


The 132nd Varsity Tennis Match

25th and 26th June 2022



Cambridge Blues, proudly wearing  PlayBrave.

Players

Cambridge Women's Blues

Emily Arbuthnott
Aisha Brown* (*Captain*)
Anna Chesca*
Juliana Ganendra*
Leah Hurst*
Georgie Walker
Kureha Yamaguchi*

College

Wolfson
Trinity
Murray Edwards
Downing
Clare
Clare
Clare

Subject

Economics
Medicine
Natural Sciences
Law
Natural Sciences
Environmental Policy
Engineering

Cambridge Men's Blues

Krishna Amin
Victor Baycroft
Harry Cookson
Esah Hayat*
Jobey Meacham
Patrick Smart*
Jack Wilson-Smith* (*Captain*)
Jure Zgubic

St Catharine's
Girton
Corpus Christi
Homerton
Hughes Hall
Churchill
Homerton
Wolfson

Natural Sciences
Mathematics
Natural Sciences
Natural Sciences
Finance
Natural Sciences
Engineering
Geography

* denotes previous Tennis Blues status

Results

Women's overall score: 16-5

Men's overall score: 9-12

<i>Saturday (25th June)</i>	<i>Women's</i>	<i>Men's</i>	<i>Sunday (26th June)</i>	<i>Women's</i>	<i>Men's</i>
Round 1- Singles			Round 5- Singles		
Cambridge 2 vs Oxford 1	6-3 3-6 4-6	1-6 4-6	Cambridge 1 vs Oxford 1	6-2 6-2	3-6 2-6
Cambridge 4 vs Oxford 3	6-4 7-5	6-7(4) 1-6	Cambridge 3 vs Oxford 3	6-3 6-4	5-7 3-6
Cambridge 6 vs Oxford 5	2-6 3-6	3-6 7-6(3) 6-4	Cambridge 5 vs Oxford 5	6-3 6-1	4-6 3-6
Round 2- Singles			Round 6- Singles		
Cambridge 1 vs Oxford 2	6-1 6-2	6-3 6-7(8) 6-4	Cambridge 2 vs Oxford 2	7-6(5) 6-4	6-4 6-4
Cambridge 3 vs Oxford 4	6-0 6-0	6-2 6-7(11) 7-5	Cambridge 4 vs Oxford 4	6-1 6-3	6-1 0-6 5-7
Cambridge 5 vs Oxford 6	6-2 6-4	6-4 7-6(5)	Cambridge 6 vs Oxford 6	6-4 6-1	3-6 6-2 1-6
Round 3- Doubles			Round 7- Doubles		
Cambridge 1 vs Oxford 2	6-0 6-2	6-4 6-4	Cambridge 1 vs Oxford 1	6-3 6-2	4-6 7-6(5) 9-11
Cambridge 2 vs Oxford 3	6-2 6-3	6-4 6-4	Cambridge 2 vs Oxford 2	6-1 6-2	3-6 4-6
Cambridge 3 vs Oxford 1	0-6 2-6	3-6 4-6	Cambridge 3 vs Oxford 3	6-0 6-2	6-3 7-5
Round 4- Doubles					
Cambridge 1 vs Oxford 3	6-0 6-2	7-6(5) 7-5			
Cambridge 2 vs Oxford 1	6-4 3-6 3-6	3-6 2-6			
Cambridge 3 vs Oxford 2	4-6 3-6	6-4 2-6 5-7			

Match Reports

Men's Blues Match Report, written by Jack Wilson-Smith (Homerton College)

The 132nd Blues Varsity proved to be another exciting weekend enjoyed for the first time in two years by friends, family and alumni who were able to spectate. With Oxford going into the varsity as favourites, Cambridge had a strong start going 4-2 up after the first round of singles with multiple 3 setters. Notably, Esah Hayat and fresher Harry Cookson both managed to win in the third set after both Oxford opponents each saved 4 match points to win the second set tiebreak. Due to the excessive length of the singles, we didn't manage to finish even one round of doubles at the end of the first day with Oxford and Cambridge each taking one win and the last match ending in classic varsity-fashion drama in pouring rain with Cambridge in the midst of serving out for the match at 6-4 5-4, advantage to Oxford.

Heading in to the second day with a 5-3 lead, Oxford gave a strong performance winning 5 out of 6 singles, followed by the completion of the previous unfinished doubles match which Cambridge managed to snag making it 7-8 overall. Into the penultimate round of doubles, Oxford secured 2 crucial wins with Oxford's second pair narrowly beating Cambridge's third pair 7-5 in the third set. For the fourth year in a row the Men's Blues Varsity was to be decided in the final round of doubles. Unfortunately, Jure Zgubic who had been battling tennis elbow all year had to drop out of Cambridge's second pair, who was subbed in for by Victor Baycroft who had put up two huge battles in singles over the weekend. Oxford proceeded to win 2 of the last 3 doubles matches, with the weekend being ended with a third set match tiebreak between the no. 1 pairs with Oxford winning overall 12-9.

Overall, the team had a great weekend and we want to thank Moor Park for hosting us again at such a great venue, to Old Blue John Taylor for having us to stay at his house and to our coach Nick for the great work he's done with us this year.



Women's Blues Match Report, written by Aisha Brown (Trinity College)

The Women's Varsity Match began with a tough first round for the Cambridge team in extremely windy conditions, with all three players facing challenging opponents. While Kureha Yamaguchi came through with a 6-4 7-5 win, Leah Hurst's opponent handled the wind better, securing a 6-2 6-3 win for Oxford. Anna Chesca lost in a 3-6 6-3 6-4 thriller to fellow Seabright player and Oxford number 1 (Isabelle Marshall), leaving Cambridge 2-1 down after round 1. The second round was more straightforward with new players Emily Arbuthnott and Georgie Walker and captain Aisha Brown all winning 6-1 6-2, 6-0 6-0 and 6-2 6-4 respectively. With the score at 4-2 after singles, the teams took a short break to enjoy Moor Park's delicious barbecue and pizza before moving on to round 1 of doubles. The Oxford first pair were too strong for Brown and Hurst, defeating them 6-0 6-2. However, the established pairings of Arbuthnott and Walker (who have grown up playing for Hertfordshire together) and Chesca and Yamaguchi (who have played together for 3 years at Cambridge) both clocked convincing wins 6-0 6-2 and 6-2 6-3 respectively. With dark clouds looming, the Cambridge team began their final round of the day. While Arbuthnott and Walker bagged another rapid 6-0 6-2 victory, the rain subsequently came pouring down, meaning that play had to be suspended midway through the other two matches. This left Cambridge with a 7-3 lead at the end of day 1.

Having fuelled up on takeaway Wagamama the night before, the first round of singles kicked off in sunnier and less windy conditions. Arbuthnott, Walker and Brown all scored comfortable wins, 6-2 6-2, 6-3 6-4 and 6-3 6-1 respectively, putting the Cambridge team 10-3 ahead. Chesca, Yamaguchi and Hurst then embarked on the race for the deciding 11th victory. Hurst clinched the Light Blue win for Cambridge with a 6-4 6-1 triumph, spurring on Chesca and Yamaguchi who followed up with 7-6(5) 6-4 and 6-1 6-3 wins respectively. This victory for Yamaguchi concluded her impressive 100% singles record across 4 Varsity matches. Now 13-3 up after winning all six singles matches of the day, the Cambridge team returned to complete the unfinished doubles matches of the previous day. Unfortunately, the break in play went in Oxford's favour with Brown/Hurst losing 6-4 6-3 and Chesca/Yamaguchi just falling short in a 4-6 6-3 6-3 loss. In the final round, the team refocused and claimed all three matches. Arbuthnott/Walker sounded out their one and only Varsity match with a 6-3 6-2 against the Oxford first pair, and Yamaguchi finished her 4 years at Cambridge with a resounding 6-1 6-3 victory with Chesca. Juliana Ganendra stepped in for the last doubles match,

allowing an injured Brown to see out her captaincy enjoying a glass of Pimms while watching the final round. The fresh energy of Ganendra paired with Hurst allowed the girls to get the better of their opponents in the final win of the weekend, 6-0 6-2.

The Cambridge team lifted the trophy with a huge 16-5 victory after an incredible year of tennis. The team are hugely grateful to Moor Park for hosting, Bob Jenkins for refereeing, John Taylor for his continued support, Nick Brown for coaching us and to all those who came to support us over the weekend. The 132nd Varsity Match could not have been a more perfect weekend to conclude a great year of hard work!



Other highlights

The Men's and Women's Blues had a strong start to the year by winning the annual tournament at the Monte Carle Country Club hosted by HEC and played against 4 other business schools from across Europe as well as Oxford University. As a prize, the team was given the opportunity to travel to Rafael Nadal's Academy in Spain for free for a week to train with the academy players. Possibly one of the toughest weeks of training we had ever experienced, it was a once in a lifetime experience with Men's Blues Jack and Esah getting the chance to be coached by Toni Nadal as well as getting to watch Rafa play throughout the week. Throughout the year, we again had the privilege of playing at Queens and the All England Club which were incredible experiences enjoyed by all with some close matches all round. We were also fortunate enough to have a fixture at Campden Hill thanks to a couple of Oxford alumni who are now members there. Heading into summer term, the Men played about 8 friendly fixtures from the likes of IC, Public School Old Boys, David Lloyd Cambridge and the Old Blues, while the Women enjoyed matches against the Hurlingham Club, Queenswood School and the Cumberland Club. This year we were also pleased to have Alumni day put back on for the first time after a 3-year break due to the pandemic. Players of all different teams and ages came to Fenners for a day filled with doubles and Pimms along with a delicious lunch. A particular highlight came just before Varsity at the Cambridge University Sports Awards where the Women's Blues were awarded Team of the Year for winning the BUCS Premier South Division and for particularly strong individual performances from Emily Arbuthnott (also nominated for the University's Sports Person of the Year Award), Georgie Walker and Anna Chesca. Looking ahead, Blues players Michal Kaminski (Prentice Captain), Esah Hayat, Jack Wilson-Smith, Emily Arbuthnott (Seabright Captain) and Anna Chesca are also very much looking forward to their tours of the US in the Prentice and Seabright Cups this August.



A few words from the captains

Special congratulations to Emily Arbuthnott and Georgie Walker for winning 5/5 rubbers at this year's Varsity match and to Kureha Yamaguchi for achieving a 100% singles record in 4/4 Varsity victories throughout her time at Cambridge. We would like to thank a few people in particular for their hard work and support throughout the year: our coach, Nick Brown, whose spirit, drive and nuggets of wisdom have been of huge benefit for both the Men's and Women's teams; John Taylor who, as well as hosting the Men's team again for the Varsity Match, has been a constant source of guidance; and Michal Kaminski who has provided us with a great deal of support despite playing the maximum number of Varsity matches and not being allowed to play the Varsity match this year.

We were thrilled to have been hosted by Moor Park Golf Club again and thank them for their hard work and generosity. It was fantastic to have a smoothly run weekend filled with spectators enjoying delicious food and drink in a beautiful setting. It was also lovely to see a number of alumni cheering on their old teams. Their encouragement continues to motivate the teams to improve every year. We would also like to thank our sponsors OC&C, PlayBrave and the Co-op for their support this year. Finally, the Club must say farewell to Emily Arbuthnott, Georgie Walker, Kureha Yamaguchi, Michal Kaminski and Jobey Meacham who have recently joined the ranks of the 'Old Blues'. We wish them all the very best for their future endeavours.

From your 2021/22 Blues Captains,
Aisha Brown & Jack Wilson-Smith

