1991 FIXTURES

Sat. April 20th      CUAC v. Woodford v. RAF at Woodford
Sat. April 27th      OUAC v. Woodford and others at Woodford
Mon. April 29th     CUAC v. Bedford AC at Bedford
Wed. May 1st        CUAC v. Loughborough at Loughborough
Sat/Sun May 4th/5th BUSF Championships, Sheffield.
SUN. MAY 5TH        ACHILLES: GRE CUP, FIRST ROUND.
                    OUAC v. Bristol U., Iffley Rd.
Sun. May 12th       OUAC v. Loughborough and others, Iffley Rd.
Tue. May 14th       CUAC v. C & C AC and others at Milton Road.
Sat. May 18th       ACHILLES AGM
                    OXFORD V. CAMBRIDGE 'VARSITY MATCH, Iffley Road.
Sat. May 25th       OUAC v. RAF, Navy, Birmingham U., Iffley Rd.
Eton Marlborough
Wed. May 29th       OUAC Open Meeting, Iffley Rd.
Wed. June 5th       OUAC Open Meeting, Iffley Rd.
Ulster
WED. AUGUST 7TH    ACHILLES v. SCAA AND OTHERS, Crystal Palace.
SAT. OCTOBER 12TH  ACHILLES BALL, near Haywards Heath.

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1990-1991

THE ACHILLES CLUB

PRESIDENT


VICE-PRESIDENTS

Dr. R.K.I. KENNEDY (Cambridge).
D.G. STEEL (Oxford).

CHAIRMAN

H.R.H. STINSON, LL.D (Cambridge).

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D.C.E. Gorrie (Oxford)..............U.S. Matches
T.M. Taylor (Oxford)...............Schools Relays
J.K.L. Brooke (Oxford)...............U.S. Liaison
J.E.D. Crews (Oxford)...............Sponsorship
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D.N. Gardiner.......................Fast President CUAC
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L.J. Coen..........................President CUAC
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R. Bordoli.........................Hon. Sec. CUAC
J. Latimer.........................Ladies' Captain OUAC
J. Thompson.......................Ladies' Captain CUAC
Air Commodore J.G. De'Ath, M.B.E.....Hon. Treasurer OUAC
Dr. C.J.R. Thorne..................Hon. Treasurer CUAC

Achilles Representatives:
R. Beardsmore (Cambridge), M. Browning (Oxford).

Team, Competition and Coaching Managers:
Giles Clifford (Oxford). 071 388 0251.
Trevor and Bridget Llewelyn (Cambridge), 081-693 6548.
Allison O’Neill (Cambridge)

Clerk to the Achilles Trust:
James Bevan (Cambridge). Bulby Hall, Bulby, South Lincs. 077832-382.

Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary:
Peter Crawshaw (Oxford), 19 Belmont Rd, Reigate, Surrey. 0737-245207

Hon. Secretary:
Paul Willcox (Cambridge), Eggar Forrester Ltd, Rodwell House, Middlesex St, London E1 7HJ. 071-377 9366, 047387-213 (H).

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NOTICE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Achilles Club will be held in the Iffley Road Pavilion at 12.30 prompt on Saturday 18th May 1991.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of last year's A.G.M.
2. To elect the Vice-Presidents of the Club.
3. To elect the Chairman of the Club (3 year term).
4. To receive Financial Reports from the Hon. Treasurer and from the Clerk to the Achilles Trust.
5. To appoint the Auditors.
6. Any other business.

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THE FRESHMENS' MATCH

31st October 1990, at Iffley Road. The result hung in the balance on the last event: going into the 4 x 400m relay, Oxford led by 2 points, but with a 3 point spread at stake, Cambridge hastily rearranged their team and were able to snatch match victory. A womens' match not restricted to freshmen was won very easily by Cambridge (perhaps the time is not too far away when a true Fresmens' match for women will be inaugurated?). Highlights of the day included the first appearance in a Cambridge vest of junior international quarter miler Rachel Jordan, a 1.95 high jump in cold and windy
conditions by Matt Mowbray of Oxford, and impressive Cambridge sprinting from rugby international Tony Underwood, supported by Giacco Corsini.

THE 'VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY MATCH

The odds were on a clean sweep for Oxford, but although Simon Mugglestone and Jo Dering were dominant in their respective individual events, and although the Oxford women inflicted one of the heaviest defeats on Cambridge in the history of the match, with a near perfect score, the Cambridge men's team bore off the major prize, in this the 100th running of the event.

The occasion was marked by a race for Old Blues, which was marvellously well contested by athletes of all generations. Richard Nerurkar led home Jerry Barton, Larry Matthews and Bob Treadwell at the front of the field, but there were some exceptional performances in all age groups (including 2 in the over 70's class). The finishing order was as follows (L = ladies):


Moves are afoot to make the 'ex-Oxbridge' race a regular event, either every year or at suitable intervals, and to open it to all former students from Oxford and Cambridge, not just Blues. So don't be shy about turning out, and make a note that if held in 1991 the race will probably be on 7th December: you should make yourself known to the secretary of Thames Hare and Hounds, Clare Sylvester, 28 Bearfield Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 5ET.

THE RELAYS MATCH

Cambridge won the mens' match, and Oxford the womens'. Highlight was a competitive mens' 4 x 800m, which produced the fastest winning time for 25 years (average 1:55 per leg, still however only good enough for 14th on the matches all time list, a tribute to the quality of the matches in the 1950's and 1960's.). Achilles teams, sharpening up for the tour to Hong Kong, competed in most events, and featured an impressive return to competition by Bridget Wheeler.

THE FIELD EVENTS MATCH

1991 INDOORS SEASON

Jo Dering achieved the distinction the first Achilles lady to win a WAAA title, with a strong run in the indoors 1500m at Cosford on February 3rd. Andy Geddes, a former winner of the men's title at the same distance, stepped up to 3000m and came third, ahead of Simon Mugglestone in fourth. Richard White built on some fine form at
early season open meetings to reach a very classy 800m final.

VETERANS

Brian Hull led the UK rankings in the V40 Triple Jump, with 14.04, and Tony Shoebridge was 4th in the same category with 12.80. Former international heptathlete Sarah Owen (Bull) is back in training: she topped the V35 High Jump lists with 1.55, and was highly placed in several other events.

CLUB KIT

Both Ryder and Amies in Cambridge (0223-350371) and Castells in Oxford (0865 244000) now stock the club vest and club tie. Ryder and Amies have the club 'cricket' sweater in stock: Castells can supply to order.

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NEW THIS YEAR

Ryder and Amies can now supply to order the

CLUB SUMMER BLAZER

(#130 - dazzling stripes!) and the

CLUB SCARF

(#19.50: we hope this will be of particular interest to ladies, as an alternative to the club tie).

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The traditional club dark blue blazer, with the turned Achilles cuffs, is available to order through Castells. Club blazer buttons (#2.00) are available from the Hon. Secretary.

Club tracksuits, T-shirts, etc, are available by mail order from Centresport, and an order form is included in this Report.

HISTORY CORNER - THE ORIGINS OF 'CAMBRIDGE BLUE'

When the University Boat race was first held in 1929, Oxford wore dark blue....and Cambridge wore pink. White jerseys with narrow pink stripes were the colours of St. John's, then Head of the River: the Trinity men in the boat were not prepared to wear the St. John's kit proposed by their President, W. Snow, himself a St. John's man, but after much argument they compromised on pink sashes.

At the start of the next encounter, in 1836, the Cambridge boat was on the point of pushing off when it was noted that it was not flying a colour on its bow. A Christ's man hurried to a nearby haberdasher's and returned with a piece of light blue ribbon which he tied in place as a small flag. Some say his choice of colour was accidental; others that it was because it was the Eton colour. But the likeliest explanation is that light blue was chosen for the same reason that pink had been chosen in 1929: Caius had been wearing light blue colours for two years, and there were three Caius men in
the boat, including the great coach and cox T.S. Egan who had done so much to improve the standard of oarsmanship at Cambridge: it is quite conceivable that the colours of Egan's college were chosen as a compliment. From that moment on, of course, it was apparent what an excellent contrast it made to Oxford's dark blue, and the colour stuck.

Until 1862, light blue was reserved for the Cambridge University Boat Club, and there were only 9 Blues at each University. There had already been 'Varsity matches in several other sports, but they competed in a motley assortment of colours, and it apparent to the C.U. Cricket Club that uniformity was desirable. They approached C.U.B.C. for permission to adopt their colour, and prompted a momentous debate. For some time it seemed that the Boat Club committee would favour the proposal that the Cricket Club adopt a colour of their own: red was mooted. However, they were swayed by W.M. Hoare, who stroked Cambridge to victory in 1861, 1862 and 1863, and who finally persuaded them to concede their colours to the cricketers.

When the first athletics match took place two years later, in 1864, light blue was adopted automatically. But there is little doubt that had it not been for Mr Hoare, each sport at Cambridge would have been allotted separate colours.

(Source: J.B. Kerr, World Sports, July ’39)

25 YEARS AGO....

In 1965 Hugh Pullan and Alasdair Heron were Presidents of OUAC and CUAC, and in a very close fought 'Varsity Match (results appended) Oxford won by 79 points to 74. The standard was extremely high, with athletes of the class of Mike Hogan and Wendell Mottley on display. The combined Universities toured the USA and Canada, where they tied with Penn/Cornell but lost to Harvard/Yale, before competing with distinction at the Canadian Championships where Jeffrey Archer won the 220 yards. Back home, the Club won the Sward Trophy, and only narrowly lost the Kinnaird. Matches were held in Guernsey and West Cornwall. Later in the year Henk Altmann led Oxford to a resounding victory, 25-53, in the 'Varsity Cross Country Match.

50 YEARS AGO....

In 1940 the world was at war, but athletics at a lower level continued at the Universities. Appended are results of the unofficial matches which were held during the war years.

ACHILLES v. HONG KONG
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If recent years have been a period of re-emergence for the Club, the last 12 months have seen it re-established on the national and international stage.

NEW ACHILLES COACHING INITIATIVE

ACHILLES MEDALS FOR 1990

Tim Berrett, 5k Walk 19m 42.90, UK Indoor National Record.
Richard Nerurkar, 4th European 10000m
Tony Hatton 70.12
Gill Howard 1.80

Simon Mugglestone and Andy Geddes were awarded special Achilles Medals for their memorable performance in the mile at Iffley Road, which resulted in them setting a Ground Record each for the mile and 1500m respectively (see below).

THE 116TH 'VARSITY MATCH
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A great day for Oxbridge athletics started auspiciously with the election of a further Achilles Vice-President, Peter Ford, who was Hon. Treasurer of the Club from 1947 to 1958. If the AGM was more sparsely attended than usual, it was because Roger Bannister was simultaneously hosting a lunch at Pembroke, where he is Master, in anticipation of an attempt on his famous Iffley Road ground record for the Mile, 3 minutes 59.4 seconds, which had withstood all assaults since May 6th 1954. The attempt was to coincide with the opening of the re-laid track, funded by the Rhodes Trust, as part of the Campaign for Oxford.

Media interest in the event was high, and included a feature on BBC's Grandstand the following day. Norris McWhirter, who had been the announcer on the occasion of the Four Minute Mile itself, again took over the microphone, and one of the original stop-watches from that race was also again in use.

For the first time in the history of the Match, the Presidents agreed to the inclusion of guest competitors, all members of the Achilles Club, in the Mile, in order to ensure a fast pace. Pre-race favourites were Simon Mugglestone, representing Oxford in the match event, and guest Andy Geddes, winner of the 'Varsity 1500m in 1987. Other guests included internationals Richard Nerurkar, Jerry Barton and Paul Rowbotham.

Rowbotham, the SCAA 800m Champion, set a perfect pace, covering 2 laps in a fraction under 2 minutes. But then Mugglestone was out in front, tracked by Geddes: National Cross-Country Champion Nerurkar was finding the pace too hot, and was about 5 yards adrift. Geddes, the 1989 AAA Indoor 1500m Champion at 1500m, struck at about 300 yards from home, opened up a lead around the final turn and looked to have the race won.

Geddes' early run for home was one of the two factors which made a new record a possibility: the second was Mugglestone's determination not to be beaten in front of his home crowd. Geddes led at 1500m but then Mugglestone clawed his way back, inch by inch, finally passing Geddes 30 yards before the line, and punching the air in victory as he crossed it. Simon's time, intoned once more by Norris McWhirter, was 3 minutes 58.9 seconds, half a second inside the ground record. Andy equalled the old record in second, and had the consolation of having set a new record for 1500m en route.

Those present had been treated to a marvellous race, a fitting successor to Bannister's feat: as Sir Roger himself remarked, he was delighted that the record had fallen, and especially pleased it had gone to an Oxford man. It had been agreed at the AGM that a special Achilles Medal should be awarded if the Four Minute barrier were broken in the race: with two men inside the time, medals were presented to both Mugglestone and Geddes.
Remarkably, Mugglestone returned barely 35 minutes later to win the 5000m, against good opposition from his teammate, BUSF silver medallist Larry Matthews. But while Simon's performances clearly earned him the Drake-Digby Trophy as man of the match, no less than seven other match records were also set during the day. Gill Howard cleared 1.80m for the first time in her career in the high jump (as high as the Cambridge second string in the mens' match), while Emma Westlake set new figures at both 100m hurdles, 14.4 seconds, and long jump, 5.84 metres, and also scored an unexpected win in the 100m: these two shared the Susan Dennler Trophy for the best performance in the womens' match. Tony Hatton threw the javelin to a new record of 63.84m, and collected the Paul Gomme Trophy (which, after 4 years of being awarded for the best performance in the Field Events match, will in future be awarded to the best performance in a throwing event in intervarsity competion during the year). Sian Pilling's 800/1500m double, both in new record times, would in almost any other year have won the Susan Dennler Trophy. Maggie Anderson, 38.78m discus, and Halcyon Wills, 41.18m javelin, also set new records. Notable, too, was Julian Thompson's 200/400m double, both in very fast times: his 400m time of 47.3 seconds has only been beaten in the history of this match by Olympic medallists Adrian Metcalfe and Wendell Mottley.

With some trepidation, Maurice Scarr, bronze medallist at both the Universiade of 1935 and the European Championships of 1938, took the Chair at the Blues' Dinner at the Randolph Hotel. But there was no trace of the disturbances of recent years, and the dinner was an unqualified success, greatly enjoyed by all present. By 10.00 p.m., the teams were on their way to join their second team colleagues, who had dined at the Linton Lodge Hotel, for a disco, while the rest of us were on our ways home, tired but happy.

In previous years we have listed most of those members of the club who attended the match: it is a measure of the success of this year's event that it is impossible to compile even an approximately complete list: suffice it to say that there were a very large number of members present from every generation. Programme sales were a record for recent years, and the dark days of 1977, when a programme was not even published, are behind us.

ACHILLES V. MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE
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A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all, as usual. Strong winds hindered fast times, and prevented Richard Nerurkar from erasing Jerry Barton's name from the book of Ground Records (all of which are held by Achilles members, some dating back over 30 years, a testimony to the tradition of this fixture). Nevertheless, having won the most competitive event of the day, the 800m, from Jon Brooke and Giles Clifford in a tight finish, Nerurkar drew away as expected from Dave Higgins on the final lap to win the 1500m. Mark Steed, in spite of rigorous handicapping with senior hurdle heights and implements, won 3 events, as did Trevor Llewelyn, whose Triple Jump close to 14m was the best performance of the afternoon.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE V. PENNSYLVANIA AND CORNELL
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Iffley Road, 26/6/90. In one of the closest fought American matches for many years, the visitors shrewdly chose to score on points instead of by events, an option not previously exercised in matches
against these particular Universities. Thus in spite of winning only 9 mens' events to our 10, the Americans won the mens' match by plus the womens' by

ACHILLES v. SOUTHERN COUNTIES v. COMBINED SERVICES v. CIVIL SERVICE

Solid performances from a good and complete mens' team, mustered and managed by Dominic Emery, led to the best result Achilles have achieved in this match for many years. Southern Counties were always going to win, but we had the measure of the Civil Service, and snapped at the heels of Combined Services throughout the evening.

Dave Hitchcock gave Achilles a good start in the 400m hurdles, back close to his best with a time of 53.4 secs in third place, supported by Danny Cullinane. In the 800m, Andy Robinson led through the bell to set Andy Lill on his way to an imperious victory, outclassing the opposition in the home straight. Although this was our only win of the evening it was backed up by many second places in other events, and good packing by second strings: Marcus Browning was second in the long jump and third in the 200m, picking up 2 points, too, in the hammer, and guesting in the javelin; Tony Hatton was second in the javelin; Dave Benton was second in the 1500m, with Nick Fellowes fourth.

The best, apart from Lill's 800m, was kept till last: in the 4 x 400m relay, Hitchcock, Clifford and Singham (drafted in at short notice to replace an injured Emery) maintained a steady third place. The Southern Counties team were well away, but at the start of the last leg Paul Rowbotham was about 20 metres down on the Civil Service: scorching round the first bend, he had made up the deficit and passed his man by the middle of the back straight, only to be passed himself coming of the final bend: again he fought back grimly and against all expectations snatched the second place verdict on the line: a great leg, timed at 48.3 seconds.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Tim Berrett became the Club's only current U.K. record holder by setting an Indoor 5000m Walk record, which he then improved two weeks later to 19m 42.9s in winning the U.S. title. Tim has subsequently been competing for Canada, and was in the Canadian team competing against the UK during the summer. He will be doing a sport degree at Edmonton from this year, and hopes to be at the World Student Games at Sheffield.

Richard Nerurkar finished a successful 1989/90 winter by winning the English National, and placing 18th in the World Cross-Country Championships. Coached by Bruce Tulloh, he then went on to win the AAA 10,000m Championship, and thus become the only club member to qualify for the European Championships, where he placed 6th. Richard has started 1991 where he left off, successfully defending his English National Cross Country title (with Simon Mugglestone 6th).

Otherwise, the most prominent Achilles competitors at the AAA championships were Jo Dering and Sue Bevan, who were both to the fore in the womens' 1500m.

At the UK Championships, Simon Mugglestone won the 5000m, and Andy Geddes was third in the 1500m. In the course of the season Simon defeated Olympic Champion John Ngugi to win in the international against Kenya and the USA, but lost form later in the season.
Andrew Lill won a fiercely contested place in the 800m at the World Junior Championships at Plovdiv. Andrew, coached by Jamie Bevan, succeeded where his perhaps more fancied teammates could not and reached the final, finishing fifth.

ACHILLES SCHOOLS RELAYS
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Sandy Duncan was Referee at this important event in the schools calendar, which Tim Taylor continues to watch over on the Club's behalf. Sandy was especially impressed at the efficiency of the organisation of the meeting.

NEW TRACK AT ETON
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The links between Achilles and Eton College go back a long way: many members over the years have competed on the old track, which will be remembered for being rectangular: there were additional short straights at the crown of each bend! Following a very successful appeal, organised by Achilles member Tony Lloyd (who recalled representing the Club against Eton in about 1949, in a team which included Roger Bannister) a new all weather track and a new pavillion are now in place. The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Lloyd himself, resplendent in CUAC vest, breasted the tape first in a handicap 100m race to declare the new facilities open. Among other members present were Jeffrey Archer, whose son won a very spirited 800m for Eton in a schools match which followed (Jeffrey recalled a strong 4 x 110y team which included himself, Adrian Metcalfe and Mike Hogan being beaten by the Eton handicapper); Jeremy Ball, who won the high jump for Cambridge in the 'Varsity Match of 1964, for many years now a master at Eton, who spent his usual two or three hours in the field judging on the new fan; and your Hon. Sec., who recalls competing as a schoolboy against an Achilles team which included David Hemery, and returning often during the 1980's with teams featuring the likes of Tony Shiret and Julian Goater.

The close ties remain strong, and both Eton and Achilles are determined to restore a regular fixture.

NEW CLUB TIE and SUMMER BLAZER
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Ryder and Amies have now made a limited number of summer blazers to members' order, in Old Gold with Oxford and Cambridge Blue stripes: the effect is dramatic, especially when worn with the new club tie! Blazers cost about #130, and Ryder and Amies can also produce scarves of the same material. Achilles buttons may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, #2 each.

It will please Cambridge members to note that Ryder and Amies (Phone 0223 350371) now stock the new club tie, and that their version has an improved Cambridge Blue element compared to Castell's. They can also supply the Club sweater from stock (Castells will supply to order).

NEWS OF MEMBERS
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We are sorry to hear that Judge Rowe-Harding has been unwell for many years. His wife writes that he recalls competing (and almost winning) at Stamford Bridge against Eric Liddell, like whom he was a fine rugby player.
Andrew Keith, having enjoyed several seasons of marathons in the early 80's has now turned to cycling, and this year pedalled from Lands End to John O'Groats for charity.

Sue Pappas (Dennler) now lives at Timbertop in Australia, but visited the UK recently; Robert Stinson brought her up to date with club news. Sue was second in the high jump at the World University Games of 1963.

Alastair Williamson is now involved with the British Nordic Ski development squad.

Congratulations to Trevor Llewelyn on qualifying as a SCAAA Senior Coach.

Neville Norman (Achilles Team Manager in 1973) is now Reader in Economics at the University of Melbourne, whence he sends very best wishes to the many names in the club he is delighted still to recognise.

Bob Madsen is now studying at Stanford University in California.

IN MEMORIAM

Ali Irfan (Fizwilliam House, Cambridge, 1934-37). 'The Terrible Turk', as he was affectionately known to his many Achilles teammates during the 1930's, dominated the 'Varsity Match shot put competitions of his day, winning for a record four times. He added 6 foot to the long-standing match record of Olympic medallist W.W. Coe, and in the 1937 match caused a sensation with a new Turkish National Record of 49' 3 3/4" (15.03m): this mark was not surpassed in inter-'Varsity competition for 20 years, and is still 6th on the CUAC all-time list. Professor Ali Irfan Sahinbas will be remembered as a teacher, translator and major figure in Turkey's cultural life. He taught English Literature at Ankara University for 44 years, and was a pioneer of Anglo-Turkish relations, for which he received an honorary O.B.E.

J.H. Flynn, on 26th October. Jack Flynn competed in two 'Varsity Matches and the 1926 tour of the USA, his selection for which he self deprecatingly put down to the fact that with Lord Burghley at first string in the high hurdles it did not matter who else they took, but that it was felt that the Americans would prefer his technique to Arthur Porritt's bent leg action! The Club was very pleased to receive from Jack last year his athletics memorabilia.


Dr. I.J. Franklen-Evans (Queens' College, Cambridge, 1924-27), in February 1989; competed in the 'Varsity Cross Country match of 1926.

P.M. Lewis, MBE (St. Catharine's, Cambridge, 1938-40), on 5th October 1989.


Joseph Whitely Stork CB, CBE on 28th March 1990.
NEW MEMBERS

Honorary Member: Charles Booth.