



OUABC Alumni Newsletter

Hilary Term
2018

What a Weekend!

Last month OUABC Alumni enjoyed a tremendous weekend of celebration with the official opening of the Gallie-Lewis-Dean Gym, the largest ever reunion dinner, and the 111th and 3rd Varsity Matches.



Gallie-Lewis-Dean Gym Opened

On Saturday 10 March and thanks to the wonderful efforts of Chris Mack and the support of so many boxing alumni, the long anticipated Gallie-Lewis-Gym was officially opened by former head coaches Percy Lewis and Henry Dean. We were delighted that Lord Patten, Chancellor of the University, showed his support for OUABC and its fundraising efforts by hosting the event. Chris Mack opened

proceedings in the marquee where, in true OUABC tradition, there was plenty of alcoholic refreshment but - with the intention of keeping the guests' respective boxing weights - no canapés! Chris introduced Percy, Henry and their families and the members of Alf Gallie's family to an appreciative audience where so many old friendships were restored. Alf's great nephew, Giles Gallie, had even flown from Canada to be present. It was an extraordinarily moving occasion as Lord Patten presented the coaches with specially tailored 'Blues' styled blazers with the words 'Head Coach' emblazoned underneath the club crest.

The Chancellor gave a gracious speech in which he acknowledged that the University had not provided as much investment in sporting facilities as it might have over the last years. This is now being addressed by the opening of the Acer Nethercott Sports Hall and the GLD, the first phase of the ambitious redevelopment plans for the Iffley Road sports complex.

After the ringing of the 'Bannister Bell', Percy and Henry declared 'seconds out, GLD open!' The 200 or so guests then proceeded to 'decant' to the new GLD gym itself. It wasn't long before the heavy bags took some punishment, those foolish enough attempted to skip, and many even sparred in the ring attempting to resuscitate boxing skills last used decades before. As someone quipped, 'the older we get, the better we were!' It was such a wonderful occasion where there was so much affection in evidence for OUABC and its coaches.

See here for more pictures by clicking here: [John Cairns' Photographs of Opening Ceremony](#)

Reunion Dinner

There followed an excellent dinner at St Hilda's, organised by Kate Newton, who achieved the impossible feat of surpassing the last reunion dinner in 2015 at Pembroke College. This was the largest ever reunion dinner with more than 160 guests, including many wives and partners and the current OUABC team and committee. Special mention was made of the following attendees who travelled from abroad:

RUPERT DEIGHTON,	HEAVY 1967 & 68,	FRANCE.
STEVE DIGGLE,	LIGHT WELTER 1986,	SINGAPORE.
DAVID HEAVER,	LIGHT MIDDLE, CAPTAIN 1978,	FRANCE.
MARK HUDSON,	MIDDLE 2004,	ISTANBUL.
JOHN MACKENZIE,	LIGHT HEAVY 1974 & 75,	ITALY.
STEVE MICHAUD,	LIGHT 1972 & 73 AND OUABC COACH, GOLDEN GLOVES CHAMPION,	NEW YORK.
FRANK MCLAUGHLIN,	LIGHT 1987,	NEW YORK.
RICHARD MORGAN,	LIGHT WELTER 1975, WELTER 1976,	AUSTRALIA.
CHRIS PEARS,	LIGHT MIDDLE 1986, MIDDLE 1987,	MINNESOTA.
NICK WILCOCKSON,	LIGHT MIDDLE 1975,	LOS ANGELES.

In the speeches one highlight was the awarding of an honorary OUABC black bin liner to Chris Pears in memory of his days running round Iffley Road track sweating to lose weight (no one else ever had that problem did they?).



Overall it was a splendid night of camaraderie, fun and reminiscences thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees. Don't delay in signing up for the next dinner when the invite comes out!

More photographs can be viewed on our [Shared Google Drive](#)

Varsity Matches: defeat by Cambridge

The only dampening of sentiment on a wonderful weekend for Oxford Boxing was defeat by Cambridge of both the OUABC men's and women's teams at the Town Hall on Friday, 9th March. Perhaps it was too much to hope that on this weekend of all the men might have gone ahead by 3 bouts for the first time ever. Tickets for the match sold out within 36 hours of going on sale to the public and thanks should go to the committee for ensuring the many alumni attending were well taken care of in advance. As always, the atmosphere was fantastic and I would encourage alumni who haven't been back for some time to use the next match in Oxford (provisionally set for Saturday 7 March 2020) to get in touch with old friends and enjoy a noisy, partisan and entertaining evening.



OUABC before the match

There are two ways to win a boxing match; viz: hit your opponent more often than he or she hits you or make sure you get hit less often; the latter in keeping with the art of self-defence. Cambridge boxers usually go for the former tactic and on the night too few of OUABC were able to cope. The Club had suffered drop outs in recent weeks and it was, therefore, something of a 'scratch' team. So

alumni should take heart from brave performances, as the lack of experience was obvious with too many OUABC boxers not keeping their right in front of their face and by their left shoulders and taking punishment to the head thereby. Some did not move sideways or backwards to avoid getting hit. Going backwards is not a sin if your opponent misses. Moving to the left when boxing a southpaw reduces the risk of taking big punches. These mistakes were down to inexperience not lack of effort and the result, although a defeat; does not presage failure in the future.

The Oxford women lost 2-1 while the men were beaten 6-3. While it will take intense training in the coming months for the Oxford team to outbox Cambridge next year there are grounds for optimism with so many novices representing the Club.

49 kg: Lara Kotecha (Hertford) fought bravely against a fit, tough, and wily opponent, Claudia Tam (St John's) and took repeated punishment before the referee stopped the bout.



Sasha Skovron, Dave Mace, & Lara Kotecha

51kg. Sasha Skovron (Wadham) kept her right glove away from her left shoulder allowing her opponent Madeleine Hyde (Downing) ample opportunity to inflict heavy punishment. The referee called a standing count at the end of the 2nd round and at the beginning of the 3rd before stopping the contest.

59kg. In contrast, Lydia Welham (St. Edmund Hall) cruised to victory over Emma Baghurst (Selwyn) who fought too 'square on' allowing Lydia to score with body shots and win unanimously on points. It was an excellent performance by the Oxford woman.



Lydia Welham in action

Featherweight, 57kg. Joel Howells (Kellogg) was unfortunate to lose on a split points' decision to Rafael Bertoli-Mitchell (Christ's) who came forward relentlessly throwing punches. Joel missed with upper cuts and changed to southpaw during the bout, which does not always impress judges, yet was effective with his jabs. Joel could easily have won and he should feel unlucky.

Lightweight, 60kg. Sam Luxa (New College) brought relief and anticipation to the supportive, raucous crowd and easily won the first two rounds by jabbing and moving so that as his opponent, Tim Benger (Robinson) tired, Sam was able to use combination punching to such effect that the referee stopped the bout in his favour in the 3rd round. It was an excellent display by a talented boxer.

Light Welterweight 63.5 kg. Christopher Huang (Brasenose) was compact in stance and economic in style and able to throw effective rights against his southpaw opponent, Dominic Hall (St. John's). Hall had no answer to the effective hard punching of the Oxford boxer who won by a unanimous decision.



Polchate Kraprayoon with Dave Mace

Welterweight 67kg. Southpaw and Captain, Polchate Kraprayoon (Nuffield), was unlucky to only win on a majority decision against Harry Holdstock (Emmanuel); an aggressive but limited boxer. Polchate managed his opponent's longer reach by getting inside to inflict punishment and make his opponent miss. Polchate threw excellent lefts and fought a composed fight.

Unfortunately, that was as good as the evening got for OUABC as, from being 3-1 up in the match; Oxford conceded the following 5 bouts.

Light Middleweight 71 kg. Alec Murphy (Corpus Christi) was defeated by Alexander Stoilov (Gonville and Caius). There was little to choose between the boxers but the Cambridge fighter's aggression and longer reach saw him through. With a little more ring guile there could have been a better result for as boxers trade punches, the one with the longer reach has the advantage.

Middleweight 75 kg. Ravi Hayer (St. Edmund Hall) was unfortunate to lose on a split decision despite his opponent (Aiden Cope of Wolfson) noticeably tiring as the bout progressed. Ravi was unable to get close enough against an opponent with a much longer reach to inflict sufficient damage in the first round but won the second comfortably. The Cambridge boxer stayed out of trouble in the third which was probably drawn but Ravi had lost too many points early in the bout to make up the deficit. Ravi should take great heart from his performance.

Middleweight, 75 kg. Gabriele Abbati of Linacre (the retiring President of OUABC) had a sad swansong and was forced to withdraw from his bout at the end of the first round under direction from Head Coach, Dave Mace. Gabriele had not expected to box but, to his immense credit took up the cudgels only four weeks before the match owing to the absence of another boxer. He came up against a competent two fisted opponent, (Elliot Tebboth of Selwyn). With more training and better preparation, a different outcome could have resulted.

Light Heavyweight, 81kg. Gustaf Behmer (Corpus Christi) was unfortunate to box against a street fighting opponent in returning blue Judah Aiyenuro (St John's) who dropped a division from heavyweight in 2017. It was a tough 'ask' for Gustaf but he performed creditably as his opponent was capable of throwing more punches quickly thanks to a high level of fitness and much longer reach. Gustaf tried to keep his head down which meant that he began to be unable to defend himself and the bout was stopped at the end of the first round.

Heavyweight, 91 kg. Hugo Brewer (Merton) fought bravely against Lee James (Jesus) but was a little too 'square' and boxed with his head down which meant that he could not use his reach advantage to good effect. His opponent was two fisted and aggressive and caught the Oxford man with rights so that the referee stopped the bout midway through the third round.



Hugo Brewer

OUABC's men lead the series 54-53, with 4 draws while the women are now 2-1 down in the series. It will be mistaken to be too downhearted by a team performance which owed much to inexperience and boxers dropping out.

For those readers who wish to plan their weekends ahead, the 2019 Varsity Boxing Match will be held at the Cambridge Corn Exchange on 9th March with a 7pm to 7-30 pm start. The 2020 match will be on 7th March.

All photographs taken at the Town Hall are courtesy of **Jessica Lee**.

Comments and articles for the next edition should be sent to me, Peter W. Davies, at peterwinder@icloud.com

Gallie-Lewis-Dean Gym Official Opening Dinner: Saturday 10 March 2018, St Hilda's College, Oxford.

Attendees:

Alumni Alphabetically

Years Boxed

Terry	Adams	1955	1956	1957	1958
Andrei	Akhvlediani	2011	2012		
Simon	Albert	2000	2001		
Charles	Allday	1992			
Karim	Ayoubi	1994	1995	1996	
Keith	Bolshaw	1973			
John	Borgars	1965	1966	1967	1968
David	Boulton	1987			
Freddy	Brown	2004	2006	2007	
Tom	Burrough	1986			
Ed	Cartwright	1999	2000	2001	
Aidan	Coghlan	2000			
John	Coker	1966			
Frank	Copplestone	1991	1992		
Dave	Crellin	1998			
Peter	Crystal	1968			
Owen	Darbishire	1987			
Peter	Davies	1972	1973	1974	
William	de Laszlo	2001			
Rupert	Deighton	1967	1968		
Steve	Diggle	1986			
Robin	Duggan	1986	1987	1988	
Simon	Duggan	1986	1988		
Michael	Duggan	1991	1992		
James	Eddy	1993	1994		
Trevor	Faber	1966	1967	1968	
Tim	Fell	1989			

Lewis Family

Percy	Lewis
Leon	Lewis
Sasie	Lewis
Leonisa	MacBurnie
Gavin	MacBurnie

Dean Family

Arron	Bowman-Smith
Joshua	Church
Henry	Dean
Nick	Dean
Jason	Dean
Darren	Turner

Holmes Family

David	Holmes
Jenny	Holmes
Eloise	Holmes

Gallie Family

Cyril	Gallie
Richard	Gallie
Giles	Gallie
Joanne	Szymkov

Thomas	Freije	2005	2006	
John	Garson	1969	1971	
James	Glancy	2004		
Andrew	Grieve	2003		
Gabriel	Hamid	1987		
Oliver	Harriman	2011	2012	
David	Heaver	1978		
David	Holbrook	1987		
Robert	Howard	1993		
Steffen	Hoyemsvoll	2011		
Mark	Hudson	2004		
Thomas	Hughes	2007	2008	
Andrew	James	1995	1996	
Brian	Jones	1961	1962	
Stephen	Kennedy	1976	1977	1978
Mark	Linehan	1985	1988	
Chris	Long	1962		
Femi	Macaulay	1985		
Chris	Mack	1985	1986	
John	Mackenzie	1974	1975	
Julian	Malins	1969	1970	1971
Charles	Masraff	1970		
David	McBride	1987		
Patrick	McGuinness	1983	1985	
Frank	McLaughlin	1987		
Hugh	McManners	1977		
Steven	Michaud	1972	1973	
Richard	Morgan	1975	1976	
Hugo	Morgan	1986	1987	
Mark	Mullins	1999		
Seim	Munif	1994	1995	1996
Sam	Neaman	1984	1985	
Paul	Newton	1976	1977	1979

Coaches

Zar	Ahmed
Des	Brackett
Lorraine	Brackett
Jim	Frew
Greg	Kilkenny
Dave	Mace
Harley	Mace
Rob	Southey

Students

Gabriele	Abbati
Alex	Gabel
Isra	Hale
Ravi	Hayer
Joel	Howells
Chris	Huang
Laura	Jonas
David	Kim
Adrian	Kozhevinikov
Jam	Kraprayoon
Sam	Luxa
Ben	Phan
Patrick	Swire
Georgia	Walker
Lydia	Welham

Kate	Newton	2009		
Stephen	O'Driscoll	2014		
Philip	O'Mahony	1998		
Chris	Pears	1986	1987	
Andrew	Peck	1981		
Lord Tom	Pendry	1957	1958	
Anthony	Potts	1993		
Ian	Price	1986		
Fabio	Quaradeghini	1992	1993	
Richard	Roberts	1984	1985	
Kit	Rogers	1989		
Jamie	Stein	1996		
Oliver	Thomas	2002		
Chris	Tooley	1987		
Mark	Vincent	1973	1975	
Graham	Ward	1972	1973	1974
Richard	Westover	1988		
James	Whitman	2004		
Nicholas	Wilcockson	1975		
Gordon	Willoughby	1982	1983	1984