

THE UNIVERSITY CROSS-COUNTRY RACES 2022



OXFORD UNIVERSITY CROSS-COUNTRY CLUB

v

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY HARE AND HOUNDS



From Thames Hare and Hounds' Headquarters,
Memorial Playing Fields, Roehampton Vale
on Saturday, 3rd December

ORDER OF EVENTS

12:30 p.m.	30 th Old Blues' Race (Mob Match – all alumni welcome)	4 miles
1:15 p.m.	World Athletics Heritage Plaque Unveiling	
2:00 p.m.	46 th Ladies' Race (Eight-a-side, six-to-score)	4 miles
2:45 p.m.	131 st Gentlemen's Race (Eight-a-side, six-to-score)	7½ miles
3:45 p.m.	BCB Bridge Opening Ceremony	

Starters

Ladies' Race: Wendy Sly MBE
1982 Commonwealth 3,000m Silver Medallist
1983 World Road Race Gold Medallist
1984 Olympic 3,000m Silver Medallist

Gentlemen's Race: Tim Hutchings
1986 European 5,000m Bronze Medallist
1986 Commonwealth 5,000m Bronze Medallist
1984 & 1989 World Cross-Country Silver Medallist



WELCOME

Welcome to the 131st Gentlemen's and 46th Ladies' University Cross-Country Races. As well as providing the latest instalment in a rivalry that dates back to 1880, today's programme commemorates two further events. Firstly, at 1.15 p.m., there will be the official unveiling of the World Athletics Heritage Plaque, awarded to Thames Hare and Hounds in December 2021. At 3.30 p.m. after the completion of the Gentlemen's Race, the official opening of the new Brasher-Chataway-Bannister Bridge, which the runners cross in the final stages of their races, will take place.

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: CC2022/0567**). 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. Doug Justins Hon. Medical Officer, Thames Hare & Hounds
Chief Pioneer:	Edward Catmur, Thames Hare & Hounds
Recorders, Timekeepers & Pioneers:	Members of Thames Hare & Hounds

CAMBRIDGE LADIES

1. **Phoebe Barker** *(Sevenoaks School & Robinson)*
(2019 – 4th; 2018 – 6th)

Phoebe Barker returns to the race having missed out in 2021 due to injury. She has raced sparingly this year; however, victory in Cambridge's inter-club invitational and a very quick leg at the National 4-stage Relays in October mean that she should be one of the runners to watch.

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

Niamh Bridson Hubbard is one of the most experienced runners in action today. She is making her sixth appearance and previously has only once been outside of the top three. Eighth place in the Cardiff Cross Challenge in October and the same finish in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes in November suggests she is once again in form to feature at the front.

3. **Poppy Craig-McFeely** *(Putney High School & Robinson)*

Poppy Craig-McFeely is the only fresher in the Cambridge team. Earlier in the year, she finished third in the under 20 Surrey Championships and 15th in the under 20 National. At Cambridge, she won Cuppers and finished fifth in Cambridge's inter-club invitational race, which secured her place in the team for today.

4. **Helene Greenwood** *(University College, Oxford & Lucy Cavendish)*
(2021 – 12th; 2019 – 16th; 2016 – 9th; 2015 – 14th; 2018 – O.U. Turtles, 14th; 2017 – O.U. Turtles, 8th)

Helene Greenwood is another experienced member of the Cambridge team, this being her fifth appearance (although the first two of them were for the Dark Blues). So far this season, she has finished seventh in Cambridge's inter-club invitational race and second in Cuppers.

5. **Maia Hardman** (Captain) *(Lewes Old Grammar School & Selwyn)*
(2021 - 13th)

Maia Hardman is making her second appearance in the race, having finished a solid 13th on debut in 2021. This autumn, she has finished fourth in the Cambridge inter-club invitational race and 35th in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes. She will be looking to feature among the Cambridge scorers today.

6. **Anna Kelly** *(St. Helen & St. Katharine, Abingdon & St. John's)*
(2022 – Cheetahs, 1st; 2021 – Cheetahs, 9th)

Anna Kelly won the second team race last weekend and has stepped into the Cambridge team following Beatrice Wood's selection for the European Cross-Country Championships. Prior to her victory last weekend, she finished ninth in Cambridge's inter-club invitational race and then third in Cuppers.

7. **Nancy Scott** *(Heathside School & Newnham)*
(2021 – 1st; 2019 – 3rd; 2018 – 1st; 2017 – 5th)

With two previous victories and four appearances in the race, Nancy Scott should enter today's contest in confident mood. Her performances so far this season – including ninth place in the Cardiff Cross Challenge and 13th in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes – indicate that she should once again be challenging for the individual honours.

8. **Louise Shanahan** *(University College, Cork & Trinity)*
(2021 – 6th; 2019 – 14th)

Over the summer, Louise Shanahan followed up her 2020 Olympics appearance by representing Ireland in the World Athletics Championships in Oregon. Back at Cambridge, she produced strong runs in the Aldershot Road Relays and in finishing second in Cambridge's inter-club invitational race and she looks to be in the form to at least match her 2021 finish of sixth.

Reserves:

9. **Sophie Preston** *(The Judd School, Tonbridge & Caius)*
(2022 – Cheetahs, 2nd)

10. **Niamh Thompson** *(Surbiton High School & Homerton)*
(2022 – Cheetahs, 3rd)

OXFORD LADIES

11. **Elizabeth Apsley** *(Pembroke College, Cambridge & St. Hilda's)*
(2019 – 9th; 2017 – 9th; 2016 – 4th; 2015 – 4th; 2018 – Cheetahs, 4th)

Elizabeth Apsley is the most experience member of the Oxford team and is making her fifth appearance today. Having missed 2021, she returns to the race off the back of sixth place in Cambridge inter-club invitational and 29th place in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes.

12. **Alexandra Brown** *(Putney High School & New College)*
(2021 – 3rd; 2019 – 5th)

Alexandra Brown was Oxford's top finisher in 2021 and she should again be involved at the front of the race. She opened her season with victory in Cuppers in October and then followed that up with a strong run at the National Cross-Country Relays at Mansfield in November.

13. **Charlotte Buckley** (Captain) *(St Paul's Girls' School & Oriel)*
(2021 – 7th)

Charlotte Buckley makes her second appearance today, having been Oxford's fourth scorer in 2021. She has raced regularly throughout the autumn, including Aldershot Road Relays, National 4-stage Relays, National Cross-Country Relays and fourth place in Cuppers. She secured her place in the side with 41st at the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes.

14. **Alice Garner** *(Farnborough Sixth Form College & St. Hugh's)*

Second year Alice Garner is making her debut in the race, after missing out in 2021 due to European selection. Having finished sixth in the under 20 Cardiff Cross - Challenge, she is likely to be Oxford's top scorer and should be involved at the front. This season she has also produced strong runs at the Aldershot Road Relays and National Cross-Country Relays.

15. **Olivia Kelly** *(Bablake School & Pembroke)*

Although not new to Oxford, Olivia Kelly is a new face at OUCCC this season. She has quickly made her mark for the team with a number of impressive runs, including second in Cuppers, 17th in the Cardiff Cross Challenge and 38th in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes. She should be one of Oxford's scorers today.

16. **Lauren Major** *(Trinity Hall, Cambridge & Merton)*
(2021 – 8th; 2018 – 7th; 2021 – Turtles, 2013 – C.U. Cheetahs, 5th)

Twelve months ago, former Light Blue Lauren Major stepped into the Oxford team following Alice Garner's selection for the Under 20 European Championships and produced a strong run to finish eighth. Building on some promising performances so far this season, including third in Cuppers, 11th in the opening round of the Surrey League Division One (running for Thames) and 40th in the Chiltern League, she will be looking to better her 2021 finish today.

17. **Lucy Thompson** *(Jesus College, Cambridge & Somerville)*
(2021 – Turtles, 9th; 2019 – Cheetahs, 15th; 2018 – Gazelles, 10th; 2017 – Gazelles, 21st)

Like Lauren Major, Lucy Thompson was formerly at Cambridge, where she competed for their non-Blues teams between 2017 and 2019. Having moved to Oxford and run for their second team last year, she makes the step up to the Blues team today off the back of sixth place in Cuppers and 46th in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes.

18. **Madeline Williams** *(Shrewsbury High School & Corpus Christi)*

Third year Madeline Williams is another newcomer to the Oxford ranks this season. She opened her season with 12th place in Cuppers; however, she made a significant step forward in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes, where she finished 44th, to secure her place in the Dark Blue octet for today.

Reserves:

19. Clara Hartley *(Westminster School & Queen's)*
(2022 – OU 3rd team, 1st)

20. Mared Owen *(Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin, Carmarthen & Jesus)*
(2022 – Turtles, 6th, 2021 – OU 3rd team, 4th)

CAMBRIDGE GENTLEMEN

21. **Jeremy Dempsey** *(St. George's School, Harpenden & Girton)*
(2021 – 2nd; 2018 – Spartans, 3rd)

Twelve months ago, Jeremy Dempsey produced an excellent run on debut to finish second, just three seconds behind his team mate James Edgerton. His performance so far this autumn suggest that he should once again be in amongst the front runners. He finished 15th in the Cardiff Cross Challenge, won Cambridge's inter-club invitational race and followed this up with a strong run at the National Cross-Country Relays and 18th in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes. Last weekend, he was in action again, finishing an excellent 22nd at the Liverpool Cross Challenge.

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

James Edgerton followed up his victory in last year's race with an excellent 15th place finish at the National in February. His performances this season – including second place in Cambridge's inter-club invitational and 30th in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes – indicate that he may not quite be at that level currently; however, he should certainly be heavily involved at the front of the race.

23. **Terry Fawden** *(Loughborough University & Wolfson)*

Terry Fawden is a newcomer to Cambridge's ranks this season and should add further strength to the upper end of their side. This autumn, he has produced strong runs to finish seventh in the Metropolitan League at Claybury Park and third in Cambridge's inter-club invitational race.

24. **Angus Harrington** *(Trinity School, Croydon & St. John's)*
(2021 – 4th team, 4th; 2019 – Barbarians, 15th)

Having previously run twice for Cambridge non-Blues sides, Angus Harrington has moved up strongly this year to make his Varsity Race debut. Although his forte is on the track, eighth place in Cambridge's inter-club invitational race and fourth in Cuppers have brought about his selection for the Light Blues today.

25. **Luke McCarron** *(Lumen Christi College & Jesus)*
(2021 – 4th team, 1st; 2017 – Barbarians, 11th)

Like Angus Harrington, Luke McCarron is another who has moved up strongly from the non-Blues teams over the past 12 months. He has raced sparingly this autumn; however, third place in Cuppers secured his selection for the Light Blues.

26. **Paul McKinley** *(Pomona College, California & Downing)*

Paul McKinley arrived at Cambridge this autumn from the USA, having finished 31st in the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships this time last year. In winning Cuppers, he signalled that he should be another strong addition to the Cambridge side.

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

Joseph Massingham is Cambridge's most experienced runner, having first run in the Varsity Race in 2017. Last year's fifth place finish was by far his best performance and, having finished 24th in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes, he looks to be in similar shape again and should feature among the top finishers.

28. **Ewan Spencer** *(Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School & Trinity Hall)*
(2021 – 12th)

Ewan Spencer returns for his second appearance today. So far this season, he finished fourth in Cambridge inter-club invitational race and second in Cuppers and he should again finish amongst the Cambridge scorers in today's race. As in 2021, his brother Tom is one of the Light Blues' reserves.

Reserves:

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

30. Matthew Dubery *(The Judd School, Tonbridge & Jesus)*
(2022 – Spartans, 3rd)

Captain:

James Rennie *(Eton College & St. Catharine's)*
(2021 – 11th; 2022 – Spartans, 4th)

OXFORD GENTLEMEN

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

Alex Bampton has returned to Oxford after a number of years away. He was part of their victorious team in 2017, stepping in from reserve to finish 15th in one of the fastest races of recent times. He entered the autumn off a good summer on the track and 63rd place in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes secured his place for the Dark Blues.

32. **Matthew Fuller** (*Tapton School, Sheffield & Corpus Christi*)
(2021 – Tortoises, 5th)

Matthew Fuller has stepped up strongly from the Tortoises this time last year to make the Oxford Blues team. This has come off the back of seventh in Cuppers, 41st at the Cardiff Cross Challenge in October and 71st in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes in November.

33. **Oscar Jones** (*St. Benedict's School, Ealing & Brasenose*)
(2021 – 4th team, 4th)

Oscar Jones has made a giant leap forward from Oxford's 4th team 12 months ago to the Blues team today. He has steadily improved through the calendar year and sixth in Cuppers and 69th in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes this autumn have earnt him a first start in the Varsity Race.

34. **Jared Martin** (*Regent House Grammar School, Newtownards & Merton*)
(2021 – Snails, 2nd)

Jared Martin is another of the Oxford team who has stepped up from last year's non-Blues sides. He opened this season with fifth in Cuppers before finishing 72nd in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes and he will be looking to be amongst the Oxford scorers this afternoon.

35. **Joseph Morrow** (*Alcester Grammar School & Queen's*)
(2021 – 3rd; 2019 – 10th; 2018 – Snails, 11th)

Joe Morrow was Oxford's leading runner last season and his performances so far this year indicate that he should once again be involved at the front of the race. In April, he ran 2:23 in the London Marathon, and his stamina will be useful on the testing Varsity course. This autumn, he finished second in Cuppers and then 42nd in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes.

36. **Naphtali Moulton** *(Bowdoin College, Maine & St. Antony's)*

Naphtali Moulton is the only fresher in the Oxford side. Having not competed for a few seasons, he produced a couple of very strong indoor performances in the USA in early 2022 and then announced his arrival at Oxford by taking the Cuppers title. He followed this up with a strong run for 37th at the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes and he should add additional firepower to the top end of Oxford's team today.

37. **Thomas Renshaw** (Captain) *(Hale School, Western Australia & St. Hugh's)*
(2021 – 7th; 2019 – Tortoises, 3rd; 2018, 4th team, 1st)

Thomas Renshaw captains Oxford this year and will be looking to build on a very promising seventh on debut in 2021. So far this season, he has finished third in Cuppers and then 60th in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes. He should finish amongst Oxford's top scorers today.

38. **Thomas Wood** *(The King's School, Chester & St. Anne's)*
(2021 – 8th; 2019 – Tortoises, 14th)

Thomas Wood completes the Oxford side and will also be hoping to build on a very good debut in 2021. His results this autumn suggests this should be the case. Although he missed Cuppers, he ran well to finish 23rd in the Cardiff Cross Challenge in October and followed this up with 41st in the Chiltern League at Milton Keynes. He should also be one of the Dark Blues' top scorers today.

Reserves:

39. Benjamin McCartney *(Truro School & St Hilda's)*
(2022 – Tortoises, 9th)

40. Miles Weatherseed *(The Judd School, Tonbridge & St Anne's)*
(2019 – 14th; 2016 – 15th; 2018 – Tortoises, 12th; 2017 – Tortoises, 12th; 2015 – Snails, 3rd)

THE 2021 UNIVERSITY RACES

(held over Thames Hare and Hounds' courses at Roehampton Vale on Saturday, 4th December)

The 45th Ladies' Race: Oxford won by 36 points to 44

1.	N.E.Scott	Newnham	Cambridge	23:48
2.	M.N.Bridson Hubbard	Magdalene	Cambridge	23:51
3.	A.Brown	New College	Oxford	23:56
4.	G.E.Molloy	St John's	Oxford	24:13
5.	E.J.P.Carroll	Magdalen	Oxford	24:55
6.	G.L.Shanahan	Trinity	Cambridge	25:05
7.	C.L.M.Buckley	Oriel	Oxford	25:17
8.	L.Major	Merton	Oxford	25:31
9.	W.F.V.Scrafton	Worcester	Oxford	25:37
10.	M.D.E.Dickinson	Gonville and Caius	Cambridge	26:02
11.	K.Ridgway	Worcester	Oxford	26:14
12.	H.E.Greenwood	Lucy Cavendish	Cambridge	26:18
13.	M.A.Hardman	Selwyn	Cambridge	26:38
14.	S.J.Blockley	Clare	Cambridge	26:43
15.	E.G.Higgs-Sharrock	Balliol	Oxford	26:53
16.	L.M.Carson	St. John's	Cambridge	27:38

B.Dow (Pembroke) was Oxford Cambridge

E.Bradley (Queens') was Cambridge captain

The 130th Gentlemen's Race: Cambridge won by 35 points to 43

1.	J.M.Edgerton	Jesus	Cambridge	38:54
2.	J.S.G.Dempsey	Girton	Cambridge	38:57
3.	J.Morrow	Wolfson	Oxford	39:02
4.	P.W.Molloy	Trinity	Cambridge	39:05
5.	J.T.Massingham	Pembroke	Cambridge	39:38
6.	A.L.R.Smith	St. John's	Oxford	39:49
7.	T.D.Renshaw	St. Hugh's	Oxford	39:56
8.	T.J.Wood	St. Anne's	Oxford	39:57
9.	M.Campion	Hertford	Oxford	40:01
10.	D.Bundred*	St. John's	Oxford	40:04
11.	J.W.Rennie	St. Catharine's	Cambridge	41:04
12.	E.C.Spencer	Trinity Hall	Cambridge	41:17
13.	D.Slater	Churchill	Cambridge	41:19
14.	M.D.D'Aquila	Wolfson	Oxford	41:31
15.	B.S.Burke	Worcester	Oxford	41:42
16.	H.E.Silverstein*	Gonville and Caius	Cambridge	42:23

(* denotes team captain)

THE 2022 2nd-4th TEAM UNIVERSITY RACES

(held over O.U.C.C.C's courses at Shotover Country Park on Saturday, 26th November)

78 th Tortoises-Spartans Race	Cambridge won by 26 points to 52
71 st Snails-Barbarians Race	Cambridge won by 37 points to 41
64 th Gentlemen's 4 th Team Race	Oxford won by 310 points to 661
39 th Turtles-Cheetahs Race	Cambridge won by 27 points to 51
35 th Ladies' 3 rd Team Race	Oxford won by 152 points to 402

PREVIEW OF THE 2022 UNIVERSITY RACES

Twelve months ago, Cambridge took the top two places in both the gentlemen's and the ladies' races. With those four runners in action again today plus a number of strong additions to their sides, they should enter both contests in an optimistic mood. They will also have been buoyed by comprehensive victories in the two second team races last weekend.

In the 46th ladies' race, the top-two from last year, Nancy Scott (Newnham) and Niamh Bridson-Hubbard (Magdalene) should again be involved at the front. However, unlike in 2021, when they did not have the support behind them to bring home the team honours, the pair are likely to be joined by Phoebe Barker (Robinson), who is back after missing last season through injury, and Louise Shanahan (Trinity), returning for a third appearance after another strong summer on the track. Although they have lost the exceptional fresher Beatrice Wood (Lucy Cavendish) to European selection, it looks very probable that Light Blues will dominate at the sharp end of the race.

Oxford do have a number of very talented runners among their ranks and it would be a surprise if both Alice Garner (St. Hugh's) and Alexandra Brown (New College) were not also involved in the battle at the front. However, the they are up against what looks to be a very strong Light Blue side and despite the solidity of their team throughout their order, it does not look like they have sufficient fire power at the top end to take the team honours.

In the 131st gentlemen's race, Cambridge again look to have an ominously strong top end. Last year's one-two, James Edgerton (Jesus) and Jeremy Dempsey (Girton) are in very good form once again, although this year Dempsey looks the more likely race winner. Added to them, the Light Blues have the experienced Joe Massingham (Pembroke) and the newcomer Terry Fawden (Wolfson) who are likely to be join these two at the front to make a very powerful spearhead. For their part, the Dark Blues also have strength at the top end of their team. Joe Morrow (Queens') – third last year – is in good form once again and he is likely to be supported by two others who finished in the top half of the race in 2021 in the shape of Tom Wood (St. Anne's) and Captain Tom Renshaw (St. Peter's). Added to this, there is their American fresher Naphtali Moulton (St. Cross) who, provided he adjusts smoothly to the unique challenges of the course, could well be their first man home. Behind them both teams are made up of a mixture of freshers and runners who have moved up strongly from the non-Blues teams in 2021. Oxford are also able to call on Alex Bampton (Green Templeton), who is back after five years away and will no doubt be hoping to emulate that 2017 team success.

Overall, both teams have a very solid look about them on paper; however, with the strength they possess at the top of their team, the Light Blues enter the contest as warm favourites.

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 opposite, the ladies' race proceeds from the start to the finish via the following:

Start - A - B - C - D - E - J - K - L - Finish

Gentlemen's course (7½ miles)

The gentlemen's race proceeds from start to finish via:

Start - A - B - C - D - E - F - G - H - I - D - E - J - K - L - 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 of the sports pitches on the Memorial Playing Fields.

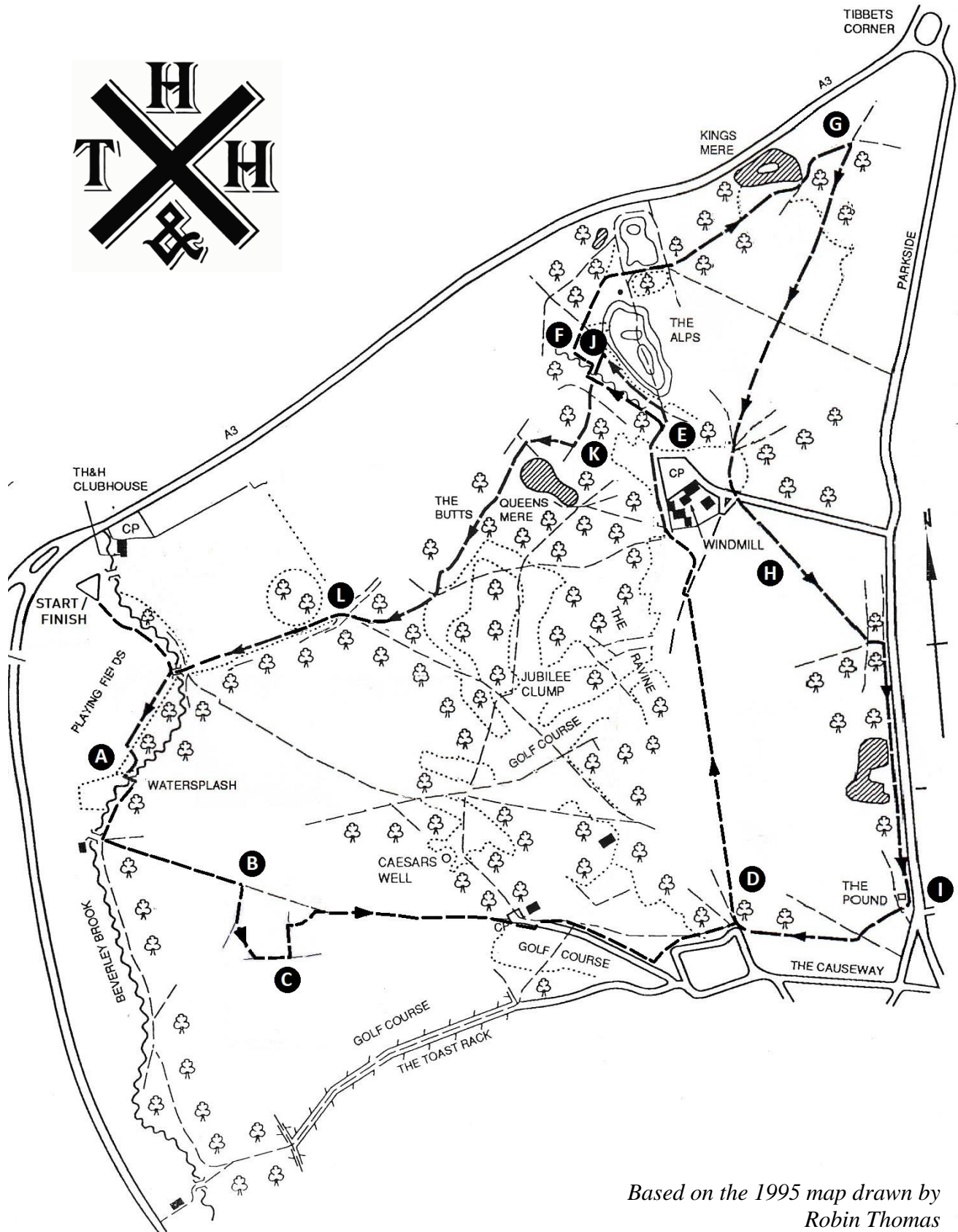
Our ability to host these races on the Common depends on your co-operation.

Thank you.

James Hoad
Captain
Thames Hare and Hounds

UNIVERSITY RACE COURSES

ROEHAMPTON VALE & WIMBLEDON COMMON



*Based on the 1995 map drawn by
Robin Thomas*

FROM THE ARCHIVES

10 years ago

In the 122nd Gentlemen's Race, although it was a Dark Blue one-two, Cambridge packed five of the next six places to record their second successive victory, by the narrow margin of 38 points to 42. Jacob Wiebel – the race's first runner from St. Cross – took the individual honours in 38:41.

The 37th Ladies' Race proved to be a turning point as a long period of Oxford dominance came to an end. Although Oxford entered the race having won 20 of the previous 25, Cambridge looked to have their strongest side for a number of years and so it proved to be. Freshers Alison Greggor (King's) and Hanna Tarver (Fitzwilliam) finished first and third. Behind them, Light Blues filled places five, six and eight to secure a comfortable 15 points to 22 victory. Oxford would not win again until 2016.

25 years ago

In the 22nd ladies' race, Oxford made it five wins in a row with a convincing 12 points to 26 victory. They were led home by fresher and junior international Katie Skorupska (New College) and with two Dark Blues behind her, the victory was never in doubt.

In the 107th gentlemen's race, Cambridge gained revenge for Oxford's dramatic victory 12 months earlier winning by the comfortable margin of 31 points to 48. Like the Dark Blues in the ladies' race, they took the first three places and were led home by a fresher, in the shape of Canadian Alex Hutchinson (Caius). In third place was future Southern Championship victor Huw Lobb (Jesus).

50 years ago

Following two tied scores in the previous three years, the 82nd gentlemen's race in 1972 was another close affair. Chris Garforth (Queens') was the runaway individual winner by a margin of over 90 seconds from Tony Moore (St. Edmund Hall), in the process providing Cambridge's only individual victor between 1965 and 1980. In the team contest, the Light Blues also won by 37 points to 42, their four runners packed in the five places between sixth and tenth proving decisive.

75 years ago

The 57th gentlemen's race proved to be one of the most controversial in the history of the series. Oxford won comfortably by 17 points to 38; however, it was their four-way tie for first place that raised eyebrows. At the time, a full Blue was only awarded to the first man home from each team, provided he was in the first three. Race leader Peter Curry (Oriental) glanced over his shoulder in the closing stages to see three teammates behind him and comfortably ahead of the first two Cambridge runners, one of whom was Chris Brasher (St. John's). He eased off and waited for them to catch him and they crossed the line together. His literal interpretation of the rules meant that the Blues Committee was forced to award four full Blues, although they were not amused. Max Jones (Clare), who was jointly first home for Cambridge with Brasher, commented many years later, "I had always thought that their triumphantly beaming faces in my photo album were because they had beaten Chris and me. Not so, their victory over us was much less important than their victory over their own Blues Committee."

100 years ago

Oxford won the 38th contest by the wide margin of 17 points to 38. Noel McInnes (New College) made amends for his disappointing performance in 1921 to take the individual victory, heading home five Dark Blues in the first six places.

125 years ago

The second race at Roehampton and 18th in the series was notable for it marked the first "lowest possible" score in the series, with the Light Blues getting all five of their men home before the first Oxford runner. William Gibberd (Trinity) repeated his 1896 success, leading home a Trinity one-two-three. The Light Blues would repeat the feat in 1899.



Above: The finish of the controversial 1947 race: Peter Curry (Oriental), John Pollard (Pembroke), George Ridding (Oriental) and Norman Green (Magdalen) cross the line.

Above right: The runners cross the watersplash in 1997.



Right: The first three from 1922 - Noel McInnes (New College), Cedric Morgan (Christ Church) and Philip Bryant (Queen's).



Below: Hanna Tarver (Fitzwilliam) finishing third in 2012.

Below right: The 1897 Cambridge team that whitewashed Oxford. Race winner William Gibberd (Trinity) is seated third from the right.



RACE STATISTICS

Gentlemen's Race

Of the 130 gentlemen's races between 1880 and 2021, both Oxford and Cambridge have 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 58.

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 (97). In terms of race winners, the most successful are Magdalen (12) for Oxford, and Christ's (11) for Cambridge.

Ladies' Race

Of the 45 ladies' races between 1976 and 2021, Oxford has won 26 and Cambridge 19. 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 23.

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 St. Anne's and St. Hugh's (17 runners each since 1976) and at Cambridge it is Newnham (26). 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

Oxford and Cambridge tied on 65 wins each

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.Mugglestone (O)	<i>Six unofficial wartime races held (see below)</i>		
1989 Oxford	25-56	S.J.Mugglestone (O)	1938 Oxford	32-46	P.D.Marrian (O)
1988 Oxford	29-50	S.J.Mugglestone (O)	1937 Cambridge	34-44	E.C.Weir (C)
1987 Oxford	27-55	S.J.Mugglestone (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.Lovelock (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)
1967 Cambridge	39-41	H.Altmann (O)	<i>1914-18 No races due to the Great War</i>		
1966 Oxford	27-55	J.Godding (O)			

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 26 wins to 19 (Oxford won the unofficial race in 1975)

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

***** The 1975 race (held at Oxford) was unofficial and is not counted as part of the series.

† Now J.Lasenby (C.U.H.&H. President 2006-date).

Old Blues

Oxford leads Cambridge by 17 wins to 12

2021 Oxford	160-171	J.M.Millar (O)	2002 Cambridge	109-134	D.E.Naylor (C)
2020	<i>No race due to Covid-19 pandemic</i>				
2019 Oxford	180-186	W.J.A.Christofi (O)	2001 Cambridge	39-66	D.E.Naylor (C)
2018 Cambridge	98-158	M.H.Chandler (O)	2000 Cambridge	81-131	D.E.Naylor (C)
2017 Cambridge	123-183	A.M.Short (C)	1999	<i>No race*</i>	
2016 Cambridge	114-192	T.D.Frith (O)	1998	<i>No race*</i>	
2015 Oxford	223-291	W.J.Mackay (C)	1997 Oxford	45-92	R.D.Nerurkar (O)
2014 Cambridge	220-247	M.R.Leach (C)	1996 Oxford	127-127	J.W.Herries (C)
2013 Oxford	122-186	D.J.Bruce (O)	1995 Cambridge	23-34	A.J.Barber (C)
2012 Oxford	96-246	F.K.Thompson (O)	1994 Cambridge	116-241	D.A.Bond (C)
2011 Oxford	48-181	D.J.Bruce (O)	1993 Oxford	96-172	R.D.Nerurkar (O)
2010 Oxford	162-244	B.Moreau (O)	1992 Cambridge	407-415	S.C.Nash (C)
2009 Oxford	98-165	I.D.Kimpton (O)	1991 Cambridge	48-62	A.N.J.Robinson (O)
2008 Oxford	38-40	A.D.Hennessy (O)	1990 Oxford	37-40	R.D.Nerurkar (O)
2007 Oxford	97-114	M.J.Bishop (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.		
2006 Oxford	312-354	D.A.Talbot (C)			
2005 Cambridge	137-166	D.A.Talbot (C)			
2004 Oxford	90-120	N.P.Talbot (O)			
2003 Oxford	32-46	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.

THE BRASHER-CHATAWAY-BANNISTER BRIDGE



The BCB bridge will be officially opened this afternoon. It has been subject to a soft opening for a few weeks with members of the public testing it out. Today's three races will cross it in their final stages, and if it survives this essential stress test, then we can be assured it can survive anything. The programme is as follows:

- 3.30 p.m. Assemble at the marquee on the corner of the playing field, 300m south of the pavilion
- 3.45 p.m. Opening ceremony
- 4.00 p.m. Return to marquee for refreshments.

Roger Bannister won the University Race in 1949, followed by Chris Chataway in 1950, 1951 and 1952 (joint). Chris Brasher had a best finish of third in 1950. All three trained on the Common in the build up to their achievement of the first four-minute mile on 6th May 1954. Brasher and Chataway continued to run on the Common all their lives. The BCB bridge commemorates their memory.

Since the 1940s, there has been a pedestrian bridge at this location across Beverley Brook, connecting the two sections of the Richardson Evans Playing Fields. It is used by those enjoying the playing fields for football, rugby and cricket, and by walkers. It has also been a feature of many of Thames' cross-country courses. It first became part of the University Race in 1970 when adjustments were made to the course to allow it to start and finish at the War Memorial on Putney Heath, just a short walk from our then headquarters at the King's Head in Roehampton. The Great Fire of August 1975, which gutted those headquarters and forced our move to our present location, meant that course only survived five races. However, the bridge remained a part of the adjusted version, which survived until 1999 and the current one, which was first used in 2000. Until 2015, the bridge was crossed in the very early stages of the races and from 2016, with the move of the start and finish to the other side of Beverley Brook, it now forms part of the run-in. Over the years, the bridge deteriorated with the concrete base disintegrating, the wooden rails rotting and the steel beams corroding.

In November 2018, Thames approached Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators (WPCC) with an offer to participate in the project to rebuild the bridge. If funds permitted, a wider base was desired to enable it to be used more easily, not least for running events. Progress was slow but steady. Various design options were considered and many sources of funds pursued. Early commitments to provide significant funds were obtained from a charitable trust arranged by a member of Thames and from the

London Marathon Trust, which gave us confidence we could eventually succeed. Various potential contractors were approached, giving valuable advice. WPCC settled on a simple and sympathetic design and selected Maydencroft Ltd to supply and install the bridge. The material used for the base and the cross beams is engineered recycled plastic and is similar to hardwood in appearance.

The balance of required funds was obtained from further members of Thames and the club itself, and the Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons. Local generous donors included The Wimbledon Foundation (the charitable arm of the All England Lawn Tennis Club), Runthrough (who promote running events on the Common and elsewhere) and Thomas' Schools which use the playing fields.

In early 2019, WPCC completed a major restoration of the brook, to create a more natural flowing water course. The hard edges of the banks were largely removed and selective tree cutting and pruning allowed in more light. Wood material was allowed to rest on the floor of the brook to allow the stream to meander with varying speed of flow and depth. The result has been a welcome increase in the numbers and variety of fauna and flora. In 2020, a major section of the path along the brook was resurfaced to make it more resilient and user friendly. The BCB bridge provides a much-needed addition to these valued works.

Apart from the generous support of the donors, Thames was assisted in the project by the WPCC management, Joe Ruston with his engineering experience, and landscape specialists such as Mark Gregory of Landform. We must also give a special mention to Peter Haldane's gang of wombling waders who keep the brook in pristine condition.

David Jenkins, Thames Hare & Hounds

No bridge can be formally opened without a piper and a poem, and the master we rely on is that great Scottish bard, William McGonagall. His poems on the Tay Bridge have given delight to poetry enthusiasts. Our engineer Joe Ruston has produced an update.

THE BEAUTIFUL NEW BRIDGE O'ER THE BEVERLEY BROOK

It will never now be hard to recall
What happened one fine day in the 2018 fall
The runners of Thames Hare and Hounds set off upon their muddy track
So fast they went, such fun they had, not one of them considered turning back
The land on which these fine folk ran
In Putney Vale had been donated by Mr Richardson-Evans, a most generous man
But through it runs a stream or brook
Which must be crossed by hook or crook
Its sides are steep and form a ridge
The runners searched along the banks until at last they found a bridge

A cheer was raised but quite soon died
Because this bridge was not that wide
Only one could cross it at a time
Yet the leaders numbered one third of nine
And though these runners were keen to win
They shrank back from that most unpardonable sin
Of rudeness to your fellow man
Then it was they hatched a plan
They campaigned well and donors gave
So that politeness could be preserved and the faces of all the runners saved
Thanks to them and you dear friends, even in the foulest weather,
Three runners may cross the new bridge all together.

WIMBLEDON AND PUTNEY COMMONS CONSERVATORS



Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators is a registered charity, responsible for the management of 1,140 acres of public open space comprising Wimbledon Common and Putney Lower Common. The fundamental duty of WPCC, as set out in the founding legislation, the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act of 1871, is to preserve and protect the Commons for the purposes of exercise and recreation.

Given the express purpose of the Commons in facilitating exercise and recreation, there could be no better way to celebrate the official opening of a new bridge over the Beverley Brook than by hosting a cross-country running event across it and the Conservators are honoured by the occasion.

As a charity, we rely on external funding to invest in the facilities, maintain the landscape and enhance nature. The support we receive from partnerships and the people who visit helps us to continue playing host to a wide range of events, including the Oxford-Cambridge Cross-Country Races, whose history on Wimbledon Common dates back to 1890.

In the early nineteenth century, the land linking the Commons and Richmond Park was saved from development thanks to a campaign led by a Richardson Evans, a local resident who was also the father of Dr. Ulick Evans, who served as Vice-President of Cambridge University Hare and Hounds for many years. Richardson Evans raised the funds necessary through public subscription and donated the land to the Commons. The land named in his honour is home to Thames Hare and Hounds.

The Conservators and staff are incredibly grateful for the support of Thames Hare and Hounds who led the fundraising for the BCB bridge and supported the project management; we are particularly indebted to David Jenkins for his relentless fundraising efforts and Joe Ruston for his engineering advice. We would also like to thank everyone who has so generously made a donation towards rebuilding the BCB Bridge. We hope everyone loves the new wider, stronger bridge as much as we do and we look forward to crossing with you – and cutting the ribbon – as we formally celebrate its opening.

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.”

The plaque will be officially unveiled at our clubhouse at 1.15 p.m. today, between the end of the Old Blues’ Race and start of the Ladies’ Race.

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

James Hoad (Club Captain)
Chloe Beckett (Ladies’ Captain)
Simon Molden (Secretary & Club Archivist)

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