

**Hello <<First Name>>**

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On this note, I would like to thank the Blues Captains, Benjamin Adams and Juju Ganendra, as well as the 2s Captains, Daniel Jensen and Asia Wiaterek, for all of the time and effort they have put into CUSRC this term. A Victorious Blues Varsity, and not-quite-so-successful 2s Varsity (see write ups of both in the newsletter), were not the only results. No, no. The results of their dedication were also the friendships made and team spirit built. Although, beating O\*ford was nice too.

It was also lovely to see a number of alumni cheering us on at the RAC. We are hoping to run a large summer alumni event in celebration of the year's successes, so watch out for information on this coming soon!

Continue reading for the Blues Varsity Match Reports, from guest editors Pierson Klein and Max Fryer, 2s Varsity 'In Pictures', as well as an account of the Annual Jesters Tournament from one of the competitors, our very own Men's Captain, Benjamin Adams.

Ellie White  
President, CUSRC



Varsity Blues



Women's



Men's

[Players and Results](#)

[Women's Match Report](#)

[Men's Match Report](#)

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It has been an absolute pleasure to be a member of these glorious teams, and a dream come true to captain them.

It takes an entire village to raise a child, and it takes an entire committee to win Varsity. This year, the CUSRC committee carried out huge reforms and streamlined the budget for a more rigorous training regime and match schedule. In particular, thank you to Ellie White (President), Kieran Paterson (Junior Treasurer) and Jean-Michel Johnston (Senior Treasurer) who led these changes.

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Thanks also to our coaches, James Powley and Robert Dadds, who have guided us physically and mentally to reach our peak. Their mentorship has been invaluable. We would also like to thank our sponsors, redONE, Allen&Overy, Karakal and PlayBrave for their continued support this year.

May Cambridge forever continue its Varsity winning streak. GDBO.

From your 2022/23 Blues Captains,  
Juliana Ganendra and Benjamin Adams



2s Varsity

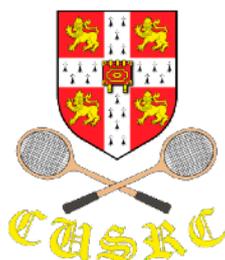
[2s Results](#)



CUSRC at Jesters

[Match Report](#)

## Newsletter:



**April 2023**

Welcome to the latest edition of CUSRC Newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading it and let us know if you have any ideas and suggestions on how we could make it better!

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3. **Women's Blues Varsity Match Report**
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5. **A Note from the Captains**
6. **2s Varsity 'In Pictures'**
7. **CUSRC at Jesters**

### 1. President's Note



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Ellie White  
President, CUSRC

## 2. Varsity Blues 2023 Players and Results



Saturday, 18th February 2023 at the Royal Automobile Club, London

### Players:

#### Cambridge Women's Blues

1. Ellie White\* - Queens - Medicine
2. Hannah Blythe\* - Trinity Hall - History
3. Pierson Klein - Selwyn - Criminology
4. Juliana Ganendra\* (**Captain**) - Downing - Law
5. Hannah Taylor - Gonville & Caius - Natural Sciences
6. Ella Jennings - Queens - Engineering

## Cambridge Men's Blues

1. Gustavo Runersjö - Hughes Hall - MBA
2. Benjamin Adams\* (Captain) - Corpus Christi - Engineering
3. Alexander Cope - Wolfson - Philosophy of Religion
4. Matthew Wong\* - Fitzwilliam - Medicine
5. Isaac Milford\* - Selwyn - HSPS
6. Anant Gupta - Fitzwilliam - Computer Science

## Results:

### Women's: 5 - 0

1. Ellie While 3-0 (9-0, 9-0, 9-0)
2. Hannah Blythe 3-0 (9-3, 9-0, 9-0)
3. Pierson Klein 3-0 (9-4, 9-4, 9-0)
4. Juliana Ganendra **3-0 (9-6, 9-1, 9-2)**
5. Hannah Taylor 3-2 (4-9, 9-2, 7-9, 9-3, 9-4)
6. Ella Jennings 1-3 (4-9, 3-9, 9-1, 8-10)

### Men's: 4-1

1. Gustav Runnersjö 3-1 (9-1, 3-9, 9-3, 9-3)
2. Benjamin Adams 3-0 (9-5, 9-0, 9-7)
3. Alexander Cope 2-3 (9-2, 10-8, 1-9, 1-9, 6-9)
4. Matthew Wong 3-1 (9-10, 9-4, 9-2, 9-0)
5. Isaac Milford 3-0 (9-5, 9-6, 9-5)
6. Anant Gupta 3-1 (9-4, 9-4, 9-10, 9-6)

## 3. Women's Blues Varsity Match Report



## **Women's Blues Match Report, written by Pierson Klein (Selwyn College) with contributions from Patrick Nicholls (Downing College)**

### 6. Ella Jennings v Nadia Stapenell: 4-9, 3-9, 9-1, 8-10

Ella Jennings, playing in her first ever Varsity match, graced the courts first. Her drives were powerful and vicious. But Stapenell's speed allowed her to capitalise on a few loose shots by Jennings, and left Jennings 0-2 down in games.

Jennings is no stranger to long matches, with almost every single one of her ladies league matches going to 5 games. The score may have been against her, but Jennings was "cool as a cucumber". Her extra yard of pace as she moved around the court, and the narrower and narrower gaps she was placing between the ball and the wall were too much for Stapenell. There was little the O\*ford player could do as she succumbed to a 9-1 loss in the third. Jennings barely broke a sweat.

The fourth game was an absolute battle. The score was swinging back and forth between the players. Jennings, having gone 6-8 down, put on a stellar performance with beautiful drop shots to save match points and return to 8-8. Unfortunately, Jennings' gutsy showcase was not enough. Stapenell edged the win in the fourth game, 8-10.

### 5. Hannah Taylor v. Natalie Shah: 4-9, 9-2, 7-9, 9-3, 9-4

Hannah Taylor stepped up from reserve at last year's Varsity and showed she deserved her spot in the line-up by winning the toughest match of the day. Some early nerves on both sides resulted in a back and forth in the first two games of 4-9 and 9-2. Taylor refocused and fought hard in the third, but after losing 7-9, she found herself 1-2 down in games. The pressure was mounting.

With the crowd resoundingly behind Taylor, she retook the courts with astonishing determination. Attending all the Friday fitness sessions paid off, and Taylor, in a true display of stamina, took her opponent to five games. Her renewed vigour and precision outclassed her opponent, who was left scrambling to retrieve Taylor's drives and pinpoint drops. Taylor made it look easy, winning the games 9-3, 9-4.

Not only did Taylor win the first match for Cambridge, but she also broke O\*ford's spirit, and inspired her teammates earning her the Player of the Match award.

### 4. Juliana Ganendra v Mei Whattam: 3-0 (9-6, 9-1, 9-2)

The matchup of captains saw O\*ford's Whattam take on our very own Ganendra at the fourth seed. By contrast to Klein's humble campaign, Ganendra had brought out her entire family and friends to support in rambunctious style.

The game started tensely as both players looked to find their groove and establish control of the T. Not only did Ganendra have the much larger set of fans but her game was looking superior as she had Whattam running all over. Though the points seemed to be breaking roughly evenly, Ganendra was winning the war of attrition. Game 1 was close, but the result that seemed likely throughout came eventually: Ganendra went 1-0 up with a 9-6 victory.

From then on, the victory was secured. Ganendra's unfazed composure, silky movement and excellent shot selection overcame O\*ford without making it look difficult. Ganendra took the second and third games quickly 9-1, 9-2. Finishing just seconds after Klein, the captain secured the Cambridge ladies' victory. She basked in the adulation of the fans - "That's my captain!" ringing out all around.

### 3. Pierson Klein v. Grace Beglan: 9-4, 9-4, 9-0

Pierson Klein in her first and only Varsity match took to the court and quickly delivered another win to Cambridge. Although hailing from Hotlanta, Klein took a minute to adjust her game to the sweltering courts, but soon she found her rhythm. Her laser sharp drop shots were precise and purposeful. Klein won the first two games 9-4, 9-4.

Beglan was visibly rattled. Was it the heat? Was it Klein's powerful drives? Was it Klein's crazy, crazy, crazy stories? We'll never know. But whatever it was, it was effective.

After a quick break, Klein returned with heightened focus and speedily closed out the match. Her precision left her O\*ford opponent helpless. Beglan was not even given the opportunity to serve, let alone win a point. Klein secured a 9-0 win. Despite her American roots, Klein carried out a quiet campaign to victory under English scoring.

## 2. Hannah Blythe v Aria Appoo: 9-3, 9-0, 9-0

Blythe took to the court for her final Varsity match. A few balls were tinned and a few loose shots were pounced on, but soon the ball got hotter and the players started really getting going. Like in so many other matches that day, the players started to settle into the long, entertaining and excruciating rallies that are so inevitable at this high level on such warm courts. Blythe edged ahead in the first game 9-3.

After a very welcome break and having been enlightened by the support and advice of her brother, Blythe returned with ferocity. Appoo came out revitalised, with extra enthusiasm and pace around the court, but it wasn't enough. Blythe left no mercy and closed out the match 9-0 9-0. A perfect way to end her excellent Varsity record.

## 1. Ellie White v. Ruby Wood: 9-0, 9-0, 9-0

Last on court, Ellie White proved why she is number one with a stunning exhibition of skill. White overpowered her opponent from the start, playing a relentless and practically flawless match. Her opponent, still traumatised, from the thrashing of last year, was visibly unsettled and left helpless to White's precision. But White showed no mercy. Unimpressed with dropping one point at last year's Varsity, she served up an unprecedented triple bagel. It was pure class.

As O\*ford politely clapped the end of Whites match, their smiles hid their fears. Their nightmares will be haunted by the thought of facing White and her excellent squash for another three years.

White secured a definitive 5-0 light blue victory. Not only did she command the court with unrivalled success but also the Cambridge University Squash Racquets Club as its first female President.

## 4. Men's Blues Varsity Match Report



### Squash Men's Varsity 2023

#### “The Goose is Loose”

They say Santa isn't real. That he's simply an oft-told, easy-to-grasp explanation for the gift-giving of Christmas day. Simpler than the truth maybe.

“Mummy, why do we have presents on Christmas day?”

“It's the annual opportunity for commercial giants to rinse our consumerist values for profit dear.”

But emerging from these perfidious seeds are some very real emotional shoots. That mystical chemical cacophony experienced in the lead up to Christmas that clings to us long after the fictitious façade falls away.

The feelings in the weeks prior to Squash Varsity are the same really, except that our Santa is real, his name is Gustav; and the only children in danger of getting coal are in dark blue, and go to Ox\*\*\*d.

The day has finally arrived, and all hands are on deck. After an emphatically successful day for the Women's Blues (full match report by Juju) it will soon be time for the Men's Blues to show us what they're about. And what a tough act to follow! As if the pressure of playing in this spectacular setting isn't enough, not only did the Women win 5-0 but they did so with an absolute class and vision indicative of careful preparation. Anything less than pure quality now simply will not do.

But if anyone can, it's this group of Cambridge athletes. Fixtures this season so far have been downright clinical and with two strong additions to augment an already varsity-

winning squad you might be looking at the strongest Men's Blues team since Ned Stark was still roaming the North. Too much confidence though can lead to complacency, a tale as old as competitive sport.

So, while they've certainly brought the chops, it remains to be seen if they've got the appetite to match.

Gupta has just walked on court and begun his warmup as the umpire begins announcements. The squash-train is about to leave the station, and I for one am severely excited.

'Gupta to serve, love all', and we're off.

#### #6 Anant Gupta vs Trajan Halvorsen

Making his debut appearance at Squash Varsity is Anant Gupta. He's taken no time at all to cement himself as a foundation of calm, controlled squash, and I've no doubt we'll be seeing a lot more of him over the coming years.

For now, he's showing Oxford's Halvorsen that hard hitting will only get you so far. Pounding forehands are smartly lifted to the back of the court to great effect. Before long, Gupta's 8-4 up with the serve in hand. A bold dropshot from Oxford hits the tin and while still a way off, the first steps to winning this fixture fall into place. 9-4. 1/0

The second game is, luckily for Cambridge, quite like the first. Powerful strikes down the backhand define the first stage of the game, but not one to be intimidated all are carefully countered. He's going to have to come up with something new here or Gupta will continue picking him off. A brief wobble in the middlegame and the momentum is clawed back after a particularly dynamic rally. 7-4. He just needs to hold his nerve. But not one to disappoint he's played a lovely trickle boast, wrongfooting Oxford, and taken the second game. 9-4. 2/0

The third game is more even. Clearly Halvorsen has, eventually, learnt his lesson. Perhaps he's realised that this is make or break. In any case, playing smarter he seems to be holding pace with the now calmly confident Gupta. All the way to game ball they are neck and neck. A gorgeous boast from Halvorsen looks like it's going to win the game but Gupta, breaking into the splits, manages to slip the racket underneath the ball and flick it high and wide. It's not enough to get past the span of Halvorsen, who kills the ball low and hard. 10-9. 2/1

The fourth sees an exhausted Halvorsen try to repeat his third game performance but with three tough games already under his belt, he's puffing hard. An unfortunate consequence of building the squash courts next to the pool is that you choose to either have a very dry pool or by the end of a game are swimming in sweat on the squash courts. This is your classic case B. Gupta comfortably takes the 4th game and match! 9-6. 3/1.

#### #5 Isaac Milford vs Samuel Greenrod

Milford is somewhat of a CUSRC veteran at this point, with two varsities under his belt (albeit one in Covid). Under his keen eye CUSRC has undergone systemic restructuring and is now the formidable organisation you see before you.

After a flurry of activity, he's gone 7-1 up against Greenrod, who's struggling to contend with that formidable forehand. This might be a swift second match. But no, after a complete change in tide, Greenrod has begun to claw back the initiative taking a clean 5 points in a row. Perhaps the initial lacklustre response has caused an upset in Milford's rhythm, and he seems to be overthinking things. The English format makes momentum crucial; he needs to relax. Not one to disappoint though, he's taken the first game 9-5. 1/0

Already this second game is much more evenly matched, some smart between-game chat for oxford perhaps. Rallies are decisive. Points are sharp. Milford's hard hitting to the back of the court is matched punch for punch by Greenrod, who now looks poised and ready to

fight back. And fighting back he is. The ball is clapped cross court by Milford but is swiftly sent back with interest. A powerful kill down the line finishes the rally. Slowly but surely, Milford seems to be getting ahead. It's clear that while Greenrod is holding up, Milford is the more natural player at this pace and seems to be the more relaxed of the two out there. With a scary determination, Milford carves out more of a lead before taking the second with some classy length work. 9-6. 2/0

Out from left field the third game begins with greedy Greenrod taking 5 points. I can only imagine what has knocked Milford off kilter. Some bad essay feedback perhaps. The Cambridge crowd is getting nervous. Smash! In an epic display of glassy feedback, someone in the audience manages to drop their pint into the court. A group of parents above the now pile of fractured glass look around in gentle confusion, pulling off a bewilderment that has clearly been honed over many years. This author sympathizes. After a brief pause to clear up the mess players go back on court. It's broken Milford out his glazy stupor, and he goes on to deny his opponent even a game in consolation. Fate, or God is smiling. 9-5. 3/0

#### #4 Matthew Wong vs Kieran Tan

Wong vs Tan has history. Since the age of 14 these two top talents have been taking each other on in friendly rivalry. Today though, the stakes are very real. I would like to report that the normally smiley Wong has decided that with so much on the line it's worth putting on a steely visage just for the day. I would be lying though; he's just given me a smile.

These players must know each other's games so well by now that it's quite hard to judge decision making objectively. Already Wong seems to be unusually under pressure. Really high-caliber stuff though. Fantastic length at this level is a given, and shots go precisely where they are intended. Watching them it is almost like a well-choreographed dance, with powerful flowing movements to all four corners of the court. Wong can start slow though, and Tan is using that to maximum effect, and has taken a sizable lead in the first. Wong does start to switch on but it's not enough to stem the tide and Tan takes the first. 9-10. 0/1

Wong's just getting started though. With the quiet self-confidence of a player who's been here many times before Wong settles back into the second game with a conscious rhythm. He takes the already high level and amps it up, superbly manipulating the rallies and controlling Tan. Before long he's equaled. 9-4. 1/1

Without missing a beat, he continues the third game where he left off the second. Wong has this ability to dominate players quite unlike any other I've seen and Tan, presumably used to it after all these years is really fighting to stave off the assault. But when Wong gets like this, there is little less than divine intervention or a good smoothie that can stop him. Before long he's taken the game. 9-2. 2/1

By the fourth game the writing is on the wall and Wong, with all his experience, does not let up in the slightest. He's not going to give an inch until victory is firmly in hand. Tan probably knows as much. 9-0. 3/1

#### #3 Alexander Cope vs James McCouat

Cope's cat-like ease of movement and deceptive swing makes him an infuriating opponent to face. At 2-0 down though Oxford needs to win this one if they stand a chance of victory. While there is little doubting Cope's shot making, it is likely that in this matchup McCouat has the edge fitness-wise. Let's hope that Cope can dispatch him before fitness comes to the fore.

It's a strong start from Cope, who comes storming out of the gates to take an early lead. Those Shabana-like last minute holds in the front of the court are causing problems for McCouat, who can't seem to get a foot in the door. Cope is walking all over him, but at

what cost? The rallies are long and physical, and all those thudding forehands must be energy-sapping in the conditions. Sprinting for the win Cope takes the first game in under 15 minutes. 9-2. 1/0

After a break in between games, play resumes. While still producing silk from his racket, Cope is retrieving less. McCouat is doing well out there to stay afloat though and is producing some wonderful drop shots. The fact this is 3rd seed is simply ridiculous and is a testament to the level of squash on display this varsity. By the midgame players are equal and going into a grueling endgame it could go either way. Cope shows grit though and squeezes through. 10-8. 2/0

Cope looks like he decides to take the next two games to exhaust McCouat as much as possible while catching his breath, ensuring the best chance of taking the win in the fifth. The games are short. 1-9. 2/1. 1-9. 2/2

With real grit and determination Cope begins a final duel in game five. Clearly his strategy has worked, and his play has returned to its game one fizziness. McCouat, off the back of two games certainly has the momentum with him, but he may never have faced as tricky an opponent as this. It's tight, Cope takes an early lead but is overtaken in the midgame in a mighty rally which McCouat takes with a ripping boast. In the end, after a fine performance from both players McCouat is Victorious. 6-9. 2/3. Hope for Oxford, if only a sliver.

## #2 Benjamin Adams vs Eliot Heywood

"Intensity incarnate" says one onlooker, sipping at their pint. They're not wrong. Adams plays with a zealous passion that is hard to sum up in words. One imagines he sleeps with his racket next to him, always ready for the next session. An inspiring sportsman and captain he's clearly buzzing to begin. And start he does against the incredibly skilled Heywood. It's as if the ball is rocket-fuelled as it zips from corner to corner! The pace is such that supports are in danger of spraining their necks. After a tight opening, in which players trade points, Adams feathers a drop shot into the nick. It's a shift of momentum in favour of Cambridge that Adams maintains control until the end of the game. 9-5. 1/0

You can see from Adams' keenness that having tasted blood; he yearns for more. He goes in for the kill, and it's a bloodbath. His level of fitness ensures nothing slips through the cracks. Unless Heyworth can beat his shot making, he's getting nada on the board. It's already 5-0 and Adams shows no sign of stopping. With some particularly nice work down the backhand, he scores the winner. Anyone order bagels? There's some going on court 2. 9-0. 2/0

The third showed every sign of being another one-sided affair, so it is to the credit of Heywood and the Oxford team that it was a much closer affair. They are a terribly tricky lot. Some awesome exchanges at the front of the court along with some brilliant retrievals from both. For a moment it looks like Oxford could begin to mount a comeback campaign, but this is swiftly nipped in the bud by Adams, who blazes through Heywood in the tail-end of the game to win the Varsity Squash Match for the second time in two years. Not bad cap'n. The Cambridge crowd erupts in joy! It's a special moment. 9-7. 3/0

## #1 Gustav Runnersjö vs Ben Harrison

Playing for bragging rights is key piece of the puzzle Gustav 'Goose' Runnersjö. Put simply, he's just very, very good at squash. I wish I could paint a more vivid picture for you reader but I'm struggling. He walks on court, walks around a bit, and walks off court, normally with a compelling win under his belt. If there exists a dragon scroll of squash, he's certainly found it.

With the highly pumped-up Cambridge crowd looking down in excitable awe, Runnersjö begins to deliver a masterclass in squash. Pace is controlled to suit the moment, taking

time away from his opponent when he can and giving himself more time when under pressure. His length and line are clean, consistent, and concise. His drop shots, used after suitably pushing his opponent far into the wrong corner, stay short and tight, stripping away the likelihood of any front court trickery. To the chant of “Gooooose”, he takes the first game without too much drama. 9-1. 1/0

The second game Runnersjö takes at a more leisurely pace. If I didn't know better, I would say he doesn't want it to be over too quickly. There is a certain nonchalance in his movements, more so than normal. In any case, there's a reason Harrison is first seed, he's also very good. You can't lower your guard against a player like that. Harrison takes the second 3-9. 1/1

The third and Runnersjö reengages Goose-mode, and from his racket begins to flow gold. There's not much Harrison can do but watch as his opponent enchants the ball through rally after rally showing immense mastery of the game. The crowd struggle to keep their voices down even while the ref calls for quiet. The atmosphere is immense. Goose drops the ball in tight and collects on the loose return. 9-3. 2/1

From point one it's clear that the Goose is still loose. Playing with a ruthless grace Runnersjö maintains a dominant position against a frustrated Harrison throughout, showcasing his skill to the now rapturous Cambridge crowd. To ceiling-shattering cheers Runnersjö crosses the finish-line, bringing home the day in style. 9-3. 3/1

## **5. A Note from the Captains**

Varsity is the highlight of the year. Our Blues have shown great dedication: late night trainings, gruelling fitness sessions and playing through injury – they've done it all, in the name of beating O\*ford. Their commitment to the team has been inspiring, and the effort alone – regardless of the result - is worthy of recognition. But we didn't just try. We won.

It has been an absolute pleasure to be a member of these glorious teams, and a dream come true to captain them.

It takes an entire village to raise a child, and it takes an entire committee to win Varsity. This year, the CUSRC committee carried out huge reforms and streamlined the budget for a more rigorous training regime and match schedule. In particular, thank you to Ellie White (President), Kieran Paterson (Junior Treasurer) and Jean-Michel Johnston (Senior Treasurer) who led these changes.

Playing at the RAC, on some of the most sought-after courts in the world, is incredibly special. Thank you to the RAC for their generous hospitality, and Dominic for his key role in arranging the fixture. We are incredibly grateful to all the friends, families and alumni for their support during the matches. There's no better feeling than slamming a cross-court nick to the sound of hysterical, inebriated screams of “GDBO”.

Thanks also to our coaches, James Powley and Robert Dadds, who have guided us physically and mentally to reach our peak. Their mentorship has been invaluable. We would also like to thank our sponsors, redONE, Allen&Overy, Karakal and PlayBrave for their continued support this year.

May Cambridge forever continue its Varsity winning streak. GDBO.

From your 2022/23 Blues Captains,  
Juliana Ganendra and Benjamin Adams

## 6. 2s Varsity Match Results

The 2s Varsity matches were held in a Home Varsity for the first time since COVID. It was a great day, with supporters from both sides lining the back of the courts. Unfortunately, when faced by a strong O\*ford opposition, Cambridge didn't quite have what it takes to secure the win. Despite the disappointment, Ganders ties and dresses were donned, separately, for an enjoyable Varsity Dinner at The Graduate.

See full results and photos from the day below:

### M2 lost 4-1

1. Raphie Reeves, 0-3
2. Calum Harvey, 2-3
3. Daniel Jensen, 0-3
4. Duncan Greenshields, 0-3
5. Patrick Nickols, 3-1

### W2 lost 5-0

1. Charlotte Dick, 0-3
2. Imogen Duncalf, 0-3
3. Annabelle Wells, 0-3
4. Shreya Aggarwal, 0-3
5. Asia Wiaterek, 2-3

### M3 won 3-2

1. Pratham Sabannavar, 1-3
2. Matt Levine, 3-2
3. Damir Kayani, 0-3
4. Joe Betts, 3-0
5. Faiz Ghaffar, 3-0

### W3 lost 4-1

1. Arundhati Saraswatula, 1-3
2. Emma Starink, 1-3
3. MayHsim Lai, 1-3
4. MayChing Lai, 1-3
5. Catherine Lithgow, 3-0





## 7. CUSRC at Jesters 2023



27th-30th Jan 2023

The Jesters tournament, one of the biggest British Amateur tournaments, is held at the prestigious Royal Automobile Club each year.

Having overcome the severe barriers to entry - namely the requirement of having seven sets of white kit; one for each match - two of Cambridge's finest returned to the scene of the crime (where they had massacred O\*ford almost a year prior).

Isaac Milford took to the courts first, and with a player from his hometown in the stands, he was determined to impress.

It was a strong start. With all the wingspan and grace of a pterodactyl, Milford stepped up the court and volleyed like a six foot three Nick Matthew.

The rallies were frantic, and were most frequently finished with a beautiful volley drop singing off the strings of the racket, all the way into the nick at the front of the court.

After a few long rallies (and a few pity-lets, in true Jesterly fashion), Milford stormed through his first round encounter without sweating through the Adidas sock pretending to be his headband.

Benjamin Adams then followed on, taking on a formidable German opponent. He fought him in the back corners; he fought him in the front corners, but ultimately lost the battle. His opponent was accustomed to the courts, and was absolutely clinical in finishing the ball from almost anywhere.

This was the moment that our Cambridge boys realised just how tough the competition was.

The next morning, Milford's second round began while his opponent was still half asleep. Isaac was still a bit sleepy, too, and had skipped breakfast.

He was hungry, and decided he fancied a bagel or two. He won the first game 9-0, and led 8-0 in the second, before his opponent sparked into action and started drawing out the rallies. In a war of attrition, Isaac's much older opponent ultimately outlasted him, and Milford was knocked out of the tournament in a nail-biting five game defeat.

Adams still carried the Light Blue flag on day two, in the plate draw. He sliced through three consecutive matches, trying to minimise the time between introducing himself to his opponents and shaking their hands once again, saying "good game", even if it really wasn't.

His superior racket skills continued to impress on day three, as he only grew into the event. As the youngest player in the tournament he was handicapped by having to play more matches than his opponents, but he took it in his stride. Fuelled only on protein and competitive spirit, he made it five wins on the trot, with his fitness coming into play more and more as the event wore on.

In his seventh match of the weekend, the Plate Final, Benjamin had two of his family members come to watch him lose.

The previous matches had finally gotten into his legs, and despite a valiant effort, as we have come to expect from our captain, he went down in a tightly-contested four game. Overall, a very successful weekend, with five wins and two losses.

The Cambridge boys returned home, to continue knocking chunks out of each other at training the very next night.

Battle hardened, they turned their attention to the varsity match.