



# OUABC

## Alumni Newsletter

Michaelmas  
Term 2020

## Welcome to the Michaelmas Edition.

Covid devastated university life in Trinity Term. This is the best time to enjoy Oxford, exams aside and students do not always agree how important they are; punting, outside parties, balls *{do they still have them?}* and so on all add to the 'Oxford experience' and are not forgotten in a lifetime. OUABC has been affected as other sports although we were fortunate that the Varsity match happened before lockdown, result apart which means that CUABC have won the Truelove Trophy 55 times to OUABC's 54 times.

In the U.S.A, most Ivy League universities have a get together for all their sports partly due to the need for the different disciplines to meet NCAA {National Collegiate Athletic Association} rules. Harvard holds a large annual dinner at which the coaching staff, sponsors, and the great and good attend with one of the tasks being to recognize excellent coaching with the main award being 'Coach of the Year'. If Oxford sports clubs had held an equivalent event in the 1990's there would have been only one winner; the legendary Henry Dean, who was not only the most successful OUABC boxing coach but the most successful boxing coach ever in either Oxford or Cambridge and, arguably, coach of the decade across all sports. This edition carries a much delayed and well deserved biography and

tribute to him; a man who transformed so many lives for the better. Alf Gallie and Percy Lewis had a similar effect on young men but it was Henry who brought so much success to OUABC that the future of CUABC was questioned. I recall one Head teacher saying that teachers are ‘designers of the future’ and this comment applies equally to these three OUABC coaches. It is worth bearing that in mind as OUABC is currently in one of its periodic troughs; at least judging by results against CUABC. Henry, you are still a champion and the club salutes you!

As well as the latest news on club matters there follows an extraordinary self-penned obituary by Alex Hottell and a tribute to Fr. Paul Mankowski.

### The OUABC Committee 2020-2021.

There has been another resignation or stepping back due to health reasons so the new OUABC Committee is as follows:

**President:** Jo Heymann New College, Engineering.

**Vice-President:** Lakshmi Manohoran, Centre for Tropical medicine and Global Health, Epidemic Disease.

**Vice-President:** Ryan Fincham, Pembroke, Law.

**Secretary:** Paddy Lee, Exeter, Biomedical Sciences.

**Treasurer:** Alexander Pett, Merton, Physics.

**Men’s Captain:** Max Jenkins, Corpus Christi, Materials.

**Women’s Captain:** Unfilled.

**Men’s Vice-Captain:** Matt Proctor, Formerly University College, History.

**Women’s Vice-Captain:** Rachel Dauncey, Trinity, Maths.

The Committee is supported by the following:

**Social Secretaries:** Lisa Muttonen, Wadham, Law with LSE; Eleanor Kerfoot, Balliol, History; Alex Brindle, Somerville, PPE.

**Welfare Officers:** Niall Kelly, Wadham, Maths; Sarah Ashcroft-Jones, Queen’s College, Psychology.

**Sponsorship & Marketing/COVID Officer:** Francesca Cullura, University College, English.

**Stash Officer:** Ge Kuangning. Keble College, PPE.

## HENRY DEAN

Henry Dean [HD] was the most successful coach in the history of OUABC with an unparalleled record of thirteen consecutive victories against CUABC. When Henry took over as OUABC Coach in 1989, CUABC had won the Truelove Trophy 45 times to OUABC’s 32. By the time that he retired in 2001, OUABC had won 45 times which matched that of CUABC *{I didn’t read maths but I think that is right!}*.

Most boxers recognise that boxing is akin to fast physical chess and there are few activities short of active warfare which do more to build one’s confidence in oneself to face the world. In other words, boxing makes a man of you. *{Given the success of woman’s boxing at OUABC, I thought about suggesting that it can also make a ‘woman’ of you but in these days of gender fluidity, my limited literary skills could convey an entirely different meaning.....!}*. In OUABC terms, Henry was after my time, but every boxer I have met from his era has acknowledged that Henry made a huge difference to their lives and that they will be forever indebted to him.

HD was born in Bow in 1938 and is, therefore, a true Cockney. He was the eldest of two boys in a family of six elder and one younger sisters. The family was bombed out in 1943 and were evacuated to Oxford with Henry's father following a few weeks later. HD's mother, anxious to keep the family together, found a boarded up house owned by Magdalen College in York Place and occupied it despite its leaking roof and lack of heating. She was subsequently fined 10 shillings for squatting but the place became the family home with the children sleeping 4 to a bed with one privileged child having a single bed and Henry's parents sleeping downstairs.



**Henry Dean in 2019**, as smartly dressed as ever, proudly wearing his Head Coach 'Blues Style' Blazer. This was presented to Henry by the Chancellor of the University, The Rt Hon The Lord Patten of Barnes, at the official opening of the GLD.

Henry's boxing career began as an eleven year old pupil at SS Philip and James School in North Oxford after he presented himself to the YMCA Boxing Club in Walton Street where the coach was one Alf Gallie. There started a pugilistic journey of mutual respect. Henry won the Berks, Bucks, and Oxon

Schoolboy title the following year and this was followed by his first national title as National Association of Boys' Clubs lightweight champion at the age of sixteen. Those were the days of National Service and Henry joined the RAF becoming that Service's champion twice in 1957 and 1958. He lost the ABA final in 1962 to John Pritchett who went on to box over forty times as a professional and this was probably Henry's best year as he had earlier won the North West London welterweight title. He also boxed four times for England, twice against Nigeria and also against the U.S.A. and Wales. On his return to Oxford he regularly sparred with Percy Lewis who was to succeed Alf Gallie as coach both before and after National Service.

Henry retired from boxing in 1962 to take a two year sabbatical *{it is funny what marriage can do to people's lives}* and after taking a coaching course, became coach of Morris Motors Boxing Club. It was there that he was approached by Bob Nairac to assist with the coaching of OUABC but he was unable to do so given his existing commitments at Morris Motors, and Percy Lewis became increasingly involved taking over as coach in 1976 with Alf Gallie reverting to Assistant Coach until he died in 1985. Percy persuaded Henry to assist in 1986 and 1987 and Henry became coach of OUABC in 1989 succeeding David Holmes who was coach in 1987 and 1988. OUABC won sixteen successive Varsity matches from 1986 until 2001 which is unsurpassed in any Varsity sport. Thirteen of these victories were achieved under Henry which is a brilliant record, given how hard it is to beat CUABC especially on their home ground when one must knock one's opponent out to get a draw. Henry was succeeded by Des Bracket.

Henry has always had an eye for sartorial elegance and while working in the components' department at Morris Motors took on a Saturday job at Crombie's the menswear retailer in Oxford. He was asked to become manager and within three years, set up his own shop 'Moody's Menswear' in Abingdon. A second shop in Oxford soon followed. He later became steward at Pembroke College and then Vincents before taking over the Waterman's Arms in Osney; now called 'The Punter'. Unfortunately, Henry was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease from which he suffers the increasingly debilitating effects. Nevertheless, it was wonderful to see him at the Re-union dinner in 2018 and the Town v Gown on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Henry is immensely proud of the thoroughly deserved honour which OUABC bestowed on him by naming the new gym after Alf Gallie, Percy Lewis, and himself.



Henry (centre) cutting the ribbon to officially open the Gallie-Lewis-Dean Gym, 10 March 2018. Also in picture Leon Lewis, Percy Lewis, Chris Mack, and Chris Patten, the Chancellor

Photo John Cairns

Henry remarked to me that what he found best about OUABC was the camaraderie of the boxers, partly instilled by training seven days a week *{i.e. all of them!}*; and the worst when someone with boxing talent was unwilling to put in the time to be the best that he could be; *'plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose'*. What strikes me is the commitment of the former OUABC coaches who only received expenses and were unpaid. Such voluntary endeavour is the bedrock on which society relies.

Henry says there is never a day goes by he doesn't think about 'his boys.' He would be delighted for any Alumni to get in touch. Do call him on 01865 200141 or visit if you are ever in Oxford (and restrictions allow).

PWD.

11/10/20.

### Training:

Jo Heymann, OUABC President has written the following: *"We've had to make changes to our usual training sessions to accommodate COVID restrictions. England Boxing has imposed a ban on padwork and sparring so training will have more of a technique and strength focus this term with the aim to building up physical endurance. We're currently running 3-4 'small group' (up to six people in accordance with government guidelines) sessions per day - circuits/shadow boxing, sprints, technique (for beginners) and endurance (5-10k runs). These are each led by a member of committee or senior boxer. We've been receiving a huge amount of interest despite the current situation and have lots of talented new members who show lots of promise.*

*We've been unable to begin our three allocated sessions at Iffley this week but are hoping to receive 'Return to play' status from Sports Fed imminently. The Iffley sessions will be shorter, due to cleaning requirements, but effective with lots of shadow boxing and heavy bag training (hopefully the necessary strict starting times will set a new standard for timeliness in the club!)"*

### TvG & Varsity Match.

The 2021 Varsity match ought to be held on either the 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> March in Cambridge presumably at the Corn Exchange in Cambridge. This is being discussed between the respective Presidents of OUABC and CUABC. News will be circulated as soon as it is available. It is recommended that you book early if staying over.

### 'Stash' OUABC themed sports' wear and goods .

Items make a great present and one should persuade one's wife, partner, househusband, husband, etc. etc. etc. to buy you a present.

Here's the current list: Hoodie £35; Sweatshirt £23; Joggers £35; Vest £15; T Shirt £15; Beanie £12. There are fewer items this year as the Club has changed supplier. All items are in Oxford dark blue except for the vest and t shirt which are white. All items of stash except for the beanie are available in men's or women's sizes, XS to 2XL.

<https://www.behemothboxing.com/search?page=1&q=Ouabc+>

So if you want any OUABC flavoured kit, please contact Kuang on [kuangning.ge@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:kuangning.ge@keble.ox.ac.uk)



## Alumni Matters

Even for those of us who have been retired for some time, the introduction of data protection legislation and reinforcement of the challenges for charities and unincorporated associations such as the OUABC Alumni Association require attention. Thanks to Peter Ho {Featherweight, *which he isn't now*, 2004 to 2006} for working to produce new constitutional arrangements. Watch this space...

### Website Builder:

Hugo Morgan {Winning Middleweight, 1986 & 1987} has assisted with the OUABC website; for which many thanks. Students and alumni should be able to have their own generic login facilities. We are yet to include a history of who boxed when but we are only missing 2015 and 2016 so if any alumni who boxed can provide information namely: Colleges, weights; and, ideally their schools, please get in touch. Even if you only provide your own information, it will be a start. Scanned copies of the programme pages will do and will be much appreciated. Otherwise see the following link:

<https://www.ouabc.com/>

### Remembered:

Ron Stone (Lt Welter 1966) pointed us in the direction of the following self-written obituary of his friend and teammate, Alex Hottell, published in the New York Times. Alex was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1942 and graduated from West Point in 1964 becoming a Rhodes Scholar a year later; before boxing at welterweight in 1966. He was awarded two Silver Stars and a Purple Heart and died in a helicopter crash with Major General George Casey in July 1970.

*"I am writing my own obituary for several reasons, and I hope none of them are too trite.*

*First, I would like to spare my friends, who may happen to read this, the usual clichés about being a good soldier. They were all kind enough to me and I not enough to them.*

*Second, I would not want to be a party to perpetuation of an image that is harmful and inaccurate: "glory" is the most meaningless of concepts, and I feel that in some cases it is doubly damaging.*

*And thirdly, I am quite simply the last authority on my own death.*

*I loved the Army: it reared me, it nurtured me, and it gave me the most satisfying years of my life. Thanks to it I have lived an entire lifetime in 26 years. It is only fitting that I should die in its service. We all have but one death to spend, and insofar as it can have any meaning it finds it in the service of comrades-in-arms.*

*And yet, I deny that I died FOR anything - not my Country, not my Army, not my fellow man, none of these things. I LIVED for these things, and the manner in which I chose to do it involved the very real chance that I would die in the execution of my duties.*

*I knew this, and accepted it, but my love for West Point and the Army was great enough - and the promise that I would someday be able to serve all the ideals that meant anything to me through it was great enough - for me to accept this possibility as a part of a price which must be paid for all things of great value. If there is nothing worth dying for - in this sense - there is nothing worth living for.*

*The Army let me live in Japan, Germany, and England with experiences in all of these places that others only dream about. I have skied in the Alps, killed a scorpion in my tent camping in Turkey, climbed Mount Fuji, visited the ruins of Athens, Ephesus, and Rome, seen the town of Gordium where another Alexander challenged his destiny, gone to the Opera in Munich, plays in the West End of London, seen the Oxford- Cambridge rugby match, gone for pub crawls through the Cotswolds, seen the night-life in Hamburg, danced to the Rolling Stones, and earned a master's degree in a foreign university.*

*I have known what it is like to be married to a fine and wonderful woman and to love her beyond bearing with the sure knowledge that she loves me; I have commanded a company and been a father, priest, income-tax advisor, confessor, and judge for 200 men at one time; I have played college football and rugby, won the British National Diving Championship two years in a row, boxed for Oxford against Cambridge only to be knocked out in the first round and played handball to distraction - and all of these sports I loved, I learned at West Point. They gave me hours of intense happiness.*

*I have been an exchange student at the German Military Academy, and gone to the German Jumpmaster School, I have made thirty parachute jumps from everything from a balloon in England to a jet at Fort Bragg. I have written an article that was published in Army magazine, and I have studied philosophy.*

*I have experienced all these things because I was in the Army and because I was an Army brat. The Army is my life, it is such a part of what I was that what happened is the logical outcome of the life I lived.*

*I never knew what it is to fail, I never knew what it is to be too old or too tired to do anything. I lived a full life in the Army, and it has exacted the price. It is only just."*

See more at: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/8642077/john-alexander-hottell>

Ron explained that Alex neglected to mention that his loss in the Varsity match was to a Jamaican International! Trevor Faber (Feather 1966, 1967 Capt, Lt Welter 1968) sent his memory of seeing Alex when he returned to the gym in 1968: When Alf Gallie and I turned up for boxing training which was by then being held in the new Iffley Road sports centre (Alf and I travelled together because by then I was living in digs with him and his wife Lena in Kineton Road) we looked down onto the Sports Hall floor from the gallery where you walked in and saw somebody working out on a punch bag on his own looking like a world champion. I remember saying to Alf "crikey who on earth is that?"; we went down onto the floor and it was, of course, Alex.

**Fr. Paul Mankowski** boxed as a middleweight in 1982 and 1983 and has sadly died. The following link provides an obituary. <https://aleteia.org/2020/09/06/fr-paul-mankowski-remembered-as-defender-of-orthodox-teaching/>

Tony Abbott (heavy 1982,83), the former Australian Prime Minister, also wrote a tribute <https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2020/09/remembering-fr-paul-mankowski>

Danny Daggenhurst {winning Welterweight in 1982} writes that this obituary captured some of his drive and passion, that Percy Lewis rated him highly as a person and that he radiated a 'kindly

ferocity'. He is remembered as someone with a good sense of humour and great kindness; perhaps the best of all Christian virtues.

### **Sponsorship**

OUABC is keen to expand the number of sponsors it has. If there is a Town v Gown individual bouts can be sponsored for £100. Alumni are requested to make sponsorship payments through the University, as this means that OUABC gets the full benefit of Gift Aid. Sponsorship will be by weight rather than individual named boxer to allow for last minute changes to the programme. Alumni will get mentioned in the Programme and hopefully more than one alumnus can be persuaded to sponsor each bout.

For either corporate or individual sponsorship please contact the OUABC President, Jo Heymann at: [joanna.heymann@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:joanna.heymann@new.ox.ac.uk);

### **Financial Support and Gift Aid.**

Thank you to everyone who donates to the Club directly or by standing order to the Alumni Association. If anyone wishes to donate by standing order to the Alumni Association please contact the Treasurer, Tim Fell: [tim@fell.net](mailto:tim@fell.net). The Alumni Association distributes funds to the Club over time as and when needed and has helped the Club to survive on occasion. For those who wish to donate to the Club directly, it is possible to do so via the University using the following link and such donations attract Gift Aid and are uplifted by 25%.

<https://www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/make-a-gift?id=4a9455e7-b5c0-4b89-8629-a3a814c8e725>