

THE UNIVERSITY CROSS-COUNTRY RACES 2025



OXFORD UNIVERSITY CROSS-COUNTRY CLUB

v

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY HARE AND HOUNDS



From Thames Hare and Hounds' Headquarters,
Memorial Playing Fields, Roehampton Vale
on Saturday, 6th December

ORDER OF EVENTS

12:30 p.m.	33 rd Old Blues' Race (Mob Match)	4 miles
2:00 p.m.	133 rd Gentlemen's Race (Eight-a-side, six-to-score)	7½ miles
3:00 p.m.	49 th Ladies' Race (Eight-a-side, six-to-score)	4 miles

Starters

Old Blues' Race: **Mauro Mattiuzzo**
Chairman, Wimbledon & Putney Commons
Conservators

Ladies' Race: **Emma Coleman-Jones** (Newnham, Magdalen
& Oriel)
C.U.H. & H. 1991 & 1992 & O.U.C.C.C. 1993 &
1995
Race winner 1991 & 1993

Gentlemen's Race: **Peter Irvine** (St. Peter's)
O.U.C.C.C. 1974-76 & Captain 1975

England Athletics Event Licence Number: CC25/1731

www.varsityxc.run



WELCOME

Today we are celebrating an important milestone in the history of the University Cross-Country Races with the 50th anniversary of women's cross-country at Oxford and Cambridge. The first contest – albeit unofficial – took place in November 1975 at Oxford and the following year was it elevated to official status and moved to London to be held alongside the men's contest.

The ladies' race will be started by **Emma Coleman-Jones**. Emma holds an important place in the annals of the series as the first – and so far only – runner to have won the race for both teams. Her first success came while at Cambridge in 1991 and she repeated the feat having moved to Oxford in 1993. On both occasions, she was on the victorious team and 1993 was the first in Oxford's nine-match winning run up to 2001, which still stands and the best sequence in both the men's and ladies' races.

The gentlemen's race will be started by **Peter Irvine**. Peter ran for Oxford from 1974 to 1976, finishing third in the latter two years. Oxford were victorious every time in what evolved into their seven-match winning run from 1974 to 1980, which still stands as their best sequence in the men's race. His appearances also straddled the move from Roehampton village to Roehampton Vale following the loss of the old Thames headquarters at the King's Head in August 1975.

We are also delighted to welcome **Mauro Mattiuzzo**, Chairman of the Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators, who will start the Old Blues' Race. We extend our thanks to the Conservators for granting permission to hold the races on the Common, extending a tradition that dates back to 1896.

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: CC25/1731**). The event officials are as follows:

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

CAMBRIDGE LADIES

1. **Eleanor Colbourn** *(St Aidan's C of E High School, Harrogate & Jesus)*
(2024 – 15th; 2023 – 16th & Cheetahs, 8th)

Eleanor Colbourn is the most experienced Light Blue and is making her third appearance in the race. She missed Cambridge's Megacross invitational event at the start of November, but eighth place in Cuppers secured her place in the team.

2. **Eva Dey Johnson** *(Peter Symonds College, Winchester & Trinity Hall)*

Eva Dey Johnson is a newcomer to Cambridge this season and arrived having finished 44th in the English Schools' Championship and 37th in the Under 20 Inter-Counties in March. She has been towards the front of the Cambridge team in both races this season, finishing third in the Megacross invitational event and fourth in Cuppers.

3. **Rosie Gregory** *(Durham University & Peterhouse)*
(2024 – Cheetahs, 10th; 2023 – Cheetahs, 11th)

After two seasons competing at second team level, Rosie Gregory has made the jump up to the Blues team following a sixth-place finish in Cuppers.

4. **Ana Sophia Rashid-Cocker** *(McGill University & St. John's)*

Hailing from Toronto, Ana Sophia Rashid-Cocker arrived at Cambridge this autumn and was quick to make her mark by winning the Megacross invitational event. She followed this up with another strong run later in November at Cuppers and should be one of the Light Blues' top scorers.

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

Beth Rogers produced a strong run to finish eighth on her debut in 2024. This season, she finished second in Cuppers to ensure a second appearance in the race and she should also be one of Cambridge top scorers.

6. **Tamsin Tewson** *(Aylesbury High School & Jesus)*

Tamsin Tewson is another newcomer to the Light Blue ranks this season and announced her arrival by finishing second in the Megacross invitational event. She followed this by finishing seventh in Cuppers.

7. Aimi Weightman *(Dame Alice Owen's School & Murray Edwards)*

Aimi Weightman arrived at Cambridge last year but did not compete for the Light Blues until the BUCS Championship in February, where she was first home for them in eighth in the Short Race. She has continued this form into the new season, winning Cuppers by 40 seconds, and she should be at the front of the Cambridge team again.

8. Stella Wernicke *(Heidelberg University & Emmanuel)*

(2024 – 13th; 2023 – Cheetahs, 10th)

Stella Wernicke is returning for a second appearance in the race. In her one appearance for Cambridge this season so far, she finished fourth in the Megacross invitational event to take her placed in the Light Blue octet.

Reserves:

9. Maia Hardman *(Lewes Old Grammar School & Selwyn)*

(2024 – 12th; 2023 – 10th; 2022 – 11th; 2021 – 13th; 2025 – Cheetahs, 2nd)

10. Elin Griffiths *(University of Nottingham & Newnham)*

(2025 – Cheetahs, 4th)

Captain

Lilian Lewis *(Ulverston Victoria High School & St. Catharine's)*

(2025 – Cheetahs, 5th; 2023 – 8th)

OXFORD LADIES

11. **Hanna Andrejczuk**

(University of St. Andrews & Lincoln)

Hanna Andrejczuk is one of three new faces at Oxford this season. In the spring, she finished 14th in the Scottish National and since arriving at Oxford, she has produced strong performances to finish fourth in Cuppers and second in the Chiltern League.

12. **Amelia Coleman**

(2024 – Sloths, 4th)

(City of London School for Girls & Pembroke)

Having run at third team level this time last year, Amelia Coleman has moved up strongly this season, finishing ninth in Cuppers and 11th in the Chiltern League to secure his place in the Oxford team.

13. **Ella Davey**

(Wellington College & Pembroke)

Ella Davey is another newcomer to the Oxford ranks. Earlier this year, she finished 41st in the Under 20 National and 44th in the Inter-counties. She opened her account for the Dark Blues by finishing second in Cuppers in October and should be well up among the Oxford scorers today.

14. **Sophie Glencross**

(Nonsuch High School for Girls & St. Hilda's)

(2024 – Turtles, 9th)

Sophie Glencross is a local Epsom and Ewell Harrier and has made the Blues team after running at second team level 12 months ago. So far this season, she has finished third in Cuppers and 12th in the Chiltern League.

15. **Beth Rawlinson**

(2024 – 10th; 2023 – 14th)

(Concord College & St. Hugh's)

Beth Rawlinson is Oxford's most experienced runner and will notch up her third appearance in the race. In February, she finished 15th in the Under 20 National and in her one appearance for the Dark Blues this season, she finished fifth in the Chiltern League, which suggests she should improve on tenth place last year.

16. **Lauren Russell** *(Highgate School & Balliol)*
(2024 – 8th)

Lauren Russell has stepped into the Oxford side following Rebecca Flaherty's European selection. This season, she finished seventh in Cuppers and 13th in the Chiltern League; however, her eighth place in 2024 should stand her in good stead for today's contest.

17. **Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla** *(Ripon Grammar School & Trinity)*
(2024 – Turtles, 2nd; 2022 – Turtles, 9th)

Last season's Oxford captain, Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla is making her debut in the race, having previously competed twice at second team level. This season, she finished fifth in both Cuppers and the Chiltern League and should be among the Oxford scorers.

18. **Athena Tharenos** *(College of Wooster, Ohio & St. Antony's)*

American Athena Tharenos arrived at Oxford last season, although she missed out on the University Races. Prior to joining the Dark Blue ranks, she was a mainstay of the College of Wooster's cross-county team and became a 1500m Egyptian national champion while studying at The American University of Cairo. This season, she finished eighth in the Chiltern League to secure her place in the team.

Reserves:

19. **Rose Sheppard** *(Colchester County High School for Girls & Mansfield)*
(2025 – Turtles, 3rd; 2024 – Sloths, 1st; 2023 – Sloths, 5th)

20. **Tamsin Sangster (Capt)** *(The British International School, Abu Dhabi & Oriel)*
(2025 – Turtles, 8th; 2024 – Sloths, 8th; 2023 – Sloths, 8th)

CAMBRIDGE GENTLEMEN

21. **Tim Bongaerts** *(City of Norwich School & Queens')*
(2024 – Spartans, 14th)

Twelve months ago as a fresher, Tim Bongaerts ran for the Spartans. Since then, he finished 47th in the Short Race at the BUCS Championship in February and 20th in the Under 20 National in March and this season finished sixth in Cuppers to take his place in the Blues team today.

22. **Cameron Deverill** *(Williamwood High School & St. Catharine's)*
(2024 -16th; 2023 – Barbarians, 1st)

Cameron Deverill made his debut in the race in 2024 having made the jump from the third team in 2023. In February, he finished one place ahead of his teammate, Tim Bongaerts, in the BUCS Short Race. This autumn, he finished third in Cuppers, which suggests he should improve on his 16th place last year.

23. **Robert Doorly** *(Magdalen College School, Oxford & Clare)*
(2024 – Spartans, 11th; 2023 – Spartans, 15th; 2022 – Barbarians, 2nd; 2021 – Barbarians, 15th)

After four seasons at third and second team level, Robert Doorly has made the step up to the Light Blues team after finishing third in the Megacross invitational event and eighth in Cuppers. In February, he ran strongly to finish 115th in the National.

24. **Terry Fawden** *(Loughborough University & Wolfson)*
(2024 – 8th; 2023 – 6th; 2022 – 14th)

Alongside Ewan Spencer, Terry Fawden is the most experienced runner in the Light Blue octet and is returning to the Common for the fourth time. So far this year, he has finished 27th at the BUCS Championship and 47th in the National as well as tenth in the Autumn Open International Cross-Country event at Abbotstown in Ireland. For Cambridge, he finished second in Cuppers and he should be one of the front runners today.

25. **Ewan Spencer** *(Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School & Trinity Hall)*
(2024 – 11th; 2022 – 3rd; 2021 – 12th; 2023 – Spartans, 8th)

Ewan Spencer is the second runner in the Cambridge team with plenty experience of the race. Earlier this year, he finished 33rd in the BUCS Championship and this autumn, he has strong runs for this club – Cambridge & Coleridge – in the Southern and National 6-Stage Relays as well as winning Cuppers and he should be involved at the sharp end of the race.

26. **Daniel Taylor** (*Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I College & Trinity*)

Although this is his third year at Cambridge, this season represents Daniel Taylor's first foray into cross-country. He secured his spot in the team after finishing eighth in the Megacross invitational event and then seventh in Cuppers.

27. **Max Walk** (*University of Birmingham & Caius*)
(2024 – 12th; 2023 – Spartans, 4th)

Max Walk is making his second appearance in the race, having finished 12th on debut last year. In February, he finished 77th in the National and he has followed this up this autumn by notching up strong performances in the Autumn Open International Cross-Country event in Ireland and Metropolitan League. Off the back of these performances, sixth place in Cuppers ensured his selection for today.

28. **Owen Wallek** (*Brighton, Hove & Sussex 6th Form College & Sidney Sussex*)

Owen Wallek is the sole undergraduate fresher in the Cambridge team. In February, he finished 42nd in the English Schools' Championship and he then produced a very strong run to finish fourth in Cuppers to secure a debut appearance in the University Race.

Reserves:

29. **Anastasios Kousis** (*University of Manchester & Sidney Sussex*)
(2025 – Spartans, 2nd)

30. **Connor Morgan** (*King Alfred's Academy, Wantage & Homerton*)
(2025 – Spartans, 9th)

Captain

- Alasdair Fletcher** (*University College, London & St. Edmund's*)

OXFORD GENTLEMEN

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

Alex Bampton first ran for Oxford Blues teams way back in 2017. Having returned to Oxford in 2022, he has been selected in each of the three years, but has had the misfortune of succumbing to injury in both 2022 and 2024. He will be hoping to make amends today, having produced strong runs in both of Oxford's races this season, finishing sixth in Cuppers and the Chiltern League.

32. **Alexander Gruen** (*Melbourne Grammar School & Keble*)
(2024 – 4th; 2023 – 3rd; 2019 – 8th; 2017 – Tortoises, 3rd; 2016 – Tortoises, 2nd)

Alex Gruen is the top finisher from Oxford's exceptionally strong 2024 team returning today. In his two most recent appearances in the University Race, he has been involved at the sharp end and following second place finishes in both Cuppers and the Chiltern League, he looks to be in the form to feature near the front again.

33. **Jack Johnson** (*University of Birmingham & Corpus Christi*)
(2024 – Tortoises, 4th)

Jack Johnson is one of three new faces in the Oxford team, having moved up following a strong performance for the Tortoises last year. He opened his season with a very promising third place in Cuppers and backed this up with fifth in the Chiltern League and, providing he can adapt to the unique challenges of the Common, he should feature strongly among Oxford's scorers.

34. **Benjamin McCartney (Captain)** (*Truro School & St. Hilda's*)
(2024 – Tortoises, 6th; 2023 – Tortoises, 13th; 2022 – Tortoises, 6th)

After having waited patiently in the Tortoises for the last three seasons (including being one of Oxford's reserves in 2022), Benjy McCartney makes his debut today after finishing 11th (and eighth Oxford) in the Chiltern League. He is also making a small piece of history as the first student from the former women's college St. Hilda's to compete in the men's race.

35. **Christopher Parker** (*Reading Blue Coat School & Corpus Christi*)
(2024 – 9th; 2023 – Tortoises, 5th)

Although he finished a very credible ninth on debut 12 months ago, such was the strength of the Dark Blue octet, Chris Parker was not among the scoring six. However, having finished seventh in the Under 20 National in February and then winning Cuppers and finishing third in the Chiltern League, he should be right up amongst the front runners today.

36. **Alexander Poulston** (*Calday Grange Grammar School & Merton*)
(2024 – Tortoises, 7th)

As a fresher in 2024, Alex Poulston was part of the Tortoises comprehensive victory over the Spartans. Since then, he has progressed to finish one place ahead of teammate Chris Parker in the Under 20 National in February and then seventh place finishes in both Cuppers and the Chiltern League to secure his place in the Blues team.

37. **Thomas Renshaw** (*Hale School, Western Australia & St. Hugh's*)
(2024 – 15th; 2023 – 9th; 2022 – 9th; 2021 – 7th; 2024 – Tortoises, 1st; 2019 – Tortoises, 3rd)

Thomas Renshaw is one of the two most experienced runners in today's race and will be making his fifth appearance. Twelve months ago, he was a late replacement for Alex Bampton; however, a fifth place in Cuppers and eighth in the Chiltern League indicate that he back to his form of 2022 and 2023.

38. **Thomas Wood** (*Ysgol Santes Ffraid & St. Anne's*)
(2024 – 6th; 2023 – 5th; 2022 – 4th; 2021 – 8th; 2019 – Tortoises, 14th)

The other runner in the Dark Blue team making his fifth appearance, Tom Wood should be involved at the sharp end of the race. So far this season, he finished 26th in the Cardiff Cross-Challenge and then followed this with victory in the Chiltern League.

Reserves:

39. **Grahm Tuohy-Gaydos** (*Williams College, Massachusetts & Exeter*)
(2025 – Tortoises, 1st; 2023, Snails, 2nd)

40. **Matthew Luney** (*Corpus Christi College, Cambridge & University*)
(2025 – Tortoises, 3rd; 2024 – 4th team, 2nd; 2023 – 4th team, 31st)

THE 2024 UNIVERSITY RACES

(held over Thames Hare and Hounds' courses at Roehampton Vale on Saturday, 7th December)

The 48th Ladies' Race: Oxford won by 37 points to 47

1.	M.N.Bridson Hubbard	Magdalene	Cambridge	23:34
2.	B.E.Wood	Lucy Cavendish	Cambridge	24:15
3.	R.Flaherty	St Catherine's	Oxford	24:38
4.	C.L.M.Buckley	Oriel	Oxford	24:48
5.	M.D.E.Dickinson	Gonville and Caius	Cambridge	24:51
6.	L.Major	Merton	Oxford	25:07
7.	L.Casajoana Guardia	St John's	Oxford	25:10
8.	L.Russell	Balliol	Oxford	25:11
9.	J.E.Ridley	Lady Margaret Hall	Oxford	25:14
10.	B.K.Rawlinson	St Hugh's	Oxford	25:19
11.	J.Auer	Magdalen	Oxford	26:15
12.	M.A.Hardman	Selwyn	Cambridge	26:21
13.	S.A.I.Wernicke	Emmanuel	Cambridge	26:40
14.	N.J.Thompson	Homerton	Cambridge	26:46
15.	E.G.Colbourn	Jesus	Cambridge	27:03
16.	L.Meinecke	Selwyn	Cambridge	27:22

A.Schwarze-Chintapatla (Trinity) was Oxford captain

P.E.G.Craig-McFeely (Robinson) was Cambridge captain

The 133rd Gentlemen's Race: Oxford won by 21 points to 61

1.	J.Ward	Keble	Oxford	39:07
2.	M.T.Kearney	Magdelen	Oxford	39:12
3.	N.J.Whittaker	Wolfson	Oxford	39:22
4.	A.J.Gruen	Keble	Oxford	39:28
5.	J.D.Morrow	The Queens	Oxford	39:31
6.	T.J.Wood	St. Annes	Oxford	39:34
7.	J.T.Massingham	Pembroke	Cambridge	39:42
8.	T.H.Fawden	Wolfson	Cambridge	39:46
9.	C.G.Parker	Corpus Christi	Oxford	40:00
10.	T.P.Spencer	Christs	Cambridge	40:10
11.	E.C.Spencer	Trinity Hall	Cambridge	40:15
12.	M.A.Walk	Gonville and Caius	Cambridge	40:20
13.	G.Ogden	Trinity	Cambridge	40:21
14.	T.E.R.Dugré	Jesus	Cambridge	40:28
15.	T.D.Renshaw	St Hugh's	Oxford	40:57
16.	C.P.Deverill	St Catharine's	Cambridge	42:04

S.Waite (Worcester) was Oxford captain

A.J.Beeston (Downing) was Cambridge captain

THE 2025 2nd-4th TEAM UNIVERSITY RACES

(held over C. U. H. & H's courses at Priory Park, St. Neot's on Sunday 30th November)

81 st Tortoises-Spartans Race	Oxford won by 26 points to 60
74 th Snails-Barbarians Race	Oxford won by 21 points to 62
67 th Gentlemen's 4 th Team Race	Cambridge won by 2,919 points to 2,278
42 nd Turtles-Cheetahs Race	Oxford 39; Cambridge 39 (Oxford won on countback)
38 th Ladies' 3 rd Team Race	Cambridge won by 26 points to 60
1 st Ladies' 4 th Team Race:	Cambridge won by 1,847 points to 749

PREVIEW OF THE 2025 UNIVERSITY RACES

There are contrasting prospects for the 2025 University Races. Last year's ladies' race marked the passing of a generation of Oxbridge runners and with none of last year's top seven competing today, it is difficult to identify a clear favourite for the team honours. This is underlined by the fact that the 16 runners who will toe the start line collectively only have six previous race appearances between them. Rebecca Flaherty's (St. Catherine's) European selection is undoubtedly a significant blow for the Dark Blues as, having finished third on debut last year, she looked to be the most likely race winner. However, their team still has a very solid look about it, with less than a minute separating the seven who ran in the Chiltern League race in November. Added to this, fresher Ella Davey (Pembroke) – who missed that race – should bolster the front of their team.

The Light Blues appear to have a stronger top end, particularly in the shape of Aimi Weightman (Murray Edwards), Beth Rogers (Jesus), Ana Sophia Rashid-Cocker (St. John's) and Eva Dey Johnson (Trinity Hall). It is also probably fair to say that they are not as strong in depth as their rivals. Ultimately, the team outcome may come down to how well Oxford can pack the upper middle order of the race. If Hanna Andrejczuk (Lincoln), last year's captain Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla (Trinity) and Beth Rawlinson (St. Hugh's) can fill those places, it could turn the tide their way. Cambridge enter the race as marginal favourites; however, the outcome is very far from clear and it should provide for an enthralling contest to mark the event's 50th anniversary.

In the 134th gentlemen's race, despite losing the first three home from their exceptionally strong 2024 team, the Dark Blues should enter the race in quietly confident mood, buoyed by the Tortoises comprehensive victory over the Spartans last weekend. They are also the more experienced team, with two of them running for the fifth time and a total number of appearances between them of 14, compared to the Light Blues' eight. Tom Wood (St. Anne's), Chris Parker (Corpus Christi) and Alex Gruen (Keble) should form a very strong spearhead, with plenty of support coming down the order from the likes of Jack Johnson (Corpus Christi), Thomas Renshaw (St. Hugh's) and Alex Bampton (Green Templeton).

Cambridge will also be fielding a very competitive team and Ewan Spencer (Trinity Hall) and Terry Fawden (Wolfson) in particular should be heavily involved at the front of the race. They also have runners, most notably in Cameron Deverill (St. Catharine's) and promising undergraduate fresher Owen Wallek (Sidney Sussex), who should be able to provide them with valuable support. However, on paper, their eight perhaps does not have quite the same depth as the Dark Blues and this, combined with Oxford's top-end strength, may prove to be sufficient for them to level the overall series.

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

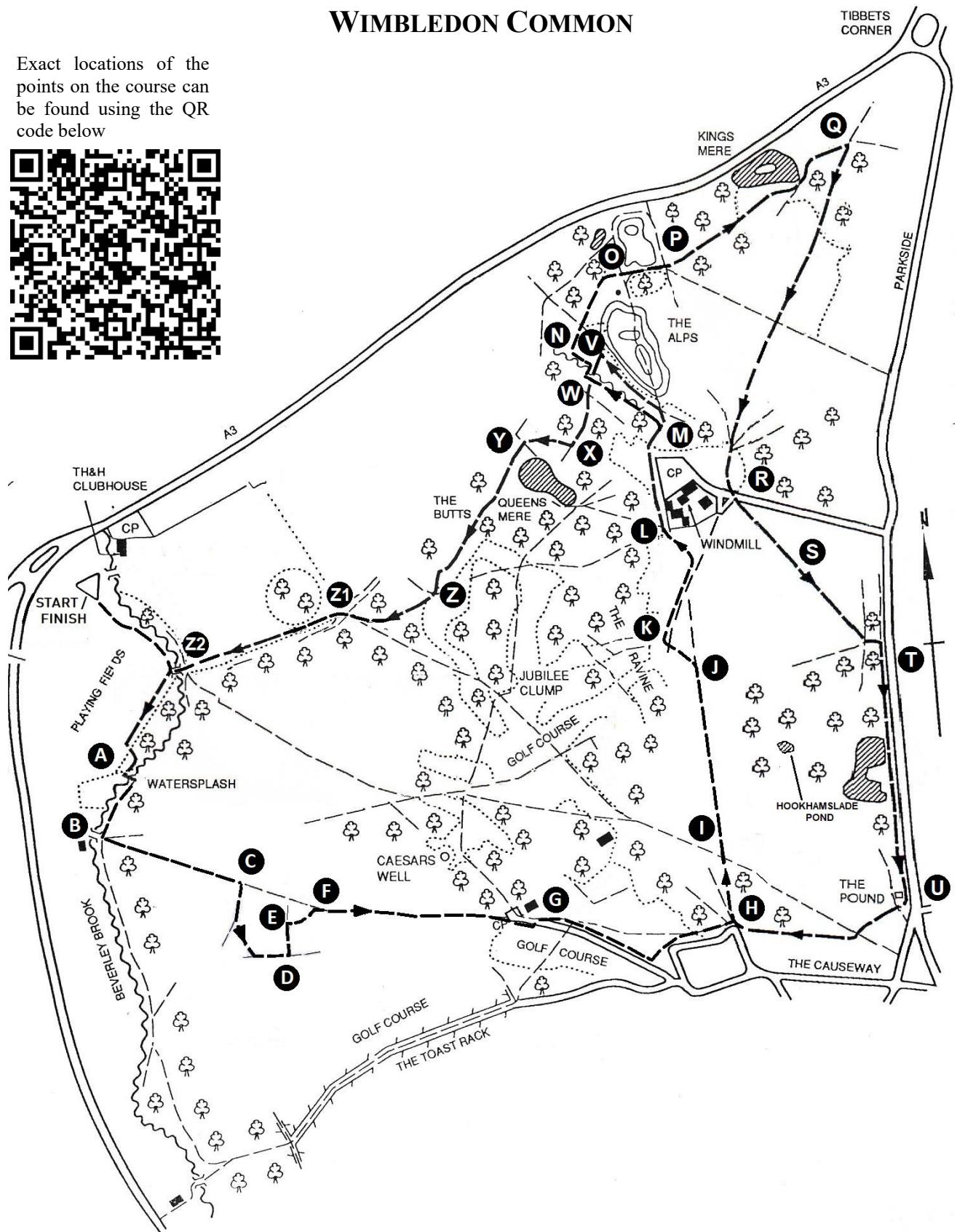
Captain

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

When looking back at the University Races' near-150-year history, most decades have a defining characteristic. For the 1970s, one event stands out above all others: the inauguration of a ladies' race in 1975. The number of female students at both universities had steadily grown in the postwar period and the early-1970s saw a significant step forward when the first of the men's colleges opened their doors to women (in 1972 at Cambridge and 1974 at Oxford). By this time, women had also started to be represented within C.U.H.& H. and O.U.A.C.

Attempts to establish a ladies' team at Oxford were first made in the 1974-75 season. Initial progress was slow; however, by the following season, a team of four was put together to compete in a few fixtures, led by Lynne Wightman (LMH). Their first competitive race was against Birmingham University at Shotover on November 15th 1975, losing by 7 points to 16 in the three-to-score contest. While this had been happening at Oxford, the Light Blues were also making progress. At a committee meeting in February 1974, the issue of needing to revise the club's constitution to admit women as members was raised. In November 1974, there was discussion of a ladies' race on Lammas Land and of possible future fixtures; however, no results appear in the club records. The following February, a Ladies' Secretary was appointed (Karen Morton, Newnham) and admitted to the committee.

Following Oxford's first race, Cambridge were approached and a contest was proposed for November 29th 1975 at Shotover on the day of the men's contests for the second, third, fourth and fifth teams. Oxford won a three-to-score event (7 points to 14) with Cathy Meunier (St. Hugh's) coming home first. The record of this race was lost for many years, so it does not appear in the official historical record of the series. However, momentum was developing and 12 months later, it was elevated to official status and run alongside the men's, hosted by Thames on Wimbledon Common. Much of the credit for this move should go to John Bryant (Queen's), Oxford's captain and reserve in 1966, who was in his last season of a four-year stint as the Thames Club Captain. At that time, Thames was still five years from becoming a mixed club and – as John recalled – the attitude of the members in general towards hosting the race was decidedly lukewarm. However, he was adamant that they should extend the offer to the universities and what is now regarded as the first official ladies' match was held on December 4th 1976, prior to the men's race, under a six-a-side, four-to-score format. It resulted in a perfect win for Oxford by 10 points to 34 with Lynne Wightman coming home first. In that first year, the course was not pioneered in the usual sense, rather Thames member Michael Bostelmann ran ahead of the runners to guide them.

The race returned 12 months later and – as reported by *Athletics Weekly* – was “a much higher standard” and won by Kim Tufnell of Selwyn. Since then, it has gone from strength to strength, passing many important milestones, including the awarding of the first full Blue to Sally-Ann Hales (Girton) in 1981 and the expansion of team sizes, to seven in 2014 and eight in 2018. By 1989, Vicki Vaughan's (Corpus Christi) winning time was four minutes quicker than Lynne Wightman's in 1976. Starting in 1992, the course went through several extensions to bring it to its current 4 miles in 2000.

Since its beginnings at Shotover in 1975, the race has welcome over 300 runners. For some, it has been their own personal Everest and for others a stepping stone to greater achievements. Included in this illustrious list are Olympians Stephanie Cook (a 2000 gold medallist in modern pentathlon), Mara Yamauchi, Sian Brice, Emma Pooley, Julia Bleasdale, Claire Hallissey and Louise Shanahan. Both clubs have gone on to make their mark on the wider university landscape as witnessed by four victories in the British Universities' championships, in 1988, 1989 and 2000 by Oxford and 2025 by Cambridge.

It goes without saying that everyone who values the University Races owes a debt of gratitude to the pioneers of women's cross-country at Oxford and Cambridge for what they set in motion 50 years ago and we can look forward with anticipation to what the next half-century will bring.



THE FIRST INTER-UNIVERSITY LADIES CROSS COUNTRY RACE

FROM

THAMES HARE AND HOUNDS HEADQUARTERS
MEMORIAL FIELDS, KINGSTON VALE.

CAMBRIDGE

VERSUS

OXFORD

Starter:
MRS. MARGERY BROADBENT

Other officials of this race are the same as for the gentlemen's race.

AT 2.20PM ON SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 1976.

THE COURSE

The Course, which is three miles long, starts and finishes on the Memorial Fields. It will be possible to watch the first quarter mile as this will all be in the playing fields. Spectators may also take the path to the East of the fields up to the Windmill, where the race passes after about two and a quarter miles.

Top left: The victorious Oxford team in 1976 (left-to-right: Fiona Stead (Somerville); Jane Grand (St. Hilda's); Lynne Wightman (LMH); Julie Halfpenny (St. Hugh's); Nicola Skrine (St. Hugh's); and Julie Hudson (St. Anne's))

Top right: Elizabeth England (Hughes Hall) and Barbara Harrison (Newnham) in action in the 1976 race

Above left: Today's starter for the ladies' race, Emma Coleman-Jones (Newnham), winning the race for the first time in 1991

Above right: Programme cover for the first official ladies' race in 1976

RACE STATISTICS

Gentlemen's Race

Of the 133 gentlemen's races between 1880 and 2024, Cambridge have won 67 and Oxford 66. 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 86 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 48 official ladies' races between 1976 and 2024, Oxford has won 28 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 & Magdalene, 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 27.

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 (20 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 66

2024 Oxford	21-61	J.Ward (O)	1968 Oxford	28-58	J.P.Valentine (O)			
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)			
<i>2020 No race due to the Covid-19 pandemic</i>								
2019 Cambridge	32-47	P.A.Croutham (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)	1954 Oxford	29-49	=A.D.Gordon (O)			
2008 Oxford	27-53	R.C.Franzese (O)	1953 Oxford	29-50	=I.H.Boyd (O)			
2007 Cambridge	32-47	P.Natali (C)	1952 Oxford	21-66	=C.W.Suddaby (O)			
2006 Cambridge	35-43	P.Natali (C)	1951 Oxford	27-51	=A.J.Weekes-Pearson (O)			
2005 Oxford	30-51	J.E.Blackledge (O)	1950 Cambridge	34-44	I.H.Boyd (O)			
2004 Oxford	38-42	F.K.Thompson (O)	1949 Oxford	35-43	=C.J.Chataway (O)			
2003 Cambridge	37-43	F.K.Thompson (O)	1948 Oxford	36-42	=D.C.Law			
2002 Oxford	29-49	F.K.Thompson (O)	1947 Oxford	17-38	=A.J.Weekes-Pearson (O)			
2001 Oxford	32-46	J.T.S.Brooks (O)	1946 Cambridge	26-29	C.J.Chataway (O)			
2000 Cambridge	37-41	N.P.Talbot (O)	1945 Cambridge	26-29	C.J.Chataway (O)			
1999 Cambridge	35-48	N.P.Talbot (O)	<i>1939-45 No races due to Second World War.</i>					
1998 Oxford	35-45	D.R.Leggate (C)	<i>Six unofficial wartime races held (see below)</i>					
1997 Cambridge	31-48	A.B.Hutchinson (C)	1938 Oxford	32-46	T.P.E.Curry (O)			
1996 Oxford	38-43	D.R.Leggate (C)	1937 Cambridge	34-44	D.A.Bond (C)			
1995 Cambridge	26-54	D.E.Naylor (C)	1936 Cambridge	24-31	P.D.Marrian (O)			
1994 Cambridge	29½-49½	R.W.Collier (O)	1935 Oxford	27-28	E.C.Weir (C)			
1993 Cambridge	25-59	I.R.Harkness (C)	1934 Cambridge	23-32	E.C.Weir (C)			
1992 Cambridge	32-51	S.D.S.Baines (O)	1933 Oxford	20-35	A.A.Robertson (O)			
1991 Oxford	25-55	S.D.S.Baines (O)	1932 Oxford	15-40	R.M.Barrer (C)			
1990 Cambridge	37-43	S.J.Mugglestone (O)	1931 Oxford	20-35	P.J.Albery (O)			
1989 Oxford	25-56	S.J.Mufflestone (O)	1930 Oxford	26-29	=J.E.Lovelock (O)			
1988 Oxford	29-50	S.J.Mufflestone (O)	1929 Cambridge	21-34	=C.J.Mabey (O)			
1987 Oxford	27-55	S.J.Mufflestone (O)	1928 Cambridge	23½-31½	J.F.Cornes (O)			
1986 Oxford	33-45	R.D.Nerurkar (O)	1927 Cambridge	27-28	C.W.Benson (C)			
1985 Oxford	27-57	J.D.Barton (C)	1926 Oxford	15-40	=J.R.Croggon (C)			
1984 Oxford	31-52	J.D.Barton (C)	1925 Cambridge	23-32	=R.C.J.Goode (C)			
1983 Cambridge	33-45	J.D.Barton (C)	1924 Cambridge	20-35	=A.N.Skelton (C)			
1982 Cambridge	39-40	N.Thin (C)	1923 Oxford	22-33	=E.E.Cowburn (C)			
1981 Cambridge	21-57	N.Thin (C)	1922 Oxford	17-38	=A.N.Skelton (C)			
1980 Oxford	25-54	N.C.S.Brawn (O)	1921 Cambridge	27-28	W.A.M.Edwards (O)			
1979 Oxford	37-41	N.C.S.Brawn (O)	1920 Oxford	21-34	W.A.M.Edwards (O)			
1978 Oxford	35-45	N.C.S.Brawn (O)	<i>1925 Cambridge</i>					
1977 Oxford	26-57	=N.C.S.Brawn (O)	1924 Cambridge	20-35	T.C.Fooks (C)			
		=W.A.Ewers (O)	1923 Oxford	22-33	R.S.Starr (C)			
1976 Oxford	31-48	W.A.Ewers (O)	1922 Oxford	17-38	T.C.Fooks (C)			
1975 Oxford	29-53	W.A.Ewers (O)	1921 Cambridge	27-28	N.A.McInnes (O)			
1974 Oxford	30-49	=A.J.Etchells (O)	1920 Oxford	21-34	W.R.Seagrove (C)			
		=J.N.Goater (O)	<i>1920 Cambridge</i>					
1973 Cambridge	33-45	J.N.Goater (O)	1919 Cambridge	23-32	E.A.Montague (O)			
1972 Cambridge	37-42	C.J.Garforth (C)	1918 Cambridge	20-35				
1971 Cambridge	39-39*	A.T.Moore (O)	1917 Cambridge	27-28				
1970 Cambridge	29-57	A.T.Moore (O)	1916 Cambridge	21-34				
1969 Cambridge	40-40*	R.A.Steele (O)	1915 Cambridge	23-32				

1919 Cambridge	22-33	E.A.Montague (O)	1886 Cambridge	23-32	W.Pollock Hill (O)
<i>1914-18 No races due to the Great War</i>					
1913 Cambridge	26-39	G.M.Sproule (O)	1885 Cambridge	24-31	D.E.Payn (C)
1912 Oxford	24-31	G.M.Sproule (O)	1884 Cambridge	23-32	L.W.Reed (C)
1911 Oxford	16-39	C.H.A.Porter (O)	1883 Cambridge	19-36	L.W.Reed (C)
1910 Oxford	15-40	A.W.Clemes (O)	1882 Cambridge	22-33	W.A.Rice (C)
1909 Oxford	20-35	R.E.Knight (O)	1881 Cambridge	24-31	G.F.Woolridge (O)
1908 Oxford	22-33	A.W.Clemes (O)	1880 Oxford	23-32	C.W.Grinstead (O)***
1907 Cambridge	27-28	E.C.Inman (C)	<i>Unofficial wartime series, 1940-45:</i>		
1906 Cambridge	27-28	F.M.Edwards (C)	1945 Cambridge	37-41	R.E.J.Ibbotson (C)
1905 Cambridge	23-32	A.H.Pearson (C)	1944 Cambridge	37-41	J.C.C.Walden (O)
1904 Cambridge	19-36	A.R.Churchill (C)	1942 Cambridge	27-51	J.W.Stone (C)
1903 Cambridge	21-34	A.R.Churchill (C)	1942 Oxford	27-51	R.B.Martin (O)
1902 Oxford	22-33	H.W.Gregson (C)	1941 Cambridge	32-46	J.E.L.Pemberton (O)
1901 Oxford	15-40	E.A.Dawson (O)	1940 Cambridge	36-42	H.C.Still (C)
1900 Cambridge	25-30	C.E.Pumphrey (C)	* In 1969 and 1971, Cambridge won by closing its team first.		
1899 Cambridge	15-40	C.E.Pumphrey (C)	** 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 25 th 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 <i>no race</i> was declared. It was re-run at Oxford on 11 th February 1891.		
1898 Oxford	25-30	E.A.Dawson (O)	*** For many years, A.F.Hernaman (O) was credited as race winner; however, this is an error. He finished second.		
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)			

Ladies

Oxford leads Cambridge by 28 wins to 20 (Oxford won the unofficial race in 1975)

2024 Oxford	37-47	M.N.Bridson Hubbard (C)	1995 Oxford	12-25	N.J.Lynch (O)
2023 Oxford	32-46	P.R.A.Barker (C)	1994 Oxford	10-29	H.Moulder (O)
2022 Cambridge	29-50	M.N.Bridson Hubbard (C)	1993 Oxford	14-22	E.E.Coleman (O)
2021 Oxford	36-44	N.E.Scott (C)	1992 Cambridge	12-28	C.E.Fothergill (C)
<i>2020 No race due to the Covid-19 pandemic</i>					
2019 Cambridge	39-41	M.N.Bridson Hubbard (C)	1991 Cambridge	17-19	E.E.Coleman (C)
2018 Cambridge	33-46	N.E.Scott (C)	1990 Oxford	10-31	J.D.Dering (O)
2017 Oxford	23-34	F.V.Srafton (O)	1989 Oxford	12-29	V.E.Vaughan (O)
2016 Oxford	21-34	S.M.F.Saller (O)	1988 Oxford	17-20	M.C.Lavers (C)
2015 Cambridge	23-38	E.M.Ruane (C)	1987 Oxford	15-21	V.E.Vaughan (O)
2014 Cambridge	No score*	S.M.F.Saller (O)	1986 Cambridge	19-19**	V.E.Vaughan (O)
2013 Cambridge	12-30	L.M.Gossage (C)	1985 Cambridge	11-27	C.J.Shelley (C)
2012 Cambridge	15-22	A.L.Greggor (C)	1984 Cambridge	11½-30	B.A.O'Neill (C)
2011 Oxford	14-25	L.M.Gossage (C)	1983 Cambridge	10-26	H.L.Shaw (C)
2010 Oxford	10-32	R.S.Deegan (O)	1982 Cambridge	11-25***	E.C.Hand (C)
2009 Oxford	17-21	N.Taschimowitz (C)	1981 Cambridge	13-28	S.A.Hales (C)
2008 Oxford	15-24	M.Sikes (O)	1980 Cambridge	12-29	J.Lewtas (C)
2007 Oxford	13-29	C.A.Birch (O)	1979 Oxford	18-18****	J.Lewtas (C)
2006 Cambridge	14-22	P.H.R.Keen (C)	1978 Cambridge	13-26	S.F.Parker (C)
2005 Oxford	11-31	C.A.Birch (O)	1977 Oxford	17-19	K.E.Tufnell (C)
2004 Oxford	10-29	A.Beverly (O)	1976 Oxford	10-34	L.Wightman (O)
2003 Cambridge	16-20	J.H.Bleasdale (C)	1975 Oxford	7-14	C.J.Meunier (O)
2002 Cambridge	13-26	E.J.Leggate (C)	*		
2001 Oxford	16-21	E.J.Leggate (C)	Cambridge was comfortably ahead in the team race when several runners went off course. S.M.F.Saller was awarded the individual victory.		
2000 Oxford	18-19	K.W.T.Skorupska (O)	** In 1986, Cambridge won by closing its team first.		
1999 Oxford	12-29	L.E.Hasell (O)	*** No score declared after a protest from Oxford about pacing of Cambridge runners by supporters.		
1998 Oxford	12-28	L.E.Hasell (O)	**** In 1979, Oxford won by closing its team first.		
1997 Oxford	12-26	K.W.T.Skorupska (O)			
1996 Oxford	15-21	S.J.Cook (O)			

Old Blues

Oxford leads Cambridge by 18 wins to 14

2024 Cambridge	110-193	J.M.Millar (O)	2004 Oxford	90-120	N.P.Talbot (O)
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 No race due to Covid-19 pandemic			2000 Cambridge	81-131	D.E.Naylor (C)
2019 Oxford	180-186	W.J.A.Christofi (O)	1999 No race*		
2018 Cambridge	98-158	M.H.Chandler (O)	1998 No race*		
2017 Cambridge	123-183	A.M.Short (C)	1997 Oxford	45-92	R.D.Nerurkar (O)
2016 Cambridge	114-192	T.D.Frith (O)	1996 Oxford	127-127	J.W.Herries (C)
2015 Oxford	223-291	W.J.Mackay (C)	1995 Cambridge	23-34	A.J.Barber (C)
2014 Cambridge	220-247	M.R.Leach (C)	1994 Cambridge	116-241	D.A.Bond (C)
2013 Oxford	122-186	D.J.Bruce (O)	1993 Oxford	96-172	R.D.Nerurkar (O)
2012 Oxford	96-246	F.K.Thompson (O)	1992 Cambridge	407-415	S.C.Nash (C)
2011 Oxford	48-181	D.J.Bruce (O)	1991 Cambridge	48-62	A.N.J.Robinson (O)
2010 Oxford	162-244	B.Moreau (O)	1990 Oxford	37-40	R.D.Nerurkar (O)
2009 Oxford	98-165	I.D.Kimpton (O)			
2008 Oxford	38-40	A.D.Hennessy (O)			
2007 Oxford	97-114	M.J.Bishop (O)			
2006 Oxford	312-354	D.A.Talbot (C)			
2005 Cambridge	137-166	D.A.Talbot (C)			

* 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.

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 the 2024-25 season, our ladies' team won the Southern and London Championships and finished third in the National, while our men also won the London Championship.

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)
Eliot Nevill (Men's Captain)
Simon Molden (Secretary & Club Archivist)

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THAMES HARE AND HOUNDS 2025