

OURC Newsletter 2016



Oxford Range

Sportsfed is currently in the first phase of building a new range and are trying to raise funds which will allow them to proceed to the next stage. A one year contract with Summerfields School, just a stone's throw from our old range at St Edwards', commenced in Michaelmas last year, which this term has been renewed and OURC are now making plans to be housed at the school for the medium term. Despite the upheaval of moving ranges and the need to start taster sessions slightly later in term, this academic year, and last, have seen successive large increases in smallbore membership.

Heslop and Bentata

Following last year in which Cambridge won the day, the OURC's Heslop and Bentata teams, each with a mix of returning and new shooters, arrived bright and early once more at the neutral ground of the Lord Roberts Centre ready to settle the score. The Bentata Team triumphed, beating CUSBC 725 to 717! New Member Abi Howell led the team with 193, earning a Half-Blue. Sadly the Heslop team were denied similar success, finishing with 1462 to CUSBC's 1515. Chenduraan Kailayapillai and Jonny Page top scored, both with 189.



The Heslop and victorious Bentata teams

Kensington, 3rds & Lermann

This year the Kensington, 3rds and Lermann were also held at the Lord Roberts Centre. These matches are always an excellent opportunity for those new to the sport to get some experience before (hopefully) moving on to the Heslop and Bentata teams the next year. OURC had a great contingent of new recruits for the Kensington match, all keen for a taste of competition and success following the Heslop and Bentata. The OURC team were beaten by CUSBC, 1440 to 1482, but scored 76 points more than last year. The Lermann (three-position) was also won by Cambridge with OURC scoring 706 to CUSBCs' 852.

Individual Fullbore

Following the success of last year OURC were again keen to introduce all our new shooters to the delights of Fullbore and of Bisley! Our training camp over the Easter vacation had an excellent turnout of 20 members.

A record number of sixteen shooters also attended the Imperial Competition at Bisley, including eight for the Hopton. Numbers have often been lower for the MR week so it was very encouraging to see such enthusiasm. Katherine Lightbown finished top in the Hopton, ranked 85th.

In the TR week, Henry Lee finished top in the Grand Aggregate, ranked 442nd. Andy Brooker made it to the final stage of the St Georges competition, finishing 24th on 150.20 and becoming an XI!

Humphry

This year OURC put forward an entirely fresh Humphry team. With the help of coaches Mike Baillie-Hamilton, Hamish Hunter and Derek Lowe, OURC shot very well, finishing on 781.43. Unfortunately despite

OURC's brilliant effort, CURA shot exceptionally well and finished with 858.79. Katherine Lightbown, Peter Morrison and Christopher Cockerill all earned Half-Blues. Katherine Lightbown topped the board with 205.14.



The Humphry team & coaches

Chancellors

The day of the Chancellors match commenced with excellent weather conditions, so expectations were high, and we were feeling optimistic as the day began. The atmosphere began gaining tension as the day continued and the match was drawing to a close, it being clear that both sides were performing well. The final score was 1118.81 - 1166.128 to Cambridge. Sean Gordon and Thomas Frame achieved Half-Blues, and Andy Brooker top-scored with 146.16

Team Fullbore

After the Varsity match, there remained one final TR competition, the Universities Long Range. In Spite of some serious equipment malfunctions, with the help of Derek Lowe as an external coach, the OURC team completed the shoot in 9th place.

In the afternoon, after the Long Range match, was the final Varsity of the year: the Roades Cup, which was this year shot with Black Powder Pistols. Devastatingly, CURA took a clean sweep during the Imperial Weeks with their team of four achieving a score of 87 to OURC's 45. Both teams however managed a score unprecedented in this match.

Jersey Tour

This year the OURC were very pleased to be able to take a Target Rifle team on tour to compete in the Jersey Open in August, turning our hands to the challenge of shooting at 200 yards and spending four days in the glorious Sunshine on some of the most spectacular ranges we've seen. One member of the club even collected a much admired trophy; sadly however, it could not be removed from the Island. We are very grateful to the Jersey RA for their hospitality, and hope to be able to enter a team to compete again next year.



The President enjoying some of the Jersey scenery

In Closing

Despite the upheaval we faced at the beginning of this academic year with the change of the smallbore range the club continued to go from strength to strength, in the face of adversity and challenge, and have been able to explore new opportunities. We have lost a lot of experienced shots over the last three years but there is an ever growing and enthusiastic cohort to replace them. The OURC are edging ever closer to our rivals. This year we were able to prevent a clean sweep for the 'tabs' with OURC's impressive performance in the Bentata; and many of our other matches, particularly those between the new members of both clubs, were closely contested. We will be back next year with more experience behind us to challenge them again.

As ever, the OURC benefits greatly from some incredible support from old members. We owe much thanks to so many of you, in particular to Derek Lowe, John Webster, and David Bentata, who are always available to advise us. We are also very grateful for the hands-on help we receive from some of our more recent alumni too numerous to name here.

Finally, our thanks also go to the continued support from the L&G, RAFSAA, LMRA, and the English VIII.



OURC on Chancellors day

Contact

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