

1952

Monday 1st December 1952

All of the Oxford team with the exception of Chakawary, Laws & Bryant were shown round the University course by P.J.A. Clarke. J. Aldridge, who won the ^{race} ~~match~~ between Oxford & Cambridge & Cambridge Spalans last Saturday, also ran round the course being the Oxford Reserve for the Race.

The Cambridge team were shown round the course by J.S. Woodie & J.H. Grasses.

All were entertained to tea at the King's Head.

Tuesday 3rd December 1952

W.P.K. Calwell, P.J.A. Clarke, A. Humber, P.K. Mellish and H.G. Smith - Spahn ran at Roehampton & dined at the King's Head.

Saturday 6th December 1952Oxford v Cambridge

When the two teams were collecting at the King's Head the fog was so dense that there were the gravest doubts as to whether the race could be run. No one present had ever known such conditions on the day of this race & there was therefore no precedent to follow. The majority of the Oxford team did not arrive at Roehampton until 2.45 p.m. and a consultation between the Referee, the two Captains, the President of O.U.A.C. (C.J. Chakawary) ^{a representative} the Sec. of O.U.A.C. (J.J. Buret) the Sec. of T.H.H. From early discussions it became apparent that it would be impracticable to hold the race on any other day either before Christmas or next term. After the meeting had been informed by J.S. Woodie and C.W. Bradner (who had just run over the first two miles of the course) that visibility permitted running at maximum speed, and by R. Christopheron (in charge of Thames Rowing) that he was confident that he could get the two teams safely round "the fog course", the Oxford & Cambridge captains decided at 3 p.m. that the race would be run. The race eventually started at 3.40 p.m. & press reports of the race appear below.

Credit for conducting the two teams round the course should go to R. Christopherson ably assisted by H. G. Smith-Spalk, A. J. Elliott, H. A. Lillingston & the members of the Club. The so called "fog course" had been up the Club's sleeve for years & it was gratifying to know that it was practical in an extremely dense fog.

The two teams, with their friends, were entertained to a tea at the King's Head & a snack tea was available for members of the Club.

The Annual Dinner took place at the Park Lane Hotel with C. W. Brasher in the Chair. Owing to the fog 6 or 7 people who should have attended were unable to get there and others were unable to get home in time to change into their dinner jackets. The whole of the Oxford & Cambridge Teams attended as our guests. J. M. W. Haddock replied to the Chairman's toast of the two teams & J. R. H. Best proposed the health of the Club to which the Captain, J. S. Wordie, replied. A. W. Scott proposed the health of the Chairman. Short speeches were also made by the President and R. Christopherson.

"The Times" 6/12/52

STRONG OXFORD CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

UNIVERSITY MATCH TO-DAY

Oxford will start firm favourites when they meet Cambridge this afternoon for the sixty-second cross-country running match, excluding those held during the war years, between the Universities. Most of the 7½ miles course lies over Wimbledon Common, and the contest is organized by Thames Hare and Hounds, whose headquarters at Roehampton will be used for the event.

Oxford have four old Blues in J. M. W. Haddock, the captain, C. J. Chataway, D. C. Law, and S. J. Bryant, who, with the Freshman A. J. Weeks-Pearson, the Army mile champion, are probably faster than any of their opponents. Chataway has been first man home for the past two seasons, and lowered the record for the present course to 40min. 59sec. in 1950. He has a great chance of becoming the first man to win in three consecutive years since the event was started in 1880, though another Oxonian, the Rev. W. Pollock-Hill had three successes in the four races between 1886 and 1889.

The Cambridge captain, J. R. H. Best, has had to form an almost entirely new team, and the fastest member will probably be G. P. Surridge. There is not a great deal of difference between the records of the sides in their matches against other clubs this season, but Cambridge are unlikely to master the Oxford team, which must be one of the strongest and most experienced ever produced by either University.

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1952

Oxford score 'possible'

By HAROLD ABRAHAMS

OXFORD gained a "lowest possible" victory—scoring 21 points to 66—in the 62nd inter-Universities cross-country race at Roehampton. Their scoring six filled the first six places, the first time since six-a-side scoring was introduced that any team has finished a full side clear of the opposition.

In pre-war days, with five-a-side scoring, the feat was achieved half-a-dozen times, though the last occasion was over 20 years ago. The race started about 40 minutes late, and it was really rather a miracle that it was held at all. Thick fog with visibility mostly from 20 to 25 yards throughout the course, and the late arrival of the Oxford team, who spent three hours getting from Oxford to Paddington, made us think no race would be possible.

What was described as a special "fog course" was adopted, following mostly "rides" throughout. It speaks volumes for the Thames Hare and Hounds, the organisers, that they were able to keep the runners on to the course, so that no one was lost and only the tiniest deviations occurred.

After watching the start and seeing the runners disappearing into the gloom inside five seconds, we ambled hopefully across Wimbledon Common, praying that we might find the runners somewhere, sometime. Having luckily selected someone who knew the ropes, we saw, after about 14 minutes, three Oxford runners: Chataway, Law and Weeks-Pearson loom into view running easily together, obviously as a team.

Twenty-three seconds later two more Oxonians, Bryant and Miller, appeared, followed closely by the first Cambridge man, Jones. Ten seconds later came the Oxford captain, Haddock, with two Cambridge runners and the two other Oxford men all in a bunch.

Surridge retires

It was painfully obvious that Oxford were going to be easy victors. We learned, too, that the best of the Cambridge eight, Surridge, had had to retire with cramp (due, I think, to a bout of influenza) after about two miles.

There was no hope of seeing any more of the race except the finish, and the only change that occurred was that Haddock passed Jones, giving Oxford all their scoring men in the leading positions.

There were two "staged" dead-heats—Chataway, Law and Weeks-Pearson, and then, 14 minutes behind, Bryant, Haddock, and Miller. The first Cambridge man was almost exactly two minutes behind the winner.

If a third share in a triple dead-heat counts, and I see no reason why it should not, Chataway becomes the first man ever to win this race on three consecutive occasions. Only one man, the late W. Pollock-Hill, had even won it three times, and he not in successive years. By a coincidence he was also the only man to have won the mile and three miles at the University sports until last March, when Chataway won the mile and then dead-beated in the three miles.

Oxford now have 30 cross-country victories to Cambridge's 32.

"The Observer" 7/12/52

Cross Country

Oxford Romp Home

By Our Special Correspondent

IN weather more befitting the use of a compass than a stopwatch Oxford gained a victory over Cambridge in the inter-University cross-country match on Wimbledon Common by the resounding margin of 21 points to 66.

By the end of Queen's Mere at the 24-mile mark C. J. Chataway, winner in 1950 and again last year, the international miler D. C. Law, and the Army mile champion A. J. Weekes-Pearson, all of Oxford, had already detached themselves from the rest of the field. Only 15 men passed by, because G. P. Surridge, considered to be Cambridge's best prospect, had already had to retire with a muscle strain.

By dint of the most efficiently organised system of pointsmen the race proceeded at full pace. Back at the finish a small knot of hardy enthusiasts peered into the swirling gloom. Hearing them before seeing them, suddenly three men loomed into sight in line abreast. They were: Law, Weekes-Pearson and Chataway, who had thus succeeded in being concerned in the first place on three successive occasions—a unique performance in the history of the event.

Just as one was realising that a triple dead-heat had never before been performed, a second trio came out of the fog, again comprised exclusively of men from Oxford. The three who thus shared equal fourth place were J. W. M. Haddock, the captain, S. J. Bryant, running in his fourth race, and P. N. Miller. The next man home was W. J. Jones, of Cambridge, followed closely by R. H. Pain (Oxford) and J. R. H. Best, the Cambridge captain. The last Oxford man, V. C. Keyte, was in tenth position. The last time that Oxford achieved such a sweeping victory was in 1932, when J. E. Lovelock led home his side. The overall series score has now been narrowed by Oxford to 30 victories against Cambridge's 32.



OUT OF THE FOG come three Oxford runners—D. C. Law (No. 3), A. J. Weekes-Pearson (8) and C. J. Chataway (2). They led the field all the way and dead-heated for first place in the cross-country race against Cambridge.

"The Times" 8/12/52

OXFORD'S RECORD IN CROSS-COUNTRY

CAMBRIDGE OUTFRAN

Oxford's fast and experienced team completely overwhelmed Cambridge when the Universities cross-country running match was held at Roehampton on Saturday.

With their six scorers finishing in two groups of three before the leading Cambridge man, Oxford gained the lowest possible number of points, 21 to their opponents' 66, being the first team to do so since the scoring was extended to six a side. Visibility was down to 10 yards, due to fog, and before the race an emergency meeting was held, at which it was decided to use a special course, of about the same length as the normal one of seven and a half miles. When the runners went away they were lost in the gloom, but by Queensmere, a little before the half-distance, Oxford had six men in the first seven, the lead being shared by D. C. Law, C. J. Chataway, and A. J. Weekes-Pearson, who later forged far ahead. Chataway had been expected to attain the distinction of being the individual winner for

OXFORD HAVE FIRST SIX HOME

RECORD SCORE IN CROSS-COUNTRY

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
Oxford, with their scoring six in the first six places for the lowest possible total of 21 points to Cambridge's 66, gained a record victory in the University cross-country race held in dense fog at Wimbledon Common on Saturday.

Chataway, Law and Weekes-Pearson came home together in a triple dead-heat in 41min 16.8sec. Nearly one and three-quarter minutes behind came three more Dark Blues, Bryant, Haddock and Miller, also in a triple dead-heat.

Even this did not entirely indicate the measure of Oxford's superiority. Their two remaining runners finished eighth and tenth, thus making the Cambridge points score a dismal and record high.

The start was delayed half an hour for a course inspection. Thanks to a change from the usual course and a magnificent system of piloting by the organisers the race duly began.

SOON A "PROCESSION"

In the cold and fog, with the foothold difficult due to frost, it soon became a procession.

Chataway, Law and Weekes-Pearson went immediately into the lead and, running together, were soon clear of the remainder.

Behind came Bryant and Haddock and when the reputed best of Cambridge's runners, G. P. Surridge, retired at about two and a half miles with a strained muscle, the race was all over bar the counting.

At this stage Chataway, Law and Weekes-Pearson led in 15min 40sec and Oxford had the first five places. The order changed little afterwards except that Oxford's last scoring runner came up from seventh place to complete their overwhelming triumph. Order of finishing:

- 1. C. J. Chataway (Sherborne, Magdalen, Ox.).
- 2. D. C. Law (King Edward VII, Sheffield, Brasenose, Ox.) & A. J. Weekes-Pearson (Hastings G.S., St. Catherine's, Ox.) 41m 16.8s equal 1.
- 3. J. M. W. Haddock (Felsted, Wadhams, Ox.).
- 4. S. J. Bryant (Dorchester G.S., Lincoln, Ox.).
- 5. P. N. Miller (Osney, Lincoln, Ox.). 45m 0.2s, equal 4.
- 6. W. J. Jones (Hereford H.S., St. Catherine's, Ox.). 45m 16.2s.
- 7. E. H. Pain (St. Dunstan's, Queen's, Ox.). 45m 41.0s.
- 8. J. R. H. Best (Leighton Park, Reading, Christ's, Camb.). 45m 42s.
- 9. V. C. Keyte (King Edward's, Birmingham, Jesus, Ox.). 45m 45s.
- 10. V. S. Singh (Pinner G.S., Trinity, Camb.). 45m 50s.
- 11. J. J. Burnet (Edinburgh Acad., Calus, Camb.). 44m 5s.
- 12. A. M. Fisher (Portsmouth G.S., Calus, Camb.). 44m 53.8s.
- 13. G. P. Allen (Sherborne and Corpus, Camb.). 45m 54.0s.
- 14. J. W. Leng (Chigwell, Magdalene, Camb.). 46m 20s.
- 15.



A. J. Weekes-Pearson, C. J. Chataway, and D. C. Law (left to right) finishing in a triple dead-heat in the inter-Universities cross-country race at Roehampton.

"Manchester Guardian" 8/12/52

OXFORD'S RECORD WIN

Oxford beat Cambridge by the record score of 21-66 in the university cross-country race at Roehampton on Saturday, placing their six scoring men in the first six places and also having the eighth and tenth men home.

The race was run in a fog which often reduced visibility to less than ten yards, and it was only after C. W. Brasher, a former Cambridge runner, had run a test lap of three miles that it was decided to run the race. Markers and guides were provided by members of the Thames Hare and Hounds, whose cries, "This way, this way," echoed across Wimbledon Common as they strove to maintain at least verbal contact. All but one of the sixteen runners completed the 7½-mile course.

C. J. Chataway, the individual winner in 1950 and 1951, finished equal first with two other Oxford men, and so became the first man to finish first in three successive years in this event. Details:

- 1. C. J. Chataway (O.).
- 2. D. C. Law (O.).
- 3. A. J. Weekes-Pearson (O.).
- 4. 41min. 16.8sec.
- 5. S. J. Bryant (O.).
- 6. P. N. Miller (O.).
- 7. W. J. Jones (O.).
- 8. E. H. Pain (O.).
- 9. J. R. H. Best (O.).
- 10. V. C. Keyte (O.).

the third consecutive year, a feat so far unachieved in this race, but at one time he was some distance behind the leaders. Towards the finish, however, Chataway came up to the front, and he, Law, and Weekes-Pearson ran in together to share first place in 41min. 16.8sec., while J. M. W. Haddock, the Oxford captain, S. J. Bryant, and P. N. Miller also finished together about 500 yards behind.

This was the sixty-second University match and Oxford brought their total of wins to 30, against the 32 of Cambridge. The order of finishing was:—

- 1. C. J. Chataway (Sherborne and Magdalen, Ox.).
- 2. D. C. Law (King Edward VII, Sheffield, and Brasenose, Ox.).
- 3. A. J. Weekes-Pearson (Hastings G.S. and St. Catherine's, Ox.).
- 4. Each 41min. 16.8sec., equal 1.
- 5. J. M. W. Haddock (Felsted and Wadhams, Ox.).
- 6. S. J. Bryant (Dorchester G.S. and Lincoln, Ox.).
- 7. P. N. Miller (Osney, Lincoln, Ox.).
- 8. W. J. Jones (Hereford H.S. and St. Catherine's, Camb.).
- 9. 41min. 16.2sec.
- 10. E. H. Pain (St. Dunstan's and Queen's, Ox.).
- 11. 41min. 41.0sec.
- 12. J. R. H. Best (Leighton Park, Reading, and Christ's, Camb.).
- 13. 41min. 42sec.
- 14. V. C. Keyte (King Edward's, Birmingham, and Jesus, Ox.).
- 15. 41min. 45sec.
- 16. 10. V. S. Singh (Pinner G.S. and Trinity, Camb.).
- 17. 45min. 50sec.
- 18. J. J. Burnet (Edinburgh Academy and Calus, Camb.).
- 19. 44min. 9sec.
- 20. 12. A. M. Fisher (Portsmouth G.S. and Calus, Camb.).
- 21. 44min. 53.8sec.
- 22. 13. G. P. Allen (Sherborne and Corpus, Camb.).
- 23. 45min. 54.0sec.
- 24. 14. J. W. Leng (Chigwell and Magdalene, Camb.).
- 25. 46min. 20sec.
- 26. 15.

TRANS. SCORES.—Oxford, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6=21 points; Cambridge, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14=66 points.