team captain; R.M.Paton (Jesus) was Oxford captain)

The 132nd Gentlemen's Race: Cambridge won by 38 points to 42

| | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|-----------|-------|
| 1. | J.S.G.Dempsey | Girton | Cambridge | 38:36 |
| 2. | J.T.Massingham | Pembroke | Cambridge | 39:06 |
| 3. | A.J.Gruen | Keble | Oxford | 39:19 |
| 4. | P.W.Molloy | Trinity | Cambridge | 39:40 |
| 5. | T.J.Wood | St. Anne's | Oxford | 39:41 |
| 6. | T.Fawden | Wolfson | Cambridge | 39:42 |
| 7. | I.M.Barnes | Oriel | Oxford | 39:46 |
| 8. | J.A.C.Martin* | St. Cross | Oxford | 39:47 |
| 9. | T.D.Renshaw | St. Hugh's | Oxford | 39:49 |
| 10. | A.C.Bampton | Green Templeton | Oxford | 39:50 |
| 11. | L.Hollom* | Trinity | Cambridge | 39:51 |
| 12. | N.F.Moulton | St. Antony's | Oxford | 40:13 |
| 13. | J.D.Morrow | Queen's | Oxford | 40:21 |
| 14. | T.E.R.Dugré | Jesus | Cambridge | 40:30 |
| 15. | T.P.Spencer | Christ's | Cambridge | 40:39 |
| 16. | J.W.Rennie | Jesus | Cambridge | 41:40 |

(* denotes team captain)

THE 2024 2nd-4th TEAM UNIVERSITY RACES

(held over O.U.C.C.'s courses at Shotover Country Park on Saturday 30th November)

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 80 th Tortoises-Spartans Race | Oxford won by 21 points to 63 |
| 73 rd Snails-Barbarians Race | Oxford won by 23 points to 65 |
| 66 th Gentlemen's 4 th Team Race | Oxford won by 2,324 points to 1,841 |
| 41 st Turtles-Cheetahs Race | Oxford won by 27 points to 55 |
| 37 th Ladies' 3 rd Team Race | Oxford won by 2,496 points to 1,633 |

PREVIEW OF THE 2024 UNIVERSITY RACES

The 2024 University Races present an intriguing prospect with the Dark Blues looking potentially to be in a position to secure their first double victory since 2017.

The 48th Ladies' Race should prove to be a tight affair. The Light Blues' prospects have been hampered by the loss of captain Poppy Craig-McFeely (Robinson) to European selection. However, in 2022 victor Niamh Bridson Hubbard (Magdalene) – making her seventh appearance – and Beatrice Wood (Lucy Cavendish), they have two runners who should feature strongly at the front. Behind them, Oxford will fancy being able to pack their runners. They have two very talented undergraduate freshers in Rebecca Flaherty (St. Catherine's) and Lauren Russel (Balliol) as well as the experienced Charlotte Buckley (Oriel) who will very likely lead their challenge. Behind them, their octet has a very solid look to it. Although two former Light Blue captains in Milly Dickinson (Caius) and Maia Hardman (Selwyn) should also be in amongst the thick of the battle, on paper the Cambridge team has a longer tail. As a consequence, if the Dark Blues are able to stack their runners solidly throughout the middle order, they should just about shade the team honours and secure their first back-to-back victories since 2017. However, the outcome is far from certain and an exciting contest should play out.

In the 133rd Gentlemen's Race, on paper at least, it appears that after four consecutive defeats this might finally be Oxford's year again. The fact that they have been able to leave four resident Blues out of their team and their emphatic victories last weekend point to a formidable strength in depth this year. They are also able to bring in four very strong debutants, the most outstanding of which is former international marathon runner and Olympian Jared Ward (Keble). Chris Parker (Corpus Christi) has improved significantly from 12 months ago and has registered impressive finishes in both of Oxford's races this season. To add to the newcomers are four experienced returning Blues. Perhaps the pick of them are Joe Morrow (Queen's), who, after a blip in 2023, looks to be back in the form that brought him a second-place finish in 2022, and Australian Alex Gruen (Keble) who was third last year.

The Light Blue team also looks to be strong on paper, with Joe Massingham (Pembroke), Terry Fawden (Wolfson) and the Spencer brothers all being in good form and likely to feature strongly at the front of the race. However, a bit like their ladies' team, on current form they look perhaps to have a slightly longer tail than the Dark Blues. Oxford's top-end firepower backed up by consistent strength down the order should make them a difficult team to beat and they head into the contest as marginal favourites; however, the result is far from certain and another enthralling contest should ensue.

UNIVERSITY RACE COURSES

The courses currently used for the University Races were introduced in 2000. Both start and finish at the Thames Hare and Hounds' Headquarters at Roehampton Vale.

Ladies' course (4 miles):

Referring to the map on the next page, the race proceeds as follows:

Start – A – B – C – D – E – F – G – H – I – J – K – L – M – V – W – X – Y – Z – Z1 – Z2 – Finish

Gentlemen's course (7½ miles):

The race proceeds as follows:

Start – A – B – C – D – E – F – G – H – I – J – K – L – M – N – O – P – Q – R – S – T – U – H – I – J – K – L – M – V – W – X – Y – Z – Z1 – Z2 – Finish

The start and finish will be on the west side of Beverley Brook just across the brick bridge adjacent to the Thames clubhouse. The courses feature a number of prominent landmarks. The infamous watersplash is reached shortly after the start, runners crossing Beverley Brook from the Commons Extension playing fields. The Windmill provides a good viewing point to spectators. The ladies' race passes here once and the gentlemen's race three times. Refreshments can be enjoyed at the café. The muddiest part of the course is invariably the dreaded Butts. Only a mile or so from the finish, the boggy conditions sap the strength from the toughest of competitors.

Spectators who follow the races round the Common are asked to be aware of their position at all times and avoid causing irritation to other users. The Common is shared by many sports, including a golf course, the fairways of which may not be immediately obvious. While the races themselves do not cross any of them, spectators are likely to if they are following the races.

If you are following the race on bicycle, please take care to keep to the designated cycle routes on the Common. We also ask you keep off the sports pitches on the Memorial Playing Fields.

Our ability to host these races on the Common depends on your co-operation.

Thank you.

Bethanie Murray

Captain

Thames Hare and Hounds

UNIVERSITY RACE COURSES

ROEHAMPTON VALE & WIMBLEDON COMMON

Exact locations of the points on the course can be found using the QR code below



*Based on the 1995 map drawn by
Robin Thomas*

FROM THE ARCHIVES

10 years ago

The 124th Gentlemen's Race turned out to be something of a thriller. The Light Blues entered the contest off the back of three consecutive wins and as firm favourites. However, despite dominating at the front, with Alex Short (Robinson) and Lewis Lloyd (Pembroke), Oxford packed seven of their eight runners in the next eight places to take the team honours by 35 points to 43. In their team was Will Ryle-Hodges (St. Antony's), running for them for the first of two times before returning to the Light Blues and ultimately notching up a record nine appearances.

The 39th Ladies' Race was sadly memorable for entirely different reasons as seven of the leading runners veered off course in the closing stages, taking a shorter route home. However, with six being Light Blues, the race was awarded to them. The individual honours were given to Oxford's Sophia Saller (St. Catherine's) who led for much of the way and completed the correct course.

25 years ago

In the 24th Ladies' Race, the Dark Blues produced another dominant performance to register their seventh win in a row. Lucy Hasell (Queen's) recorded her second individual victory and captain Ellen O'Hare (Merton) made the last of her four appearances for them. She moved to Cambridge in 2000 and making another four to become the overall record holder in the ladies' contest.

In the 109th Gentlemen's Race, what looked on paper to be a close contest did not materialise, as Cambridge ran out comfortable winners by 35 points to 48, despite Oxford having the first two home in Nick Talbot and Jeremy Bradley (both University). However, with the Light Blues packing their entire team in the next ten places, the result was never in doubt.

50 years ago

In the 84th Gentlemen's Race, Oxford finally ended a sequence of five Light Blues victories with a strong 30 points to 49 victory. Leading the way home jointly were Andy Etchells (St. John's) and future National Cross-Country champion Julian Goater (St. Edmund Hall). As Etchells commented to the *Oxford Mail*, "At the six mile mark Julian and I agreed to go in together. When you have trained all term and run a whole match it's difficult to fight for first position."

75 years ago

As reported by *Athletics Weekly*, the 59th Gentlemen's Race proved a much closer affair than anticipated, with the favoured Dark Blues winning by the relatively small margin of 35 points to 43. First home was Roger Bannister (Exeter) and back in fifth was one of his partners – although a rival on this day - in his future successful attempt on the 4-minute mile barrier, Chris Brasher (St. John's).

100 years ago

In the penultimate race over the old Roehampton course before the move to Horton Kirby in 1926, the Light Blues secured a very comfortable 20 points to 35 victory. Ralph Starr (Christ's) narrowly beat the only Dark Blue in the top five, Cedric Morgan (Christ Church) to first place.

125 years ago

Led home by the exceptionally talented Ernest Pumphrey (Christ's), the Light Blues unexpectedly secured a second 'lowest possible' score in three years, filling places one to five in what was then a five-a-side contest. The Cambridge President, Robert Conway (St. Catharine's) put the margin of the Dark Blues' defeat down to their choice of wearing rubber-soled shoes, rather than spikes.



Top left:
Ernest Pumphrey
(Christ's), winner of
the 1899 and 1900
races, pictured
leading the famous
Wilson Run at
Sedbergh School.

Top middle:
Ralph Starr
(Christ's) winning
the 1924 race with
runner-up Cedric
Morgan (Christ
Church) in the
distance.

Top right:
Lucy Hasell
(Queen's) winning
the 1999 Ladies'
Race.

Middle:
Roger Bannister
(Exeter) winning the
1949 race.

Bottom:
The start of the 2014
Gentlemen's Race.

RACE STATISTICS

Gentlemen's Race

Of the 132 gentlemen's races between 1880 and 2023, Cambridge have won 67 and Oxford 65. The longest sequence of victories is seven by Cambridge from 1881 to 1887 and by Oxford from 1974 to 1980.

Under the original five-a-side, five-to-score race format, the biggest victories recorded were Cambridge's whitewashes (15 points to 40) in 1897 and 1899 and Oxford's in 1901 and 1910. Under the six-a-side, five-to-score format, the biggest victories were Oxford's two whitewashes in 1926 and 1932. In 1932, Oxford also succeeded in getting their spare man home in front of all the Cambridge scorers. Under the short-lived six-a-side, six-to-score format, the biggest victory was by Oxford in 1938 (32 points to 46). Under the present eight-a-side, six-to-score format, the biggest victories have been Oxford's in 1952 (21 points to 66) and Cambridge's in 1961 (22 points to 61).

The highest number of individual wins in the race is four by Simon Mugglestone (Hertford and Keble, Oxford) from 1987 to 1990. Including joint victories, Oxford has supplied 85 winners of the race to Cambridge's 61.

The highest number of individual appearances is nine, held by William Ryle-Hodges (Queens' & Magdalene, Cambridge & St. Antony's, Oxford), from 2011 to 2019. The first gentleman to run for both sides was Nick Dorey, who competed for Queens', Cambridge, (1977-79) and New College, Oxford, (1980).

In terms of participants, the most successful college at Oxford is New College (72 runners since 1880) and at Cambridge it is St. John's (98). In terms of race winners, the most successful are Magdalen (12) for Oxford, and Christ's (11) for Cambridge.

Ladies' Race

Of the 47 ladies' races between 1976 and 2023, Oxford has won 27 and Cambridge 20. There was an unofficial race in 1975, which was won by Oxford. The longest sequence of victories is nine by Oxford from 1993 to 2001. Cambridge's longest winning run was seven from 1980 to 1986.

The biggest victory in the series was Oxford's whitewash in 1976 (10 points to 34).

The highest number of individual wins in the race is three by Vicki Vaughan (Corpus Christi, Oxford) in 1986, 1987 and 1989. The first lady to run for both sides was Cathy Meunier, who competed for St. Hugh's, Oxford (1977) and Churchill, Cambridge (1978). Emma Coleman (Newnham, Cambridge & Magdalen, Oxford) became the first, and so far only, runner in both the gentlemen's and ladies' races to win for both sides. She won for the Light Blues in 1991 and for the Dark Blues in 1993. Oxford has supplied 21 race winners and Cambridge has supplied 26.

The highest number of individual appearances in the race is eight by Ellen Leggate (Merton and Peterhouse); four for Oxford from 1996 to 1999 and four for Cambridge from 2000 to 2003.

In terms of participants, the most successful colleges at Oxford are Merton and St. Hugh's (19 runners each since 1976) and at Cambridge it is Newnham (29). In terms of race winners, the most successful are Corpus Christi (three), for Oxford, and Downing and Trinity (three each), for Cambridge.

PREVIOUS RESULTS

Gentlemen

Cambridge leads Oxford by 67 wins to 65

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------------|--|---------|-------------------------|
| 2023 Cambridge | 38-42 | J.S.G.Dempsey (C) | 1967 Cambridge | 39-41 | H.Altmann (O) |
| 2022 Cambridge | 38-40 | J.S.G.Dempsey (C) | 1966 Oxford | 27-55 | J.Godding (O) |
| 2021 Cambridge | 35-43 | J.M.Edgerton (C) | 1965 Oxford | 25-52 | H.Altmann (O) |
| 2020 | <i>No race due to the Covid-19 pandemic</i> | | | | |
| 2019 Cambridge | 32-47 | P.A.Crout (C) | 1964 Oxford | 38-41 | A.I.C.Heron (C) |
| 2018 Oxford | 30-50 | J.R.G.Parkinson (O) | 1963 Cambridge | 38-41 | T.F.K.Johnston (C) |
| 2017 Oxford | 37-41 | J.R.G.Parkinson (O) | 1962 Cambridge | 23-58 | D.M.Turner (C) |
| 2016 Cambridge | 33-45 | O.J.S.Fox (C) | 1961 Cambridge | 22-61 | D.M.Turner (C) |
| 2015 Oxford | 27-55 | M.W.Unterreiner (O) | 1960 Cambridge | 27-57 | T.J.Briault (C) |
| 2014 Oxford | 35-43 | A.M.Short (C) | 1959 Cambridge | 37-42 | S.H.James (O) |
| 2013 Cambridge | 30-52 | L.A.Lloyd (C) | 1958 Oxford | 36-42 | M.J.Palmer (C) |
| 2012 Cambridge | 38-42 | J.W.Wiebel (O) | 1957 Cambridge | 27-55 | M.J.Palmer (C) |
| 2011 Cambridge | 35-43 | R.C.Franzese (O) | 1956 Cambridge | 32-48 | M.J.Palmer (C) |
| 2010 Oxford | 29-52 | A.R.Heyes (O) | 1955 Oxford | 37-41 | =I.H.Boyd (O) |
| 2009 Oxford | 28-52 | D.J.Bruce (O) | | | =A.D.Gordon (O) |
| 2008 Oxford | 27-53 | R.C.Franzese (O) | 1954 Oxford | 29-49 | =I.H.Boyd (O) |
| 2007 Cambridge | 32-47 | P.Natali (C) | | | =C.W.Suddaby (O) |
| 2006 Cambridge | 35-43 | P.Natali (C) | | | =A.J.Weekes-Pearson (O) |
| 2005 Oxford | 30-51 | J.E.Blackledge (O) | 1953 Oxford | 29-50 | I.H.Boyd (O) |
| 2004 Oxford | 38-42 | F.K.Thompson (O) | 1952 Oxford | 21-66 | =C.J.Chataway (O) |
| 2003 Cambridge | 37-43 | F.K.Thompson (O) | | | =D.C.Law |
| 2002 Oxford | 29-49 | F.K.Thompson (O) | | | =A.J.Weekes-Pearson (O) |
| 2001 Oxford | 32-46 | J.T.S.Brooks (O) | 1951 Oxford | 27-51 | C.J.Chataway (O) |
| 2000 Cambridge | 37-41 | N.P.Talbot (O) | 1950 Cambridge | 34-44 | C.J.Chataway (O) |
| 1999 Cambridge | 35-48 | N.P.Talbot (O) | 1949 Oxford | 35-43 | R.G.Bannister (O) |
| 1998 Oxford | 35-45 | D.R.Leggate (C) | 1948 Oxford | 36-42 | J.H.Scott-Wilson (O) |
| 1997 Cambridge | 31-48 | A.B.Hutchinson (C) | 1947 Oxford | 17-38 | =T.P.E.Curry (O) |
| 1996 Oxford | 38-43 | D.R.Leggate (C) | | | =N.M.Green (O) |
| 1995 Cambridge | 26-54 | D.E.Naylor (C) | | | =J.F.Pollard (O) |
| 1994 Cambridge | 29½-49½ | R.W.Collier (O) | 1946 Cambridge | 26-29 | =G.Ridding (O) |
| 1993 Cambridge | 25-59 | I.R.Harkness (C) | 1945 Cambridge | 26-29 | T.P.E.Curry (O) |
| 1992 Cambridge | 32-51 | S.D.S.Baines (O) | | | D.A.Bond (C) |
| 1991 Oxford | 25-55 | S.D.S.Baines (O) | <i>1939-45 No races due to Second World War.</i> | | |
| 1990 Cambridge | 37-43 | S.J.Muggleston (O) | <i>Six unofficial wartime races held (see below)</i> | | |
| 1989 Oxford | 25-56 | S.J.Muggleston (O) | 1938 Oxford | 32-46 | P.D.Marrian (O) |
| 1988 Oxford | 29-50 | S.J.Muggleston (O) | 1937 Cambridge | 34-44 | E.C.Weir (C) |
| 1987 Oxford | 27-55 | S.J.Muggleston (O) | 1936 Cambridge | 24-31 | E.C.Weir (C) |
| 1986 Oxford | 33-45 | R.D.Nerurkar (O) | 1935 Oxford | 27-28 | A.A.Robertson (O) |
| 1985 Oxford | 27-57 | J.D.Barton (C) | 1934 Cambridge | 23-32 | R.M.Barrer (C) |
| 1984 Oxford | 31-52 | J.D.Barton (C) | 1933 Oxford | 20-35 | P.J.Albery (O) |
| 1983 Cambridge | 33-45 | J.D.Barton (C) | 1932 Oxford | 15-40 | =J.E.Loveloock (O) |
| 1982 Cambridge | 39-40 | N.Thin (C) | | | =C.J.Mabey (O) |
| 1981 Cambridge | 21-57 | N.Thin (C) | 1931 Oxford | 20-35 | J.F.Cornes (O) |
| 1980 Oxford | 25-54 | N.C.S.Brawn (O) | 1930 Oxford | 26-29 | C.W.Benson (C) |
| 1979 Oxford | 37-41 | N.C.S.Brawn (O) | 1929 Cambridge | 21-34 | =J.R.Croggon (C) |
| 1978 Oxford | 35-45 | N.C.S.Brawn (O) | | | =R.C.J.Goode (C) |
| 1977 Oxford | 26-57 | =N.C.S.Brawn (O) | | | =A.N.Skelton (C) |
| | | =W.A.Ewers (O) | 1928 Cambridge | 23½-31½ | =E.E.Cowburn (C) |
| 1976 Oxford | 31-48 | W.A.Ewers (O) | | | =A.N.Skelton (C) |
| 1975 Oxford | 29-53 | W.A.Ewers (O) | 1927 Cambridge | 27-28 | W.A.M.Edwards (O) |
| 1974 Oxford | 30-49 | =A.J.Etchells (O) | 1926 Oxford | 15-40 | W.A.M.Edwards (O) |
| | | =J.N.Goater (O) | 1925 Cambridge | 23-32 | T.C.Fooks (C) |
| 1973 Cambridge | 33-45 | J.N.Goater (O) | 1924 Cambridge | 20-35 | R.S.Starr (C) |
| 1972 Cambridge | 37-42 | C.J.Garforth (C) | 1923 Oxford | 22-33 | T.C.Fooks (C) |
| 1971 Cambridge | 39-39* | A.T.Moore (O) | 1922 Oxford | 17-38 | N.A.McInnes (O) |
| 1970 Cambridge | 29-57 | A.T.Moore (O) | 1921 Cambridge | 27-28 | W.R.Seagrove (C) |
| 1969 Cambridge | 40-40* | R.A.Steele (O) | 1920 Oxford | 21-34 | E.A.Montague (O) |
| 1968 Oxford | 28-58 | J.P.Valentine (O) | 1919 Cambridge | 22-33 | E.A.Montague (O) |

1914-18 No races due to the Great War

| | | |
|----------------|-------|----------------------|
| 1913 Cambridge | 26-39 | G.M.Sproule (O) |
| 1912 Oxford | 24-31 | G.M.Sproule (O) |
| 1911 Oxford | 16-39 | C.H.A.Porter (O) |
| 1910 Oxford | 15-40 | A.W.Clemes (O) |
| 1909 Oxford | 20-35 | R.E.Knight (O) |
| 1908 Oxford | 22-33 | A.W.Clemes (O) |
| 1907 Cambridge | 27-28 | E.C.Inman (C) |
| 1906 Cambridge | 27-28 | F.M.Edwards (C) |
| 1905 Cambridge | 23-32 | A.H.Pearson (C) |
| 1904 Cambridge | 19-36 | A.R.Churchill (C) |
| 1903 Cambridge | 21-34 | A.R.Churchill (C) |
| 1902 Oxford | 22-33 | H.W.Gregson (C) |
| 1901 Oxford | 15-40 | E.A.Dawson (O) |
| 1900 Cambridge | 25-30 | C.E.Pumphrey (C) |
| 1899 Cambridge | 15-40 | C.E.Pumphrey (C) |
| 1898 Oxford | 25-30 | E.A.Dawson (O) |
| 1897 Cambridge | 15-40 | W.W.Gibberd (C) |
| 1896 Cambridge | 20-35 | W.W.Gibberd (C) |
| 1895 Cambridge | 23-32 | W.H.Whitelaw (O) |
| 1894 Oxford | 22-33 | W.H.Whitelaw (O) |
| 1893 Oxford | 24-31 | C.C.Angell (C) |
| 1892 Oxford | 21-34 | W.F.M.Copeland (C) |
| 1891 Cambridge | 20-35 | R.F.G.Major (C) |
| 1891 Oxford** | 20-35 | T.Colbatch-Clark (C) |
| 1889 Oxford | 18-37 | W.Pollock Hill (O) |
| 1888 Oxford | 21-34 | W.Pollock Hill (O) |
| 1887 Cambridge | 26-29 | H.E.Soper (C) |
| 1886 Cambridge | 23-32 | W.Pollock Hill (O) |
| 1885 Cambridge | 24-31 | D.E.Payn (C) |
| 1884 Cambridge | 23-32 | L.W.Reed (C) |

| | | |
|----------------|-------|----------------------|
| 1883 Cambridge | 19-36 | L.W.Reed (C) |
| 1882 Cambridge | 22-33 | W.A.Rice (C) |
| 1881 Cambridge | 24-31 | G.F.Wooldridge (O) |
| 1880 Oxford | 23-32 | C.W.Grinstead (O)*** |

Unofficial wartime series, 1940-45:

| | | |
|----------------|-------|---------------------|
| 1945 Cambridge | 37-41 | R.E.J.Ibbotson (C) |
| 1944 Cambridge | 37-41 | J.C.C.Walden (O) |
| 1942 Cambridge | 27-51 | J.W.Stone (C) |
| 1942 Oxford | 27-51 | R.B.Martin (O) |
| 1941 Cambridge | 32-46 | J.E.L.Pemberton (O) |
| 1940 Cambridge | 36-42 | H.C.Still (C) |

* In 1969 and 1971, Cambridge won by closing its team first.

** In 1890, Oxford and Cambridge approached Thames Hare and Hounds and asked them to host the race over their Roehampton course and it was staged on 25th November. Unfortunately, it turned into a fiasco as the trail was lost by the runners in the section between Coombe Hill and Raynes Park and a *no race* was declared. It was re-run at Oxford on 11th February 1891.

*** For many years, A.F.Hernaman (O) was credited as race winner; however, this is an error. He finished second.

Ladies

Oxford leads Cambridge by 27 wins to 20 (Oxford won the unofficial race in 1975)

| | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 2023 Oxford | 32-46 | P.R.A.Barker (C) | 1999 Oxford | 12-29 | L.E.Hasell (O) |
| 2022 Cambridge | 29-50 | M.N.Bridson Hubbard (C) | 1998 Oxford | 12-28 | L.E.Hasell (O) |
| 2021 Oxford | 36-44 | N.E.Scott (C) | 1997 Oxford | 12-26 | K.W.T.Skorupska (O) |
| 2020 <i>No race due to the Covid-19 pandemic</i> | | | 1996 Oxford | 15-21 | S.J.Cook (O) |
| 2019 Cambridge | 39-41 | M.N.Bridson Hubbard (C) | 1995 Oxford | 12-25 | N.J.Lynch (O) |
| 2018 Cambridge | 33-46 | N.E.Scott (C) | 1994 Oxford | 10-29 | H.Moulder (O) |
| 2017 Oxford | 23-34 | F.V.Scrafton (O) | 1993 Oxford | 14-22 | E.E.Coleman (O) |
| 2016 Oxford | 21-34 | S.M.F.Saller (O) | 1992 Cambridge | 12-28 | C.E.Fothergill (C) |
| 2015 Cambridge | 23-38 | E.M.Ruane (C) | 1991 Cambridge | 17-19 | E.E.Coleman (C) |
| 2014 Cambridge | <i>No score*</i> | S.M.F.Saller (O) | 1990 Oxford | 10-31 | J.D.Dering (O) |
| 2013 Cambridge | 12-30 | L.M.Gossage (C) | 1989 Oxford | 12-29 | V.E.Vaughan (O) |
| 2012 Cambridge | 15-22 | A.L.Greggor (C) | 1988 Oxford | 17-20 | M.C.Lavers (C) |
| 2011 Oxford | 14-25 | L.M.Gossage (C) | 1987 Oxford | 15-21 | V.E.Vaughan (O) |
| 2010 Oxford | 10-32 | R.S.Deegan (O) | 1986 Cambridge | 19-19** | V.E.Vaughan (O) |
| 2009 Oxford | 17-21 | N.Taschimowitz (C) | 1985 Cambridge | 11-27 | C.J.Shelley (C) |
| 2008 Oxford | 15-24 | M.Sikes (O) | 1984 Cambridge | 11½-30 | B.A.O'Neill (C) |
| 2007 Oxford | 13-29 | C.A.Birch (O) | 1983 Cambridge | 10-26 | H.L.Shaw (C) |
| 2006 Cambridge | 14-22 | P.H.R.Keen (C) | 1982 Cambridge | 11-25**** | E.C.Hand (C) |
| 2005 Oxford | 11-31 | C.A.Birch (O) | 1981 Cambridge | 13-28 | S.A.Hales (C) |
| 2004 Oxford | 10-29 | A.Beverly (O) | 1980 Cambridge | 12-29 | J.Lewtas (C) |
| 2003 Cambridge | 16-20 | J.H.Bleasdale (C) | 1979 Oxford | 18-18**** | J.Lewtas (C) |
| 2002 Cambridge | 13-26 | E.J.Leggate (C) | 1978 Cambridge | 13-26 | S.F.Parker (C) |
| 2001 Oxford | 16-21 | E.J.Leggate (C) | 1977 Oxford | 17-19 | K.E.Tufnell (C) |
| 2000 Oxford | 18-19 | K.W.T.Skorupska (O) | 1976 Oxford | 10-34 | L.Wightman (O) |
| | | | 1975 Oxford | 7-14 | C.J.Meunier (O) |

* Cambridge was comfortably ahead in the team race when several runners went off course. S.M.F.Saller was awarded the individual victory.

** In 1986, Cambridge won by closing its team first.

*** No score declared after a protest from Oxford about pacing of Cambridge runners by supporters.

**** In 1979, Oxford won by closing its team first.

Old Blues

Oxford leads Cambridge by 18 wins to 13

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| 2023 Cambridge | 143-209 | J.Carr (C) | 2003 Oxford | 32-46 | N.P.Talbot (O) |
| 2022 Oxford | 147-230 | J.M.Millar (O) | 2002 Cambridge | 109-134 | D.E.Naylor (C) |
| 2021 Oxford | 160-171 | J.M.Millar (O) | 2001 Cambridge | 39-66 | D.E.Naylor (C) |
| 2020 | <i>No race due to Covid-19 pandemic</i> | | | | |
| 2019 Oxford | 180-186 | W.J.A.Christofi (O) | 2000 Cambridge | 81-131 | D.E.Naylor (C) |
| 2018 Cambridge | 98-158 | M.H.Chandler (O) | 1999 | <i>No race*</i> | |
| 2017 Cambridge | 123-183 | A.M.Short (C) | 1998 | <i>No race*</i> | |
| 2016 Cambridge | 114-192 | T.D.Frith (O) | 1997 Oxford | 45-92 | R.D.Nerurkar (O) |
| 2015 Oxford | 223-291 | W.J.Mackay (C) | 1996 Oxford | 127-127 | J.W.Herries (C) |
| 2014 Cambridge | 220-247 | M.R.Leach (C) | 1995 Cambridge | 23-34 | A.J.Barber (C) |
| 2013 Oxford | 122-186 | D.J.Bruce (O) | 1994 Cambridge | 116-241 | D.A.Bond (C) |
| 2012 Oxford | 96-246 | F.K.Thompson (O) | 1993 Oxford | 96-172 | R.D.Nerurkar (O) |
| 2011 Oxford | 48-181 | D.J.Bruce (O) | 1992 Cambridge | 407-415 | S.C.Nash (C) |
| 2010 Oxford | 162-244 | B.Moreau (O) | 1991 Cambridge | 48-62 | A.N.J.Robinson (O) |
| 2009 Oxford | 98-165 | I.D.Kimpton (O) | 1990 Oxford | 37-40 | R.D.Nerurkar (O) |
| 2008 Oxford | 38-40 | A.D.Hennessy (O) | * There were no contests in 1998 and 1999 due to problems associated with holding three races over the old courses on the same afternoon and the disruption it caused to the Common's golfers. | | |
| 2007 Oxford | 97-114 | M.J.Bishop (O) | | | |
| 2006 Oxford | 312-354 | D.A.Talbot (C) | | | |
| 2005 Cambridge | 137-166 | D.A.Talbot (C) | | | |
| 2004 Oxford | 90-120 | N.P.Talbot (O) | | | |

Since 1880, the race has been staged at a number of venues:

- 1880-1895 Oxford (even years) and Cambridge (odd years) hosted the race alternately
- 1896-1925 Thames H&H's course from the King's Head in Roehampton village to the Old Well House on Putney Heath
- 1926-38 Horton Kirby course starting and finishing at Westminster Mill
- 1940-44 Wartime races - Oxford (Feb 1940, Feb 1942, Feb 1944) and Cambridge (Feb 1941, November 1942) alternated hosting. In February 1945, the race returned to Roehampton
- 1945-66 Thames H&H's Roehampton course starting and finishing at the Big Holly Bush
- 1967-69 Thames H&H's Roehampton course starting and finishing on the Common side of the pedestrian underpass where Roehampton Lane joins the A3
- 1970-74 Thames H&H's Roehampton course starting and finishing at the War Memorial on Putney Heath
- 1975-date Thames H&H's Roehampton Vale course starting and finishing at the club's new headquarters on the Memorial Playing Fields.

THAMES HARE AND HOUNDS' WORLD ATHLETICS HERITAGE PLAQUE



The following notice appeared in *The Sportsman* on 3rd October 1868:

THAMES HARE AND HOUNDS

“A handicap ‘paper hunt’ will take place on Saturday 17th October, starting from the King’s Head, Roehampton Bottom (one mile from Barnes Station) at 4.30 p.m. (3.45 p.m. train from Waterloo). Hounds, who must be introduced by some member of the Thames Rowing Club or belong to an athletic club, rowing club, school, etc., will be roughly handicapped. A pewter will be given to the hound first to reach each hare.”

This was the first run of Thames Hare and Hounds, making us the oldest cross-country club in the world and we celebrated our 150th season in 2017-18.

The club provides competition for men and women of all standards on the road and country. Events range from club handicaps to regional and national championships. There are also friendly “mob matches” against other local clubs and a 5 mile race every second Sunday morning of the month which normally attracts 100 or more participants.

The club consistently fields full teams in regional and national events at senior and veteran level as well as competing in the high-quality men’s and ladies’ Surrey Cross-Country Leagues. In January 2019, our ladies’ team won the Southern Cross-Country Championships at Parliament Hill.

In addition to competition there are regular social occasions. As well as more formal functions such as the Annual Dinner and the Summer Party, smaller events are arranged throughout the year on a more impromptu basis.

In recognition of our role in the early development of cross-country, on 9th December 2021, we were honoured to be named as one of seven new recipients of a **World Athletics Heritage Plaque**. The programme was inaugurated by World Athletics President Sebastian Coe on 2nd December 2018 and is a location-based recognition awarded for:

“an outstanding contribution to the worldwide history and development of the sport of track & field athletics and of out of stadia athletics disciplines such as cross country, mountain, road, trail and ultra-running, and race walking.”

For further information about the club, please see our website (www.thameshareandhounds.org.uk) or contact one of the below:

Bethanie Murray (Club Captain)
Macgregor Cox (Men’s’ Captain)
Simon Molden (Secretary & Club Archivist)

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THAMES HARE AND HOUNDS 2024