

Welcome to the second edition of CUSRC newsletter. What's in this newsletter?

1. [President's Note](#)
2. [Alumni Christmas Event - RSVP Now](#)
3. [Varsity 2023 - Save the Date](#)
4. [Summer Alumni Event Recap](#)
5. [CUSRC Alumni Roster - Find Your Partner](#)
6. [Times a' Changin - Commonwealth Games 2022](#)
7. [CUSRC at World Master's 2022](#)
8. [Sponsorship Announcement](#)

President's Note

Another year, another newsletter... although the upcoming year for CUSRC promises to be like no other, with a number of changes setting us up for success in BUCS, Cambridgeshire League, and of course the all-important Varsity match.

We've had an inaugural Michaelmas Term pre-season, two new coaches, and a reinvigorated college squash programme...

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Enjoy the rest of the newsletter, and I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Christmas Alumni Event.

Eleanor White

President CUSRC 2022-23



Dates for the Diary...



Christmas Alumni Event

8th December - Christmas Alumni Event at Oxford & Cambridge Club.

Join fellow alumni and current students for an evening of squash, drinks, and dinner.

Squash from 4pm to 6pm. Dinner at 7pm.

Dress code: White on court. Formal for dinner.

[RSVP Now](#)

Varsity 2023

18th February - Blues Varsity at The Royal Automobile Club.

Please keep this date free for a day of spectating and support at the Royal Automobile Club, as both Men's and Women's teams defend their Varsity titles.

As they say, light blue is the right blue.

We also have a packed schedule of matches against the usual travelling teams, think Jesters and Escorts, as well as some of the London Clubs. Any alumni looking to support the right blue at these fixtures would be very welcome! See the fixture list on our website below for more information: <https://www.cusquash.com/fixtures/>

Summer Alumni Event Recap

By Aubrey Waddy

'The dress code is jackets, ties and collared shirts for men, and 'conventional smart dress' for women.' Scary for a squash alumnus from far enough back to be a potential study for archeologists. I'd thought that university life had become less rather than more formal in the decades since my matriculation in 1966.

As for the squash, the thing about increasing age is that it's inversely proportional to speed on court. Are you going to keep the lights on if they're triggered by motion sensors? However, for the Event I needn't have worried. The squash and the participants were both suitably gentle. There were singles and doubles and three-on-a-court, with scores forgotten. Metabolism rarely became anaerobic, though several players displayed flashes of the speed they'd needed in the recent (happily victorious) women's and men's varsity matches. There was enough time for everyone to have a decent hit and a laugh, and no one was embarrassed...

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Kieran Paterson | Miranda Nicholson | Jacques van Oorshot | Tom Williamson | Mansoor Ahmad | Aubrey Waddy | Hannah Taylor
Max Fryer | Andrew Jeffery | Hannah Blythe | Natasha Dangoor | Ellie White

Check out more photos from the Summer Alumni Event [here](#)

Play Squash with CUSRC Alumni

We saw an interest among alumni to connect with and play squash with each other.

If you're willing to share your contact information, please add it to alumni roster [here](#).



Times a' Changin

By Tom Williamson

On August 3rd, this CUSRC alumnus had the pleasure of watching the squash singles finals at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. The English ladies dominated their podium, with Sarah-Jane Perry and Georgina Kennedy earning bronze and gold respectively. Unfortunately, Englishman James Willstrop didn't do enough to overcome Saurav Ghosal (India, bronze medallist) to join Joel Makin (Wales, silver medallist) and Paul Coll (New Zealand, gold medallist) in the men's medal-winner elite.

The competition left much to reflect upon with respect to the play itself. For me, labiodental fricatives were the thematic consonants of the day (edit: can you tell he studied linguistics): flare and physicality jostled for superiority in amongst players' seniority, and spectators were left with food for thought on the future of squash.

[Learn More](#)

CUSRC at WSF World Masters 2022



CUSRC was well represented by Eamonn Price and Aubrey Waddy at the WSF World Masters, competing in the over 55's and over 75's respectively.

Eamonn lost out in the round of 16, having had four match balls in the fourth game. His fellow alumni described Eamonn as a 'real Rolls Royce', and he certainly earned this title by finishing off the tournament in 9th position.

Aubrey went on to reach the semi-finals of his age category, losing out in five with an identical four match points in the fourth game, and then going on to lose 11-9 in the fifth. Commiserations and congratulations! Aubrey finished in a highly impressive fourth place, and will be vying for a medal next year.

We love hearing about the successes of our alumni, so if you have any stories you'd like to share please do get in touch!

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We are grateful for sponsorships from Allen & Overy and redOne to support CUSRC activities.

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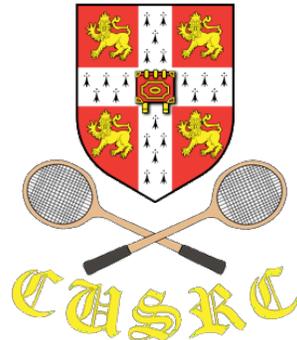
Received this newsletter from a friend? Join the alumni mailing list [here](#)

We are working towards building our alumni community, please sign up to the CUSRC alumni mailing list below to stay in touch!

[Sign up to the CUSRC Mailing List](#)



CUSRC Newsletter – September 2022



President's Note

Another year, another newsletter... although the upcoming year for CUSRC promises to be like no other, with a number of changes setting us up for success in BUCS, Cambridgeshire League and of course the all important Varsity match.

We started the year with the inaugural Michaelmas Term Preseason, a first in the history of the club. New and returning players were beasted round a squash court, both during fitness, and court sessions led by our new coaches (more on that later). I'm told that pints at Hawks' Club after training went some way towards alleviating muscle soreness. The week concluded with a highly successful Team Competition, followed by a formal dinner to celebrate our return to Cambridge for the new academic year (really, any excuse)!



As mentioned, CUSRC is welcoming two new coaches into its fold. James Powley (Right), England Squash Aspire Coach, is taking on the role of Head Coach, supported by Robert Dadds (Left), who will be coaching the 2nds. When asked what the job meant for him, James said '....'. We can't wait to

see the impact of their highly focused coaching on our players. The teams will be tested in BUCS, in which a men's team is entered for the first time since 2014, as well as in the Cambridgeshire Leagues, in which we have three men's teams and one women's team entered. These matches, as well as friendly fixtures against a range of travelling teams, will have CUSRC fighting fit for another year of highly anticipated Varsity matches. As always, we would love to have alumni there to support at any and all fixtures, see ' dates for the diary' for more information.

Finally, as the effects of COVID continue to be felt throughout the world of sport, we turn our eye to increasing participation following a nearly 3 year hiatus of college squash. College leagues are back up and running, hopefully in slightly less haphazard fashion than last year, and we look forward to a university wide singles competition at the end of Michaelmas, followed by the annual Cuppers tournament at the end of Lent. We will be supporting college squash and improving the pipeline into university teams with a development squad, run by current Blues. Sport at Cambridge can be a true joy, providing a social life and purpose outside of academic work (yawn). Given this, if we're going to encourage more people to play sport, why shouldn't it be squash?

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter, and I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Christmas Alumni Event!



Alumni Christmas Event

Join current CUSRC members and alumni for an evening of squash, drinks, and dinner at the Oxford and Cambridge Club, London, on **Sunday, 18th December 2022**.

Squash from 4pm to 6pm. Dinner at 7pm.

Dress Code: Whites on court. Formal for dinner.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Blues Varsity 2023

18th February - Blues Varsity at R.A.C

Please keep this date free for a day of spectating and support at the Royal Automobile Club, as both the Men's and Women's teams defend their Varsity titles.

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[Add to Calendar](#)



We also have a packed schedule of matches against the usual travelling teams, think Jesters and Escorts, as well as some of the London Clubs. Any alumni looking to support the right blue at these fixtures would be very welcome! See the fixture list on our website below for more information:

Summer Alumni Event Recap

By Aubrey Waddy



Saturday July 16th 2022, CUSRC Summer Event

'The dress code is jackets, ties and collared shirts for men, and 'conventional smart dress' for women.' Scary to a squash alumnus from far enough back to be a potential study for archeologists. I'd thought that university life had become less rather than more formal in the decades since my matriculation in 1966. Real tennis pros, I knew, still sometimes wore long white flannels, but even in the 1960s, for squash we had graduated to shorts (canvas, admittedly) and polo shirts (bought with postwar clothing coupons). Then, clarification, another message from the appropriately named Ellie White, two varieties of dress were specified for the Event: 'One last thing; white kit to be worn on court at O&C.' Ah!

Three cheers for Ellie. Firstly for exhuming deeply buried email addresses of former uni squash players, even those for whom more literal exhuming might be needed, and secondly for organizing the 'Summer Event' for them. Round about thirteen players signed up, two hours of gentle squash at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in Piccadilly and a further several hours of rehydration and carb and protein replenishment in the time-warp surroundings of London Clubland.

The lack of precision concerning the number of participants is due to one attender, Kieran Patterson, sensibly not actually playing, and another, Max Fryer, so comprehensively failing the dress code for the second half of the evening, as judged under the stern eyes of the Oxford and Cambridge Club bouncers, that he voted himself out of the meal before being challenged.

As for the squash, the thing about increasing age is that it's inversely proportional to speed on court. Are you going to keep the lights on if they're triggered by motion sensors? However, for the Event I needn't have worried. The squash and the participants were both suitably gentle. There were singles and doubles and three-on-a-court, with scores forgotten. Metabolism rarely became anaerobic, though several players displayed flashes of the speed they'd needed in the recent (happily victorious) women's and men's varsity matches. There was enough time for everyone to have a decent hit and a laugh, and no one was embarrassed.

Afterwards, in the splendid O&C bar, and then a private dining room, the squash did its usual trick of social catalysis. Everyone relaxed and intransitively enjoyed. Mansoor Ahmad, ...specify college... alumnus and member of the O&C, who had made the local arrangements, afterwards conducted everyone on a tour through the magnificent club, and late in the evening we all returned to normal life, having had a really good time!

Much thanks to Ellie and to Mansoor. The Event should become a tradition.

Aubrey Waddy

The College Formerly Known as Billy

(Formally known as Fitzwilliam)

Check out more photos from the Summer Alumni Event [here](#)



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The competition left much to reflect upon with respect to the play itself. For me, labiodental fricatives were the thematic consonants of the day (edit: can you tell he studied linguistics): flare and physicality

jostled for superiority in amongst players' seniority, and spectators were left with food for thought on the future of squash.

First, we saw the future of squash demonstrate her physical prowess over her Canadian opponent:

[3/4] Georgina Kennedy (ENG) beat [5/8] Hollie Naughton (CAN) 3-1: 11-7, 11-5, 12-14, 11-5.

It was, frankly, one-sided. Kennedy completely outclassed the Canadian, whose only hope was to slow the game down to stand a chance: Kennedy was about as technical as Naughton, but had the strength and speed to outmatch her opponent. She dominated the length, covered the court with her usual prowess, and attacked tenaciously. It was a surprise to see the third game go Canada's way, following which Kennedy regained her dominance to win the fourth. After the match, she described her level of focus as an out-of-body experience. This would also explain her immediate response to winning – wide-eyed, bewildered, with no idea how to react. She seemed to have planned the lead up to the games so meticulously that no thought was spared for post match celebrations.

We finally turn to Paul Coll's gold medal win:

[1] Paul Coll (NZL) beat [2] Joel Makin (WAL) 3-2: 3-11, 11-9, 8-11, 11-8, 11-7.

By the saturation of his shirt, Coll looked like he'd gone down a slip 'n' slide when Makin tinned it at match ball – a wholeheartedly , and predictably, attritional spectacle. As he himself told Sky Sports NZ, Coll was never the most gifted player: coaches in his youth took a chance on him because he had grit and graft – a story to which this CUSRC alumnus sadly relates (at least the talent aspect, if not the graft). The world beating levels he has reached this season are testament to his personal dedication to the sport. Indeed, his tactical and technical maturation over the last few years, with the help of Rob Owen tucking his elbow in nicely, was ultimately what separated him from Makin that evening in Birmingham – the drops were slightly lower, the drives slightly tighter, and the conviction slightly stronger.

So what did separate the winners and losers on that muggy day in Birmingham? Kennedy and Coll, whose strengths consist in speed, power, physicality, and grit, dominated swathes of players, with their physicality seeming to differentiate them more than any particular technical skill. I was left speculating whether the event was indicative of a change in the wider world of squash. The sport has always had been intensely physical, especially when players are young, although the emphasis on speed and power is undoubtedly increasing. One wonders if styles relying on physicality and movement will begin to dominate more typically skillful players, such as the Egyptians. Either way, for the sake of this ageing alumnus, let's hope the shift isn't too soon.





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