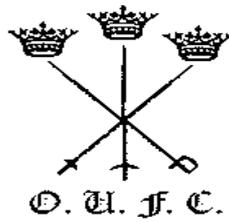


# Oxford University Fencing Club



## *Christmas Newsletter 2012*

### **President's Report**

I'm sure you will agree that this year has been a big year for sport in the UK. Many of you will have gone along to some of the events at London 2012 and witnessed the extraordinary atmosphere. I am pleased to say that the Olympic spirit certainly extended to OUFC. In this newsletter I hope to give you an idea of the events that have taken place since the start of 2012 and a flavour of what is to come.

As usual the biggest event of the year was our annual Varsity match. Last year's President Edmund Wareham organised an absolutely spectacular home match with big screens, demonstration videos and an excellent home crowd. After the epic match a wonderful dinner was put on for us at New College and a great time was had by all. The highlight for many people was probably being joined by our fabulous coach Tomek in the nightclub Camera. The 2nd March will see us travel to the Other Place for the 2013 match. Feel free to come along and support.

In mid-March the BUCS individual championships took place at the England Institute of Sport. There were some good results from OUFC fencers. Alex Robinson and Richard Booth made the last

32 in a large men's foil field and Kat Young reached the last 16 of the women's epee competition. March also saw our Men's and Women's Blues team compete in the BUCS team championships.

At the beginning of Trinity term we held our annual Cuppers competition. The winners were as follows: Men's Foil Reuben Cohn-Gordon, Men's Epee Satya Gunput and Men's Sabre Chris Mills, Women's Foil Maddi Pearce, Women's Epee Kat Young and Women's Sabre Gaby Matthews-Clark. Male Master of Arms was Jason Yuen (SPC) and female Master of Arms was Maddi Pearce (Hertford). Hertford was the victorious college this year. Congratulations to all those who competed.

As well as the Blues and Assassins Varsity match there was also a home Novice Varsity match in Trinity term this year. As referee of both the men's and women's matches I can testify that there was an excellent performance from both of our teams with two victories. Congratulations to both teams and thank you to their coaches Chris Jones, Joe Pearce and Maddi Pearce. We have always been very proud of the Beginners' course we run in terms of time with coaches, sparring time and provision of equipment. Therefore we

were thrilled that due to the success of this course, as of October of this year, we have started running a third weekly session for first-time fencers. 752 people signed up to our mailing list at the fresher's fair. 110 of these then joined us for a taster session of which 30-40 began our beginners' course.

Shortly after our Novice Varsity was our Old Blues match and annual club dinner. Despite it being mid-exam season for many of the Current Blues team they were victorious against the OUFC alumni. We were hosted after the match by Balliol for our annual club dinner where this year ex-Olympic medallist Allan Jay, was appointed honorary President of the Club. Next year's match and dinner will be on the 4th May. Please email our Alumni Officer Edmund Wareham if you would like to attend.

Oxford term may have finished shortly after our Old Blues match but OUFC events continued into the summer vacation. Getting into the Olympic fever OUFC hosted a drinks event at the Oxford & Cambridge Club in London. One of the guests was Olympic Women's Foil Team member Sophie Troiano and many other Old Blues were in attendance. Many thanks to Padraig Belton for his help with this event.

To finish off this report I'd like to congratulate OUFC coach of nearly 25 years, Tomek Walicki on winning the Imotiva Coach of the Year Award at this year's Oxford University Sports Awards Ceremony. Tomek coaches all levels in the club – all the way from Beginners to Internationals. He works 12 hour shifts coaching group sessions and giving lessons and always has a fun analogy to share. We cannot thank him enough for his

hard work and enthusiasm and offer him many congratulations on his well-deserved award. In order to celebrate his 25 years with us we are going to be holding an event next summer on the weekend of the 29th-30th June. Final details are yet to be finalised but please save the date and again get in touch with Edmund Wareham if you would like to attend.

With best wishes for the festive season and the New Year,

*Emma-Tina Segall*  
*OUFC President 2012-2013*



*Tomek wins Coach of the Year.*

### **Men's Captain Report**

Following a high turnover of fencers in 2011, the current crop has firmly established itself as a force in its own right. With so many first years being thrust into the Blues team it was always likely to prove a challenging year, yet an unsuccessful end to the season should not obscure the achievements that preceded it; including the Blues team being joint first in the BUCS Premier League. With continued application and a desire to 'right the wrongs' of the previous season, I hope to be reporting back to you of a successful BUCS and Varsity campaign, and of an

equally interesting collection of nights in Park End for the teams next year.

Wesley Tan is the captain of the Assassins for 2012-13, and will lead the team in an attempt to retain the Varsity trophy and progress to the finals of the BUCS trophy. A first round victory over the Tabs would have been the perfect launching pad for this campaign, but unfortunately our friends in East Anglia decided against affording us this pleasure and decided to forfeit the match. The Oxford team, therefore, go marching on in their search for silverware.



*The OUFC Varsity Squad 2012*

This year has also seen great results for many individuals. Matthew Henderson has taken charge of the British Open Circuit, currently sitting 8th in the national rankings for Men's Epee. His season has seen him win the Bristol Open, added to consistently finishing at the business end of Opens. Pablo Simko finished in the Quarter-finals of the extremely high standard Swiss Nationals, competing in a field including the World Number 2 and 4 in Men's Epee. Satya Gunput completes our trio of epeeists, having competed for Mauritius over the past season, finishing two spots outside qualifying for the Olympics and currently being ranked at 68th in the World for Senior Men's Epee. Alex Savin and Samuel Ward are regular GBR junior internationals in foil and show

the strength in depth that has begun to characterise this team. Beyond this level of competition, OUFC has also seen success in the National Novices tournament held in Warwick this month. Success very much 'made in OUFC.'

Throughout this year Neal 'Silver Fox' Mallet has been proudly flying the flag for the club at many competitions, foremost among them was the World Veteran Championships where he won the bronze medal. Neal is a true OUFCer and alongside Matthew Baker ensure the young guns never get too big for their boots. Steven Williams has also been continuing his steady progression up the GBR rankings and displays a pure love of the sport that is often manifested through his flawless French being heard in all corners of Iffley.

The traditional end of season Old Blues' dinner saw this year's Blues record a victory over Allan Jay's All-Stars. I would like to congratulate Allan on being made honorary president of the OUFC in what I am sure will be a special year: celebrating the 25th anniversary of Tomek Wallicki's association with this club. I hope to see many of you on the 2nd March to reclaim the Varsity trophy from the Other Place, failing that the BUCS Quint will take place for the Blues on the weekend 2/3 February and we would welcome the support.

*Satya Gunput*

*OUFC Men's Captain 2012-3*

### ***Women's Captain Report***

It was a much changed team that slipped into breeches and mask for our first quint of the 2012/2013 season. Over the summer OUFC had said goodbye to long standing,

cut-them-and-they'd-bleed-dark-blue members Kat Young, Paula Heister, Phillipa Mullins and Gaby Matthews.



Their last season on the team saw a full fighting force of nine for the first time in years. I can honestly say that I have never enjoyed being part of a fencing team so much. Another first, was a team flight to Edinburgh and back. A fine figure we cut in the airport, armed to the teeth and stashed to the nines.

With the departure of the old guard came the new. Several freshers with extensive fencing experience joined the squad immediately. Amy Lineham and Grace Segall joined Maddi Pearce and Emma-Tina Segall to form an incredibly strong foil team. On several occasions this term they have led us blazing to near victory. I look forward to the fixtures of the coming term when we will have the opportunity to turn these results into victories, in particular Varsity, which we lost by the slimmest of margins last year (6 points). The teams are much more even this year. And even though we're on light blue turf, I think the absence of the pressure of a home crowd will play to our young team's advantage.

Lastly, it should be mentioned that Emma-Tina has had a wonderful national season whilst also juggling first year of clinical medicine (her description of her first autopsy was truly blood curdling). Her 4th place at the All Star Cup and 9th at the Welsh open show her to be a president truly worthy of our club in a year when we celebrate our fantastic coach.

*Madeleine Van Oss*  
*Women's Captain 2012-13*

### **Beginners' Report**

Trinity term played host to the fifth annual Novice Varsity match, with Oxford hosting. The format of the match requires OUFC and our counterparts at Cambridge to present men's and women's foil relay teams (hence 6-8 fencers total) comprising fencers trained only by their respective university club over the last academic year. Stepping up for Oxford were Natalie Page, Clarissa Kayser, Louise Fang, Francesca Umicini-Clark, Lorenzo Daieff, Ben Philips, Michael Levenstein and Joe Rolleston. On aggregate the match resulted in a 90-55 dark blue victory, seeing Oxford regain the NV trophy for the third year in succession.

The continuing objective of the match is to provide both universities with an incentive to take seriously the responsibility of providing grassroots training in our sport, which as the last twelve months has demonstrated pays important dividends for the club. The Assassins team captains for this academic year Wesley Tan and Hannah Schneiders, are both previous Novice Varsity competitors and products of OUFC's training programme. Furthermore, for the first time this last year a 'home grown' fencer, former OUFC

President Paula Heister, secured her half-blue on the women's Blues team; the first instance of an OUFC trained fencer achieving this. Lastly, at the beginning of this month several OUFC trained fencers competed in the National Novices competition in Warwick, of whom Mark Kahn made the final 16 and club beginners' secretary Joe Rolleston the last 8.

With Michaelmas behind us, we can report that beginners' training at OUFC has improved further. We now host three foil beginner classes a week which have allowed us to introduce dozens of students to fencing over the last term. The hope is that these fencers, along with a new intake on our accelerated course in Hilary, will provide a still larger roster of fencers to select from in time for the next Novice Varsity, and hopefully for consideration in matches beyond that.

*Chris Jones*  
*Beginners' Coach 2012-3*



*The winning Novice Varsity Team*

### **Old Blues News**

It has been a busy year for the Old Blues. The annual match and dinner saw some good-quality fencing followed by an enjoyable dinner in Balliol. The summer was an exciting time. Former Captain and

President of the club, Sophie Troiano, represented GBR at London 2012 in the Individual and Team Foil competitions. We were delighted that Sophie could attend Olympic Drinks, held at the Oxford & Cambridge, where it was good to see a strong contingent of Old Blues. The summer also saw the very happy occasion of an OUFC wedding between Gaby Matthews and Nick Clark. Congratulations from all at the club!

*Edmund Wareham*  
*Alumni Officer 2012-3*

### **Save the Date!**

Some important dates for your diary:

*Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Varsity Match – Cambridge (venue TBC)*

*Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May – Old Blues Match and Dinner*

*Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Tomek's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations*

The Old Blues Match and Dinner will follow the usual format of a match against the current Blues in the afternoon, followed by a dinner.

Tomek's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations are currently being organised. The plan is to host a day of fencing in which current and Old Blues, Westminster and Salle Boston fencers will come together for a day of fencing to be followed by a dinner.

If you are interested in attending either (or both!) of the events please email **[Edmund.wareham@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Edmund.wareham@jesus.ox.ac.uk)** We will send out further details in due course but it will help us with the organisation to have expressions of interest.

