

The 96th Varsity Match
St Paul's School, Barnes
Saturday, 21st February 2026

Bob Dolby reports: Last year's Men's Varsity Match was close, with Oxford just one point up after the Singles and Cambridge pulling back 8 points in the Doubles. This year's contest was not quite as close in the end but the mathematical remarkableness continued, with the Doubles being tied and Cambridge consequently winning by the exact margin of the lead they had earlier amassed in the Singles – 17 points. In victory the Light Blues had much to thank their bottom IV of Pyman, Walton, Glover and Menhart for, while the top IV, without Ben Yass, battled hard against the experienced Oxford first IV, from among whom Seb Ion was declared Man of the Match.

The Cambridge Sparrows versus Oxford Beavers match has tended for some years to be won by Oxford, and it was no exception this year. The Beavers were as delighted as ever to retain the Fist of Iron in a six-a-side contest by a comfortable margin, but the Light Blues could claim to have edged the top four stats. What matters most is: Twelve people played, and one of them even managed to get to the Chelsea match by 3 o'clock. And Isaac M-G can now claim to be perhaps the first to have played for both universities in this particular match.

The Women's Match was 4-a-side this year, with Oxford pleased to have Lena Barton back from Armenia to boost Abbie Evans' side. Cambridge had worked hard to maintain the progress they achieved at last year's match, but found the strengthened Oxford IV tough opponents. The light blue ladies did, though, achieve better results as the day went on, and there is plenty of reason to hope for a closer contest next year, with Oxford now looking to add to their run of three wins in a row.

A big thank you goes to St Paul's, to the young man in reception, to supporting family and friends, and to our organiser and umpire, Viola King Forbes, who manages the unenviable task of getting players through some 8-9 hours of Fives in the space allotted, without once raising her voice. No jelly babies, just quiet authority.

Detailed scores on the next pages

96th CAMBRIDGE v. OXFORD
St. Paul's School, Saturday, 21st February 2026

Cambridge Men

Oxford Men

Singles

| | | |
|---|--|------|
| ED Thursfield (Fitzwilliam) | v. S Wu (St Hilda's) | 8-15 |
| MJN Cloke Browne (Downing) | v. JOS Hanton (Reuben) | 15-4 |
| JI Milburn (Jesus) | v. K Bremner (<i>Captain</i>) (Christ Church) | 8-15 |
| MR Ord (<i>Hon.Sec.</i>) (Fitzwilliam) | v. SC Ion (Magdalen) | 0-15 |
| A Glover (Trinity Hall) | v. FJ Goulding (St Hugh's) | 15-9 |
| JTA Pyman (<i>Captain</i>) (Emmanuel) | v. RGE Millard (University) | 15-2 |
| LS Walton (Trinity) | v. AJT Cliff (St Anne's) | 15-6 |
| R-A Menhart (Peterhouse) | v. GG Maclay (St Peter's) | 15-8 |

91-74

Doubles

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Milburn & Thursfield | v. Bremner & Hanton | 15-5 |
| | | 10-15 |
| Cloke Browne & Ord | v. Ion & Wu | 7-15 |
| | | 10-15 |
| | v. Ion & Wu | 4-15 |
| | v. Bremner & Hanton | 1-15 |
| Pyman & Walton | | 13-15 |
| | v. Cliff & Millard | 15-13 |
| | | 10-15 |
| | v. Goulding & Maclay | 15-0 |
| Glover & Menhart | | 15-8 |
| | v. Goulding & Maclay | 16-14 |
| | | 16-14 |
| | v. Cliff & Millard | 15-10 |
| | | 16-14 |

193-193

Cambridge won 284-267

Cambridge now counts 59 wins against 37 by Oxford.

Sparrows versus Beavers match was played – see next page

In the Sparrows versus Beavers match Oxford won by 202-154.

Singles: M Howarth (Trinity) lost to A Murat (Magdalen) 6-15; K Kedia (Gonville & Caius) bt AHJ Barnett (Jesus) 15-10; P Lim (St John's) bt SR Monro-Davies (Trinity) 15-6; BD Steel (Gonville & Caius) lost to EC Dunning (Pembroke) 13-15; FD Kimber-O'Shea (St John's) lost to AMD Gerlach (LMH) 1-15; R Rana (Gonville & Caius) lost to IJ Mellis-Glynn (St Hilda's) 2-15 [= 52-76]

Doubles: Lim & Howarth bt Gerlach & Murat 16-14, 15-10; bt Barnett & Monro-Davies 15-6, 15-6. Kedia & Steel lost to Barnett & Monro-Davies 11-15, 7-15; lost to Gerlach & Murat 7-15, 16-15. Kimber-O'Shea & Rana lost to Dunning & Mellis-Glynn 0-15, 0-15. [=102-126]

12th CAMBRIDGE WOMEN v. OXFORD WOMEN

St. Paul's School, Saturday, 21st February 2026

Cambridge

Oxford

Singles

| | | | |
|---|----|---------------------------------------|-------|
| CJ Abercrombie (<i>Captain</i>) (Gonville & Caius) | v. | LRF Barton (Lady Margaret Hall) | 0-15 |
| LJ Osborne-Patterson (Fitzwilliam) | v. | A Evans (<i>Captain</i>) (Keble) | 5-15 |
| KA Parry (Trinity Hall) | v. | EJ Butler (St Hugh's) | 0-15 |
| CMS Bruce (Clare) | v. | EJ Duckworth (Christ Church) | 14-16 |

19-61

Doubles

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----|--------------------|----------------|
| Abercrombie & Parry | v. | Butler & Evans | 2-15 5-15 |
| | v. | Barton & Duckworth | 10-15 10-15 |
| Bruce & Osborne-Patterson | v. | Barton & Duckworth | 7-15 1-15 |
| | v. | Butler & Evans | 6-15 14-16 |

55-121

Oxford Women won 182-74

Cambridge Women now have 8 wins, Oxford Women 4 wins
