



# Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match 2026

**Oxford versus Cambridge**

**Supported by The Oxford & Cambridge  
Modern Pentathlon Old Blues**

**Prior Park College & The University of Bath ~ Saturday 11th April 2025**

**The 50th Anniversary of the Ladies' Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match**



**THE  
MODERN PENTATHLON  
VARSITY MATCH  
2026**

*The 69th Varsity Match 1958 ~ 2026*

**Oxford University Modern Pentathlon Association**

*versus*

**Cambridge University Modern Pentathlon Club**

*at*

**Prior Park College**

**&**

**The University of Bath Sports Village**

**Supported by  
The Oxford & Cambridge  
Modern Pentathlon Old Blues**

**Friday 10th April**

Opening Ceremony, The Mansion at Prior Park College

**Saturday 11th April**

Fencing Phase, Sports Village Fencing Hall

Swimming Phase, Sports Village Swimming Pool

Obstacle Course Phase, PGB Obstacle Course Marquee

Combined Shooting & Running Phase, Sports Village Running Track

Presentations & Varsity Match Dinner, The Mansion at Prior Park College



Welcome to the 2026 Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match between the Oxford University Modern Pentathlon Association and the Cambridge University Modern Pentathlon Club, hosted this year by the Old Blues of the Oxford club. This is the sixty-ninth match in a still unbroken series which began in 1958 as part of the Combined Services Championships and British Modern Pentathlon Championships, and which has gone from strength to strength ever since.

This year is especially noteworthy as it represents the 50th anniversary of the first Ladies Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match in 1976, so we offer an especially warm welcome to all the Ladies competing in this golden anniversary year. We are delighted that we will be joined at our 2026 match by Sally Jones, one of the pioneering ladies who completed in that first Ladies MPVM, 50 years ago. Sally has kindly provided a few reflections on the start of the Ladies Varsity Match for this programme, and we asked Steph Cook to add some thoughts on the impact that the Ladies MPVM has had on her life.

This is our second year with a new configuration to our match after the international-level transition in 2025 away from the always eventful Riding phase to the new Obstacle Course phase. We are delighted to be returning to the magnificent Prior Park College as our home for the match weekend and to be holding our events at the fabulous Bath University Sports Village. We are very grateful to James Lindsay and Niamh McLoughlin at Prior Park for their help and guidance, and to Catherine Evans at the Sports Village and Tom Gostelow at Pentathlon GB for their support in the organisation of the match. It feels as though we have already settled well into our new Varsity Match routine and our new home.

Over the next two days, the Blues and Seconds of OUMPA and CUMPC will compete in the most fiercely contested match of their sporting year. The two clubs' athletes have worked extremely hard to be ready for the Varsity Match whilst, in parallel, managing their important academic and, indeed, social commitments. They will now aim to achieve outstanding levels of performance and teamwork in the unique atmosphere of the Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match.

We are privileged to be benefitting from the support of the magnificent Old Blues of the two Modern Pentathlon clubs once again this year. It is because of their ongoing, unflinching and enthusiastic emotional and, crucially, financial investment in the clubs and the match that we are able to provide a first-class competition in such an outstanding venue.

The Varsity Match could not be run without the help of many dedicated volunteers, drawn from Old Blues and the parents, partners and friends of the competitors ... plus, of course, the incomparable Bill and Jan Bland. On behalf of the two clubs, I would like to extend our collective thanks to all those involved in the planning, organisation and support of this year's event.

Finally, I would like to wish all those competing in the Varsity Match an enjoyable, safe and successful competition. I trust that it will be an exciting and memorable experience for us all.

Natasha Voase, 2026 Varsity Match Director.

## 2026 Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match Officials

Varsity Match Director :	Miss Natasha Voase
Results Directors :	Dr Fred Benham-Crosswell, Mr Ben Measures & Miss Lucy Scruton
Match Commentator :	Mr Tristan Robbie
Fencing Phase Director :	Dr Kathryn Smith
Swimming Phase Director :	Miss Sophia Lubiecki
Obstacle Course Director :	Miss Georgina Quale
Combined Shooting & Running Phases Director :	Dr Hugo Fleming
Officials and Time-Keepers :	Honourable Members of the OUMPA & CUMPC Old Blues Clubs
Official Photographers :	To be appointed spontaneously during the event
Old Blues' Club Presidents :	Miss Natasha Voase (Oxford) & Dr Loïc Lannelongue (Cambridge)
Jury of Appeal :	The Applicable Phase Director & The Old Blues Presidents



# The Oxford & Cambridge Modern Pentathlon Old Blues



On behalf of all the Modern Pentathlon Old Blues of Oxford and Cambridge, spanning multiple sporting generations from the 1950s to the 2020s, we would like to add our warm welcome to everyone attending the 69th Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match, MPVM MMXXVI, in whatever capacity you join us over the match weekend. As ever, the event includes both seasoned Varsity Match veterans and brand new Oxbridge Pentathletes. For some, this will be their final MPVM ... and their Standing Order requests are already pending ... so we wish them well as they bow out, hopefully on a high. But we extend our warmest welcomes to all those competing in their very first MPVM, whether now just two terms into their Oxbridge experience ... or having recently been plucked from lesser sports and now seeking the ultimate Oxbridge sporting challenge.

Whether our Old Blues feel it as soon as they leave, or whether it dawns upon them as they mature and grow wiser after their university years, all those who have competed in one of the now 69 Modern Pentathlon Varsity Matches become part of an Old Blue family and network which, for many, has been and continues to be a foundational and fundamental feature of their lives and their friendships.

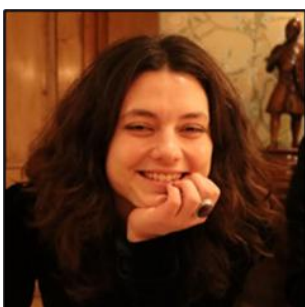
One of our opportunities, indeed privileges, as Old Blues is to continue to support the current clubs and to see them and their members flourish. So, to all those who contribute their time and energy ... and, of course, their hard-earned cash ... we extend our considerable thanks. Inevitably, of course, we take this opportunity to remind our Old Blues that the door is always open should anyone feel inspired to initiate or increase their financial contributions to their clubs ... or come up with a brilliant suggestion for a future match sponsor. It is through the support of the Old Blues that, in the occasional lean years in terms of sponsorship, we are still able to run the centrepiece event of the O&C Pentathlon year in a way that makes it the best VM in the Oxbridge schedule, probably. A huge thank you to all our Old Blues for this magnificent support.

Last year brought a significant change to the MPVM. We said good-bye to the riding phase ... with its associated paramedic cover and reviews of X-Rays at the VM Dinner ... and we welcomed in the era of the, hopefully slightly less dramatic, Obstacle Course. Many of us had had our ups and (quite literally and painfully) downs in the ride over the years and, while we were sorry to have moved on, we are now embracing the change as we embark on our second MPVM in the new format.

Last year, we also moved from our long-term MPVM family home at Tonbridge School to Bath, the home of Pentathlon GB, and to a combination of Prior Park College for our accommodation and the Bath University Sports Village for our sporting venues. It already feels as though we are putting down new roots as we make Prior Park and Bath Uni our new MPVM home.

Whilst there is plenty of healthy competition between the clubs, ultimately, we are all bound together by the magnificent MPVM experience, whether of dark blue or light blue origin (or a bit of both, in some cases).

Very best wishes to everyone at MPVM MMXXVI from all the O&C Old Blues !



Natasha, OUMPA OB President



Loïc, CUMPC OB President



# THE MODERN PENTATHLON VARSITY MATCH 2026

## Friday 10th April

11:00 to 12:00	Teams Arrive at Prior Park College : St. Paul's Boarding House
13:00	Lunch : Prior Park College
14:00 to 15:00	Welcome & Opening Ceremony : The Mansion (Blazers & Ties) followed by Team Photographs
15:15	Depart Prior Park College for the University of Bath Sports Village
15:30 to 18:00	Obstacle Course Training Session : PGB Obstacle Course Marquee
18:00 to 18:30	Swimming Training Session : Sports Village Swimming Pool
19:15	Supper : Prior Park College

## Saturday 11th April

07:00	Breakfast : Prior Park College
07:45	Depart Prior Park College for the University of Bath Sports Village
<b>08:00</b>	<b>Arrive for Fencing Phase : Sports Village Fencing Hall</b>
08:00 to 12:00	Fencing Phase Warm-Up followed by Fencing Phase Briefing Seconds Fencing Competition (two Ladies' pistes and two Gentlemen's pistes) Blues Fencing Competition (two Ladies' pistes and two Gentlemen's pistes)
12:00	Lunch : Lime Tree Restaurant
<b>13:30</b>	<b>Arrive for Swimming Phase : Sports Village Swimming Pool</b>
13:30 to 14:30	Swimming Phase Warm-Up followed by Swimming Phase Briefing Seconds Swimming (Ladies' heat then Gentlemen's heat) Ladies' Blues Swimming (two heats) then Gentlemen's Blues Swimming (two heats) Old Blues' Biathlon Challenge : Swimming Phase
<b>14:45</b>	<b>Arrive for Obstacle Course Phase : PGB Obstacle Course Marquee</b>
14:45 to 16:30	Obstacle Course Phase Warm-Up followed by Obstacle Course Phase Briefing Seconds Obstacle Course Time Trial (Ladies then Gentlemen) ... then head to Combined Event Blues Obstacle Course Time Trial (Ladies then Gentlemen)
<b>16:30</b>	<b>Arrive for Combined Shooting &amp; Running Phase : Running Track Finish Straight &amp; Indoor Track</b>
16:30 to 18:00	Seconds' Combined Shooting & Running (15 mins warm-up, then briefing and competition at 16:45) Ladies' Combined Shooting & Running (15 mins warm-up, then briefing and competition at 17:15) Gentlemen's Combined Shooting & Running (15 mins warm-up, then briefing and competition at 17:45)
18:00	Old Blues' Biathlon Challenge : Running Phase
18:30 or asap after	Return to Prior Park College
19:15 or asap after	Varsity Match Presentations & Closing Ceremony : The Mansion (Black Tie)
20:15	Varsity Match Dinner : The Mansion

## Sunday 12th April

09:00	Breakfast : Prior Park College
By 10:00	Teams Depart Prior Park College

# Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match Scoring

## Fencing Phase

**Epée with each competitor fencing every other competitor for multiple bouts, each bout of up to 1 minute.**

Seconds : 5 matches, each of 4 bouts. 20 bouts in total. Adjusted if fewer than 6 competitors  
For 6 competitors, 14 hits = 1000 pentathlon points. 32 points per hit above or below 14 hits.

Blues : 11 matches, each of 3 bouts. 33 bouts in total.  
23 hits = 1000 pentathlon points. 24 points per hit above or below 23 hits.

## Swimming Phase

**Freestyle swimming, one timed swim in heats. 200m (8x25m) for both Ladies and Gentlemen.**

2 minutes 30 seconds = 1000 pentathlon points.  
4 pentathlon points added or subtracted for each half of a second faster or slower than 2:30.

## Obstacle Course Phase

**8 obstacles to negotiate over a course of approximately 70m, for both Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Optimum time = 65 seconds.  
A clear round in the optimum time = 1000 pentathlon points ... with a minimum score of 320 points.  
4 pentathlon points added or subtracted for each third of a second faster or slower than 65 seconds.

A first infringement at an obstacle requires the competitor to re-negotiate the obstacle.  
After a second infringement at an obstacle, the competitor continues and completes the course.  
Scores following a second infringement are calculated at the rate of 40 pentathlon points per completed obstacle.

## Combined Shooting & Running Phases

**5 laps of 600m, interspersed with 4 rounds of shooting, for both Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Shooting at the end of the first, second, third and fourth laps of the running course  
Each shoot requires 5 hits with as many shots as required, with a time-out at 50 seconds.

13 minutes 20 seconds = 2000 pentathlon points.  
Shooting and Running phases timed separately within overall combined time.  
4 pentathlon points added or subtracted per second faster or slower than 13:20.



# Oxford

**President :** Joanna Leadley

**Gentleman's Captain :** Anish Shah

**Armourer :** Emma Godden

## Oxford Ladies



**Emma Godden (Tauranga Girl's College & St Cross) - Captain**

Stepping up as captain for her final Varsity, Emma finally gets the opportunity to lead her team, having missed out due to Covid in her previous tenure. Her shooting has only got sharper since then and behind that smile, she is a ruthless fencer and a truly exceptional athlete. She can be found wearing any piece of OUMPA merch she can get her hands on, alongside running shooting and fencing workshops, eating lunch at Vinnie's and excelling in training. The resident armourer, she has spent the year ensuring the operation of the clubs épées (mostly). Having spent time as New Zealand number 1, shoeing the Tabs should be a walk in the park. Her fifth Varsity Match.



**Joanna Leadley (Stratford Girls' Grammar School & New)**

After two years as Ladies' Captain, Joanna has stepped up to President this year, bringing drive, organisation and unwavering commitment to the club. Despite it being her final year, she has refused to give up horses, continuing to compete in equestrian matches alongside her Pentathlon training. Consistently one of the fastest runners in the Varsity Match, there's little doubt she'll be setting the pace again. With her shooting having come on leaps and bounds this year, she is a serious contender for a win in the combined. No stranger to shoeing the tabs across multiple sports, Joanna has her eyes firmly set on the overall club victory. Her fourth Varsity Match.



**Emma Madden (University of Chicago & St Hilda's)**

Emma is new to Pent this year but has sure made an impact ! From spending more time at Iffley than on her DPhil, be it fencing or swimming with the Blues, to turning her house into a Pentathlon training centre, she sure is committed to the sport, and it has shown in her amazing results in recent competitions. Behind that smile lies an exceptional athlete in all five disciplines. Her arch nemesis remains the balance beam in the OCR, but she makes up for this with her speedy swim and shoot. As long as her car decides to start on the way to Bath, the tabs should fear her presence. Her first Varsity Match.



**Marie Giradet (City of London School for Girls & University)**

Marie made quite a stir when she first turned up to training, sparkling with fresher's optimism, shiny Team GB kit and honestly inspiring biceps. All of C\*mbridge better beware, for Marie is a medic and she'll be busy shoeing tabs in as many sports as possible until well beyond 2030. Why choose between the boat race and the Olympics when you could do both ? A 5k erg test the day before swim trials is nothing to this legend, who will have logged five high-intensity sessions by Wednesday (six, if you count her non-negotiable Parkend appearance). Just no pity claps this time, please. Her first Varsity Match.



**Isabelle Wong (Bishop Ramsey CofE School & St Anne's)**

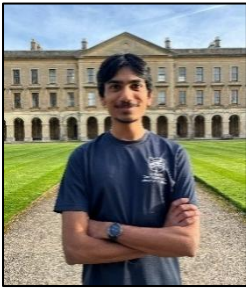
The tabs should be scared when Izzy takes the floor. Starting Modern Pentathlon just 3 months ago, she has taken OUMPA by storm, marching straight into the Blues team, with a speedy swim and impressive eye for a hit - both in shooting and in fencing. Being an Air Force cadet, she knows how to handle the pressure (and can also do a ridiculous amount of pull ups !). Having already competed in the water polo Varsity, she knows exactly what it takes to stand face to face with C\*mbridge. Izzy can be found at almost every training session putting in the work, and yet this commitment still falls short of her dedication to a night out. Her first Varsity Match.



**Lilli Leutloff (Ludwig Thoma Gymnasium, Prien am Chiemsee & Lincoln)**

Fuelled by her daily Gail's croissant, mastering multiple sports comes easily to Lilli. Having already earned a Full Blue in water polo and a Half Blue in handball, she added a Full Blue in swimming to her collection this year after just four weeks with the Blues - a feat she'll be hoping to replicate in Modern Pentathlon. Her ability to pick up sports so quickly is almost as impressive as the amount of weight she moves in the gym; prioritising her ChatGPT-crafted training plan over her DPhil, it's clear she'll excel across all five disciplines. If C\*mbridge weren't worried before, they should be now. Her first Varsity Match.

## Oxford Gentlemen



**Anish Shah (Dame Alice Owen's School & Magdalen) - Captain**

Having heroically adopted the position of both Gentlemen's and Ladies' captain, Anish's year-long power trip now finally reaches its climax. Despite turning down his OUAC call-up due to some devastating papier mache shins, he has admirably balanced Oxford's 'hardest' degree (Biochemistry) with an unwavering commitment to training with one goal in mind - shoeing the tabs. Continuing his role as OUMPA's personal hypeman (from the bike at the side of the track), he has truly flourished in the pool this year, with Michael Phelps rumoured to have asked him for advice on how he gets his elbows quite so pointy. His second Varsity Match.



**Robert McDonald (King Edward VI Camp Hill School / University of Warwick & Lincoln)**

An unmistakable mastermind of strategy and the undisputed king of headbands. Pursuing a PhD in Biological Mathematics, Rob brings brains, character, and a sense of style to Pentathlon. His collection of headbands is the stuff of legend, with each one carrying its own story, not just accessories, but trophies, conversation starters, and perhaps even the source of his power. Behind the headbands is a sharp and thoughtful leader who moves seamlessly from lively conversation and dry wit to rallying the team when it matters, especially before the Combined. A presence that is hard to miss and even harder to catch on the track. His second Varsity Match.



**Samual Nicholls (Repton School & Corpus Christi)**

Meet Sam, swimmingly fast member of the Oxford Modern Pentathlon team. Sam has competed in every Pentathlon VM since he has been in Oxford and is absolutely ready, for the last time, to bring some glory to the dark side ! Sam is known to be extremely competitive, especially with his background in swimming and his former captaincy of the swimming team. Outside of training however, he often shows his calm and encouraging demeanour when he coaches both the Pentathlon and Triathlon team. Known as the kleptomaniac of Varsity trophies, he doesn't just win them but steals them too. The merman who can run, shoot and fence. His fourth Varsity Match.



**Finn Ashworth (Bacon's College & St Catherine's)**

Finn is fresh off a successful (up to interpretation) year as president of OUSC, despite many controversies and attempts to impeach him. Thankfully, this has meant that he has lived a year in blissful ignorance of his degree - can someone please remind him that he is doing a degree. He has even managed to fit in some training around his commitment to presidency. Despite this training, Finn described his recent performance at BUCS as "shocking" (maybe better in the 6th). Regardless, Finn has been working on his sword skills, even braving a trip to the other place to impart wisdom at Fencing Varsity. He remains a force to be reckoned with. His second Varsity Match.



**Jackson Moore (Taylor Allerdice & New)**

Arriving in Oxford and to Pentathlon this year is one of OUMPA's brightest hopes for the future. Jackson has a background in fencing, which he won at this year's Novice Varsity, and in swimming, which he practised as a youth back home in the USA. He is a dab hand with a laser pistol and has one of the fastest draws in the club, but his style would be more at home in the wild west than on a chilly Wednesday at Iffley Road. He rushes between training and his busy life as a Physics DPhil student but always manages to check in with his team-mates. He will have a long career at OUMPA, so long as he can lessen the intensity of his cataclysmic leg cramps. His first Varsity Match.



**Jacob Hudson (Tonbridge School & Oriel)**

Oxford swimming Blues captain, and already a proven tabs tormentor, Jake arrives at the MPVM with a proven habit of winning. Fresh from steering Oxford to a storming victory in the swimming showdown, he has well and truly acquainted himself with the art of 'shoeing the tabs' and shows no signs of stopping now. For Jake, one victory is merely a warm-up. Possessing a physique that appears to have been engineered specifically for both high performance and maximum distraction, Jake is expected to make a significant impact on the OCR course, either through athletic dominance, or by momentarily derailing the opposition's concentration. Tabs beware. His first Varsity Match.

# Oxford

## Oxford Seconds : The Cookies & The Blandies



**Anna Atherstone (Bartholomew School & St Hugh's) - Blues Team First Reserve**

Anna has taken OUMPA by storm after starting as a novice this year. Thanks to her successful rowing career, she was more used to being on the water than in it, but that hasn't stopped her from conquering the pool with ease. Her quiet grit and dedication mean she has quickly taken to the other disciplines too, but running is by far her favourite, so don't be surprised when she tears past you on the track. Despite juggling finals alongside five sports, Anna's commitment to training will make shoeing the tabs a walk in the park. Her first Varsity Match.



**Molly Aspinall (Barton Peveril Sixth Form College & St Hilda's)**

The swimming Blues captain and OUSC record holder takes on a new challenge this year. After clocking a respectable Bannister mile time, she has been inspired to put her multidisciplinary talent to the test. As an avid party goer and academic weapon, Molly knows how to work hard and play hard. Carrying on the long Biochemistry lineage in Pentathlon, she hopes to make her predecessors proud. Easily the fastest swimmer at this year's Varsity Match. Her strength lends well to speeding around the OCR and she is a natural shot. Hold your breath (like she does between the flags) and watch this incredible display of athleticism. Her first Varsity Match.



**Georgia Sanderson (Eltham College & Keble)**

Taking up Pentathlon as a finalist is just another string to Georgia's bow. Such is her dedication to the sport that she can find the time for both OCR training and a Galentine's dinner party is one afternoon. Not only has Georgia started Modern Pentathlon this year, but she is also trying to complete a Pentathlon of languages before the end of her degree, with Italian, French and Romanian already added to her arsenal. Georgia has been practising combining training sessions this term, preparing for Varsity in Bath with a bath crawl around Oxford. A natural in the water, watch out for her smooth and speedy swim. Her first Varsity Match.



**Lucas Leung (University of Cambridge & St John's) - Blues Team First Reserve**

A DPhil in Theoretical Physics who spent his undergrad on the 'dark side' before finally seeing the light. Having already captained the Triathlon team, Lucas recently clocked a 2:41 marathon, proving he can run away from his past as a tab faster than most people can cycle. While his athletic ability is undisputed, Lucas is most feared for his performance in the 6th Event during training camps. He is also infamous for a complete inability to understand portion control, consistently cooking enough food to feed a small infantry for a date night dinner. Whether he's untangling string theory or over-catering for the ladies, Lucas is always cooking - literally. His first Varsity Match.



**Rory Bristoll (Idsall School & St John's)**

From the rolling hills of Shropshire, Rory brings a unique blend of speed, power and good vibes to this year's Varsity. As the social sec of skiing, he's no stranger to balancing responsibility with a good time, a skill that translates seamlessly into the Pentathlon arena : composed under pressure, but always ready to bring the energy. When he's not competing or co-ordinating socials, you'll likely find him clutching a coffee from the Lamb & Flag (his unofficial performance enhancer) whilst locked in a deep Instagram scroll. But don't be fooled - in the water, he means business ! Rory has the engine, the grit and the competitive edge to make serious waves. His first Varsity Match.



**Finley Easton (Prior Pursglove College & St Catherine's)**

From saving lives to taking them. Finley (shortlisted Student Coach of the Year 2025) is ready to shoe those tabs. As our resident life-saving athlete, Finley knows his way around a pool and an obstacle. He has picked up a few other skills along the way and has proven himself to be quite the Pentathlete. Coming third at novice Varsity, he hopes to better this score (and do some more shoeing in the process). His club dance moves and athleticism are unmatched, so keep an eye on him beating the tabs in more than five events. Between physics, lifesaving and Pentathlon, we wonder how he has time for anything else. His first Varsity Match.

# Oxford University Modern Pentathlon Association

## Varsity Match Teams 2026



# Varsity Match 2026 Prospects : Oxford

**For Oxford, Team Managers Hannah Williams and Robert Mitchell cast an eye over the 2026 OUMPA Varsity Teams**

This will be the second Oxbridge Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match with OCR, and we are delighted to be returning to the scenic hills of Bath. The Oxford team is raring to go following a successful outing at BUCS, and with plenty of fresh talent amongst the more experienced members of the team, we are looking forward to taking home plenty of silverware.

Speaking of talent and experience, this Varsity might be the final year we see two key members of the Oxford Ladies' Blues Team compete across the five (or six ?) disciplines. Rumours of retirement have proven premature and our fierce Kiwi, **Emma Godden**, will be returning to the team. Bringing her sharp shooting, masterful fence and graceful swim (even before her 1:1 coaching), Emma is a true all-rounder and will once again be aiming for the top positions. From the role of President, OUMPA has been in the capable hands of none other than **Joanna Leadley**, who is back for her fourth year of shoeing tabs and has juggled competing for several other clubs alongside presidential duties and that pesky degree. Whispers of DPhil funding in the works mean that this might not be the final time we see this decorated pentathlete.

Picking up the role of Social Secretary in her inaugural year, **Marie Girardet** has brought the party to OUMPA, helping the team train for the sixth event. However, her tumbling ability in both the pool and OCR should strike fear into the heart of any competitor, and tabs may find themselves being murdered not only on the dance floor. **Isabelle Wong** is another new face, after deciding to spice up her usual sports of triathlon and water polo. With militant shooting skills and an impressive record of pull-ups, you can bet that Izzy will be taking the fight to the tabs directly.

**Emma Madden** has made a return to Blues sport in fivefold style, and we are delighted to see her represent Dark Blue in Modern Pentathlon. With impressive track and pool records, plus extra skills from rock climbing, Emma is going to be a strong member of the Oxford Blues. **Lilli Leutloff** will be aiming for her second Full Blue of the year following Swimming Varsity. With impeccable music taste and a dedication to the gym, Lilli rounds out this year's Ladies' Blues for what will be a weekend of fierce competition.

Alongside the Blues are the Oxford Ladies' Twos, entirely made up of new and exciting athletes this year. Not only does **Molly Aspinall** join the hallowed halls of Blues swimmers and Pentathletes, but she is also part of the illustrious Pentathlon Biochemists tradition which has left the tabs in the dust more than once. With one Varsity win under her belt this year, she is aiming for another. **Anna Atherstone** comes to Pentathlon with a speedy run already in the works that will leave the tabs seeing stars, with big moves in the pool solidifying her as a valuable team member. **Georgia Sanderson** rounds out this year's team - having already completed a half marathon in Bath this year, we know she'll make light work of the light blues.

The Oxford Men's Blues team has grown this year. Long gone are the nimble jockeys, replaced by long limbs with muscles to swing to victory at this year's Varsity Match. This year, they are led by their captain, **Anish Shah**, whose dedication to OUMPA is second only to his love of Joe Choong. Anish has worked tirelessly over the past three years to master Pentathlon, even giving up Park End Wednesdays in an act of ultimate sacrifice. Expect to see him smash his PBs. Next up is **Rob McDonald**. Believe us when we say this man is H-O-T-T-O-G-O. Having made incredible progress since his debut last year, he is older, faster and more cut-throat than he looks. The only distraction for this all-rounder is MCR gossip.

Once a lowly swimmer named TJ, **Samual Nicholls** has evolved into a Pentathlon veteran with three Varsity Matches in his trunks. His fencing skills baffle even the most experienced fencers and there are several rumours that he cannot feel any pain. There is, after all, no other explanation for his past run and swim efforts and no other way to explain Sam's dominant performances. Having had so much fun last year, **Finn Ashworth** is back again for a second Varsity Match. After balancing his OUSC presidency alongside Pentathlon training, he is ready to leave swimming politics behind to compete. Don't be fooled by his charming smile and gentle demeanour, Finn is out to shoe - and beat Sam at literally anything.

**Jacob Hudson** is our latest swimmer to discover the delights of Pentathlon. Fresh off of leading the OUSC team to Varsity victory, Jake has winning on his mind and chlorine still in his bloodstream. It is unlikely anyone will defeat him in the pool, and we're excited to see his other skills in his first Pentathlon. **Jackson Moore** is the last member of the Blues team, but by no means the least. Demonstrating clear talent with a pistol from day one, rumours spread fast about his gift for sharp shooting, and we're delighted that he's a natural at the other events too. We expect him to round off the formidable Blues team in style.

Our Seconds team features the remarkable **Rory Bristoll**. Still disappointed that his skiing and equestrian experience are entirely useless to us, it's a good job Rory is good at five other sports. His specialty may be swimming, but spectators shouldn't blink during his OCR to avoid missing the whole thing. Next up is a new addition to the club, **Finley Easton**. As a lifesaver, Finley is more used to rescuing people than racing them. There will be no mercy from this athlete. **Lucas Leung** might have joined us in error, having thought that cycling was part of Pentathlon. However, this triathlete has taken to the weapons of Pentathlon with boundless energy and will lap Cambridge at his marathon pace.

Good luck to all the Oxford Teams at MPVM 2026. Go OUMPA !

# Varsity Match 2026 Prospects : Cambridge

**For Cambridge, Team Managers Kate Jacovides and Tads Ciecierski-Holmes take a look at CUMPC's prospects**

The current club has truly impressed us with their team spirit and comradery this year, alongside well-earned National Rankings and BUCS results.

The Cambridge Ladies are ready to defend their title. Leading the team is captain **Lauren Airey**. After victory in her debut Varsity Match last year, she is keen to return even stronger. Her dedication to mastering the obstacles will undoubtedly stand her in good stead as she takes on the competition. CUMPC's president, **Anna Basford**, is back for her fourth and final Varsity. The three-time BUCS gold medallist has gone from strength to strength with a formidable laser run and unwavering fencing skill. With two individual Varsity wins already under her belt, she will be hoping to go out on a high. New to Pentathlon this year is **Isabelle Watts**. With a foundation of endurance and strength from rowing, she is a force to be reckoned with in the water, on land and through the air. Driven by a joyful enthusiasm for the sport, Issy has become a formidable contender whom we are delighted to have on the team.

**Olivia Du** is one to watch, whether she's in the water or on the track. When she's not overtaking you in the lane, she's on poolside coaching. Just as likely to breeze past you in the run, blink once and she's in the range, showcasing her clinical focus and controlled aim with a laser pistol. Taking on her first Varsity, **Sahana Jain** is proving her bubbly personality translates perfectly to the bubbles she leaves in the wake of her speedy swim. With her newfound skills in fencing and shooting, she is becoming a formidable Pentathlete. A balance beam obstacle is of no consequence to **Katie Browne** who has managed to balance Modern Pentathlon with first year of Natural Sciences. She has picked up skills across disciplines with ease and is ready to take on her first Varsity.

First up in our Seconds team is **Anniko Firman**. Having made the rare transition from Pentathlon to rowing in the last couple years, she is back and ready to flèche across the piste once more. After nearly losing her to graduate schools in the US, we are delighted to have kept Anniko in light blue, back for her fifth Varsity. A newcomer to the sport, **Lauren Prince** has dived headfirst into the technical demands of fencing and the high-pressure precision of the laser-run with infectious enthusiasm. We are eager to watch as Lauren channels this momentum and competitive spirit to take on the dark blues. Returning for her second Varsity, **Jackie Rao** pairs a lethal parry with incredible endurance. This year, she has been taking on half marathons alongside honing her skills across the Pentathlon disciplines, and never without a smile.

The Cambridge Gentlemen's Team consists of recognisable faces and exciting new prospects, looking to seal their 5th consecutive title - the most successful run of victories for the Cambridge men since the 1990s. **Rudi Bruijn-Yard** returns for his fifth match. A two-time Varsity Match winner, he will be looking to secure victory in the fence and obstacle where his explosive speed is unrivalled. **Benjamin MacLennan** has added Pentathlon BUCS medals to his trophy cabinet, alongside his international fencing accolades. Ben will be battling it out with Rudi for bragging rights in the fence (a rematch of the BUCS épée semi-final) and will be seen showing off his running legs in the Laser Run. **Robert Powell**, our bionic superman, has only got stronger since his leg-breaking 2023 Novice Varsity appearance, and will be seen flying around the obstacles and laser focused in the shoot.

Our debuting men have had an incredible Novice season, with **George Winder** placing second at BUCS as a result of consistent performances across the five disciplines, in spite of multiple injury threats throughout the year. We are expecting quick obstacle and laser run times. **Harry Weston** finished only two seconds behind George to claim bronze at BUCS, with strong showings in the obstacle and swim. This ex boat club lightweight will join the long list of rowing converts who have gone on to have Pentathlon Varsity successes. **Alexander Matthews** is sure to shine this weekend, where his enthusiasm brings out the best in his own performance and in those around him. Look out for this Kiwi in the fence and laser run.

Our Men's Captain and 2025 Seconds team champion, **Harry Goldspink**, will be competing for a second and final time. Hit by an unfortunate fracture injury at National Rankings early in the season, Harry has spent most of this season in a boot and cast. Despite this, he will be sure to show off his muscle in the swim and obstacle until he inevitably returns for a PhD ! **Rohan Lall** has had a more medieval approach to fencing this year, having drawn blood at times in training. We hope he directs this energy towards his O\*ford opponents rather than his team-mates at Varsity ! Finally, **Rob McPherson**, another boat club convert, has taken to making his way through water than over it. His strength is apparent in the obstacle where he is likely to give his best performance.

We look forward to seeing the team do their best this weekend ! You've got this !

GDBO !

## Cambridge Ladies



**Lauren Airey (Emmanuel) - Captain**

The reigning Varsity champion, Lauren Airey runs so fast that Ox\*rd will be eating her fAirey dust on the track. Bringing not only a smile but endless patience and optimism to training, she is a woman transformed on the piste. Jack of all trades and master too, is there anything this woman can't do? Though she may at first seem a mythical being (mermaid in the water, dragon on the obstacle course, pegasus on the track), we are grateful every day that she is real. There is nothing she wouldn't do for the club, including traversing the entire length of England through snow and ice in a two-wheel drive. Her second Varsity match.



**Anna Basford (Emmanuel)**

When Anna smiles, we ALL smile, and it has become our primary aim at training to make that happen. Her praise (perhaps more rewarding and harder to attain than a Blue) lifts the whole team, as she imparts her limitless knowledge of Modern Pentathlon on us mere mortals. From the level of shenanigans she has put up with as President, it seems only logical that her spirit animal would be the Great Blue Heron, the most patient of all in the animal kingdom. With wings on her heels and hope in her heart, she flies around the track, obstacle course and the pool. Her fourth and final Varsity match.



**Isabelle Watts (Lucy Cavendish)**

Modern Pentathlon has never had as ardent a fan as Isabelle (Big) Watts. From coining the phrase 'IBLMP' - I bloody love Modern Pentathlon - to organising an entire Ancient Pentathlon, it would be fair to wonder whether her talent lies primarily in the realm of the social. Yet behind her joyful demeanour lies a steel determination to succeed. Whatever this girl puts her mind to she will achieve, be that in her gravity-defying performance on the OCR or a low-blow on the piste. Rumour has it that GB athletes have come away crying after fencing her - épées intact, but hopes and dreams irrevocably broken. Her first Varsity match.



**Olivia Du (Emmanuel)**

After wowing us with her speedy swimming last year, Liv has turned her hand to coaching. She has consistently received glowing reviews from our squad of now rapid (but initially much less rapid) swimmers. These reviews improved dramatically at the start of Lent when she started talking loud enough that we could hear her. A true Pentathlete, Liv can fly through the air as well as the water, and her talent for the monkey bars is unparalleled. Let's just hope her calves are functional for Varsity. Her second Varsity match.



**Katie Browne (Gonville & Caius)**

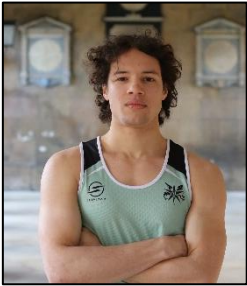
We're still not entirely convinced that Katie could possibly be a fresher - we've never seen a first year with her life together as much as this one. Not only balancing first year NatSci (Saturday lectures 'n' all), with five sports, she manages to turn up to training with the right kit and the right attitude every. Single. Time. Modern Pentathlon has pushed Katie in so many ways, including forcing her to drive on the motorway for the first time on the way to BUCS, and she may be a slow driver, but she is anything but slow in the pool. Her first Varsity match.



**Sahana Jain (Gonville & Caius)**

Do not be fooled by her warm personality and friendly demeanour, behind Sahana's serene facade lies a profound mercilessness. Blink and you'll miss her speedy shoots, and make sure you don't trip on the piste because she is NOT afraid to stab you when you're down. Even more impressive is that Sahana has never once done anything embarrassing in her life. Indeed, she is the only person who can make worming the length of Hawks seem sophisticated - a skill which also serves her well in the pool. And to answer the age-old question, we WOULD still love her if she was a worm. Her first Varsity match.

## Cambridge Gentlemen



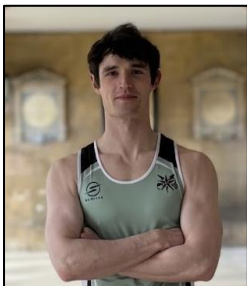
### Rudi Bruijn-Yard (Downing)

Now a seasoned CUMPC stalwart, despite an average attendance this year of approximately 4 sessions per term, Rudi Bruijn-Yard is back to destroy O\*ford again. Apparently, he's been busy saving the Vet School, but it'll most likely be the dark blues needing medical attention after fencing this épééist. Rudi's strengths extend far beyond pentathlon, showcased by his exceptional hobby horse abilities at the ancient pentathlon. It's a shame the horses aren't around anymore, but we look forward to watching Rudi fly round the OCR. His fifth Varsity match.



### George Winder (Emmanuel)

George is definitely, 100% not bitter about that random O\*ford alum who annihilated him at novice Varsity. He only talks about it with the calm, measured energy of a man who has totally moved on. On the piste, George has perfected his signature technique : the 'biological weapon'. He's farted through so many fencing bouts that the sports centre may qualify as a restricted chemical zone. Despite collecting injuries like stamps, George is walking around with silver from novice Varsity, silver from BUCS, and gold from Varsity ? A medal haul that proves even a man held together by hopes, dreams, and cheap tape can stumble his way to glory. His first Varsity match.



### Harry Weston (St Edmund's)

After placing third at BUCS, Harry is ready to move up the podium. We *think* he's a good swimmer, but he spends a lot of training having a break at the wall and he has never actually completed a 200m free, so the jury's out. One half of the 'legendary' (to some) CUBC lightweight spare spare pair, Harry probably got kicked out of the blue boat because of his fear of team photographs, a debilitating condition which also led to his absence in the CUMPC team picture. His first Varsity match.



### Ben MacLennan (Downing)

Fresh from a silver medal in BUCS fencing (but a gold medal at BUCS Pentathlon), Ben MacLennan is ready to stab through the dark blues. Both of these achievements pale in comparison to the glory of winning the beer mile at the inaugural CUMPC Ancient Pentathlon, the greatest event of this or any generation and which places him among the greats of antiquity. Ben exploits sloppy footwork like he exploits sloppy egos, which is actually rather unsurprising considering his self-diagnosed psychoanalysis as 'the id itself'. Despite a 'break' in attendance early in the year, this materials scientist definitely has the mettle to take down O\*ford. His second Varsity match.



### Robert Powell (St John's)

This year's honour goes to Robert Powell, whose attendance levels hover somewhere between rare phenomenon and statistically impossible. Speaking of statistics, Robert has spent so long trying to get published in Nature that he's become a grandmaster of P-hacking. Of course, we can't forget his creative interpretation of personal space, demonstrated perfectly when he abandoned his train home from Bath and inserted himself into our already full car like an extra variable nobody asked for. In short, minimal appearances with maximal chaos. His second Varsity match.



### Alexander Matthews (Jesus)

The world's most energetic pentathlete (powered by yerba mate tea), Alexander Matthews is sure to tear up the piste, pool and more at Varsity. That is, if he isn't preoccupied visiting his true love, the sauna. Throughout the year, he's shown unrivalled enthusiasm for turning OCR into parkour and opting for a lovely phone call over a simple text. Whether he's sporting his fencing mask, swimming hat or interesting woollen beret, this Kiwi is ready to go. His first Varsity Match.

# Cambridge

## Cambridge Seconds



**Jackie Rao (Christ's) - Blues Team First Reserve**

Once again, Jackie finds herself on the piste. She might not know how she got there, but on the piste she has a unique ability to both win your heart and the point at once, as she parry-ripostes with a friendly smile on her face. Jackie has proven to be truly unstoppable. When she turned up to laser run the day after completing a half marathon, we were wowed that her legs were still functioning. Despite competing in Varsity last year, this year brings her true debut in the 200m freestyle after retiring from the 50m-free-150m-breaststroke. After conquering O\*ford, maybe next year she will conquer her true enemy - tumble turns. Her second Varsity match.



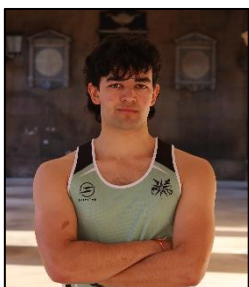
**Anniko Firman (Jesus)**

Anniko has demonstrated extreme commitment to Pentathlon this year, to the extent of not showing up to a single session (aside from gracing us with her presence at time trials). Instead, she decided to pursue unbeatable fitness and became inextricably more involved in the cult of rowing (if that's even possible). Let's hope that all the time on the erg can translate into some rapid running and swimming. There is a chance she remembers how to shoot, but the jury is still out. Her fifth Varsity match.



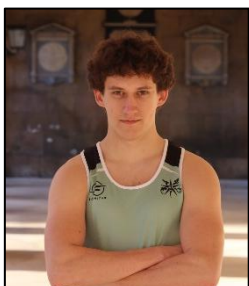
**Lauren Prince (Girton)**

Her grip on the monkey bars is admittedly stronger than her grip on reality, but what she lacks from said double ontological bind she makes up for in whimsy and joy. One half of the recently termed 'Lissy', she might have learned how to shoot by now if she didn't see every session as a debrief with Issy. This girl is allegedly a superwoman but is more likely to be found on the ground massaging her shin splints than gliding through the air. Though her unparalleled video montages light up the Instagram page, her greatest achievement? Making a man run to Girton. Her first Varsity match.



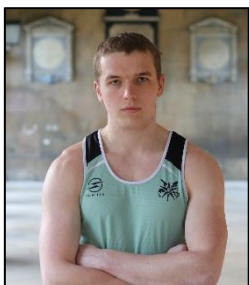
**Rohan Lall (Queens') - Blues Team First Reserve**

Rohan Lall is one to watch on the Pentathlon points board. He is feared on the fencing piste, especially when he channels a bit too much of a 'fence to kill' mentality - just ask Sahana. Rumour has it the stands at O\*ford's track are still shaking after the crowd went wild for his dazzling shooting at Novice Varsity. What's more, we've managed to convince Rohan to go 100% in all events rather than saving energy for his main priority: swimming faster than Lauren Prince. Thanks to Rohan's newfound tumble turning ability, he's sure to do an amazing job. His first Varsity match.



**Harry Goldspink (Jesus) - Captain**

He's back! Our magnificent Men's Captain is best known for his firm e-mails and epic lacheing (although this has been slightly complicated by the crutches). Luckily, no one else ended up on crutches when he drove the minivan to PT Barn. On the piste, he's armed with an épée, but in all the events he is armed with determination and the energy of a HG bath cleaner. He's ready to wipe the Bath Sports Village clean. All he has to do is complete the Varsity Match with his ankle in one piece (hopefully). His second Varsity match.



**Rob McPherson (Emmanuel)**

If you've heard of Robert McPherson, it will be for one of two reasons: either, as the boyfriend to the gorgeous, amazing, beautiful Amy, or as one half of the mighty CUBC spare spare pair. Rob got good at rowing because his deep-rooted fear of clear water forced him to never capsize. Unfortunately, this is not a healthy position for a Modern Pentathlete who has to swim, but he's working on that, ok? Got 4 more years of his PhD, so chill out. His first Varsity match.



**Cambridge University Modern Pentathlon Club**

**Varsity Match Teams 2026**



# Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match Records

## Ladies

Fencing Event :	Henny Dillon (C)	21 out of 22 victories (95.45%)	2013	1,240 points
Swimming Event :	Henny Dillon (C)	200m in 2 mins 7.15 secs	2014	1,276 points
Riding Event :	Many	Clear round inside the optimum time		1,200 points
Obstacle Course Event :	Lauren Airey (C)	8 obstacles in 63.20 secs	2025	1,024 points
Shooting Event :	Robyn Payne (O)	190 out of 200 live fire target points	1988	912 points
	Clare Tuck (C)	180 out of 200 air pistol target points	1999	1,096 points
	Ali Simon (C)	3 x 5 knock down targets in 1 min 54 secs	2015	1,144 points
	Sophia Lubiecki (O)	4 x 5 laser hits in 57 secs	2024	1,172 points
	Stephanie Cook (O)	2,000m in 6 mins 27 secs	1997	1,365 points
Running Event :	Lucy Hasell (O)	3,000m in 10 mins 9 secs	2000	1,282 points
	Clare Kane (O)	3 x 1,000m in 10 mins 17 secs	2011	932 points
	Dani Chattenton (O)	4 x 800m in 11 mins 13 secs	2017	868 points
	Anna Basford (C)	5 x 600m in 11 mins 20 secs	2025	1,080 points
Combined Event :	Katie Hickson (O)	3,000m and 15 targets in 12 mins 47 secs	2014	1,932 points
	Dani Chattenton (O)	3,200m and 20 hits in 13 mins 59 secs	2017	1,844 points
	Anna Basford (C)	3,000m and 20 hits in 13 mins 1 sec	2025	2,076 points
Match Individual :	Julia Allen (C)	Pre Combined Event	1996	5,604 points
	Katie Hickson (O)	Combined Event	2014	5,120 points
	Lauren Airey (C)	Combined Event & Obstacle Course	2025	5,164 points
Match Team :	Cambridge	Team of 5 Pre Combined Event	1996	24,524 points
	Oxford	Team of 6 Pre Combined Event	2003	25,696 points
	Cambridge	Team of 6 Combined Event	2019	24,728 points
	Cambridge	Team of 6 Combined Event & Obstacle Course	2025	24,118 points
Oxford Individual :	Aly Rowell (O)	Pre Combined Event	2003	5,464 points
	Katie Hickson (O)	Combined Event	2014	5,120 points
	Emma Godden (O)	Combined Event & Obstacle Course	2025	3,852 points
Oxford Team :	Captain : Rain Newton-Smith	Team of 5 Pre Combined Event	1997	23,829 points
	Captain : Sabrina Verjee	Team of 6 Pre Combined Event	2003	25,696 points
	Captain : Rebecca Oates	Team of 6 Combined Event	2017	24,512 points
	Captain : Joanna Leadley	Team of 6 Combined Event & Obstacle Course	2025	20,492 points
Cambridge Individual :	Julia Allen (C)	Pre Combined Event	1996	5,604 points
	Dorottya Nagy (C)	Combined Event	2019	4,864 points
	Lauren Airey (C)	Combined Event & Obstacle Course	2025	5,164 points
Cambridge Team :	Captain : Ettie Boyd	Team of 5 Pre Combined Event	1996	24,524 points
	Captain : Nicky Brooks	Team of 6 Pre Combined Event	2007	25,200 points
	Captain : Dorottya Nagy	Team of 6 Combined Event	2019	24,728 points
	Captain : Lauren Airey	Team of 6 Combined Event & Obstacle Course	2025	24,118 points
Longest Winning Run :	Cambridge	Successive Victories, 1978 to 1986, 1991 to 1999		9 matches
Longest Team Record :	Oxford (2003 onwards)	As yet unbeaten		23 years



# Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match Records

## Gentlemen

Fencing Event :	Peter Wall (C)	22 out of 22 victories (100%)	1976	1,350 points
Swimming Event :	Reamon Smale (C)	300m in 3 mins 19.5 secs	1993	1,276 points
	Henry Choong (C)	200m in 1 min 53.54 secs	2019	1,292 points
Riding Event :	Many	Clear round inside the optimum time		1,200 points
Obstacle Course Event :	Rudi Brujin-Yard	8 obstacles In 38.39 secs	2025	1,324 points
Shooting Event :	Peter Wall (C)	194 out of 200 live fire target points	1976	1,000 points
	Alistair George (O)	186 out of 200 target points	1994	1,168 points
	Tom Barber (C)	3 x 5 knock down targets in 1 min 49 secs	2011	1,164 points
	Tads Ciecierski-Holmes (C)	4 x 5 hits in 53 secs	2025	1,188 points
Running Event :	Rob Pontefract (C)	4,000m in 12 mins 35 secs	1969	1,300 points
	Matthew Barnes (O)	3,000m in 9 mins 6 secs	1998	1,216 points
	Jonny Pearson-Stuttard (O)	3 x 1,000m in total 9 mins 11 secs	2011	1,196 points
	Tommy Lees (O)	4 x 800m in 10 mins 6 secs	2021	1,376 points
	Sam Nicholls	5 x 600m in 9 mins 16 secs	2025	1,576 points
Combined Event :	Harry Tabor (O)	3,000m and 15 targets in 11 mins 23 secs	2011	2,268 points
	Tommy Lees (O)	3,200m and 20 hits in 12 mins 7 secs	2019	2,284 points
	Tads Ciecierski-Holmes (C)	3,000m and 20 hits in 11 mins 5 secs	2025	2,540 points
Match Individual :	Richard Hildick-Smith (O)	Pre Combined Event	2007	5,676 points
	Tommy Lees (O)	Combined Event	2019	5,824 points
	Tads Ciecierski-Holmes (C)	Combined Event & Obstacle Course	2025	5,880 points
Match Team :	Oxford	Team of 6 Pre Combined Event	1998	29,057 points
	Oxford	Team of 6 Combined Event	2013	30,228 points
	Cambridge	Team of 6 Combined Event & Obstacle Course	2025	31,610 points
Oxford Individual :	Richard Hildick-Smith (O)	Pre Combined Event	2007	5,676 points
	Tommy Lees (O)	Combined Event	2019	5,824 points
	Sam Nicholls	Combined Event & Obstacle Course	2025	5,032 points
Oxford Team :	Captain : John Miller	Team of 6 Pre Combined Event	1998	29,057 points
	Captain : Alex Fraser	Team of 6 Combined Event	2013	30,228 points
	Captain : Robert Mitchell	Team of 6 Combined Event & Obstacle Course	2025	27,038 points
Cambridge Individual :	Jamie Dixon (C)	Pre Combined Event	1996	5,287 points
	Henry Choong (C)	Combined Event	2016	5,772 points
	Tads Ciecierski-Holmes (C)	Combined Event & Obstacle Course	2025	5,880 points
Cambridge Team :	Captain : James Whetman	Team of 6 Pre Combined Event	1996	28,813 points
	Captain : Archie Myrtle	Team of 6 Combined Event	2014	29,844 points
	Captain : Tads Ciecierski-Holmes	Team of 6 Combined Event & Obstacle Course	2025	31,610 points
Longest Winning Run :	Oxford	Successive Victories, 1997 to 2013		17 matches
Longest Team Record :	Cambridge (1962 to 1988)	Beaten by Oxford (Captain : Tristan Robbie)		26 years

## Notes On Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match Records

Only first instances of record performances are noted. New records are only recorded when a previous record is broken. Only records set in the Blues match are noted.

Ladies' (since 1976) and Gents' (since 1958) teams have increased in stages from 3 to 6 members

Air pistols replaced live pistols in 1994

Gents' swimming distance changed from 300m to 200m in 1998

Ladies' running distance changed from 2,000m to 3,000m in 1998

Gents' running distances changed from 4,000m to 3,000m in 1998

Maximum riding score changed from 1,100 to 1,200 in 2003

Combined Event introduced in 2010 including 3 x 100m and 3 x rounds of knock down targets

Fencing moved from 22 bouts to 33 bouts (teams of 6) in 2017 for Ladies and Gents

Laser pistols replaced air pistols in 2017

Combined Event changed to 4 x 800m laps and 4 rounds of laser pistol shooting in 2017

Ride event changed to include two or three course heights in 2017

No new records set in 2020 when match run in time trials format due to Covid pandemic

Obstacle Course Race phase introduced in 2025 to replace Riding phase

Combined Event changed to 5 x 600m laps and 4 rounds of laser pistol shooting in 2025

## Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match Champions : Ladies

1976	Oxford	10,842	F. Stead (O)	4,528	1976
1977	Oxford	9,218	F. Stead (O)	4,215	1977
1978	Cambridge	11,510	V. Hall (C)	4,598	1978
1979	Cambridge	10,871	V. Hall (C)	4,354	1979
1980	Cambridge	11,232	A. Alexander (C)	4,388	1980
1981	Cambridge	12,574	A. Alexander (C)	4,723	1981
1982	Cambridge	15,698	A. Alexander (C)	4,398	1982
1983	Cambridge	15,454	E. Hand (C)	4,630	1983
1984	Cambridge	17,208	E. Hand (C)	4,511	1984
1985	Cambridge	13,328	E. Hand (C)	3,926	1985
1986	Cambridge	12,786	J. Rowley (O)	3,522	1986
1987	Oxford	14,533	R.M. Payne (O)	4,300	1987
1988	Cambridge	15,237	R.M. Payne (O)	4,217	1988
1989	Cambridge	15,112	A. Varey (C)	4,550	1989
1990	Oxford	16,131	K. L. M. Houston (O)	4,941	1990
1991	Cambridge	21,093	J.M. Allen (C)	5,052	1991
1992	Cambridge	20,599	J.M. Allen (C)	5,048	1992
1993	Cambridge	22,154	J.M. Allen (C)	5,093	1993
1994	Cambridge	22,634	J.M. Allen (C)	5,479	1994
1995	Cambridge	21,258	J.M. Allen (C)	5,446	1995
1996	Cambridge	24,524	J.M. Allen (C)	5,604	1996
1997	Cambridge	23,843	S. Cook (O)	5,323	1997
1998	Cambridge	22,867	L. Willcocks (O)	5,314	1998
1999	Cambridge	21,511	L. Hasell (O)	4,803	1999
2000	Oxford	19,276	H. Thompson (C)	4,951	2000
2001	Oxford	20,866	H. Thompson (C)	4,805	2001
2002	Oxford	18,293	H. Thompson (C)	4,628	2002
2003	Oxford	25,696	A. Rowell (O)	5,464	2003
2004	Oxford	22,604	A. Rowell (O)	5,436	2004
2005	Oxford	25,136	A. Rowell (O)	5,356	2005
2006	Oxford	23,548	S. Verjee (C)	4,488	2006
2007	Cambridge	25,200	N. Brooks (C)	4,580	2007
2008	Cambridge	23,792	N. Brooks (C)	4,708	2008
2009	Cambridge	23,672	N. Brooks (C)	4,816	2009
2010	Cambridge	24,972	L. Plant (C)	5,028	2010
2011	Oxford	24,009	C. Kane (O)	4,764	2011
2012	Oxford	22,116	H. Dillon (C)	4,388	2012
2013	Cambridge	24,464	H. Dillon (C)	4,676	2013
2014	Cambridge	24,324	K. Hickson (O)	5,120	2014
2015	Oxford	21,716	K. Hickson (O)	4,496	2015
2016	Cambridge	22,856	D. Chattenton (O)	4,472	2016
2017	Oxford	24,512	P. Baxter (O)	4,796	2017
2018	Oxford	22,948	R. Chrystie-Lowe (O)	4,524	2018
2019	Cambridge	24,728	D. Nagy (C)	4,864	2019
2020	Cambridge	20,824	A. Radford (C)	4,160	2020
2021	Oxford	21,103	A. Radford (C)	4,320	2021
2022	Oxford	22,396	K. Smith (O)	4,540	2022
2023	Cambridge	23,228	A. Basford (C)	4,816	2023
2024	Oxford	22,300	A. Basford (C)	4,804	2024
2025	Cambridge	24,118	L. Airey (C)	5,164	2025

## Varsity Match Status

### After 68 Matches (Gentlemen) and 50 Matches (Ladies)

Ladies' Team Competition :	Oxford	19 victories	Cambridge	31 victories
Ladies' Individual Competition :	Oxford	19 victories	Cambridge	31 victories
Gentlemen's Team Competition :	Oxford	40 victories	Cambridge	28 victories
Gentlemen's Individual Competition :	Oxford	37 victories	Cambridge	31 victories
Club Competition (from 2018 Diamond Anniversary) :	Oxford	4 victories	Cambridge	4 victories

# Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match Champions : Gentlemen

1958	Cambridge	8,850	Z. Mezei (C)	4,411	1958
1959	Oxford	7,877	F.C.B. Bland (O)	2,861	1959
1960	Cambridge	10,963	Z. Mezei (C)	4,076	1960
1961	Oxford	18,205	A.G. Gibson (O)	3,663	1961
1962	Cambridge	23,785	H. Lyall Grant (C)	4,529	1962
1963	Cambridge	18,993	D.M. Broom (C)	4,088	1963
1964	Cambridge	21,892	D.M. Broom (C)	4,375	1964
1965	Cambridge	16,258	J.W. Patterson (C)	2,956	1965
1966	Cambridge	20,760	G. Garforth-Bles (C)	3,770	1966
1967	Cambridge	21,578	B.W. Norris (C)	4,681	1967
1968	Cambridge	19,848	B.W. Norris (C)	4,029	1968
1969	Cambridge	22,163	M.J. Hieatt (C)	4,549	1969
1970	Oxford	19,430	R. Champion (C)	4,195	1970
1971	Oxford	20,926	R. Champion (C)	4,712	1971
1972	Cambridge	17,032	R. Stoll (O)	3,799	1972
1973	Cambridge	17,288	R. M. Fleming (O)	3,562	1973
1974	Oxford	17,819	R. M. Fleming (O)	4,004	1974
1975	Oxford	14,584	R.M. Fleming (O)	3,634	1975
1976	Oxford	19,848	P. Wall (C)	5,099	1976
1977	Oxford	20,917	P. Wall (C)	4,415	1977
1978	Cambridge	22,992	P. Wall (C)	4,700	1978
1979	Cambridge	21,092	R. Peet (O)	4,255	1979
1980	Cambridge	20,615	D. Garforth-Bles (C)	4,538	1980
1981	Oxford	19,857	J. McCullough (C)	4,590	1981
1982	Oxford	18,246	E. Watson (O)	3,925	1982
1983	Oxford	20,810	W. Aldridge (C)	4,268	1983
1984	Oxford	20,893	E. Watson (O)	4,288	1984
1985	Oxford	19,835	E. Watson (O)	4,717	1985
1986	Oxford	22,353	A. Connolly (O)	4,490	1986
1987	Cambridge	23,681	T.C.A. Robbie (O)	4,863	1987
1988	Oxford	24,395	M. Hanson (C)	4,363	1988
1989	Oxford	23,498	C.J. Shaw-Smith (O)	4,271	1989
1990	Oxford	25,670	G.M. Campbell (C)	4,783	1990
1991	Oxford	24,836	N. Allhusen (C)	4,945	1991
1992	Cambridge	27,632	S.B.C Robbie (O)	5,128	1992
1993	Cambridge	27,867	K. Shindler (O)	5,360	1993
1994	Cambridge	28,273	K. Shindler (O)	5,240	1994
1995	Cambridge	23,077	J.B. Whetman (C)	5,012	1995
1996	Cambridge	28,813	J.L. Dixon (C)	5,287	1996
1997	Oxford	27,243	J. Miller (O)	4,935	1997
1998	Oxford	29,057	M. Barnes (O)	5,275	1998
1999	Oxford	28,424	T. Kennedy (O)	5,033	1999
2000	Oxford	27,336	A. Smale (C)	5,275	2000
2001	Oxford	28,749	B. Candy (O)	5,338	2001
2002	Oxford	28,992	P. Kelly (O)	5,336	2002
2003	Oxford	26,220	B. Candy (O)	5,488	2003
2004	Oxford	26,020	P. Kelly (O)	5,152	2004
2005	Oxford	24,664	O. Rees-Jones (O)	4,752	2005
2006	Oxford	26,036	O. Rees-Jones (O)	5,304	2006
2007	Oxford	24,664	O. Rees-Jones (O)	4,752	2007
2008	Oxford	27,344	R. Hildick-Smith (O)	5,564	2008
2009	Oxford	27,264	M. Brown (O)	5,124	2009
2010	Oxford	29,800	H. Pettit (O)	5,556	2010
2011	Oxford	29,652	T. Barber (C)	5,756	2011
2012	Oxford	30,008	H. Tabor (O)	5,492	2012
2013	Oxford	30,228	T. Lees (O)	5,556	2013
2014	Cambridge	29,844	T. Lees (O)	5,720	2014
2015	Oxford	28,328	P. Hodgson (C)	5,256	2015
2016	Oxford	29,064	H. Choong (C)	5,772	2016
2017	Oxford	25,624	H. Fleming (O)	5,264	2017
2018	Cambridge	27,348	T. Lees (O)	5,660	2018
2019	Cambridge	29,634	T. Lees (O)	5,824	2019
2020	Oxford	27,003	T. Lees (O)	5,568	2020
2021	Oxford	26,100	T. Lees (O)	5,660	2021
2022	Cambridge	25,700	R. Bruijn-Yard (C)	5,228	2022
2023	Cambridge	23,940	R. Bruijn-Yard (C)	5,204	2023
2024	Cambridge	24,060	T. Ciecierski-Holmes (C)	5,364	2024
2025	Cambridge	31,610	T. Ciecierski-Holmes (C)	5,880	2025

# THE MODERN PENTATHLON VARSITY MATCH 2026

*The 69th Varsity Match 1958 ~ 2026*

## The Diamond Anniversary Trophy

In 2018, to celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of the Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match, 1958 to 2018, our great friend and long-term supporter, Chris Price, presented the two clubs with a new challenge cup to be competed for each year at the Varsity Match and to be known as the Diamond Anniversary Trophy (or, informally, the Chris Price Cup or Presidents' Cup).

The winner of the Diamond Anniversary Trophy is the club which, across both Blues' and Seconds' matches and across both Ladies' and Gentlemen's competitions, amasses the highest total points score during the Varsity Match (i.e. across all four competing teams). So, it is a total club versus total club challenge cup, and it is presented to the winning club's president.

1976	Oxford	32,243	Club President	Phil Budden
2018	Cambridge	68,168	Club President	Kshitij Sabnis
2019	Cambridge	73,064	Club President	Anna Gibbons
2020	Oxford	45,847	Club President	Kathryn Smith
2021	Oxford	47,203	Club President	Sophie Whitehead
2022	Oxford	57,456	Club President	Kathryn Smith
2023	Cambridge	65,020	Club President	Anniko Firman
2024	Oxford	64,012	Club President	Emma Godden
2025	Cambridge	75,166	Club President	Anniko Firman



Date 13/14 1976

13/14 March 1976

THE OXFORD v. CAMBRIDGE MODERN PENTATHLON MATCH

		PISTOL		FENCING		After 2 events		SWIM		After 3 events		RUN		After 4 events		RIDE		Final Result	
		Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos
	OXFORD	2800	2	4800	1	7600	2	2388	2	9988	2	4996	1	14774	2	6427	1	21401	1
	CAMBRIDGE	3338	1	4800	1	8138	1	4252	1	12390	1	3861	2	16251	1	4812	2	21063	2
O	BUDDEN <sup>Sue</sup>	974 191	2	1000 18	2	1934	2	324 515.2	10	2298	2	460 17.15	11	2718	5	1068 2.03	2	3786	4
X	RYE <sup>John</sup>	156 157	11	1000 15	2	1186	6	612 432.2	4	1798	7	1042 17.01	2	2310	4	1058 2.44	7	3398	3
F	LANE <sup>Charles</sup>	714 181	3	750 10	7	1464	4	16	12	1540	9	778 15.29	5	2318	9	1068 2.12	3	3386	9
O	BRODIE <sup>Christie</sup>	362 165	9	550 6	10	912	11	584 448	5	1416	10	1091 13.43	1	2577	6	1068 2.24	5	3645	5
R	FORD <sup>Gay</sup>	143 176	12	550 6	10	550	12	392 5.10	9	942	12	16.06 14.29	8	1609	12	1068 2.23	4	2617	11
D	McMANNERS <sup>Hugh</sup>	604 176	4	450 14	4	1554	3	400 5.09	8	1954	5	453 14.29	3	2912	3	1097 2.31	1	4009	2
C	WRIGLEY <sup>Sue</sup>	296 162	10	500 11	5	1096	8	940 420.4	2	2036	4	469 17.12	10	2505	7	1068 2.26	6	3573	6
A	GREEN <sup>Rony</sup>	604 176	4	400 11	5	1404	5	545 420.2	7	1952	6	380 17.45	12	2322	8	148 5.50	12	2470	12
M	WALL <sup>Rita</sup>	1000 194	1	1350 22	1	2350	1	448 420.5	1	3298	1	780 15.35	6	4058	1	1041 2.37	9	5099	1
B	FLEMING <sup>Roberta</sup>	406 167	8	650 5	9	1056	10	576 4.47	6	1632	8	613 16.24	9	2245	10	1049 2.47	8	3394	8
R	OWEN <sup>Chris</sup>	472 170	7	700 9	8	1172	7	420 4.04	3	2092	3	392 14.51	4	2984	2	502 4.32	11	3486	7
G	COPE <sup>John</sup>	560 174	6	500 5	12	1060	9	320 5.19	11	1380	11	757 15.36	7	2137	11	1004 3.30	10	3141	10

Venue UPPINGHAM SCHOOL

Date 13/14/1976

LADIES MATCH

THE OXFORD v. CAMBRIDGE MODERN PENTATHLON MATCH

		PISTOL		FENCING		After 2 events		SWIM		After 3 events		RUN		After 4 events		RIDE		Final Result	
		Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos
	OXFORD	1648	1	2516	1	4064	1	1394	1	5402	1	2298	1	7706	1	3186	1	10842	1
	CAMBRIDGE	658	2	2032	2	2690	2	276	2	2966	2	792	2	3758	2	-	2	3758	2
O	STEAD <sup>Fran</sup>	502 169	1	2000 15	2	1670	1	604 336	1	2834	1	256 6.24	1	3190	1	1068	1	4258	1
X	SUTTLE <sup>Gill</sup>	280 164	2	750 12	4	1296	2	16 157	5	1312	3	754 6.41	2	2066	3	1038	2	3104	3
F	JONES <sup>Sally</sup>	166 137	5	412 16	1	1098	3	664 236	1	1762	2	1058 6.52	3	2450	2	1030	3	3480	2
O																			
R																			
D																			
C	HORTON <sup>Carlyn</sup>	91 140	6	824 14	3	824	6	176 83	2	1000	4	574 7.11	4	1574	4	DNR		1574	4
A	MILLWARD <sup>Ann</sup>	252 140	4	148 10	5	900	5	100 100	4	1000	4	527 8.27	5	1118	5	DNR		1118	5
M	SMITH <sup>Louisa</sup>	164 137	3	560 9	6	766	4	0 0	6	966	6	160 8.30	6	1066	6	DNR		1066	6
B																			
R																			
G																			

Venue UPPINGHAM SCHOOL

# The 50th Anniversary of the Ladies' Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match

## Sally Jones, member of the first OUMPA Ladies Team in 1976

"Fancy trying your hand at Modern Pentathlon ?" asked my Oxford Riding team-mate Phil Budden, sometime back in the Michaelmas Term of 1975.

"It's Gents only, isn't it?" I ventured incredulously, "And I'm in the squash team and the Blue Boat squad - I'd never have time."

"We're recruiting for the first ever Ladies' Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match Team, and we're starting with riders," Phil explained.

"I've swum competitively and fenced foil at school," I reasoned. "Why on earth not ?" Excited at this new challenge, I made my excuses to my fellow-oarswomen, gracefully exited the Boat Club, and, a week later, with my friends Fran Stead and Gill Suttle, both star riders and county standard runners, I got my first taste of épée and pistol-shooting.



Training with our male team-mates several times a week pushed us hard, but also supplied welcome fun and camaraderie. A wonderful Christmas training camp at Phil's family home near Taunton, masterminded by Colonel Budden, a top Pony Club Tetrathlon organiser, involved early starts in a freezing pool and gruelling hill-running and intervals. But it also included industrial quantities of lasagne and cheesecake plus riotous games of snapdragon and jiving sessions (the sixth events of their day). In parallel, our opposite numbers in Cambridge were assembling the competition, an impressive trio of Carolyn Horton, Ann Millward and Louisa Smith, who we would meet in the Varsity Match at Uppingham School in March 1976.

The hard yards of training paid off for OUMPA, and we managed to win both the Ladies and the Gents events, Fran topping the Ladies' standings, thanks to a fine ride and gutsy run over ploughed fields, while I finished second, winning the fence and swim, though wayward as ever with the pistol.

Fran and Gill later competed in some of the first Women's Pentathlon internationals. I became a sports broadcaster for the BBC and relished covering Steph Cook's Olympic triumph when another milestone for Ladies' Modern Pentathlon was reached, finally, at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

And the best part of that pioneering Pentathlon adventure ? Several of my old OUMPA team-mates are still amongst my closest friends, 50 years on. Very best wishes to everyone competing in the 2026 Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match !



## Stephanie Cook, Ladies Varsity Match Champion in 1997 ... ... and the first Ladies Olympic Modern Pentathlon Gold Medallist

The Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match, and all my friends from OUMPA and CUMPC, have transformed my life in ways that I could never have imagined when, as a clinical medical student in 1994, I saw an OUMPA recruitment poster in the porter's lodge of Lincoln College. It looked a good way to get back on a horse after spending most of my undergraduate years at Cambridge in a boat or on a running track.

Having won Novice VM that year, I was sidelined from my first MPVM proper in 1995 with a knee injury, but, on what I now know to be the twentieth anniversary of the Ladies' match, I was second to the remarkable Julia Allen when she won her sixth consecutive individual title in 1996 ... a record across both the Ladies' and Gents' matches.

Finally, in my last year at Oxford, I won the 1997 VM individual title. With the VM as my springboard, I was able to combine my years as a junior doctor with competing for GB at World Cups, European and World Champs and, ultimately, the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000 ... the first time that women had competed at the Games (only 24 years behind the VM).

After a dream day, I ended up on the podium alongside my old OUMPA teammate, Emily de Riel from the USA (who was with me in the Oxford VM team that lost to Cambridge in the 1997 VM) and fellow Brit, Kate Allenby (an occasional guest training member of CUMPC). Gold, silver and bronze for the MPVM !

Not only were the stands full of Pentathlon Old Blues, but it seemed that half the Olympic competition organisers were ex-Oxbridge Pentathletes. It was certainly easier to delay the dope testing official trying to drag me away from my friends when I realised he was a fellow OUMPA club member.

Modern Pentathlon and the Varsity Match have given me friends for life, extraordinary opportunities, and a huge amount of fun. And, as a word of warning to today's competitors ... be careful how you respond to the traditional sconces at the VM Dinner ... or you might just end up marrying a member of the opposition !



