

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY SQUASH RACQUETS CLUB

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

JAN 2026



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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

I'm Raphie, the current President of CUSRC, and I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you for your continued support. We're excited to share our much-anticipated Winter Alumni newsletter. It's got all the glory, the highs and lows of a night out, and a slight hint of GDBO as we prepare for a ferocious Varsity this coming February!

CUSRC has continued to grow this year. With the addition of a third men's training squad and increased numbers across both women's squads, we're at a record high for club membership, and our social membership is making this wonderful sport more accessible than ever.

Now in my fourth year with CUSRC, it's been a privilege to watch our alumni base become increasingly engaged as we settle into life as a fully student-run club. It was wonderful to see this year's Winter Alumni event dominated by grads. Hopefully, CUSRC will continue to serve as a channel for reconnecting with old friends and comrades. I'm tremendously grateful for such a strong foundation to exist as I prepare to part ways with Cambridge myself.

Whether you're feeling nostalgic or simply looking for a good laugh, please do give our newsletter a read, and we hope to see you all at Varsity on 21 February 2026!

Yours,

Raphael Reeves

President 25-26



SAVE THE DATE: BLUES & 2s VARSITIES

This year Blues Varsity will be on Saturday the 21st of February, at the Royal Automobile Club, and our Second team Varsity will be on the 7th of March, taking the fight to Oxford at Iffley Road.

All alumni, guests, and guests of guests are welcome to come along and support the Blues & 2s as they undertake the campaign to take back all the varsity crowns. For the former, please check the [R.A.C.'s website](#) for dress code, and ready your loudest cheers for a day of high quality squash and fierce competition.

We are in the process of organising alumni tables at the dinner on the evening of the 21st. More information about how to sign up for this will be sent out shortly, but in the meantime please get in touch with old CUSRC teammates and encourage them to come along with you.



CAPTAIN'S LEAGUE CATCH UP

MEN'S:

1. BUCS:

Our strong performance last year earned us promotion to Division 1 of the Midlands region, facing the likes of Birmingham, Nottingham, Loughborough and Warwick. It's been great to see the commitment of the top squad, particularly given that away games typically take up about 7 hours of our Wednesdays.

We've suffered an agonising series of 3-2 losses, leaving us marginally ahead of Loughborough in 4th place at the halfway point, and just clear of relegation. A few additional fixtures were played just before the break, and a narrow loss to Loughborough has dropped us to 5th place (that was on me). We're gunning for some big wins next term!

2. Cambs Leagues:

PP1:

The importance of BUCS fixtures means we field our best available team on Wednesdays; with Cambridgeshire league (Division 1) matches falling on the same day, this has placed a great resource constraint on the men's squad, who currently sit 8th out of 10 in the table.

Despite the increased depth of our squad, the number of PhDs, medics, and generally overachieving members this year has made away fixtures particularly challenging. Nevertheless, as BUCS concludes, we will be pushing hard for a strong comeback in the final league games of the season!

PP2:

Manpower shortages at the top inevitably trickle down to our second team. Somewhat unlucky timing saw the team promoted to Division 2 in the same year as the promotion of the BUCS team, putting further strain on the second squad. While we currently sit bottom of 7 teams, a win in the final match of the half hopefully signals bigger things next term!

PP3:

Our third team competes in Division 4 of the Cambridgeshire League, and serves as an important platform for our newer players to gain experience. While they haven't secured a win just yet, these young squashers are learning fast, and I'm confident they'll find their footing in the next half of the season!

Report by Weng Yean Kan

WOMEN'S:

1. BUCS:

Given last year's promotion to the Midlands Tier 1, with teams from squash powerhouses such as Loughborough, Nottingham, Birmingham, and Warwick, our primary goal this season was not to be immediately relegated. The first match of the season against Loughborough 1s (whose #4 had recently returned from representing England at the World Junior Championships) was a shock to the system. Momentum only picked up from there as we repeatedly secured strong wins over both Nottingham 2s, 3s, and Warwick 1s.

Initially, it seemed reasonable to aim for 4th. However, despite availability difficulties (it is lovely how half the first team are medics), we have outdone ourselves and currently sit 3rd in the table with two more matches to play!

2. Cambs Leagues:

This term, the Cambridgeshire league matches were mainly used to give newer team players competitive experience. We currently sit at 4th in the table and hope to secure a few more wins next term! Similarly, eyes will be on the prize for the Portway Perpetual Cup and securing women's Blues status.

Report by Izzy Sargent

SOCIALS RECAP

This term's social calendar saw a return of the classic Michaelmas triad, consisting of an evening of welcome drinks, the inaugural initiations, and, of course, the CUSRC Christmas dinner. Whilst I have been fairly unimaginative with my get-togethers thus far, Lent will hopefully see a series of highly creative events woven in between Varsity dinners and London matches for all to enjoy!



As always, the annual CUSRC welcome drinks were held at Hawks' Club on the 19th October, allowing new members the opportunity to mingle whilst the returnees caught up after a long, squashless summer apart. The bar tab was gone within the blink of an eye as players piled into the lounge and soaked up the joy of the first official social of the season.



After meeting everyone at the welcome drinks and getting a taste of CUSRC life, it was time for the newcomers to officially become part of the club in this year's 'inductions'. Taking place in a harshly lit room in Harvey Court, the participants answered a series of questions to test their knowledge of their team, coaches and the USC; failure to answer correctly resulted in a wine fine and the occasional

shot poured into a halved squash ball. Volunteers were taped together, downed cider, and, as tradition, were branded with the signature squash circle. Commitment was demonstrated across a broad spectrum, with newcomer Connor deciding, against our welfare secretary's advice, to keep his squash ball hemisphere suctioned on for more than two hours...

Finally, on the 2nd December, the club hosted its annual Christmas dinner, this year held in a private dining room at Westminster College. Guests enjoyed a three-course meal and copious amounts of wine or, in Ellie White's case, an 18-pack of Strongbow cider, aptly gifted to her by a thoughtful Secret Santa. The



group then continued to La Raza, where the CUSRC members accounted for a whopping 100% of the clientele on that Tuesday night. May we take this energy forth to next year!

Report by Florence Gibson

BUCS INDIVIDUALS 2025

Our representation at BUCS Individuals 2025 was a great sign of things to come.

Each year, BUCS Individuals provides CUSRC an opportunity to compete with the best in the country, outside the bubble of the Midlands (though the Midlands are certainly not to be taken lightly). On 28 November, 9 men and 2 women (numbers sullied by medical studies and injury) travelled up to Nottingham, hungry for victory.



Our standout stories from the weekend:



Having won the Men's E Grade Plate last year, Ben Pang was determined to make the most of his unchanged grading. Unseeded, Ben triumphed over the 3rd and 5th seeds, comfortably reaching the semi-finals while dropping only one set across three matches. Perhaps it wasn't quite so comfortable, as the pain in Ben's wrist led medics to advise him to retire from the competition. However, the Pangs did not raise a quitter. Ben fought through the pain, produced a clean sweep in the semi-final, and went on to clinch the trophy in an epic five-set final. What an inspiration!

The much-anticipated matchup between freshman Alex Glover and his older brother did not disappoint. A series of witty exchanges between the clubs' Instagram accounts helped draw a sizeable crowd. Alex's quick feet and intelligent ball placement left his brother gasping for air, even throwing up after the second game! Unsurprisingly, Alex came out victorious in four sets.



There was a heart-breaking early exit for Anant in the second round. However, his emphatic 3-0 win over the C Grade Champion 3 days later showed this was very much just an off day.

Summary of Results:

Izzy Sargent, Women's B Quarter-finals

Florence Gibson, Women's B Plate Quarter-finals

Raphie Reeves, Men's B Plate Semi-finals

Anant Gupta, Men's C Round of 16

Natan Weigenfeld, Men's C Plate Semi-finals

Isac Andersson, Men's C Plate Round of 16

Sumer Ahluwalia, Men's D Quarter-finals

Ben Pang, Men's E Winner

Alex Glover, Men's F Semi-finals

Joe Betts, Men's F Plate Quarter-finals

Aaron MacWhirter, Men's G Quarter-finals

Report by Weng Yean Kan

JESTERS & GB VETS FIXTURES

Saturday 18th October: GB Vets

Result: 7-5 WIN

Still smarting from last year's defeat and hungry for a win after a rough first week back at BUCS and Cams League fixtures, a satisfying victory against GB Vets provided welcome reassurance to CUSRC. Finally, we were seeing the fruits of our labours from the extremely intense and serious period of preseason training.

Unfortunately, given that the match took place over two months ago, this report did not exactly write itself, with the most common response to my prompts for results being along the lines of "did I even play?". On that note, special shoutout to our Social Media



Secretary's glorious 3-0 victory! Another high point of which I was informed was a Vets player decorating the inside of a bin at 9-9 in the 5th. Thrilling.

To the dismay of our SquashLevels-fixated team members, GB Vets insisted that this fixture was a "friendly", such that we were unable to reap the benefits of our resounding victories, even if they did include almost bagel-ing someone who turned out to have been seeing double, fresh out of eye surgery.

All jokes aside, the event was closely matched and enjoyable: a highly successful start to the fixtures season. Huge thanks to GB Vets for their role organising the fixture and for the masses of Pret sandwiches that they generously provided (including ones without mayonnaise... win).

15th November: Jesters

Result: DRAW (loss)

In another step forward for equal participation in Blues sport, this year was the first that the lineup had been expanded to an almost even split of men and women.

The fixture showcased the skill and creativity of (mostly) Cambridge players past and present. Particularly notable was the variation in scoring methods used, with a special mention to the abomination that is 2-clear-English-scoring to-11. The quality of squash was simply too high, with closely matched abilities and intense competition, we were hard-pushed for court time. Not even the fleeting return of club legend Prithvi Singh could swing the result in our favour. Despite our valiant efforts, not that I'm writing for a specific audience or anything, the Jesters team were simply too strong.*



Special thanks to the Jesters team for generously paying for our dinner and drinks, with particular kudos to Dave for organising the fixture this year, including the stellar entertainment. That was certainly the first and likely (hopefully?) last time that I will partake in Bitcoin-themed Jeopardy. I won't detail specifics of the evening social, as that would likely go down like a glass of red wine on white Louis Vuitton shoes. However unfortunately for some,

myself included, I was mostly sober and have reliable informants. At least now I have some solid drunken-disasterclass-derived ammo for my varsity speech when I emulate last year's Oxf*rd men's captain on February 21st – be there!

*while the fixture itself ended in a paltry draw, apparently Jesters won by 1 game. We are sceptical, but I guess a rematch next year will suffice...

Report by Izzy Sargent

WINTER ALUMNI EVENT 2025

We once again returned to the Oxford & Cambridge Club on 13 December 2025 for this year's Winter Alumni Event, enjoying a wonderful afternoon of social squash followed by drinks and dinner.

The O&C remains a superb venue, the food is excellent, the festive atmosphere is second to none, and the showers are quite possibly the finest of any private members' club in London (based, admittedly, on the limited experience of the current CUSRC President). The only drawback is that, despite their many virtues, they still can't quite accommodate everyone on their two squash courts.

For the first time, we had to close sign-ups for the squash portion of the event, with an early release to alumni, meaning that only four current students were able to take part. Despite the crowded courts, we somehow made it through the afternoon without a single on-court injury, a rare feat that surely marks 2025 as a year of good fortune. That said, this good luck may have come at a cost, with Aubrey Waddy unfortunately pulling out injured, depriving us of what would undoubtedly have been a chaotic and concussion-inducing game of racketball doubles.

As always, the event delivered its fair share of memorable moments. Highlights included:

- A spectacular Tom Williamson crash-out, insisting that Ellie White is one of the greatest blockers of all time (there are reports of an upcoming QuashBadSquash video on the topic). Something you don't always expect

from a friendly bit of three-quarter court.

- A former president (Mr Gupta) arrived precisely one hour and forty-six minutes late to dinner after what was reportedly a “generational” badminton tournament run, leaving waiters repeatedly returning his untouched meal to the kitchen.
- Benjamin Adams is reported to have left in quiet despair after his girlfriend, Nina Bugeja, elected to order both mains for herself in his absence, rather than one each as he had presumably hoped.

All in all, it was another brilliant afternoon and evening, full of good squash, good company, and the kind of stories that make these alumni events so special. I’ll see as many of you as possible at the next one hosted at Cumberland Lawn Tennis Club this Summer, this time as a fellow alumnus, though!

Report by Raphael Reeves

WOMEN’S BLUES BOARDS

An exciting update (particularly for all our former women’s Blues) has arrived...

For those who don’t know, for the past eight years the records of all men’s Blues Varsity players have been displayed at the University Sports Centre. Due to the patchier nature of the women’s Varsity records in earlier years, completing the equivalent display has been a longer-term project. We are therefore delighted to finally see the results of that sustained effort.



The women’s Blues Varsity boards were installed this September and look fantastic, with many great CUSRC names now quite literally etched into Cambridge history!

The installation has also, somewhat serendipitously, led to a feature in the Cambridge Alumni Magazine on women in sport at Cambridge, focusing on the squash club. Do keep an eye out for that in the coming months!

As much as I'd love to take all the credit, this has been a truly collaborative effort involving many people who are far busier than I am, yet still gave their time and energy so generously. With that in mind, a huge thank you to the following, without whom this would never have been possible:

- The CUSRC Alumni Committee (with a special shout-out to Juliana Ganendra)
- Sarah Howlett
- Richard and Ali Loke
- Ash Edwards and the University Sports Centre
- Megan Shale & CUDAR
- Jude Brimmer (Girton Archives)

[Note that this update is deliberately brief as the news has already has been communicated and will be covered in more detail in the upcoming CUDAR piece]

ALUMNI COMMITTEE UPDATE

A huge congrats to the students and the Student Committee for a great Michaelmas term!

On the alumni front, we had a great Winter Alumni Event, which saw CUSRC take over the O&C for social squash and a delicious festive dinner. It is great to see that the CUSRC alumni community is thriving!

A key success of the Alumni Committee this year has been supporting the Student Committee and the University Sports Service to install the Women's Blues Boards in the Sports Centre (next to the existing Men's Blues Boards)! This project has been many years in the making, and we would like to thank everyone who contributed along the way. It was made possible by countless alumni who helped verify the Women's Blues Squash records. In particular, we thank Sarah Howlett, Dr John Marks (d. 2016), Nicky Dee, Louisa Dalwood, Nick Brown and Jude Brimmer for their research; Richard and Ali Loke for their review; Megan Shale and CUDAR for their outreach; Raphie Reeves for his dedication; and Ash Edwards and the University Sports Service for their support.

The Alumni Committee also met in December 2025, where we discussed the alumni network, alumni outreach and alumni events. If you have any feedback on the CUSRC alumni structure, please let us know!

On a personal note, I am incredibly grateful to all the members of the Alumni Committee for volunteering their time and expertise to guide the Student Committee and help shape the future of CUSRC. A huge thank you also to Pierson Klein and Adi Varshney for editing and compiling this newsletter!

If you would like to get involved in the Alumni Committee (a low commitment, but high impact role), please email JuJu at julianasganendra@gmail.com.

JuJu Ganendra

On behalf of the Alumni Committee

