

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RIFLE ASSOCIATION

(registered Charity 258396)



Autumn Newsletter



Dear Members, Alumni and friends of CURA and CUSBC,

With another season of fullbore drawing to an end and days growing shorter, we once again retreat to the comparative warmth of QEW to watch countless new faces turn to smallbore for the first time. Now, we take the opportunity to look back on the successes of last year, as well as forwards to the excitement of the season to come.

CURA Dinner

Firstly, we would like to warmly invite you to the Annual CURA Dinner which will be held on the **14th of March at Sidney Sussex College**. As ever, this promises to be a night to remember for shooters past and present.

Fullbore Season

This year's season will kick off with our Easter Bisley camp from the **26th of March to the 2nd of April**, where we hope to see a strong start to the new year of shooting. Last year saw one of the largest numbers of sign-ups in recent memory, and we were thrilled to have so many new members brave the March weather and Bisley 'flu

to pick up both Target and Match Rifle. Another strong recruitment from CUSBC behind us has us hopeful to see a continued interest in the club for the coming season. With the unfortunately reduced presence of schools and cadets at Bisley it is even more vital for the club to remain open to a wide range of potential shots - something which your commitment continues to make possible. If you would like to help with the training of our members, whether that be through range time, talks, or just general advice, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Fundraising and Donations

As always, cost remains the primary barrier for prospective members. That being said, your support has made, and will continue to make, a significant difference for members of the club. Thanks to the incredible response to last year's appeal, the club now possesses a complete loading setup which has not only reduced the cost of Match Rifle, allowing one of the greatest intakes of new MR shooters in recent years, but also committed firmly to history the long weekends spent waiting for a loading room to be free.

Thank You

We are incredibly grateful for the dedication of the Alumni community to keeping the club running and in Oxford-beating shape. We would especially like to thank our senior committee for their invaluable advice, and the Lovell and Green Trust for their commitment to keeping the sport open to younger members. You are all invaluable to the club and I speak for all of our members when I say thank you for your support.

Stay Connected

As ever, if you know anyone who has not received this letter or whose contact details have changed, please do let us know so we can keep in touch with Alumni and friends of the club alike.

We wish you all the best both on the range and off, and look forward to seeing you at the CURA Dinner.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'b vary'.

Ben Vary
CURA Captain 2025-2026



CUSBC Captain's update

CUSBC has had an excellent year in the 2024-25 season. Our Heslop team won the centennial match 1541-1531, bringing our current winning streak up to 20 years, though we narrowly lost the Bentata. Cambridge also claimed the Kensington, Ex-Caps and Lerman trophies, with the Ex-Caps team smashing the previous team record. Our A Team went into BUCS finals as the strongest team in the country, though we narrowly lost out on a third-place medal. The club also saw individual successes as Vita Chamberlain-Evans won the novice individual event, and Amy Xu took third in the women's.



Firers, Adjutants, and the Heslop after this year's Varsity

We have had a promising start to the new year, with nearly 180 members in the club, many of whom are already shooting in jackets and slings. With this wealth of new talent, we are working hard to maintain the success of last year, and bring the Bentata back to its rightful home in Hawks'.

CURA Dinner

We hope to see many of you at the CURA Dinner on the 14th of March 2026 at Sidney Sussex College. As ever it promises to be an evening of enjoyment for both old friends and new faces alike. Please RSVP via the online form below, or return invitation forms to us via email to social@curifle.org.uk, or post to the address indicated on the invitation.

If you generously decide to include a donation with your dinner payment, either by BACS or cheque, please consider filling out the Gift Aid form to ensure your donations go as far as possible towards helping the club.



Last year's CURA Dinner

RSVP form: <https://forms.gle/jVcKD8TRdPpt5QLH6>

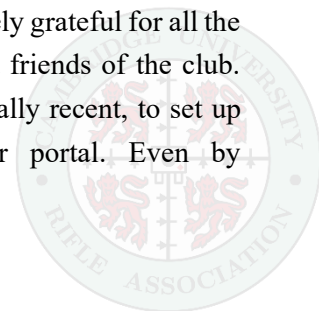
Fundraising and Donations

This year, CURA aims to replace our aging coaching headsets which have proved increasingly unreliable in recent Varsity matches. With borrowed headsets having to be arranged for both of last year's matches, it has become clear that the club would benefit greatly from the acquisition of reliable, wireless headsets of our own. Additionally, with the increased number of members managing to attend the Imperial Meeting, we have found the club to be short of good quality scopes. Last year a number of members had to resort to sharing scopes, with their exchange often necessitating dashes between ranges. In order to allow for our increasing membership, and the continued commitment of those members to shooting the Meeting, CURA aims to purchase new scopes and stands in order to encourage individual shooting in the years to come.

Find out more about these projects and others, as well as how to support the club, here

[Rifle Association \(CURA\) | Support Cambridge](#)

As always, we would like to make clear that any donation, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference. We are always immensely grateful for all the support shown by the Alumni and friends of the club. We encourage any Alumni, especially recent, to set up recurring donations through our portal. Even by



donating a few pounds a month, you can help us bring both shooting and the shooting community to students of all ages, and maintain CURA's long held role as the beginning of many life-long commitments to the sport.

As before, you can contribute when you RSVP for CURA Dinner or through the donation portal above. All donations are eligible for gift aid and will go directly to CURA. We thank you again for your ongoing support. You are what keeps this club going and allows us to keep shooting open to as many people as possible, allowing them to enjoy the same experiences we have.

Imperial Meeting 2025

Chancellors': CURA 1137.99v – OURC 1133.109v
Humphry: OURC 835.66v – CURA 827.53v

MR Imperial

July 12th this year marked the start of the 156th Imperial Meeting, kicking off with the Hopton. With nine of our members attending the MR Imperial Meeting, six for the first time, this represents a promising 50% increase compared to last year. Although it was unpleasantly warm, the winds at least were quite calm at the beginning. However, on Monday, the wind had not only changed direction, but had also picked up substantially overnight, with many a humbling magpie (or worse) being seen up and down the range.

After the excitement of the Elcho, for which we gained a front-row seat by helping out behind the point, came the Humphry. Despite many of our usual coaches being involved in the Woomera match this year, both sides managed to put together strong teams. After an uneventful late morning start at 1000x, Oxford were six points ahead by lunchtime, which they increased to eight points at 1100x after a delayed start due to the rain.

Falling back to 1200x, the conclusion was by no means certain, and all was still to play for – after all, MR matches are often won and lost at 1200 yards. With our spirits lifted by a motivational speech from our adjutant, Hannah Fisher, we put up a fine performance at the final distance, matching Oxford on points. Sadly, it was not enough to reclaim the Humphry, and we lost with

827.53v to Oxford's 835.66v. A special mention should go to Vita Chamberlain-Evans, who in her novice year top-scored her first CURA Varsity with an impressive 210.19v.



Congratulations to our Humphry team for a closely shot match

Many thanks to our adjutant Hannah, our coaches Charles Dickenson, Alex Cargill-Thompson and Claire Halleran, our plotter Tom Smith, and our many members and Alumni helping out behind the point. Congratulations to Oxford on their hard-fought victory, and we are eagerly looking forward to seeing the Humphry back in its rightful home in Hawks next year.

TR Imperial

Marking the end of the MR season with the Humphry Dinner, we barely had time to catch our breath before kicking off the TR Imperial with the Astor, which Joe Pattison top scored with an outstanding 105.17v. The Grand Aggregate started with the Donegall on a wet Saturday morning, which would become a bit of a theme in the days to come.



Cambridge A faces strong competition in this year's Universities long range match



Despite the uncooperative weather, CURA saw many individual and team successes, with Joe, Will Bacon and Ho Lam Yiu getting through to St. George's II. Will also reached King's II, and four of our members were selected for various roles on the English team for the Universities National match. Our A Team put up an impressive performance in a challenging Universities Long Range Match to come third on the range and third overall in this year's fullbore BUCS. We also won the Universities Aggregate¹, as well as the inaugural Universities Short Range match.

With 14 members shooting the Grand this year, including five novices, the Chancellors' team selection was bound to be competitive. An early morning start on Friday saw both teams underperform at 300x, though we secured an early lead by eight points. Finding their form at 500x and aided by not one but two rifle problems on our side necessitating a mad dash to Fultons, Oxford managed to narrow the gap to a three-point lead.

Wind conditions proved tricky at 600x, with the mirage and flags blowing in completely opposite directions at one point and requiring a short waiting period while our coaches deliberated over the wind. Under their expert guidance, our team put up admirable performances across the board, with nobody dropping more than two points. Though Oxford put up a similarly strong performance at 600x, we ultimately prevailed by four points, winning the Chancellors' with 1137.99v to Oxford's 1133.109v. Congratulations to Will Bacon for top scoring for the Cambridge team with 147.16v.



The Chancellors' remains where it belongs after another successful year of TR

Our thanks are due to our adjutant Richard Vary, our register keepers Alice Good (GM) and Eisah Suleman, and all of our members helping with various duties behind the point and relieving the pressure on the team. Thank you to Oxford for such a well-fought match – you certainly kept it a nail-biter to the very end.

Easter Bisley

This year's Easter Bisley started off on a leisurely Monday morning spent setting up novices with their newly assigned target rifles in the garden of the English Eight. The novices also got to try their hand at plotting with a short but informative plotting exercise in the afternoon.

The next two days involved coached TR shooting at 300x, 600x, and 900x in relatively easy winds, allowing seniors and novices alike to get good zeroes in preparation for the all-important Cap v. Sec match on Thursday.

While last year we boasted about fielding two full VIIIs for Cap v. Sec, this year we were able to put together three teams, with Amy having to step up and lead the newly created Vice-Captain's team, a reflection of our fruitful recruitment efforts. Congratulations go to the Captain's team for winning by a significant margin of 51 points, as well as the top scorer of the day, Amy, who beat Joe by a single V.

As the winds picked up over the course of the week, we spent our last day of TR on Friday letting the novices have a go at self-coached shooting or taking a seat in the coaching chair at 500x. Saying goodbye to Century, we returned to the 900x points in the afternoon, where the strong winds served as a test of our seniors' wind reading skills.

On Saturday and Sunday, we switched gears to Match Rifle. Keeping up our track record from last year, about half of our members shot the proper way after some strong encouragement from our Captain. Despite shooting 200 grain bullets at 900x, the fishtailing wind conditions still proved to be tricky (or "fun", as Ashley puts it).

¹ The fact that Cambridge was the only university to enter any teams for the Unis Aggregate will be relegated to this footnote.

All considered, this Easter Bisley was a successful one, with the novices now acquainted with the basics of fullbore shooting and our seniors now having recalled how to put a bullet through the middle. We were certainly blessed with good weather – there was no significant rain and the weather at times could even be described as pleasantly warm. With such talent in the club, we are looking forward to building a strong, Oxford-beating squad over the next few months in the run-up to the Imperial.



We were delighted to see such an impressive number of members at Bisley this year

Many thanks must go to our Alumni and friends who helped out with their insightful talks and skilful coaching over the course of the week, including Chris Haley, Jacob Mallabone, Emily Wackan, Adam Leech, Ashley Abrahams, Rosanne Furniss, Alice Good, Alex Harrison, Nick Tremlett and Chris Law.

Other Matches

Dale Cup and RAFTRC Match 2025

On a bright and sunny April Saturday, six of our members met with representatives from the RAFTRC, OCRA and Cambridgeshire to shoot our first external match of the season.

Kicking off with 900x and 1000x in the morning, our 900x results saw some very admirable scores being put down by many members of our team. The wind began to pick up by mid-morning though, and 1000x saw deceptively easy-looking flags that dropped us many points. After a rather rushed lunch that was mostly spent

in the queue at Fat Tony's, we continued with shooting at 300x and 600x, where the wind continued to prove tricky.

In the end, we came off with 1079.73v, just behind the RAF's 1081.66v and quite a bit behind OCRA's 1137.101v. In the Dale Cup, CURA ended with a 740.55v, sandwiched between OCRA's 766.65v and Cambridgeshire's 674.28v.



Peaceful flags at the Dale Cup may have been deceiving, as our members discovered

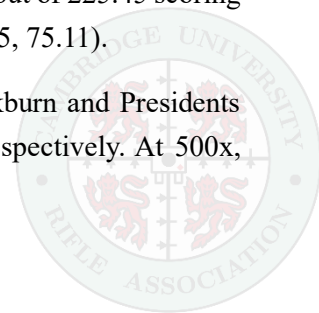
Congratulations to OCRA for winning both the OCRA v. CURA v. RAFTRC match and the Dale Cup, and to Joe Pattison, who top scored for CURA with an impressive 191.14v. Thank you to all who participated in the match for the friendly competition, and we hope to see you again next year!

Scottish Open

The Scottish hills and sunny weather made for a fantastic start of the Open at 400x. We shot two details at 400x, adjusting to the range and the landscape, and enjoying the Scottish hospitality. Despite the sunny start, we were quickly also joined by the Scottish weather, with sudden downpours having us scrambling to cover ourselves and our rifles.

In the afternoon we fell back to 600x where we had to deal with Blair Atholl's famous tricky wind for the first time. The fearless local fauna kept us company, without much care for our human concepts of danger areas and firing points (everyone, human or sheep, was safe!). Congratulations to our top scorer Amy Xu, placing 12th in the day's aggregate with 221.21 out of 225.45 scoring possibles on both 400x details (75.5, 75.11).

On Saturday we shot the Bannockburn and Presidents competitions at 500x and 600x respectively. At 500x,



Vita Chamberlain-Evans scored an impressive 74.11, followed by Amy Xu with 73.7 and Matt Bailey with 72.7. At 600x, Bruno Iwanczyk scored 73.10, followed by Vita Chamberlain-Evans with 73.8 and Juntao Huang with 72.8. Finally, there was the Lawrence Cup also taking place at 600 yards, featuring Amy Xu on team England. Through the strong performance of the squad across both Friday and Saturday, we retained the Schools' and Universities' Cup for the 2nd year running.



Some suspiciously dry CURA members in Scotland during another enjoyable Scottish Open

Sunday's course of fire was particularly demanding, engaging targets at 900x and subsequently 1000x in the infamous Blair winds, which demanded unwavering concentration against a field of seasoned competitors.

It was in this challenging environment that the team's character truly showed. The 900x shoot was particularly strong, highlighted by 73.7vs from Juntao Huang and Luca Schwarz. They were supported by solid scores from Vita Chamberlain-Evans with 71.8v, and Edison Thayer with 70.11v. When contending with the further 1000x distance, Luca Schwarz again led the squad with a 70.5v, followed by key contributions from Bruno Iwanczyk's 69.7v and Amy Xu's 69.5v.

We are hugely grateful to the STS and Claire for having us at such an enjoyable and well-organised competition, and we certainly hope to return again next year! Thanks also to Luca Schwarz, Matt Bailey, Vita Chamberlain-Evans, and Juntao Huang for driving across the country to get us and all our kit there; to Firas Aleem for reviving our social media; to Matei, Bruno, and Edison for the daily writeups; to Jacob Parsons for lending us kit.

Alumni and Member News

CURA's successes are not the only ones that need celebrating this year, as our Alumni and a number of our members continue to show us how it's done.

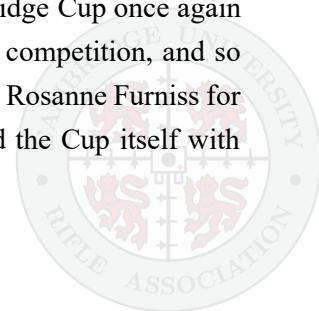
This year, we are very proud to have three of our members involved in higher level shooting. Amy Xu was not only selected for the GB U25 squad, but will also be representing the NRA in the 2026 Channel Islands tour, alongside CURA Alumni Bruce Winney and Richard Vary. Additionally, both Joe Pattison and Will Bacon have been selected for the England development squad. The club is delighted to be able to support them in these achievements and we all wish them the best of luck.

This year's Imperial Meeting also saw the return of the Woomera to Stickledown, with four CURA Alumni representing the victorious England team in various roles. Our congratulations go to Nick Tremlett, John Lindsay III, Nick Brasier, and Rob Lygoe for their selection and inspirational performance. Rob Lygoe also deserves additional mention for top scoring the Hopton with a 991.107v in highly challenging conditions. We hope to see many new generations of CURA Match Riflers follow in your footsteps.



Rosanne and Luca take front and centre at this year's Cambridge Cup

Slightly north-east of Stickledown, on Barton Road Range in Cambridge, another prestigious Match Rifle event was held. This year's Cambridge Cup once again brought difficult winds and strong competition, and so massive congratulations must go to Rosanne Furniss for winning both the Spoon Shoot and the Cup itself with



an impressive score of 439.58v. Additionally, special mention must go to Luca Schwarz, who won the Notman Student's Cup only four points behind her with a score of 435.46v.

On the Target Rifle front, Rupert Fitzsimmons put in a strong performance throughout to come sixth overall in the Grand, dropping only 12 points overall with a score of 768.92v. We would also like to mention the number of our Alumni selected for the initial Palma 2028 squad: Rupert Fitzsimmons, Katherine Fleck, Rosanne Furniss, Alice Good, Richard Jeens, Kelvin Ramsey, and Bruce Winney. Well done to all and we wish you good shooting going forwards.



Reloading Update

Last year, we shared with you the growing financial pressures facing our fullbore shooters and our ambition to reduce ammunition costs by developing our own in-house reloading capability. Thanks to the remarkable generosity of our Alumni community, we are delighted to report that this project has been an overwhelming success and will ensure a much healthier financial situation moving forward within the club.

Your support, whether through recurring donations, one-off contributions, or adding a little extra to your CURA Dinner RSVP, enabled us to fully equip the reloading facility we had only hoped for twelve months ago.

Today, CURA operates a complete, dual-site reloading setup across Cambridge and Bisley, including:

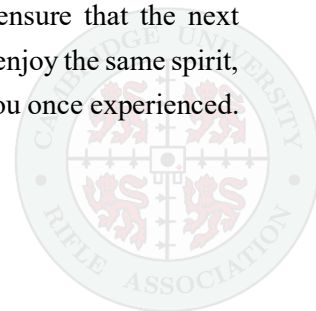
- Four reloading presses
- A full suite of dies for all stages of precision loading operations
- Trimming and priming units
- Equipment for converting crimped-primer brass for standard primers
- Three high-precision autotricklers with scales
- Washing and drying case prep stations
- Additional tooling that has dramatically improved our output and consistency

This infrastructure has transformed our ammunition programme. We can now produce large quantities of highly competitive Match Rifle ammunition, bringing the cost per round down to £1.10, among the lowest we have seen in recent years and well below current TR factory prices. This reduction has already made fullbore shooting more accessible to our student members, supported recruitment into MR, and helped ensure that financial barriers do not prevent talented shooters from progressing. Not to mention, we can now control the loading process and tailor it as we see fit to further increase accuracy over time.

Most importantly, your contributions have created a sustainable, long-term capability. These facilities will continue to support generations of CURA members, preserving both the excellence and the inclusivity of fullbore shooting at Cambridge.

This year, we aim to make even greater use of our new equipment. Our loading weekends are now scheduled, during which we plan to process over 3,000 rounds of match-quality ammunition for the club. Alongside producing our standard CURA rounds, several members who have recently purchased their own Match Rifles will also be undertaking full load development. With access to precision scales, Autotricklers, and our full suite of presses and tooling, they will be able to refine their ammunition through rigorous testing — ensuring that every shooter on the team enters the MR season with the most accurate and competitive loads possible.

On behalf of all our current students, and the many who will follow in the years ahead, thank you. Your generosity has made a tangible and lasting difference, not only in the quality of the equipment we now have, but in the opportunities it creates for young shooters finding their place in the sport. You have helped remove financial barriers, supported the development of new talent, and strengthened a community that thrives on shared experience and tradition. The impact of your support extends far beyond the hardware itself; it has enabled the club to grow with confidence, build sustainability for the future, and ensure that the next generation of CURA members can enjoy the same spirit, camaraderie, and excellence that you once experienced.



Donations and Fundraising Leaflet

Our success in reducing the cost of fullbore shooting over the past two seasons has already had a measurable impact on the number of members joining and staying with the club. Three years ago, we could expect few more than fifteen members; now we regularly surpass thirty. Nevertheless, we aim to find new ways to support our members in their pursuit of shooting, and we are always grateful for your help in doing so.

Firstly, we are pleased to announce the creation of the **Ex-Captains' fund** by Luca Schwarz, where recurring donations from previous Captains and Alumni subsidise our members' first Easter Bisley Camps, allowing more of our talented smallbore shots to try their hand at fullbore.

This year, CURA is also undertaking a number of new projects to allow our members greater benefit, and maintain our competitive edge over Oxford:

Coaching headsets:

With our set of wired headsets becoming unusable, the acquisition of high-quality, wireless coaching headsets is becoming a priority to keep our teams competitive in the long term.

- £500 would pay for a headset, keeping our team connected and efficient on the range.

Spotting scopes:

Given our increased membership, spotting scopes are becoming a limiting factor for our shooters. The purchase of additional scopes will allow us to maintain a strong presence at the Imperial Meeting and many other competitions.

- £250 would cover the purchase of a TSN1 Kowa.
- £80 would fund the construction of a new, high quality scope stand, made in-house by Luca.



CURA gun room:

Last year, we began work on the restoration of our gun room in the EVIII clubhouse. We aim to replace the aging workbench, allowing more floor space and access to new sets of shelves for storage. We also aim to repair the disused gun lockers, and repaint the room in its original colours. This project will not only return the room to its intended purpose as a base for our members, but will also allow us to contribute to the maintenance of this historic building. We would greatly appreciate any support towards this effort.

Recurring donations set up by both Alumni and a number of current members are already making a significant difference to the club, so if you would like to contribute to the **Ex-Captains' fund**, or support the club more generally, please consider setting up a recurring donation through our donation portal at [Rifle Association \(CURA\) | Support Cambridge](#) or via the QR code. Additionally, if you would like to donate any equipment please do not hesitate to get in touch via email to captain@curifle.org.uk. As ever, we are immensely grateful for any donations, regardless of size. Your support, in any form, goes a long way towards keeping us accessible and accurate. We thank you for your commitment to this club and to its members, both current and future.

