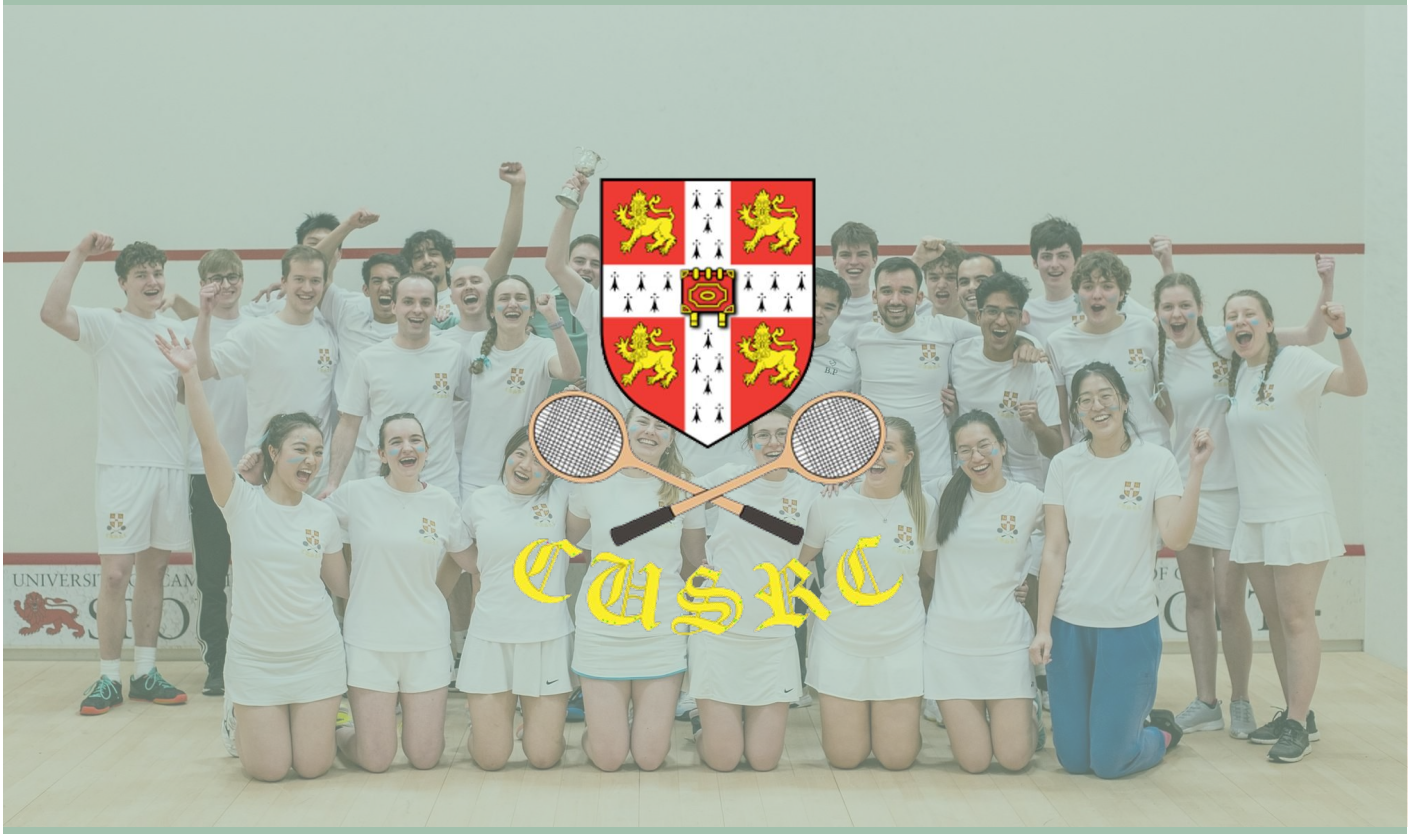


Cambridge University Squash Rackets Club

Alumni Newsletter 2026/27

In this Issue

- President's welcome 2
- The challenges we face 3
- Meet the committee! 4
- Cuppers 2025/26 8
- Summer Alumni Event 9
- London Classic Trip 10
- Preseason training 11
- The season ahead 13
- Note from the alumni committee 14

President's Welcome

By Izzy Sargent



I'm Izzy, the new President of CUSRC for the 2026/27 season, welcome to the first alumni newsletter of the academic year! We're so excited to share what the club has been up to since Easter term, from the much-anticipated Cuppers tournament to the Summer Alumni Event.

But first, we would like to thank you for your continued support! It is so nice to have the opportunity to share the club's progress, and we hope that you enjoy hearing about it too.

We aim to follow the success of last year and continue to grow the presence of squash as a sport at the University of Cambridge, increasing club engagement while navigating the challenges that the club faces.

Read on to hear about:

- Our new committee
- Cuppers 2025/26
- Summer alumni event at Cumberland
- Trip to watch the London Classic
- Preseason training
- Our upcoming fixtures

The Varsity dates have now been set, with all Varsities hosted in London for the first time in history. Please save the date and come down to support the light blues: Blues Varsity at the RAC on **Saturday 20th February** and 2/3/4s Varsity, very excitingly, at Cumberland Lawn Tennis Club on **Saturday 6th March**!

On a final note, I wanted to express how much I am looking forward to this season.

Light blue love,

Izzy

President 2026/27

The challenges we face

By Weng Yean

Maintaining a competitive squash club at Cambridge comes with significant and growing financial pressures. The base cost of the club continues to grow, including travel costs and the 50% increase in court hire fees at the University Sports Centre which represents our largest recurring expenses. This is compounded by a decrease in grant funding.

We want to continue to field top national teams; provide meaningful opportunities for players of all standards; and grow the strong squash community at Cambridge. We hope that financial constraints do not limit the ambition and potential of the club. Your support can make a meaningful and lasting difference to CUSRC, ensuring that the opportunities and traditions of Cambridge squash remain available to the generations that follow.

Every donation goes directly towards supporting our players and enriching the Cambridge squash experience. Here is an example of what your generosity could achieve:

- £10 could cover match fees for one player
- £20 could cover the cost of a court for a training session
- £50 could cover fees for one Cambridgeshire League match.
- £100 could cover the cost of one coached training session on USC courts.
- £350 could cover the travel costs for team players to the Blues Varsity match.
- £800 could fund squash specific S&C training for the whole club for the academic year.

You can donate HERE

Our corporate sponsorship booklet, with packages from £600, is available to share with your company. For a copy or to discuss options, please email Izzy at ims53@cam.ac.uk

Please note that the club is able to claim Gift Aid on donations from UK taxpayers giving via the University's fundraising campaign, maximizing the impact of your contribution at no additional cost to you.

Meet the Committee



Izzy - President

Hi, I'm Izzy, your CUSRC President for this year! I'm a third-year NatSci specialising in Physics, and I've been playing squash for about 11 years. I'm really looking forward to the year ahead and helping to run, promote and (if it's even possible?!) improve the club!

Spirit animal: Highland Cow



Weng Yean - Secretary

Hello, I'm Weng Yean, your Club Secretary this year! I'm in my third year studying Economics at St Edmund's College and hoping to make the most of my final year as an undergraduate. More than anything, I'd love to leave CUSRC in a position where future members can enjoy the club just as much as I have.

Animal that best describes me: An otter



Wil - Treasurer

Hi, I'm Wil, a third-year NatSci specialising in Chemistry. After serving as last year's captain, I've ascended to the lofty heights of Treasurer. I've been playing squash for about six years, with my time at CUSRC easily being the highlight. This year, I promise to keep the spreadsheets neat and tidy and, with any luck, leave the club with a smidge more money than I found it. A man can dream.

Olympic sport I reckon I could compete in with enough training: Speed walking. An underrated athletic pursuit.



Sachi - W1 Captain

Hi, I'm Sachi, a first-year Bio NatSci at Trinity Hall and this year's W1 Captain!

My goals for the year are to bring the W1 and W2 teams closer together, push for promotion in BUCS and, of course, demolish O*ford at Varsity. Nothing too ambitious, then!

A short joke: How short? Shorter than my first year at CUSRC?

Meet the Committee



Natan - M1 Captain

I'm Natan, a second-year PhD student in Theoretical Physics at Pembroke and this year's M1 Captain. I've been playing squash since secondary school and am looking forward to a season of great matches, team spirit and long days at the mercy of National Rail. My goals are to build enough team commitment to secure promotion, help everyone improve and, most importantly, beat O*ford at Varsity for the second year running.

Most ridiculous thing I've ever bought: The NHS Immigration Health Surcharge. If you know, you know.



Martha - W2 Captain

I'm Martha, a fourth-year Engineer at Newnham and this year's W2 Captain! I started playing squash at school and, after a year away on exchange, I'm excited to be back at CUSRC. I'm looking forward to getting stuck back in and helping to grow women's squash within the club.

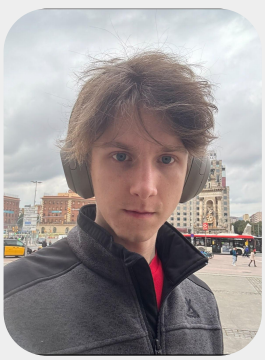
Three things I'd take to a desert island: Tiramisu, a traffic cone and sun cream. In that order, presumably.



Zac - M2 Captain

I’m Zac, a second-year law student at St John’s College and this year’s M2 Captain! My squash career started towards the end of school, and I have been playing with the uni for almost 2 years now. I am really looking forward to leading the M2 squad to a hopeful promotion back into Div 2 where we belong!

Three things I would take to a desert island: Focaccia, Olive oil, Balsamic



Antoni - M3 Captain

Hello, I'm Antoni, a fourth-year Chemistry student and this year's MT3 Captain! I only started playing squash at uni, so I know how intimidating it can be to join a team where everyone seems ridiculously good.

My aim this year is to make sure MT3 players have plenty of opportunities to train, improve and get stuck into matches against other clubs. Everyone has to start somewhere!

A short joke**:** I once got arrested for stealing kitchen utensils. It was a whisk I was willing to take.

Meet the Committee



Ben - College and Social Squash Officer

I'm Ben, a fourth-year Aerospace Engineering student at Homerton. My grand vision this year is to drag as many unsuspecting newbies as possible into the wonderful world of squash and convince them that voluntarily sprinting around a small glass box is, in fact, tremendous fun.

I've been playing since the age of seven, giving me plenty of time to ponder life's big questions — most notably, how best to make CUSRC great again. This year, I'm hoping to expand social membership and introduce centralised college squash training and make the sport more accessible.

Favourite shot: The one where you run up the back wall and hit a mizuki into the nick. Naturally.



Alex - Social Secretary

Hi! I'm Alex, a second-year NatSci studying the art of good socials, with a bit of Chemistry on the side. This year, I'm hoping to encourage more CUSRC members to venture off court and discover the more relaxed side of the club — a magical place where President Izzy's rules no longer apply...

What I'm most looking forward to this year: The Spalding away fixture. Make of that what you will.



Isac - Social Media Officer

Hi, I'm Isac, a third-year Master's Architecture student at Homerton and your Social Media Officer for this year! I've been playing squash for about as long as I've been studying architecture. Hopefully, I can put those aesthetic skills to good use in capturing the highs, lows, victories, questionable shots and inevitable post-match celebrations throughout the year — and doing my best to make us look far more organised than we actually are.

What I'm most looking forward to this year: The bar tab at Hawks' Welcome Drinks.

Meet the Committee



Rohan - Welfare Officer

I'm Rohan, a fourth-year Medic at Queens' and one of your Welfare Officers this year. I first picked up squash in primary school, promptly abandoned it for several years, and eventually rediscovered it through college squash in second year. I joined CUSRC midway through third year and haven't looked back!

This year, I'm looking forward to spending plenty more time on court (and at socials), supporting club members and helping the committee keep things running smoothly.

Squash player I'd most like to have a pint with: Victor Crouin



Annabel - Welfare Officer

Hi, I'm Annabel, a fifth-year Medic at Fitz and your other Welfare Officer this year! After making the switch from tennis and hockey, I joined CUSRC last year and quickly fell in love with squash.

This year, I'm looking forward to working with Rohan to organise welfare events and socials, bring the teams closer together and give everyone more opportunities to get to know each other off court.

Most chaotic CUSRC memory: Jesters with Bitcoin Dave. No further explanation provided.



College Leagues and Cuppers 2025/26

By Ben Pang



The college leagues had a very successful year following a number of reforms, most notably the move towards centralised weekly match locations for each division. Rather than teams disappearing off to opposite ends of Cambridge to play in isolation, colleges in the same division were brought together at the same venue, meaning everyone could watch their fellow squashermen do battle, offer entirely constructive encouragement from the balcony, and generally turn league nights into something much more sociable and enjoyable.



More importantly, the changes appear to have worked: match completion rose significantly, showing us that the new format is making the leagues easier to organise and more enjoyable to take part in.

Last year's Cuppers was also a tremendous success, with players from more than 20 colleges taking part and producing some excellent squash along the way. Fitzwilliam, to their credit, fought valiantly. They showed courage, determination and, at times, even competence. For one glorious moment they may even have believed the trophy was within reach. Unfortunately for Fitz, belief is not quite the same thing as victory, and in the end they were forced to settle for the consolation of having made Homerton work for it.









Summer Alumni Event

By Wil Jones

The summer alumni event this year was held at the Cumberland Lawn Tennis Club on a beautiful August day. With our largest number of sign ups yet, we got cracking with some squash. The majority of the play was doubles games with alumni and students playing together.

The play concluded with the return of the famous and highly competitive one-point tournament. The winner had a trick up his sleeve: Aubrey Waddy managed to defeat many an esteemed opponent, showing that Alumni's experience can outdo the students' energy!

The squash was followed by drinks in the sun on the lovely Cumberland terrace and then dinner.

Eventually CUSRC's esteemed ex-president, Raphie Reeves, showed up after spending the afternoon at a tournament in Canterbury instead of at the event he organised. Since he was swapping squash for squash, we'll just about allow it - and many thanks to Raphie for organising the Alumni Event!

Overall the event was a really great afternoon and evening and it was so great to see so many familiar and new faces. We hope to see you at the next alumni event.



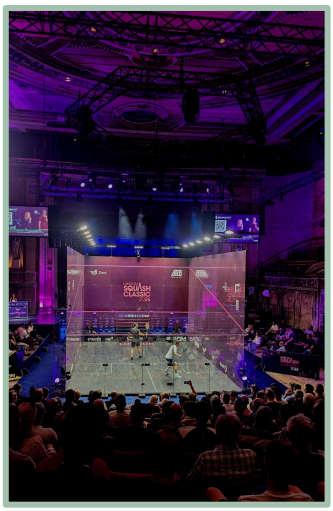


London Classic Trip

By Annabel Davies and Rohan Marker

A group of 14 CUSRC members, spanning both alumni and current players, gathered to watch the finals of the 2026 PSA London Squash Classic, the first Gold event of the 2026/27 tour. Held at Alexandra Palace's spectacular Old Theatre, the venue impressed everyone with its dramatic lighting and glass court setup. Before the action began, attendees caught up over drinks and tried out the interactive racket sports wall screen. In the Women's' final, the club rallied behind British home favourite, Gina Kennedy, as she faced Amina Orfi. Orfi ultimately claimed her 14th career PSA title with a dominant 11-6, 11-8, 11-2 victory. It was a thrilling showcase, giving our players and alumni a front-row lesson in professional game execution, with exceptional pacing, retrieval and precision.





In the Men's final, we witnessed France's Victor Crouin take on the two-time reigning champion from New Zealand, Paul Coll. After an exciting and fast-paced opening, Coll took the first game 11-6. Despite Crouin's impressive court coverage and accuracy, Coll went on to dominate the next two games 11-5 and 11-3, winning his third successive London Classic trophy and 34th title of his career. Feeling greatly inspired, and also a little hungry, we all headed to Nando's for dinner to reflect on these performances over some grilled chicken and peri-salted chips. Overall, it had been an exciting and memorable day, combining world-class squash with the opportunity to spend time together as a team.





Preseason Training

By Alex Glover

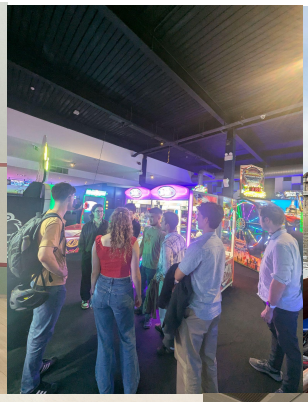
CUSRC had a fantastic pre-season, with players returning to Cambridge ready to get back on court and prepare for another competitive year. Throughout the week, the squad put in some strong shifts for Sachi's devilish fitness sessions as well as Izzy's off-court circuit work. With the club welcoming players across a range of abilities, the sessions were a great opportunity for both returning players and newer members to get involved in and start settling into the squad.

Pre-season is also about bringing the club together away from the courts. A packed and well-attended social programme allowed us to get to know each other outside of training with activities such as punting and bowling. Finishing the week with a dinner at Hawks' was a highlight, with the fun inevitably continuing long into the night.

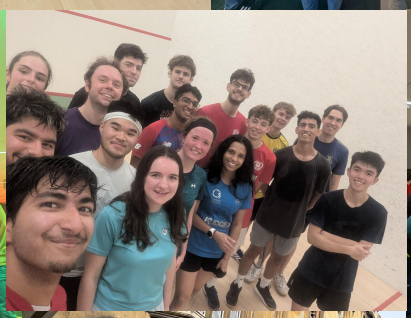
With BUCS and local league matches on the horizon, we are all looking forward to a busy year of competitive squash, while continuing to build a welcoming and sociable environment for everyone at CUSRC.



Preseason Training



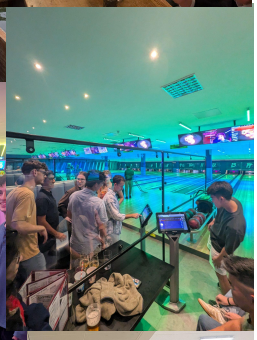
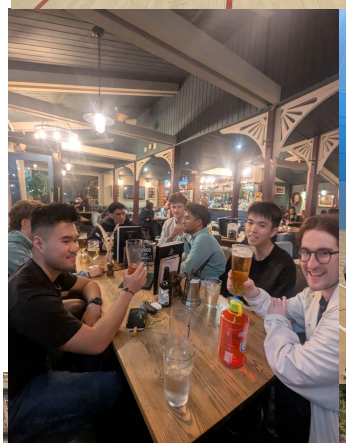



















The 2026/27 Season Ahead

BUCS



Midlands Female Tier 1 - Sachi Vats
This year, the women's team will compete in BUCS Female Midlands Tier 1, playing each of the five other teams in our league home and away across ten Wednesday afternoons. Our aim is to reach the play-offs for a promotion. Each week we will field our strongest team, while also giving W2 players the chance to play in BUCS fixtures. These fixtures will also build the momentum we need to demolish O*ford at Varsity in February!



Midlands Male Tier 2 - Natan Wiegenfeld
This year, the men's team will compete in BUCS Male Midlands Tier 2 and the Male Midlands Conference Cup, with ten league matches across the Midlands against the five teams in our division. We are looking forward to a strong season and, above all, back to Tier 1. To do so, we'll need to field a strong team each week while still M3 and M4 players valuable match play. After barely scraping past O*ford at Varsity year, we hope these fixtures will give us the confidence and momentum to do it again!

Cambridgeshire League



PP1 + PP2 - Zac Erasmus
I am excited to be leading a talented and growing M2 squad into the 2026/27 season, with many new players joining and our sights set on the top spot in the league. M2 is also the stepping stone to the BUCS team, developing the players who will step up and represent CUSRC at the highest level next year. The Cambs League is a valuable opportunity to prepare our broader team for Varsity, so we want as many players as possible to put themselves forward each week and build depth across the squad.



Women's Cambridgeshire League - Martha Dunsmore
I'm looking forward to leading the women in the Cambs League, always a major part of the CUSRC season. As we enter a single women's squad, W1 players get competitive matches while W2 and newer members gain what is often their first real match play outside training. Many of our women get the chance to represent CUSRC in the league at some point, which keeps motivation high across the season and helps significantly with Varsity preparation.



PP3 - Antoni Borzymowski
The M5/6 squad will play in Division 4 of the Cambs League this season. With home and matches (almost) every week across Michaelmas and Lent terms, players should get plenty of competitive squash in a relatively relaxed environment. We will of course aim to do as well as possible, and will train hard throughout the year to make that happen. I hope to see new players join and help us compete this year!

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Alumni Committee Note

Dear alumni,

Thank you for your continued support of CUSRC! It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to the Summer Alumni Event, our largest sign-up yet, and to see alumni and current players cheering side by side at the London Classic. Moments like these remind us how strong the link between past and present members remains. A special thank you to Raphie Reeves for organising the summer event, and to Cumberland Lawn Tennis Club for hosting us so well.

Congratulations to Izzy and the new Student Committee on a strong start to the 2026/27 season! The club is in good hands, with a well-attended pre-season behind them and a busy calendar ahead. We are grateful to the students for the time and energy that they give to the club alongside their studies, and for the many contributions that made this newsletter possible.

A heartfelt thank you also to those of you who support the club financially. Your generosity makes a tangible difference to the opportunities the club can offer its players. If you are in a position to give, the note on supporting the club in this issue shows how a gift could be put to work.

If you would like to get involved in the Alumni Committee (a low-commitment but high-impact role), or simply have feedback on our alumni events and communications, we would love to hear from you: please email JuJu at julianasganendra@gmail.com.

Thanks to Pierson Klein, Arundhati Saraswatula, JuJu Ganendra and Aditya Varshney for editing and compiling this newsletter, and to every member of the Alumni Committee who generously volunteers their time to guide the Student Committee and help shape the future of CUSRC.

With thanks and light blue love,

Aditya Varshney
On behalf of the CUSRC Alumni Committee

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