

Michaelmas  
Term 2020  
08.12.20

# OULTC Christmas Newsletter

Dear all,

I hope you are all keeping safe and healthy during these times and are adjusting well to this 'new normal' we have all had to become accustomed to.

The committee have worked very hard this term to ensure that we can continue to operate in a safe way. In accordance with the law and government guidelines, we had 10 teams training regularly, with the men's Blues even being able to train twice a week indoors at Nuffield Health Oxford with coach Jon Maskens. However, the second lockdown meant that teams were no longer allowed to train.

We have also been unable to play any fixtures this term, as per the decision of the University Silver Group that there can be no sports fixtures played against teams outside of the Oxford ring road.

The good news is that from 10<sup>th</sup> December onwards members are able to book to play on our Iffley courts. This should be a welcome relief to all members, especially those staying over the Christmas vacation. We are expecting all club sessions to restart in the new year.

Despite the challenging circumstances, this is an exciting time for OULTC, and it gives me great pleasure to inform you about our progress this year and plans for the future.

## An Exciting Time for OULTC

Founded in 1879, OULTC is a prestigious and thriving club, which has been consistently growing year on year. As it stands today the club has 296 members (with more expected to sign up), making it the largest sports club in the University. This is a significant achievement which we are keen to build upon, especially with the introduction of a Staff membership this year. Over 20 training sessions take place every week for our various teams. 10 Varsity Tennis Matches (5 men's, 5 ladies') are now played. We are proud of the diversity of our tennis community, in particular the ever-growing number of social members. Tennis is more than a hobby, more than a sport: it is a lifelong quest for self-improvement and an activity for collective enjoyment. The physical, mental and social benefits of tennis have become an important part of the 'Oxford experience' for so many, in keeping with the University's stated desire to encourage student well-being via their newly launched **Active at Oxford** campaign.



## OULTC Hardship Fund

Knowing how important sport is for so many, we are motivated to ensure that financial hardship does not prevent students from playing tennis and making the most of their OULTC experience. That is why we have created a hardship fund to help students who receive financial support from the University, colleges, or any external bodies.

Since our aim, first and foremost, is to ensure that students' individual financial situations do not prevent them from playing tennis at Oxford, we are currently prioritising funding club and team memberships.

We hope that with support from alumni and friends that we can grow the fund so that we may also assist students in purchasing kit, going on team tours, etc.

## Facilities

One of the virtues of Oxford is the balance of heritage and history with innovation and progress. Some things don't change... we still have a burning desire to shoe the tabs in in our Varsity matches! However, some things must change if we are to continue developing. It is only fitting that the club's facilities follow the pattern of development we have enjoyed in other areas. To accommodate the vast range of OULTC members, and thanks to one especially generous donation, we have been gradually improving our facilities at Iffley Road, in partnership with OU Sport:

- **New Pro Clay courts:** opened in early 2019, these superb courts have already transformed the playing experience at the club; these are the same calibre of courts as those at the National Tennis Centre. We welcome you to come and try these out some time!
- **New court fencing:** around both the new clay courts and existing grass courts new fences have been put up, which give the overall site a more professional appearance and allow for windbreakers to improve playing conditions
- **New boundary fencing:** the old wooden fence line along Iffley Road has been replaced by elegant cast-iron railings which allow passers-by to see into the site and thus have a dual purpose of serving to promote tennis and allow for greater security
- **Revitalised grass courts:** I am sure many of you are familiar with our Iffley road grass courts and will be very pleased to know that there is fresh impetus to make the most of the grass courts with the support of the OU Sport grounds maintenance team so that Iffley Road can host more summer season matches.



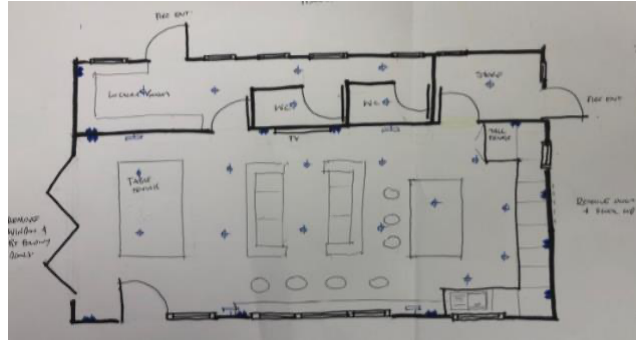
## The Clubhouse

With this continuous improvement underway, we are now seeking to redevelop the rather modest clubhouse, which has stood since the mid-1980s. The clubhouse is one of the most important parts of any tennis club. It is part of the image many are left with when they leave. While structurally sound, the interior of the current clubhouse is out of date, lacks proper heating and does not offer a welcoming environment for hosting the club's members and visitors. This redevelopment will give OULTC the home it deserves and celebrate our heritage in a warm, relaxed manner.

*Today...*



*Proposed layout...*



*Our new and improved clubhouse...*



For more images of the plans for our new clubhouse, please visit <https://www.oultc.org/alumni>.

## Stay in touch

For more information about any of our projects, how you can support us, and for how to stay in touch via our alumni database, please visit our website at <https://www.oultc.org/alumni>.

As ever, if you have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [oultcalumni@gmail.com](mailto:oultcalumni@gmail.com).

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Roman Kenny-Manning, Alumni Officer, OULTC

