



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Oxford University Basketball Club

A vision for the future of basketball at Oxford

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Contact details

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Introduction from the OUBbC Committee.

Oxford University Basketball Club is one of those rare clubs that really does it all for its sport. Its heritage, and traditions, provide its foundation, yet its members today are ever looking ahead as some of the sharpest minds, and keenest athletes in Oxford. While our teams are measuring their success against clubs across the UK, the role of the sport within the city is more important than ever, with several local teams and a strong youth programmes locally. Each year, our players train hard through busy Oxford terms, with the unceasing goal of beating Cambridge in the Varsity Matches. This desire to improve, while also letting off steam and socializing with friends, creates a excellent community for student basketball. As they continue through the club, it will become a meaningful part of their lives, and an experience they will remember many years after leaving Oxford.

It is these player experiences, past, present, (and future), that we have considered when preparing our vision for the development of the club in the coming years.

Behind the scenes are a diligent committee of students, continually battling the rising costs of running one of Oxford's most successful clubs. Through prudent planning and management these committees have quietly worked to support the club, ensuring the same offering to players year-on-year while saving to ensure memorable home varsity matches. As a club, we have been reluctant to call on alumni for support like so many other clubs, however, we feel the time is right to see what this club can really achieve when it has access for further funding. The club is the largest it has ever been, with nearly 100 players across six teams, it is succeeding competitively, attracting international talent, and in 2025 swept Varsity, beating Cambridge across all teams.

With this success in mind, we are pleased to present this vision for the future of the club, and encourage everyone interested in our sport, the club, and Oxford more widely, to consider supporting OUBbC in achieving this vision. In doing so, you can make an impact on basketball at Oxford, now, and for decades to come.

Yours in dark blue,

The OUBbC Committee



The Future of OUBbC – A Five Year Plan

The club has committed to four key areas of improvement for the next five years.

- **Financial Resilience** – Supporting financial resilience and ensuring long-term sustainability. This will provide the foundation needed to develop the club further and achieve our ambitious goals.
- **Training Excellence and Equipment Modernization** – Investing in high quality coaching and training resources will ensure we can support all our players, especially those from more established basketball programmes.
- **Enhanced Competition and Travel Support** – Providing competitive opportunities with international reach will cement our profile as an excellent club.
- **Community Building and Accessibility** – Strengthening club culture while reducing barriers to participation will improve the depth of our teams and ensure a thriving basketball community within the university.



Financial Resilience

Our primary short-term focus is building financial resilience, which will allow the club to meet rising day-to-day operating costs, continue to grow, and respond to future challenges. By providing this stability for future committees, we can offer a foundation for the ambitious club goals below; in the knowledge that we can continue to manage the club responsibly and steward these new developments for many years to come. While the club receives much of its income from memberships, increasing these subscriptions to meet rising costs cannot continue indefinitely. As such, we wish to take advantage of a unique opportunity to sustainably grow our club's annual income through a club endowment. The University has successfully worked with other clubs similarly wishing to secure their long-term financial position, and our focus at this time is to create an endowment for Oxford University Basketball Club with details of this opportunity at the foot of this document.



Training Excellence and Equipment Modernization

We are committed to offering our players the highest possible basketball experience by providing excellent training equipment and high-caliber coaching.

One major upgrade we wish to make is the inclusion of modern training items such as shooting machines and rebound systems, a staple of most university basketball programmes. These items will enable our players to make the most of their training time at Iffley Road and bring our equipment on par with other high performing programmes. While OUBbC attracts great talent, we want to help these players continue to develop their skills while at Oxford, rather than take a step back in their training. In addition to modern training aids, we also wish to renew our admittedly ageing current training items such as resistance bands, agility ladders, and shooting aids, as well as upgrade our basketball inventory with new balls every two years.

We also want to attract and retain the highest caliber coaching staff by improving the salaries we can offer within an increasingly competitive environment. Additionally, we wish to expand our coaching team to include specialists in areas like strength and conditioning, ensuring comprehensive player development on and off the court.

These plans are ambitious, and purposely so. We not only want to bring our training up to the level of rival universities, but excel beyond them, creating an environment which stands out within the UK as a great place to improve as a player, regardless of previous training experiences.





Enhanced Competition and Travel Support

We believe our players deserve to compete at the highest levels and experience basketball beyond Oxford. Firstly, we want to ensure that everyone can compete at Varsity without the cost of travel being a barrier – for instance, offering subsidized overnight accommodation for players when necessary. More excitingly, we want to send all teams to at least one international event (such as tournaments in Europe), which can provide transformative experiences that broaden perspectives, strengthen team unity, and foster relationships with other great clubs. Back at home, we hope to invest in our professional presentation with portable scoreboards and enhanced tabling equipment, ensuring our home court advantage reflects the quality of our program.

Community Building and Accessibility

Basketball is about more than individual skill - it's about community. OUBbC brings together members from all over the world with diverse backgrounds and academic interests. The club has always provided a home away from home for many of its members, a place to decompress and relax from the rigors of challenging academic life, and a source of camaraderie and guidance for those settling into a new university.

We want ensure that students who wish to experience this sense of community through basketball have the opportunity to do so, regardless of financial means. We want to decrease player subscription fees by reducing the need for memberships to cover some of our key costs. In doing so, we not only improve accessibility, but can also increase the number of players we can attract to the club, supporting all our squads, especially our development teams. Increasing access and inclusivity aligns with our club's values and will help us attract and retain the most diverse and talented player base possible. In time, we also wish to work with the University to explore creating Basketball scholarships to support exceptional players who may not see Oxford as their first choice due to financial pressures.

Beyond our own courts, we see tremendous value in developing our members as ambassadors for basketball, while creating benefits that flow back into the club. Through expanding our community outreach programmes – including the club's involvement in Oxford Young Sport Leaders Programme, which received a Vice Chancellor award in 2025 – our members develop leadership experience and broader networks while giving back to the wider Oxford and local communities. We want to support our players who wish to take steps to train as coaches, understanding the benefits this will in turn bring the club.



Our Focus - Joining the Sports Endowment Fund

£52,000

Many of the goals the club seeks to meet can be achieved by joining the University's Sports Endowment Fund. It is for this reason that we are foregrounding the club endowment in our efforts to raise support for the club. With a minimum set-up cost of £52,000 required to join the fund, we are seeking to raise this initial amount, or more, from one or several donors who are interested in securing the long-term future for Oxford University Basketball Club.

After meeting the minimum threshold, the fund would then begin to release an income of 4% of the total contribution, approximately £2,000 per annum to the club in the following academic year. In turn, we seek to gradually build this fund over a number of years, with the aim of supplying over £100,000 to the fund by 2030 - enabling the club to access approximately £4,000 of additional income each year, for use by the whole club. This would continue so long so far as the club exists, providing a once in a generation opportunity to secure OUBbCs future.

While gifts towards one-off projects, equipment, and general club support in line with our goals are always greatly appreciated, at this time the club wishes to focus on raising the initial £52,000 required while it is in a confident position, both financially and in membership, and we wish to open discussions with those who may be able to help us reach this goal, and beyond.

Anyone wishing to discuss this opportunity with the club can do so through sport@dae.ox.ac.uk.





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