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# Cambridge University Cruising Club

## Commodore's Report for the Year 2023/24

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### Introduction

The current academic year has been a period of significant progress and accomplishment for CUCrC. Our team racing squad has set the bar high, achieving outstanding results and solidifying Cambridge's position as the top university on the sailing circuit. Meanwhile, the club has seen an encouraging increase in casual sailing participation, particularly during Easter term, where regular outings became a highlight for many members. Furthermore, the purchase of new wingfoiling equipment marks an exciting expansion of our activities, which we are looking forward to introducing in the coming year.

Our new fireflies have provided an excellent training base for this successful year as well as contributing to the high quality racing hosted by CUCrC at both the Cam Cup and BUSA team racing finals. A huge thanks has to go to those helping organise these events as well as to our trustees who have helped make the most of our investments leaving the club in a strong financial position for the year ahead.

None of our successes would be possible without the unwavering support of our senior committee members—Mike Hayles, Michael Crisp, Karl Aeberli, Jeremy Johnson, and Tom Hebbert. Their dedication to the Club, its members, and the junior committee has been instrumental in sustaining the high standards of racing, sailing, and windsurfing at CUCrC. A special thank you goes to Mike Hayles who will shortly be stepping down as the president of CUCrC. Mike has been the cornerstone of the club for the last few years, helping to rebuild after Covid and providing excellent advice over the years. We wish him a happy retirement from CUCrC and look forward to welcoming his replacement, John Aston, over the next year.

### Team Racing

This year kicked off with a busy Freshers' Fair and highly successful Megaweekend of sailing taster sessions, where 50 beginners got to try out Firefly sailing for the first time. Following this, team racing trials were run and training for the year began, with 3 permanent teams (Blue, Purple and Pink). The focus in Michaelmas was on developing the team with many of the sailors having never sailed a firefly or team raced before. Training was run every weekend with excellent conditions for learning. The first event of the term was the Brummy Boom where Purple successfully defended their title and Pink finished a respectable 5th. Later in the term Blue and Purple travelled to the Oxford Magnum for what turned out to be a tricky event marred by a lack of wind.

After a week of pre-season training at the beginning of Lent term, the team visited Southampton and Warwick for the Warmer and Turtle respectively. Blue sailed excellently at the Wessex Winter Warmer to silver surf their way into the top four and crown themselves top university. We sent three teams to BUSA Qualifiers and were successful in qualifying Blue and Purple straight through to Finals. Pink finished a commendable 7th position but elected not to travel the 10 hours north to Edinburgh for the Playoffs.

The Cam Cup proved highly successful as ever, and victory was eventually claimed by the Cumberland Sausages which included many Cambridge Alumni sailors. Thank you to Charlotte Rudd for her hard work as Cam Cup organiser this year, to Jo and Keith Sammons for running excellent racing, to the umpiring team, and to the team sailors who helped the whole event to run smoothly.

A busy few weeks of sailing was topped off by Blue travelling to Oxford for the Top Gun trophy, an invitational event for the top 8 university teams in the UK. They placed 3rd behind strong Exeter and University Colleges Dublin teams. After a short break from competition the women's team headed down to Spinnaker SC for the RYA/BUSA Women's Team Racing Nationals. They had an excellent weekend that saw them finish 3rd place and regain the title of top university women's team. A massive

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congratulations, especially to our two womens captains Hannah Cox and Jenny Jiang whose hard work created this excellent result. The following weekend, we were once again back down to Southampton, this time for the UK Team Racing National Championships. This was a good event to iron out any mistakes before the culmination of the team racing year, BUSA team racing finals.

BUSA team racing finals was hosted by Cambridge for the second year running and was an excellent event with three days of first class racing. After last year's win, the pressure was on to keep the BUSA trophy within the club. Blue started strong by winning the swiss league to progress through to the quarters where they beat Imperial. The semi finals were close against Strathclyde but Cambridge prevailed with a 2:1 scorecard. The final was set up between Cambridge blue and Exeter, the winners of UKTRA, in what promised to be a thrilling match up. Exeter put up a great fight but Cambridge blue took the win without dropping a single race. Cambridge Purple sailed an excellent regatta coming 20th, the 4th best second team and notably finishing ahead of Oxford Blue. This quality event would not have been possible without the support of the senior committee and help from Cambridge alumni Callum Farnden and Jamie Webb. We are grateful to Grafham Water SC for helping us host this event and all the organisers from BUSA.

Easter term brought warm weather and fun events - most notably the Wilson Trophy, which was attended by Blue as well as a number of Cambridge alumni. The event and dinner were both great fun, and the standard of racing incredibly high. We also sent a team to the Carmella Cup, a fun 2v2 team racing event hosted by Royal Thames Yacht Club in Sonar Keelboats. With only one or two of the team having ever raced with spinnakers this was a great event for learning and enjoying some keelboat sailing. In May Week we hosted the ever popular Cuppers competition. We had a great turn out with 15 teams entering and many people experiencing sailing for the first time. Our hard working organiser Jenny Jiang booked the weather and we all enjoyed a perfect mix of team racing, BBQ and shore side games. The overall winners were a combined Gonville & Caius and Homerton team with the Silver league going to Newnham and Yachties.

Our year ended with the Varsity match against Oxford hosted by Royal Lymington Yacht club. The event was held in RS21s with two days of team racing for the open and womens teams. The open team went up 3-1 after the first day and were able to close out against Oxford to win 4-2. The women were not so fortunate, they had some incredibly close racing and took it right to the wire but unfortunately lost 4-3. Thank you to Oxford and Royal Lymington for an amazing event that rounded up a great year of team racing.

Overall, this has been a hugely successful year for the team. With two BUSA titles in the last two years and the return of the open varsity trophy we have lots to be proud of. The captains Lucius Bligh, Hannah Cox and Jenny Jiang have put in an incredible effort to support the team getting these results. We look forward to growing again next year with our new captains Tim Hire and Ellen Morely.

## Windsurfing and Wingfoiling

CUCrC has recently expanded its remit through the purchase and introduction of wingfoiling to the club. After a proposal from our Health and Safety officer Robbie McDonald, we purchased two sets of equipment to test out the feasibility of this new discipline at the club. So far we have got multiple committee members up and foiling and we look forward to offering more wingfoiling in the coming year.

Unfortunately, this year we were unable to organise a Varsity windsurfing match but we are hoping for a return in the new year along with a new cohort of freshers keen to take this on.

## Dinghy Sailing

This year saw big interest in casual dinghy sailing at Grafham. We ran regular outings each term with many people new to the sport. Lent term saw an RYA level 1 course which gave some of our newer sailors the confidence to start helming our fireflies themselves. In Easter term we brought back regular

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outings with weekend trips each week through term to help students destress from the pressure of exams. We even managed to run an introduction to team racing before cuppers which was well received.

Away from Grafham, various Cambridge students and alumni competed at the 2024 Firefly Nationals at Restronguet SC. Many of the current team racers also attended the 2024 RS200 Nationals at Mounts Bay Sailing Club.

## Alumni

The 2023 O&CSS Generations event ran to great success at the beginning of Michaelmas term. Our current sailors had a great time meeting past members of the club and helping run the racing. The light winds didn't curb the enthusiasm for the event and the sailors enjoyed a curry after racing to top off the event.

Lent term saw the return of the annual telephone campaign, where current members appreciated catching up with alumni and sharing their experiences of sailing with the Club. The Club thanks all its alumni for the generous support which keeps us sailing and enables everyone to get involved in this sport which we all love.

## Conclusion

It has been a pleasure to lead the club through this season. Hopefully you can see the effort that has been put in by every member of the club that has resulted in such achievements. In particular, credit has to go to this year's outgoing committee members for their hard work and dedication in running the club. Their time and effort has made CUCrC a joy to run for the last year. Thank you also to the senior committee, your advice and watchful eye has kept us on track and enabled the club to flourish.

This year we said goodbye to Michael John Gifford from the committee. I would like to thank MJ for the hard work and expertise he has provided over the years and wish him good luck for the future. I would also like to extend a thank you to our president, Mike Hayles. Mike has led the club for the past 8 years and his guidance and expertise have been invaluable. We wish him the best for the future and hope to see him again at future events. We also look forward to welcoming John Aston in December as the incoming president of CUCrC. John was a blue during his time at Cambridge and his previous commodoreship of Grafham Water SC will enable the club to carry on flourishing under his watchful eye.

Congratulations to all our graduates and outgoing committee members. I hope you keep in touch with CUCrC in the future as we continue to promote sailing both in Cambridge and the wider community. I leave the club in the safe hands of our incoming commodore Lianne Blok and the team under the expert direction of our new captain Tim Hire. I look forward to seeing what the next academic year brings!

Fair winds and GDBO,

***Will Adler***

**Commodore 2023/24**

An appendix to this report lists officers, major competition results, and teams for 2023/24.

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# Officers, Results, and Teams in 2023/24

## Officers

President:	Mike Hayles (Churchill)
Commodore:	Will Adler (Jesus)
Senior Treasurer:	Michael Crisp (Wolfson)
Senior Secretary:	Karl Aeberli (Pembroke)
Senior Committee:	Tom Hebbert (Caius)
	Jeremy Johnson (Christs)
VC Team Racing:	Luke Bligh (St Johns)
VC Windsurfing:	Johan Kidger (Trinity Hall)
RC Dinghy Sailing:	Charlotte Watson (St Johns)
Ladies TR Captain:	Hannah Cox (Churchill) and Jenny Jiang (Murray Edwards)
Junior Secretary:	Jenny Jiang (Murray Edwards)
Womens' Officer	Hannah Cox (Churchill)
Junior Treasurer:	Gordon Cogan Sivarajan (Robinson)
Publicity Officer:	Mattis Prince (Trinity)
Health & Safety:	Robbie McDonald (Caius)
Welfare:	Claudia Bazyk (Magdalene)
Alumni Administrator:	Richard Guy (Emmanuel)
Sustainability Officer	Lisanne Blok (Murray Edwards)
Webmasters	Mike Dunbar (Downing)
	Anthony Butler (Clare)
Trustees:	Patrick Gifford (Magdalene)
	Julia Gore-Randall (Pembroke)
	Eddie Lister (Caius)
	Honor Fell (Newnham)
	Jo Sammons (Caius)

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## Results and Teams

### Team Racing

Event	Date	Blue	Purple	Pink	Women
BUSA Team Racing Finals	2-4 April	1st	20th		
BUSA Women's Team Racing Nationals	16-17 March				1st Uni (3rd overall)
UKTRA Nationals 2024	23-24th March	1st in Bronze	1st in the Plate		
Top Gun	10-11 February	3rd			
Brummy Boom	27-28 November		1st	5th	
Warwick Turtle	27-28 January		Gold league	Silver league	
Wessex Winter Warmer	27-28 January	4th (1st uni)			

#### Blue

Tim Hire, Hannah Cox, Gordon Cogan-Sivarajan, Elizabeth Linsdell, Robbie McDonald, Lucius Bligh

#### Purple

Magnus Handley, Lisanne Blok, Ellen Morley, Sam Dernie, Charlie Merryweather, Jenny Jiang

#### Pink

Blake Tudor, Claudia Bazyk, Jesse Kibble, Joe Ayers, Max Vella, Mia Becker

## Match and Fleet Racing Competitions

Event	Class	Date & Venue	Sailors	Position
UK Firefly Nationals	Firefly	27th July - 2nd August, Restronguet SC	Gordon Cogan Sivarajan & Elizabeth Linsdell, Ellen Morley & Sam Dernie,	15th, 35th, 37th

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			Claudia Bazyk	
UK National Championships	RS200	21st-25th August, Hayling Island SC	Tim Hire, Will Adler, Mattis Prince, Ellen Morley, Magnus Handley & Charlotte Watson	28th, 71st, 77th, 94th and 116th

### College Competitions

- Team Racing Cuppers (21 June):** Caius/Homerton
- Team Racing Silver Fleet (21 June):** Newnham/Yachties
- Team Racing Bronze Fleet (21 June):** Jesus 3s

### Varsity Match Results and Teams

The 2024 Varsity Match was sailed in RS21’s at Royal Lymington Yacht Club from 1st-3rd July.

#### Team Racing:

- Open: Cambridge 4-2** (Team listed as 1<sup>st</sup> String Helm, 2<sup>nd</sup> String Helm, & Crew)
  - Charlie Merryweather (Homerton), Blake Tudor (Selwyn) & Lucius Bligh (Captain - St. John’s)
  - Gordon Cogan Sivarajan (Robinson), Magnus Handley (Emmanuel) & Lizzie Linsdell (Newnham)
  - Timothy Hire (Selwyn), Ellen Morley (Newnham) & Hannah Cox (Churchill)

#### Women: Oxford 4-3

(Team listed as Helm & Crews)

- Ellen Morley (Newnham), Hannah Cox (Captain - Churchill), Lisanne Blok (Murray Edwards) & Mia Becker (Emmanuel)
- Charlotte Watson (St. John’s), Jenny Jiang (Captain - Murray Edwards), Lizzy Linsdell (Newnham) & Claudia Bazyk (Magdalene)

### Awards

The 2024 Varsity Match was held at Royal Lymington Yacht Club from 1st-3rd July. The Windsurfing Varsity Match was not held this year. Blues have been awarded as shown below.

Full Blues
Elizabeth Linsdell

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<b>Half Blues</b>
Sam Dernie
Charlie Merryweather
Magnus Handley

**All Cambridge BUCS/BUSA/SWA sailing results are listed in this appendix for historical convenience.**

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