



OXFORD UNIVERSITY
RIFLE CLUB

Annual Newsletter 2017-18



Club News

The 2017-18 academic year represented one of the most stable starts the club has experienced in recent years. With our home at the Summer Fields school range there was no need to get settled into a new environment, and with the installation of club lockers for rifle and ammo storage at the back of the range, this year also saw the death of the infamous 'gun run'. Now with no need to spend an extra few hours over each training session ferrying rifles and ammo from Iffey Sports Centre up to the range in Summertown, the committee were able to spend more time concentrating on training, coaching, and recruitment. The generous donations of the alumni network allowed us to purchase these lockers, and if you have experienced the gun run, you might have some idea of how thankful the club is for this help to abolish it. This extra time commitment paid dividends, with the club recruiting a record 112 new members at the start of the year after the taster sessions. We therefore have a solid base of keen and active members to train and take into future years.

Use of the fullbore range at Otmoor is still not yet possible, but the Oxfordshire Rifle Association are working to allow the use of the range by civilians, and OURC will be assisting them in these negotiations wherever possible. For the moment we continue to make journeys to Bisley as often as we can where we remain based at the RAF armoury and English VIII clubhouse.

Thanks to the generosity of the alumni network, we continue to improve our capacity in both smallbore and fullbore. As well as the aforementioned gun lockers at the Summer Fields school indoor range, we have had donations of jackets, rifles, and other equipment, all of which mean we can continue to train and improve as a club. The whole of the club is extremely thankful for this generosity, and we hope to do you all proud and bring home some great achievements from the club as a whole and from its members!

Jersey Tour, Cambridge Cup and Autumn Meeting

While most of the club disappears to their respective corners of the world after the Imperial, a few members occasionally gather for a few special events, such as the Jersey Open, Cambridge Cup and Autumn Match Rifle Meeting.

For a second year running, several members of OURC made the perilous ferry journey to the exotic land of Jersey, to compete in the Jersey Open. OURC placed third in the teams match, with Michael Horrell achieving a perfect score during the competitions, and Senior Adviser-elect, Sam Jauncey, earning the under 25 trophy. We'd like to thank both Sam and the JRA for their hospitality and tour of the island.

The Cambridge Cup provided another opportunity for OURC members to show off their talent, with Katherine Lightbown earning the under-25 trophy for her performance during the meeting. A final bout of match rifle rounded off the year in the Autumn Meeting, with Hattie Mansell placing as the third-highest under-25.

The Heslop & Bentata

With the increased range time now available to us, we were able to train harder than we have ever been able to for both these matches, particularly with the help of Alex Robertson, the club's Blues coach. We also had matches against the Universities of Warwick and London Unfortunately, as well as Westminster school in an effort to give everyone on the teams more match practice before the big events. Unfortunately, Cambridge bested us on the day, despite strong performances from OURC in both matches, with Cambridge's score of 1544 in the Heslop besting Oxford's 1479. The Bentata was a much closer affair, but Oxford's 751 was just pipped by Cambridge's 760. The day wasn't without celebration, however, as Kate Foye became the first new half blue of this academic year with a score of 192.

The Kensington, 3^{rds} and Lermann

This year, the Kensington and 3^{rds} match were held at the Cambridge OTC range, while the Lermann 3P match took place at Cambridge's Queen Elizabeth Way. Cambridge used their home advantage to the full extent, and bested Oxford in each match unfortunately, but this of course does not detract from the strong individual performances from a number of Oxford shots.

Fullbore

The Easter Bisley training camp was attended by a record 28 people this year, which demonstrates how hard the committee has been working at recruiting the next cohort of Oxford shots, and how much interest and excitement has been shown by the new members. Given the large number of people attending the camp this year, it would not have been nearly as successful without the support of a number of alumni who came to Bisley to coach and assist with the running of the camp.

Special thanks go to Tom Rylands, Sam Jauncey, Guy Larcombe, Ben Craig, Ashley Abrahams, Tom Hendriks, James Shepherd, Rosanne Furniss and Mick Silver for their hugely appreciated help this year!

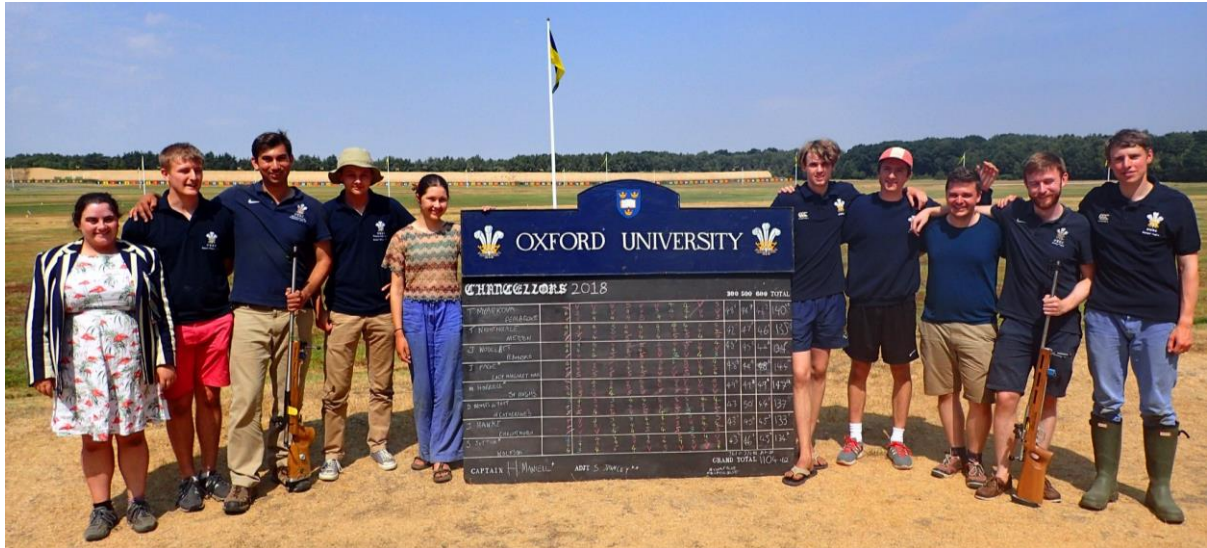
Prior to the Imperial, Jonny Page and Michael Horrell also braved the Summer heatwave in the English XX Spring Meeting. Despite some tough competition from previous England shooters and other national-level shots, Michael finished up in 35th Place (of 85 competitors), and Jonny Page ended in 23rd, winning the Booth Cup for top O-class in the competition.

The Hopton and Humphry Match

The end of the Hopton week gave OURC a chance to demonstrate their talents at long range shooting. Michael Horrell, Rob Middleton, Hattie Mansell, and their Captain Katherine Lightbown produced Oxford's highest score since the 1950s, with a final result of 841.68 and Michael Horell top-scoring with 212.22. However, Cambridge also produced their own record score of 872.93, meaning that the trophy eluded us for another year. On the bright side, however, both Rob Middleton and Hattie Mansell joined the ranks of half blues in OURC!

Congratulations also go to Katherine Lightbown, who was selected to shoot for Wales during the Elcho match, and to Hattie Mansell and Rob Middleton for achieving their half blues in the Humphry. Michael Horrell also received the Henry





Mellish Challenge Cup for his performance as the top under-25 in the Albert.

The Grand Aggregate and Chancellors Match

The Chancellors match saw a team composed of five returning shooters, Michael Horrell, Jonny Page, Tsvetana Myagkova, and John Hawke, and three members who had never used a fullbore rifle before April this year. The fact that these new shooters were able to put up such a strong performance is credit to the training provided by the returning members of OURC, and the commitment of the new shooters to the sport. However, the experience from the Cambridge team provided too much for us in the match, and Oxford's 1104.62 wasn't enough to beat Cambridge's 1155.116, despite a strong performance from the top scorer for Oxford, Michael Horrell, with 147.12.

Despite the loss, there were reasons to celebrate during the Grand Aggregate. Tsvetana Myagkova earned her half blue in the Chancellors, and outside of the match, Jonny Page was selected as a reserve for England in the National Match, and Michael Horrell became an X-Class after finishing 38th in the St. George's final. The Roads Cup

While some OURC members were away shooting the Universities Long-range match with over 20 minutes of wind at 1,000 yards, other members were taking part in a much more civilised match of black-powder pistols against Cambridge for the Roads Cup. Not helped by some suspiciously convenient equipment failures before two of Oxford's shooters could shoot of the pistols themselves, the other team sadly came out on top, with Cambridge scoring 140.2 against Oxford's 52.

Save the Date

The 2018 OURC Annual Dinner will be held at Trinity College on the 3rd November. Formal invitations will be sent out soon and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Thanks

OURC has continued to go from strength to strength in recent years, and has been closing the gap between ourselves and Cambridge at the varsities. This is in no small part due to the support we receive from you all as alumni, and the club would like to thank you all for this. The Lovell and Green trust have also been generous enough to help subsidise both match rifle ammunition and Hopton competition entry this year, which has helped many of us continue to shoot match rifle when we otherwise would not have been able to. Throughout our fullbore shooting as a club, we also receive help from OCRA, The English VIII, LMRA, NLRC and RAFSAA, all of which deserve our sincerest thanks.

Tom Rylands, as the club's armourer for both fullbore and smallbore, has once again been incredibly generous with his time, and the club would be in a far worse state without his help. He has also given up a large amount of time to help with the coaching of both new and returning members, and OURC cannot thank him enough.

Tom Hendriks has also provided the committee with much appreciated advice over several years in his role as Senior Adviser. This year saw him hand over the reins to Sam Jauncey, so we would like to take this opportunity to welcome Sam in the role, and thank Tom for giving up so much of his time to help the committee and the club as a whole.

Finally, the club would like to thank the outgoing committee for their tireless work this year - Abi Howell as President, Hattie Mansell as Secretary, Chloë Jacklin as Treasurer, Phil Marks as Social Secretary, Katherine Lightbown as Match Rifle Captain, Michael Horrell as Training and Development Officer, Brett Chung as IT Officer, Kate Foye as Health and Safety Officer and Police Liaison Officer, and Jonny Page as Alumni Officer.

Contact

The Alumni Secretary for 2018-19 will be Tom Jewson. If you'd like to get in touch with him, or by extension the rest of the club, you can do so on email at: Thomas.jewson@chch.ox.ac.uk.

