



OUE

2023-2024

Captain's Introduction

The Men's Blues cricket team had one of their most successful and enjoyable seasons in recent memory. In BUCS cricket, Oxford University Cricket Club (OUCC) topped the BUCS South Premier league, leading to a national semi-final against Loughborough University and a promotion match against Solent University. In a thrilling match, Oxford recovered from 61-6 to chase down 216 against Loughborough, to reach the National Final at Kibworth CC against Cardiff. Despite a brilliant century from George Roberts, Oxford fell just 10 runs short of Cardiff's 258-5. However, a strong team performance in the promotion match against Solent led to victory, earning the Men's Blues promotion to the National Universities BUCS league, where they will compete among the top 8 university teams.

In Varsity cricket, Oxford sought to improve on past results. At Lord's, Oxford chased down Cambridge's total of 156, with Josh Royan hitting the winning runs after the bowlers restricted Cambridge. The 50-over match was the season's highlight, with Oxford defending a total of 263. Despite Cambridge's partnerships threatening to chase down the total, Oxford's bowlers took 4 wickets in as many overs for a thrilling finish. Vignesh Venkateswaran held his nerve in the final over, securing the win.

In the 4-day match, Oxford dominated by posting 446-6 dec. against Cambridge's 222, with 90s from Vivek Narayan and Josh Royan, and Toby Brown's maiden OUCC century. With rain expected on day 4, our bowlers wrapped up victory by an innings and 6 runs inside 3 days, with next season's captain Justin Clarke taking a five-wicket haul, his first for the club.

This remarkable season for the Men's Blues was made possible by our coaches Graham Charlesworth and David Ward, scorer Mark Williams, the ground staff, and the senior committee. We thank them all enormously for their support and commitment to the club!

Ben Swanson, OUCC Men's Blues Captain 2023/24

The OUCC Women's team enjoyed a successful and rewarding season, winning 10 out of 12 games, with impressive performances and significant progress both on and off the field. Featuring talented players from the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes, the team displayed both skills and determination, whilst competing at club, county, and representative levels.

In our BUCS league, we finished second in our division and showcased our ability to compete against top-tier teams. The season was filled with memorable moments, including hard-fought victories and close games which could have gone either way. Our competitive spirit and teamwork were evident in key fixtures, where the squad consistently delivered strong performances and adapted well to different challenges.

The pinnacle of the season was the annual Varsity match against Cambridge, a highlight that lived up to its reputation for fierce rivalry and high stakes. We set a modest target but delivered a dominant bowling performance to secure a 53-run victory.

Beyond the pitch, we have been committed to promoting women's cricket within and outside the university. We ran multiple beginner sessions at the Parks, aiming to make the sport more accessible and increase participation from women of all skill levels. This effort reflects our dedication to fostering an inclusive and supportive cricket environment, to expand the sport at university and college levels.

Reflecting on the season, I can say that captaining the team has been a personal highlight. Leading such a talented and committed group of players was immensely rewarding, and it was a unique opportunity to contribute to the team's success and development. As our season comes to a close, the Women's Blues can be proud of our achievements and I am excited to build on this year's successes in the seasons to come.

Hannah Davis, OUCC Women's Blues Captain 2023/24

Captain's Introduction

This season for the Authentics has been a rollercoaster. With the core team in their final year and facing exams, we anticipated challenges. However, the depth of Oxford cricket was evident, with over 40 players, including development squad members, getting opportunities to play, showcasing the sport's strength at the university.

Our early season focused on preparing for the Varsity T20 game at the Parks. Despite the rain, we beat both the RAF development side and Magdalen College School in a game attended by over 200 spectators. Unfortunately, our Varsity game did not go as well. Our innings never really got started, and despite excellent performances from Alec Kenningham and William Marriage, we lost.

The One Day Varsity game at Arundel was a highlight. With a tight bowling spell from Chris Carnegie and runs from Max Kirkby and Tom Munns, we won comfortably. The setting was perfect, and our team rose to the occasion, demonstrating skill and teamwork for a memorable victory.

The three-day Varsity game faced challenges, starting with rain on day one. Chris Carnegie toiled away in difficult conditions, showcasing his dedication. Despite a poor first innings total, brilliant runs from Alec Kenningham in the subsequent innings highlighted the team's fighting spirit.

In the BUCS competition, the season started with a win against a mixed Oxford Brookes and OUCCE side in a tense game where Vivek Narayan starred with the bat. Additionally, several Jazz games featured notable performances from William Marriage, who finished the season with almost 40 wickets.

Thanks to all who helped make the Authentics season enjoyable, carrying forward the true spirit of Authentics cricket at Oxford.

Jack Cobb, OUCCE Authentics Captain 2023/24

This season was full of challenges for the Sivs, with a limited number of games played due to weather conditions and a shortage of grounds. However, the team showed great resilience and spirit, especially in both matches against Cambridge.

The highlight of the season was the thrilling 50-over match against a formidable Cambridge side. The Sivs managed to set a competitive total of 252-8, thanks to an outstanding batting performance. The bowling unit delivered an exceptional team effort, displaying remarkable perseverance and holding their nerve to secure a 14-run victory. This win was a testament to the team's ability to perform under pressure and embrace their role as underdogs with determination and teamwork.

Although the T20 match against Cambridge did not go as planned, with Cambridge winning comfortably, the Sivs' victory in one of the two matches was a significant achievement. The team demonstrated their potential and spirit by competing fiercely against strong opposition.

Another highlight of the season was Alec Cooke's impressive 75 against Oxenford CC. Unfortunately, Alec narrowly missed out on a century, as he had to attend the Pembroke Ball. Malitha Ratnaweera emerged as the top scorer of the season, showcasing consistent performance throughout, while Tom Fuller claimed the title of leading wicket-taker, demonstrating his skill and prowess with the ball.

Despite the challenges faced this season, the Sivs have shown incredible resilience and promise. The team's achievements, particularly against strong opposition, are a testament to their hard work and determination. As we look forward to future seasons, there's a lot to be optimistic about, and we are excited to build on this foundation.

Thomas Fuller, OUCCE Elusives Captain 2023/24

Junior Committee

Junior Women's Committee

Blues Captain: Hannah Davis (St John's)

Women's Secretary: Finnley Aston (LMH)

Treasurer: Ella Gallagher (Hertford)

Social Secretaries: Rosy Wilson (Hertford), Ella Gallagher (Hertford)

Junior Men's Committee

Blues Captain: Ben Swanson (St Peter's)

Authentics Captain: Jack Cobb (Christchurch)

Elusives Captain: Thomas Fuller (Corpus Christi)

Blues Vice Captain: George Roberts (St Peter's)

Blues Vice Captain & Club Secretary: Toby Brown (Magdalen)

Treasurer: Saqlain Choudhary (New)

Club Welfare Officer: Justin Clarke (Magdalen)

Social Secretaries: Musa Ali (Wadham), Daniel Mackay (Somerville)

Outreach Secretaries: Tom Douglas (Christchurch), Gabe McCall (St Peter's)

Cuppers Secretary: Alex Pitlarge (Keble)

Fixture List 2024

Women's Blues

Date	Match	Opposition	Venue	Result
14/04	2 x T20	Oxford CC	Parks	Loss
19/04	T20	Bath	Parks	Win
24/04	30 over	Lincoln	Parks	Opposition conceded
1/05	30 over	Loughborough	Away	Win
02/05	2 x T20	St Edward's	Away	Opposition conceded
05/05	2x T20	Oxford CC	Away	Win
07/05	2 x T20	Army	Parks	Win
09/05	T20	Cambridge	Lord's	Loss
15/05	30 over	Warwick	Parks	Win
22/05	30 over	Nottingham	Away	Cancelled
29/05	30 over	Loughborough	Parks	Loss
31/05	30 over	Nottingham	Parks	Win
05/06	30 over	Cambridge	Away	Win
07/06	50 over	MCC	Parks	Win
08/06	50 over	Alumni	Parks	Opposition conceded
15/06	50 over	Free Foresters	Parks	Win
22/06	50 over	Cambridge	Arundel	Win

Men's Blues

Date	Match	Opposition	Venue	Result
13/04	50 over	Oxford CC	Away	Abandoned
17/04	50 over	Bristol	Parks	Win
21/04	40 over	Teddington CC	Away	Tied
24/04	50 over	Bournemouth	Away	Win
25/04	2 x T20	RAF	Away	Win
28/04	2 x T20	ACE	Parks	Cancelled
29/04	2 x T20	Army	Away	Win
01/05	50 over	Exeter	Parks	Win
03/05	T20	UCCE	Parks	Cancelled
05/05	2 x T20	Navy	Away	Abandoned
08/05	50 over	Reading	Away	Cancelled
09/05	T20	Cambridge	Lord's	Win
22/05	50 over	Cardiff	Parks	Cancelled
26/05	50 over	Arabs	Parks	Abandoned
28/05	50 over	Reading	Away	Loss
29/05	50 over	Cardiff Met	Away	Win
04/06	50 over	Sharks	Parks	Loss
09/06	50 over	Harlequins	Parks	Loss
12/06	50 over	Loughborough	Parks	Win
17/06	3-day	MCC	Parks	Loss
23/06	50 over	Cambridge	Arundel	Win
25/06	3-day	Free Foresters	Parks	Loss
26/06	50 over	Cardiff	Kidlington	Loss
28/06	50 over	Solent	Away	Win
02/07	4-day	Cambridge	Parks	Win



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Fixture List 2024

Authentics

Date	Match	Opposition	Venue	Result
20/04	50 over	Cumnor	Away	Win
23/04	2 x T20	RAF	Home	Win
24/04	50 over	Brookes	Marston	Win
02/05	T20	St Edward's	Away	Cancelled
03/05	T20	Brookes	Parks	Cancelled
05/05	50 over	Heretics	Parks	Loss
08/05	50 over	Worcester	Away	Loss
10/05	T20	MCS	Parks	Win
12/05	50 over	Free Foresters	Parks	Win
15/05	50 over	Warwick	Marston	Cancelled
17/05	T20	Cambridge	Parks	Loss
19/05	50 over	Nomads	Marston	Win
22/05	50 over	Nottingham Trent	Away	Cancelled
24/05	Timed	MCC	Parks	Loss
03/06	40 over	SOA	Marston	Drawn
05/06	50 over	Nottingham	Marston	Win
10/06	2-day	Frogs	Marston	Loss
12/06	50 over	Warwick	Away	Loss
16/06	Timed	HAC	Away	Tied
21/06	50 over	Cambridge	Arundel	Win
03/07	3-day	Cambridge	Fenners	Loss

Elusives

Date	Match	Opposition	Venue	Result
17/04	50 over	Birmingham	Home	Cancelled
22/04	50 over	LSE	Home	Abandoned
27/04	40 over	Oxford	Away	Loss
03/05	T20	Brookes	Away	Cancelled
04/05	40 over	Aston Rowant CC	Away	Cancelled
13/05	T20	Oxford India Soc	Away	Win
16/05	T20	Cambridge	Parks	Win
17/05	50 over	Cambridge	Parks	Loss
25/05	50 over	Southampton	Home	Cancelled



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Men's South Africa Tour

The OUCC Men's Blues squad returned from tour to Cape Town. The 15-strong squad was led by captain Ben Swanson and Tour Manager William Frewen. The tour began with a trip to Seal Island followed by an afternoon T20 victory against Green Point CC, courtesy of Saqlain Choudhary's 4-14 and 35 with the bat. Our second game was against the social side Groot Drakenstein CC, one of the most stunning locations (pictured) many of the touring party have played at. OUCC racked up a massive 343 off our 50 overs, with Robbie Hardwick 100*, Max Kirkby agonisingly dismissed on debut for 99 and Toby Brown 94*. Despite the customary glass of brandy before going out to field, we managed to restrict Groot Drakenstein to 175 all out with wickets shared between the bowlers.



Despite playing 6 games in 9 days, we were also able to enjoy the sights and culture Cape Town has to offer. Particular highlights include the cable car-assisted ascent of Table Mountain, and visiting vineyards in the Stellenbosch and Franschhoek regions (and still being able to play the day after!).

Whilst we were lucky enough to have some success on the pitch this tour, winning 5 of 6 games, perhaps the biggest gain to the team from the tour is bringing the Men's Blues squad closer together as a group through time spent off the field.

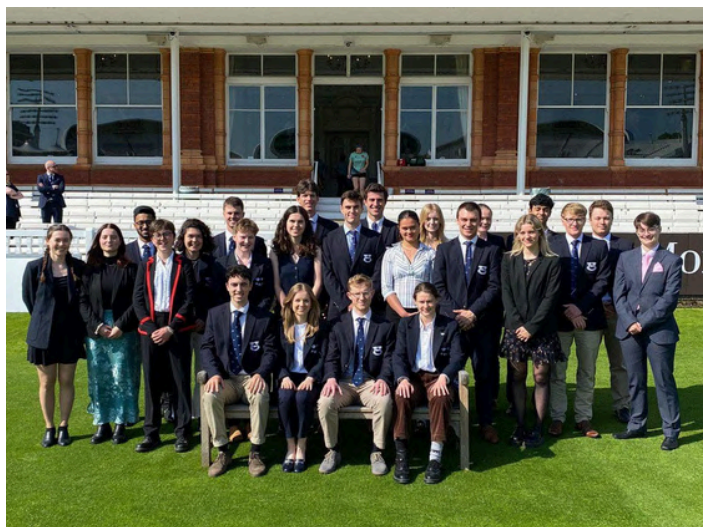


Our only defeat of the tour came against Western Province CC under the gaze of Table Mountain (pictured). Despite recovering from 8-2 to reach 284 (Toby Brown 64, Robbie Hardwick 59, Justin Clarke 40* off 15), WPCC chased the total in the final over courtesy of 145 from first-class batter Gavin Kaplan. The Men's Blues recovered strongly the following day in a T20 against Claremont CC, restricting the opposition to 144 before chasing the total with 8 wickets to spare thanks to an Alec Kenningham 50*.

In our final 2 games we beat Maties CC and Brackenfell CC in two low-scoring games, defined by accurate spin-bowling from Ben Swanson (5-14 & 4-32) and Saqlain Choudhary (4-9). Some gutsy batting performances across the team helped to grind out respectable scores in challenging conditions in these 2 matches.



Lord's T20 Varsity



OUCC Men's and Women's Blues played their T20 Varsity Matches against Cambridge at Lord's. The Women's Blues played in the first of the T20 double-header, electing to bowl first.

Despite 4 wickets from Hannah Sutton, Cambridge were able to get to a formidable total of 163, courtesy of strong batting performances by Routledge & Boaden.

In reply, the Women's Blues unfortunately fell short by 36 runs, despite contributions from Hannah Davis, Ellie Micklewright and Annys Thirkell-Jones at the top of the order.



Lord's T20 Varsity

In the second T20 of the day, OUCC won the toss again, with Ben Swanson electing to bowl first. Cambridge got off to a quick start in the Powerplay, with Houillon scoring 49 before being run out by a super piece of fielding from fresher Dhruv Talati.

Wickets were shared amongst the bowlers, with spinners Ben Swanson, Chris Mingard and Vignesh Venkateswaran slowing Cambridge down in the middle overs. Cambridge reached a respectable 156-7 off their 20 overs.

OUCC opening batter George Roberts set about chasing this total with a superb innings of 79, ably supported by cameos from Justin Clarke and Max Kirkby through the middle.

With 1 run to win, it was left to Josh Royan, in his final year at Oxford, to win the game by carving one away to the offside boundary – bringing back memories of Ben Stokes at Headingley in 2019.

OUCC would like to thank the MCC for once again hosting a fabulous event at Lord's.



Tics & Sivs Parks Varsity

Authentics T20 Varsity Report

The T20 Varsity took place on the 15th of May in the Parks as part of a double-header with the Elusives. Cambridge won the toss and elected to field, with Vivek Nayaran and Jack Cobb opening the batting. Despite 20 runs coming from the first over, some early wickets left the Tics 31/2.

The fightback was led by Alec Kenningham's 53 and 31 run partnerships with Kunal Barman and Thomas Douglas respectively. Kenningham's 48 off 46 balls helped the Authentics to a 139 all out total.

Once in the field, Chris Carnegie and Adam Hassan opened the bowling for the Authentics. Unfortunately, the Cambridge Crusaders proved too strong with the bat despite a strong four overs from William Marriage with 1-14. The Tabs chased the total down to win the first Varsity match of the season.



While the T20 match against Cambridge didn't go our way, with Cambridge winning comfortably, securing a victory in one of the two games was a significant achievement for a Sivs team that embraced the underdog role with determination and teamwork.

Sivs Varsity Report

In the 50-over match, the Sivs secured a thrilling victory against a much stronger Cambridge side on paper. Teddy Ridley was the star of the day, scoring an impressive 89 runs, which helped us set a competitive total of 252-8. The team's bowling unit rose to the occasion with an outstanding collective effort, demonstrating remarkable perseverance in the field. Despite a late-game wobble, the Sivs held their nerve to win by 14 runs.

Special mentions go to Ishwar Karthik, who delivered a fantastic spell of 10-1-34-1 straight through from the start, and Scott Bennett, whose crucial dismissal of Cambridge's set batsman was undoubtedly the highlight of the season.

BUCS - Women's Blues

The Women's Blues have had a relatively successful BUCS campaign in the Midlands 1A group with notable performances against Nottingham and Cambridge.

The season began in earnest with an away day against Loughborough 2's after Lincoln conceded their match on the 24th of April. Hannah Davis won the toss and elected to put L'boro into bat and open the bowling with Rosy Wilson and Evie Mayhew. Success followed with 3 wickets for Charlotte Maple until the opposition were 67 runs all out. The Women's Blues chased this down in 13.4 overs with a 32* from Chloe Westbury at the top order.

The next match would be at the Parks against Warwick. OUCC batted first and totalled 191/5 after the full 30 overs with a masterful 110* from the captain Hannah Davis. A five-wicket haul from Maya Barnwell led to the Warwick 64 all out in 27 overs.



In short succession, the Women's Blues would have to bounce back against a rescheduled Nottingham Ladies 1st XI the following Friday. The game was rain effected and a delayed start with a 25 over game commencing at 14:00. OUCC fielded first again with Nottingham setting a 105 target. However, the Blues chased this down in 25 overs with a similarly nail-biting finish!

A top of the table clash would follow against Loughborough 1s on the 29th of May would prove to be the most challenging BUCS match of the season. Oxford elected to field first. However, the low total would prove difficult against a strong Loughborough bowling attack. At 55-6, the situation looked tense but quick lower order partnerships raised the total to 98-8. Eventually, the Women's Blues fell short by 1 run in the final over in a tough loss. Whilst low in runs, it proved to be an incredibly tense match with good performances from both sides

The final BUCS match was at Jesus College, Cambridge. OUCC batted first with another key innings from skipper Hannah Davis and a notable 180 SR cameo from Ella Austin to reach 138 total. With no wide lines in sight, the Women's Blues dried up the Tabs over 30 overs till they were 97/7. A strong win and a sign of good things to come!

The Women's finished second in their division behind Loughborough after a strong performance across a highly successful season.

BUCS - Authentics

The Authentics had a very strong start to their BUCS campaign this year. Playing an exceptionally strong Oxford Brookes side at home, Jack Cobb lost the toss and the Authentics were asked to field first. A quick opening spell from Will Marriage (3-31) ran through the Brookes top order. This was followed up well through the middle by Jack Cobb (3-41) and Vivek Narayan (2-41), to limit Brookes to 210 all out off their 50 overs. In reply, the Authentics lost early wickets, bringing Cobb and Narayan to the crease. In the face of high quality bowling, these two batters put on a 100+ partnership before Cobb fell for 48. This just left Musa Ali (14*) and Narayan (74*) to finish the job and secure a very satisfying win against our neighbours.

Unfortunately, this was the sole highlight of the Authentics BUCS campaign. The remainder of the season was blighted by rain and rearranged fixtures coinciding with exams. The Authentics missed an opportunity to record another victory, as the match against Nottingham Trent was abandoned due to the weather. Despite battling hard in other fixtures, the Authentics were defeated by strong Nottingham, Warwick and Worcester sides. Sadly, these results saw the Authentics relegated from Midlands Tier 2A. Next year we hope to rebuild and seek promotion back to this league - whilst also beating the Cambridge Crusaders in the league fixture next year!



BUCS - Men's Blues



The Men's Blues had a very successful BUCS campaign this year in their Premier South Group. We began the league season against Bristol in April. Chris Mingard (4-24) and Josh Royan (2-11) bowled very well to rattle through the Bristol batting line-up leaving the opposition 121 all out. George Roberts made light work of this with an excellent 81* (a sign of things to come!) to win by 7 wickets.

Our second game away at Bournemouth saw a similarly comprehensive victory, with captain Ben Swanson taking 5-31 on a damp pitch to bowl Bournemouth out for 102. Dhruv Talati scored a quickfire 59* to see the Blues to a comfortable 9-wicket victory.

We continued our campaign against Exeter 2nd team back at the Parks in May. An excellent opening spell from Josh Royan was backed up through the middle overs by Chris Mingard and Usama Salamat to bowl Exeter out for 206. In reply, Saqlain Choudhary scored a blistering fifty to put OUCC in place to narrowly get over the line by 2 wickets.

After our game against University of Cardiff was cancelled, we played Reading in a very important game for our chances of promotion. In a rain-affected game, our innings was reduced to 30 overs. Unfortunately, we could only muster 130-8, which was comfortably chased down by Reading within 25 overs.

This left our final group game against Cardiff Metropolitan the following day. An excellent opening spell by Justin Clarke (3-32) reduced a Cardiff Met side consisting of several UCCE players to 31-3. Spin twins Ben Swanson and Chris Mingard continued this good work with figures of (2-14) and (3-21) respectively, to bowl Cardiff Met out for 98.

In response, the Blues decided to make it very difficult in the chase. At 63-6 the result was in doubt, however, Ben Swanson and Toby Brown steered the side over the line to a 3 wicket victory. Victory in this game saw the Men's Blues top the BUCS Premier South group, resulting in a National Trophy semi-final against Loughborough and a promotion play-off vs Solent.

BUCS - Men's Blues

In our first National Trophy semi-final for many years, we played Loughborough Men's 1st team at the Parks. Josh Royan (2-20) set the tone early, followed up by a strong spin bowling performances by Saqlain Choudhary (3-44) and Ben Swanson (3-10) bowled Loughborough out for 209 in less than 40 overs when they were on course for a large total.

In reply, OUCC faltered to 61-6 against some impressive Loughborough bowling. Rearguard action from Justin Clarke (37) and Toby Brown (58) clawed Oxford back to 138-7. Ben Swanson then came in and played a captain's innings to score 45* before Vignesh Venkateswaran sealed a 2 wicket victory, as seen below.



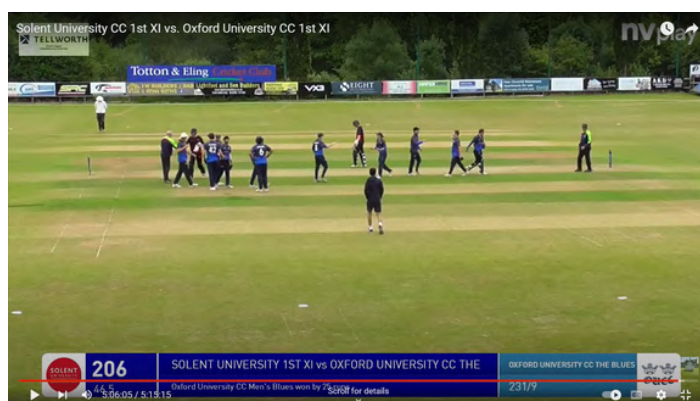
Victory in the National Trophy semi-final saw us into the final held at Kibworth. Bowling first on a flat track, OUCC's Chris Mingard (1-35) and Max Kirkby (1-45) bowled tightly to restrict Cardiff University to 258-5 off their 50 overs.

In reply, George Roberts lead the charge with another fantastic knock. Compiling a brilliant 120, Roberts was well-supported by Vivek Narayan (36). The Men's Blues were in a strong position at 210-3. However, an unfortunate batting collapse to 248 all out left the Blues an agonising 10 runs short of victory.

Nonetheless, this represented a fantastic BUCS cup run for OUCC and contributed significantly to one of the most memorable seasons in recent years.



Looking to avenge our defeat in the National Trophy Final, the Blues played Solent in a play-off match with promotion to the BUCS Premier League on the line. Batting first on the south coast, OUCC scored 231-9 off their 50 overs thanks to 83 by Toby Brown. Defending this total, Chris Mingard again made inroads with his 2-30 alongside Justin Clarke (3-35). Solent were reduced to 145-7 before a battling innings from their number 8 left them needing 26 to win with 1 wicket left. Vignesh Venkateswaran again demonstrated his nerve to bowl a wicket maiden and clinch promotion. Promotion represents a massive step for OUCC, returning to the highest level of university cricket in the UK.



As can be seen in the images with this report, many of our BUCS games this year have been live-streamed. We are looking to continue this provision in future years and are looking at various options to facilitate this.

Arundel Weekend

Friday - Authentics

OUCC hosted its 3 x 50 over Varsity matches against Cambridge at the picturesque Arundel Castle Cricket Ground. The Authentics played first on Friday 21st against the Crusaders, who elected to bat first. The Authentics put in an excellent combined bowling and fielding performance, led by a three-pronged pace attack of Chris Carnegie (2-34), William Marriage (2-37) and Max Kirkby (2-30). The Crusaders finished on 212-8 after their 50 overs, which seemed a worrying total when the Authentics were reduced to 13-2. Batting at 3, Max Kirkby was able to carry his side home with a brilliant 86*, well supported by Tom Munns (37*) to bring the Authentics to a 4-wicket win to avenge their defeat in the T20 Varsity.



Saturday - Women's Blues

Saturday saw the turn of the Women's Blues to take on Cambridge, electing to bat first. Bowling was dominant across the whole of the day's play, and Oxford Women's Blues managed to set a total of 101, courtesy of Ella Gallagher's 20.

Arundel Weekend

In defense of this total Oxford started with a combination of Hannah Davis and Poppy Sutcliffe. Both bowlers ran through the Cambridge batting line-up, removing dangerous players Routledge and Boaden. Hannah Davis finished with incredible figures of 10-6-7-5, with Poppy Sutcliffe taking 4-21. It was, however, Ella Gallagher who finished the game off by trapping Cambridge's number 9 batter LBW. The Women's Blues won the match by 53 runs in the end, a very impressive effort to defend such a low total.



Sunday - Men's Blues

After the previous 2 results, the pressure was on the Men's Blues to make it 3 from 3 at Arundel on Sunday. Ben Swanson chose to bat first, with George Roberts anchoring the innings at the top of the order, scoring 97*. Cameos from Josh Royan, Robbie Harwick and Vignesh Venkateswaran were enough to see the Men's Blues to a strong total of 263-9 after 50 overs. In response, Cambridge were reduced to 35-2 by a quick opening spell from Justin Clarke.

However, the Cambridge batters worked their way back into the game and looked on top at the 2nd drinks break after 34 overs. Returning spells from Ben Swanson (3-42) and Justin Clarke (3-47) turned the game in Oxford's favour, before a last wicket partnership left the Tabs needing 7 to win from the final over. Vignesh Venkateswaran kept his cool and left Cambridge's number 11 requiring 3 to win off the final ball. Fortunately, a miscued sweep shot only resulted in one run and Oxford Men's Blues recorded a memorable 1 run victory.



Everyone at OUCC would like to thank Arundel Castle Cricket for hosting a great (and successful!) weekend.

The University Match

OUCC Men's Blues played Cambridge in the 180th University Match last week. On a green pitch, Cambridge won the toss and batted - motoring along to 103 runs without loss. However, a brilliant spell by Chris Mingard (19-9-29-4) was ably supported by Vignesh Venkateswaran (21-7-51-2) to reduce Cambridge to 200-8.

Saqlain Choudhary picked up the final two wickets to bowl Cambridge out for 222 just after tea on the first day's play. George Roberts and Max Kirkby skilfully negotiated the new ball to be 53-0 overnight.



Unfortunately Kirkby fell just after the start of the 2nd day's play, leaving Roberts and Vivek Narayan on Blues debut to build the innings. Roberts made 61 before falling to the off-spin of Samir Sardana. This brought Josh Royan to the crease with Narayan, where both piled on the runs in quick time to make a partnership of 113 to leave the score 243-2.

Cruelly, both Narayan and Royan were out for 92 - missing out on very well deserved centuries. Toby Brown and Saqlain Choudhary then looked to push the pace on to force a declaration. Brown scored his first Varsity century with 104*, while Choudhary recorded a quick-fire 40. This set up captain Ben Swanson with a chance to declare at 446-6, a lead of 224 and leaving over a day and a half to bowl Cambridge out.



On the 3rd morning, the task of bowling Cambridge out was taken on by incoming captain Justin Clarke, who bowled a masterful spell to remove Cambridge's opener and number 3 in the space of two balls. Mingard, Clarke and Swanson chipped in with wickets through the middle of the innings to leave Cambridge 7 down.

Cambridge rallied thanks to a great innings from Aaran Amin (92), but Saqlain Choudhary removed the danger man. This left Justin Clarke to take the final wicket of the innings to complete a brilliant 5-wicket haul and seal victory by an innings and 6 runs.



Player Profiles

George Roberts

George has been OUCC's standout player this year, delivering when it mattered most - right throughout the season. George studies French & German at St Peter's and is in his second year at University. George came to University having spent time in the Surrey academy pathway and representing his region at the Bunbury festival.

After an excellent first year of University Cricket, George has taken his performances to another level this year. He has scored 723 runs at an average of 56, with a high score of 120 in the BUCS National Trophy Final. George saved his best performances for Varsity games, registering 3 fifties in 3 Varsity innings. Arguably his best performance was his 79 at Lord's to win the T20 Varsity game. For this innings, he was awarded the Oxford University Sport 'Best Sporting Moment' award.

Everyone at OUCC is very proud of George's achievements this year and we wish him well on his year abroad.



Maya Barnwell

Maya has had an excellent debut season for OUCC. In her first year studying Architecture at Oxford Brooke's, Maya has taken 19 wickets at 7.68 across the season in just 44 overs. Her first experience playing at the Parks was actually last season as a member of the opposition in a double T20 day against the Free Forresters!

In addition to playing for OUCC, Maya has also had success in playing for Oxfordshire's Women's 1st XI and her home club Banstead CC.

One of the most notable moments of the season was Maya's personal film crew! As part of an ACE program competition for a rookie contract, Maya has been followed by a documentary crew over the course of a few months. This crew interviewed her, her coaches and filmed her playing at the Parks. We wish Maya good luck in the competition and hope she continues to develop in the Women's Blues.

Outreach at the Parks



Last month OUCC welcomed 30 young cricketers from the MCC Foundation and Capital Kids Crickets to Oxford for a day of academic and cricket sessions aimed at opening doors into higher education.

The day began with some ancient history and admissions talks kindly delivered by the Christ Church Access and Outreach team, before a tour of their beautiful grounds. After lunch in Christ Church and a whistle-stop tour of the centre of Oxford, we headed over to the Parks for some fielding skill-sessions and a net. A massive thank you to all who helped on the day and those who supported the initiative along the way!

Overall, the day was a big success with lots of positive feedback, and we look forward to hosting it again in the future.

Throughout the term, there has also been a focus on women's beginner's cricket. The Women's Blues have run multiple sessions in the Parks teaching the basics of batting and bowling. In addition to sessions at the Parks, women's cricket is often introduced in more casual college setting. We hope that women's cricket continues to expand at both a university and college level in order to ensure the game is accessible to a range of experiences and abilities.

Some members of the women's side have also participated in a C6 tournament at Wormsley. The event launched the new C6 format of cricket focused on shorter, more accessible cricket. The day doubled as a fundraiser for the charities ACE and Chance to Shine which provide cricket across the country.

Finally, OUCC were meant to play an ACE side early in the season. However, unfortunately due to rain, this fixture was called off. Hopefully, next year this fixture will be luckier with the weather!



Acknowledgements

Tellworth

Everyone at OUCC would like to thank Tellworth Investments for their support over the 2024 season. This season is the first year that Tellworth have been OUCC's primary sponsor. This year, Tellworth's support has been pivotal in helping OUCC maintain its current coaching arrangements and improve both on and off the pitch.

Tellworth Investments are a part of the Premier Miton Group and more information about the services they offer can be found <https://www.premiermiton.com/>.



Coaching

Graham Charlesworth has been the coach of OUCC and Oxford UCCE for nearly two decades. OUCC have gone from strength to strength as a club during this period and this is in no small part thanks to Graham. His insights on and off the pitch are valuable in improving cricketers and running the club on a day-to-day basis. We are very lucky to have a coach as qualified as Graham and will continue to reap the rewards of Graham's hard work.

This year, Graham has been supported for marquee fixtures by David Ward. 'Wardy' has made his presence felt on match days; be it coaching, livestreaming games or providing inspiration to the team. OUCC is very grateful to David for everything he has brought to the club this year. We hope David will be bringing many more livestreamed games to YouTube next year.



Child Bereavement UK

We are very proud to support Child Bereavement UK as our charity partner this year. In this capacity, we were able to raise money by doing a 'Park Run in Pads'. We also raised awareness of the Child Bereavement UK cause by wearing the charity logo on our match shirts this year. We look forward to continuing our support of this worthy cause in the future.



Volunteers

The day-to-day running of OUCC is supported by a team of individuals contributing their free time to help the club. Everyone in OUCC's Junior Committee would like to thank their Senior counterparts for the work they put. Without them, cricket in Oxford would not be possible.

As scorer, Mark Williams devotes his time to scoring all OUCC teams in matches across the country. We are very thankful to Mark for his scoring and words of wisdom during the game.

A final thanks must go to everyone who watches OUCC matches. It is really appreciated and we hope to see you in the Parks in 2025!





DUCC

2023 - 2024