

Race report - Blues Varsity Saturday 3rd December 2011, Wimbledon Common

In contrast to the snow of 2010, we stepped off the coach to a sunny day on Putney Vale, the runners managed to avoid the excitement of the burger van, after all, there was a race to be won...

In spite of weary legs from Shotover, the supporters' race had a good turnout and there were some strong performances; Pete Townsend was the first Cambridge runner home in a time of 21.52. Unfortunately, armed with previous Varsity Match winners, Oxford managed a 48 – 167 nevertheless, it was great to see such a large and enthusiastic group of light blue supporters.

The 36th ladies' race began with everything to play for; the team lead by Polly Keen all put in a great effort in the face of a tough course and an unforgiving water jump. Lucy Gossage secured a fantastic individual win, covering the 4 mile course in 23 minutes 17 seconds, a good 15 seconds ahead of her nearest dark blue rival. However, the Oxford team then came in thick and fast to claim a 14-25 win.

Women's Race (4 miles)

1	Lucy Gossage	Cambridge	23.17
2	Jessica Chen	Oxford	23.33
3	Joanna Klaptocz	Oxford	23.38
4	Hayley Munn	Oxford	23.54
5	Tamma Carleton	Oxford	24.02
6	Caitlin Mullarkey	Oxford	24.12
7	Rebecca Moore	Cambridge	24.29
8	Mairead Roche	Cambridge	25.12
9	Orla Tuohy	Cambridge	25.23
10	Polly Keen	Cambridge	25.36
11	Jennifer Boyd	Oxford	25.46
12	Rose Penfold	Cambridge	26.50

4 to score

A full blue was awarded to Lucy Gossage with the rest of the team receiving half blues.

Next up was the mens' race, with many of the light blues cross training through injury we really didn't know what to expect. Robin Brown looked strong from the outset, bravely taking the lead for the first 6 miles, Will Ryle Hodges, Will Mackay, Ben Davies, Tom Watkins and Alex Young appeared to

be working well together with Sam Ashcroft and James Chettle valiantly struggling through injury.

The atmosphere at the finish line was tense to say the least; Robin Brown was robbed of individual victory by Oxford's Richard Franzese and just as it looked as though they were also going to claim third place, William Ryle-Hodges produced a brilliant sprint finish in his Varsity Match debut. The rest of the team also finished well to ensure that Cambridge took the win with some particularly fast times.

Men's Race (7.5 miles)

1	Richard Franzese	Oxford	38:40
2	Robin Brown	Cambridge	38:56
3	William Ryle-Hodges	Cambridge	39:06
4	Jamie Shadbolt	Oxford	39:09
5	Andrew Lanham	Oxford	39:19
6	Ben Davies	Cambridge	39:25
7	Tom Watkins	Cambridge	39:28
8	William Mackay	Cambridge	39:31
9	Alex Young	Cambridge	39:40
10	Henry Mitchell	Oxford	39:43
11	Alex Muir	Oxford	39:56
12	Sean Ledger	Oxford	40:04
13	Tom Frith	Oxford	41:03
14	Chris McGurk	Oxford	41:42
15	James Chettle	Cambridge	42:52
16	Sam Ashcroft	Cambridge	43:57

Cambridge win 35-43

Full blues were awarded to Robin Brown, William Ryle-Hodges, Ben Davies, Tom Watkins and Alexander Young with James Chettle and Sam Ashcroft receiving half blues.

A special thanks must go to Thames Hare and Hounds for organising such a great day.