

Our thanks to:

All the Old Blues, parents and friends who have helped organise events before the day and as officials. Jon Roycroft, Richard Dodsworth and the staff at the University Sports Centre for fighting our corner and being so patient. Cathy Fenn and the Pony Club. OUFAS for saving our lives. Blewbury Equestrian Centre and Temple Cowley Pools. Our sponsors for the t-shirts, see below and check out their site. OUMPA for the hospitality and JGB for the party. Jim Egan for the inspiration and Ed Egan for the advice. Olly for making us realise that there was someone out there. Del and her housemates for putting up with Zig for a week. Westminster School for the boxes and Tom's time. The British women's squad for being so good. Especial thanks to Paul and Marion Dean without whom...

## Student Modern Pentathlon Championships



### Programme of Events

*Friday 28th January*

**SWIM** Temple Cowley Pools

7.30-8.30pm registration

8.30pm swimming warm up

9-10pm swim heats

*Saturday 29th January*

**FENCE** and **SHOOT** Iffley Road Sports Centre

8.00am women's fence warm up

8.30am women's fence first bout

8.30am men's shoot

10.30am men's fence warm up

11am men's fence first bout

11am women's shoot

**RUN** South Parks

2.30pm run course open

3pm men's run

3.15pm women's run

**RIDE** Blewbury Equestrian Centre

4-4.30pm walk the ride course, men

4.30-6pm Mens' ride

6-6.30pm walk the ride course, women

6.30- Womens' ride

**PRESENTATIONS** Horse and Jockey Pub Function

Room, Woodstock Rd, Oxford

8pm venue open

10pm presentations

## Introduction

It is fantastic to see the response to this idea of creating an annual student Modern Pentathlon championships. Congratulations to everyone involved in getting the event off and running. We would probably have to go back a few years to find a time when eighty plus pentathletes competed together, probably the 'good old days' when there was just one event on each day and George Patten competed with his pearl handled revolver!

It is good news for British Pentathlon to have such interest from student athletes, also. Oxford and Cambridge students in particular have produced medal winning pentathletes at world championship level in recent years, and it would be great to see future stars coming from this championships. From my own experience, I know that it was the 3 years I had at university with facilities and time to develop which took me from being a good national standard competitor to an Olympic medallist. Good luck to everyone competing this weekend. And have a great time.

### **Dominic Mahony Olympic Team Bronze medallist - Seoul 1988**

*A word from the past....*

The police didn't really seem to know what to do when they arrived at Merton College on the last night of the 1989 championships to find three young French army officers from the Ecole Polytechnique team, resplendent in their full regimental dress, waving from the roof of Front Quad to a noisy crowd of pentathletes below. We enthusiastically explained that it was all part of a sixth event world record attempt and therefore nothing to worry about. Eventually, having decided that the French boys were of little danger to anyone other than themselves, the policemen left the scene, still thoroughly bemused. History doesn't record whether or not the Ecole team finally jumped from the roof into the human safety net below – it would have been quite a bardive.

Of course, the 1989 event was not the first time that a student championships were held – the first ever were staged in Oxford in the mid-1960s. After Oxford in 1989, Cambridge ran a splendid return event in 1990; the key feature of that competition was the lavish sponsorship by Glenmorangie Malt Whisky and as a consequence, memories of anything about that weekend are sketchy at best.

But anyone who was involved in any of these events will be delighted to see the Student Championships return so early in the new century. British pentathlon has in the past led the way in pioneering the establishment of Women's and Junior pentathlon on the international circuit and to do the same for Student pentathlon would be a fantastic achievement - great credit must go to all the organising team. Excel in the competition and enjoy the weekend. You'll never break that sixth event world record though.

Jim Egan  
OUMPA (19!!-!!)

*...and a word from the future ...*

I have been competing in Pony Club tetrathlon since I was eight years old and I have just recently got to the stage where I want to take it on a stage further, to pentathlon. Starting a new sport like fencing may seem rather daunting, but it is fun and easy to pick up the basics. After a few lessons you are well away and any kit can be borrowed. There is no excuse not to have a go! Everyone in pentathlon is so friendly and helpful; starting this sport was probably the best thing I did last year!

Heather Fell

## Competition Rules

### Swim I/C Jackie Whitehouse

200m freestyle swim for men and women (8 lengths of the pool)

Men's scoring: 2m30s = 1000pts +/- 1pt per 0.1s

Women's scoring: 2m40s = 1000pts +/- 1pt per 0.1s

### Fence I/C John Miller

The Men's fence and the Women's fence will each be divided into two pools. Each competitor will have two one-minute bouts with each member of their pool. Competitors will be organised into teams of two and will rotate around the pistes from one round to the next, staying with their team. Each piste will have a President who will judge and record hits. The decision of the President is final but an appeal may be made to the Jury of Appeal after the fencing phase has ended.

70% of hits scored = 1000pts +/- m points per hit where m=930/a where a is the total number of bouts in the pool.

### Shoot I/C Paul Dean

Shoot Details will be posted from 0730 on Saturday. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure they arrive in time for their detail.

The shoot will consist of 20 shots at static targets at 10m distance. There will be 40s for each shot and you may not reload having shot until the 40s are up. You must follow the instructions of the range officer at all times. When targets are being changed or when anyone is down range, all guns must be made safe and left on the table.

172 target points = 1000pts +/- 12 points per shot

### Run I/C Owen Sheers

The run will be three laps of a 1000m loop with a mass start for men and a mass start for women. Spikes will be appropriate. On finishing the race you will be given a ticket corresponding to your finishing position. Please give this ticket to your team captain who will hand it to the officer-in-charge.

Men's scoring: 10mins 0s = 1000pts +/- 2pts per 1/2s

Women's scoring: 11mins 20s = 1000pts +/- 2pts per 1/2s

### Ride I/C Bridget Robbie

The ride will be a show jumping course (3ft) on an unfamiliar horse allocated by ballot. You will have 20mins on your horse in the collecting arena, during which time you may make no more than 5 practice jumps. You must make sure you jump in the correct direction.

On entering the course you must salute the judge and wait for the bell. During the course you may have three refusals at each jump after which you must move on to the next jump in order. Attempting a jump four times counts as jumping the wrong course for which you will be eliminated. There is an optimum time for the course; exceeding twice this optimum time results in elimination as does falling off twice.

Clear round within optimum time = 1100pts – penalties for refusals, knockdowns, falls of rider or horse and seconds over the optimum time.

Jury of Appeal The Jury of Appeal will consist of the officer in charge of the event concerned and the competition organisers.

## **THE FUTURE OF STUDENT PENTATHLON**

### **onrunning.com**

The onrunning.com website was launched on 19th January 2000 as a collaboration between Olympic bronze medallist and T.V. commentator Brendan Foster and Sports Internet Group. The site is a resource for all standards of runner in the UK, providing news and features on athletics stars and international events as well as information on personal fitness and training. The site contains daily news updates and results of all top level athletics meets, and features on top UK athletes as they prepare for Sydney 2000.

The site is also an invaluable resource for the visitor's own running training, providing race preparation help from Olympic silver medallist Peter Elliot and a calendar of events by geographical area within the UK. The onrunning.com website also includes pages dedicated to the biggest half marathon in the country, the Great North Run, entry forms for which are available online, and to an online store for View From merchandise, providing a wide selection of specialist running kit for all environments.

### **Team Scoring**

A team consists of three athletes male or female, each competing in at least four events. For every event there must be at least one athlete from the team contesting it.

The score for the team will be worked out by taking the best four-event score for each athlete and totalling for all the members of a team (regardless of in which events the scores were achieved).

For the individual competitions (male and female), competitors will be ranked on their scores over all events which they contest.

I don't think Tom and I really knew what we were letting ourselves in for when, on April 4th 1999 (the day after the Oxford versus Cambridge Varsity Match), we resolved to organise a student pentathlon for spring 2000. Although it has been hard work to organise the competition it has been made immensely gratifying both by the number of people interested in competing and by the support that we have had from enthusiastic friends willing to help. We certainly had not anticipated 80 competitors, and unfortunately we have had to turn people away as we were unable to accommodate everyone that wanted to compete, and there were also those who wanted to compete this weekend but were unable to do so due to exams and field trips. Such a level of interest is hugely encouraging for pentathlon, and I hope that everyone competing this weekend enjoys themselves whatever their level of expertise.

While it is proving rather difficult to think of life after the competition this weekend at the moment, we have already started thinking about how we will do things differently next time round. We hope that this competition will become an annual event, and to this end we would greatly appreciate any feedback from competitors and spectators on how you found the competition, what you enjoyed and what you didn't and what you think could be improved upon. After all, this event is being organised for students' benefit, so please tell us how you would like it to be run. We are hoping to hold the event at Oxford again next year, so with this in mind please be polite and co-operative to all the staff at the sports centre. Eventually though, we hope that other universities will be able to host the event and that we might eventually attain official BUSA sanction.

The success of the event in the long term however, requires people to spread the word about pentathlon at universities and at Pony Clubs. It is surprising to find so many Pony Club tetrathletes are unaware of pentathlon's existence. Yet from the Pony Club have come such international stars as Danny Nightingale, Kate Allenby, Sian Lewis, Gwen Kinsey, Georgina Harland. With over 250 competitors at its national finals (and we have three past individual winners competing this weekend), Pony Club tetrathlon is surely a vital hotbed for the development of pentathlon. Many tetrathletes give up the sport once they go to university, which is a great shame as it is at university that all the facilities for pentathlon are easily available. It remains the case that no university in the UK other than Oxford and Cambridge has a pentathlon club, that we aware of at least. The real measure of the success of the Student Pentathlon Championships will be if pentathlon clubs are formed at other universities. It would be fantastic to see teams from university clubs other than OUMPA and CUMPC at events such as the Sealions Pentathlon and Eastern Region Pentathlon, and even more encouraging if such clubs held competitions of their own.

With support such as we have had for the competition this weekend, the future for student pentathlon in this country looks bright. We hope some of those here this weekend will go on to compete at World Championships and Olympics, and hopefully pentathlon will soon be included at the World Student Games. More importantly, however, I hope that you all enjoy your pentathlon this weekend and in the future, and that we will see you again next year!

Zig.