Men’s Blues
Jaason Geerts, President and Captain, Cambridge University Ice Hockey Club (CUIHC)

The thousand words that this picture describes encapsulate the pinnacle of this past season.

The multi-layered strategy to secure Varsity victory was underpinned by two factors: the crushing defeat at the previous VM and the fact that for many players, the Varsity Match would be their last including captain Thor Richardson, assistant captain Jake “Cheeks” Harris, Carl Mazurek, Kyle Maggard, Bryan Thirk, Vairis Dmitrijevs, Ken Charette, Matt Harris, and Graham Carver.

Varsity preparation began by Bryan introducing roller hockey twice a week as a supplement to the on ice sessions, which proved very effective. As usual, the Zuoz experience was extremely formative and taught us that all it took for us to lose was to fall out of synch.

We finished strongly in the regular season with a 6-3 record, being ranked as high as second in the country after the mighty London.

We also fought through injuries with no fewer than five of seventeen players requiring surgery before or immediately after Varsity and defenseman Matt Harris being hit by a car and breaking a rib two days before the VM.

A week before the final showdown, the blues hosted Sports psychologist and JBS professor Mark de Rond. The session unveiled our expectations and fears, as well as enabling each player to make Varsity commitments and requests.
of his teammates. Some were to score, some to hit, and one was to shut down Oxford’s leading scorer, but all were zealous.

The Blues player leaders were joined by coaches Bill Harris and former blues captains Taylor Burns and Luc St. Pierre. Canadian High Commissioner Gordon Campbell performed the ceremonial puck drop and with that, the curtains drew and Canada’s most sacred game and oldest rivalry began.

Oxford scored first, but that was all we needed to band together and even the tally. With just four minutes to go in the opening contest, captain Thor Richardson put the blues ahead.

It was in the second period that the men in light blue unleashed their true metal with unrelenting hits, impenetrable defense, and explosive offensive fire power, for which Oxford simply had no answer. Cambridge marched to the dressing room at the end of the second up 7 – 2. The Light blues would allow no Oxfordian miracles in the third and cruised to a dominant 8 – 2 victory over an utterly deflated Dark blues squad.

Honorable mentions go to Kyle Maggard with five goals on the night, Bryan Thirsk, player of the game for Cambridge, and Carl Mazurek for shunning away nearly every attack Oxford could muster.

The storyboard moment came when, cup in hand, captain Thor Richardson and the Light blues turned and shared the elation with the rest of the loyal Cambridge fans.

A picture a year in the making. 7 days before, each player made commitments and we won that night because we held ourselves and each other to those commitments and that is why this picture will forever trigger in our minds the achievement we earned in the game … which for most of my friends and teammates was their last. GDBO

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**Women’s Blues**

*Gillian Brooks, CUWIHC Captain, 2012-2013*

What an incredible year!
Our season began with a mix of new faces and veteran players, as we set out for the infamous Sunday hockey night in Peterborough. From late nights spent in hockey rinks around the U.K., early mornings doing fitness in Parker’s Piece, and stick handling sessions on squash courts, it was certainly a unique season. As a team, we logged those long hours alongside each other with enthusiasm, commitment, humility, and a love of the game.

Learning to play as a team does not happen overnight; it is a result of every player committing to working as hard as she can for the sake of a common goal. I saw this commitment every practice, game, and off-ice session as we molded into a group of women that shared not only a common goal of victory, but were motivated by each other’s determination.

Entering the Varsity match, the team had won three games, lost one, and forfeited two games due to academic scheduling conflicts. While beating Cardiff, Warwick, and Birmingham was significant, given that the majority of their players were men, the true victory was the level of improvement shown by each player during the season.

On Sunday, March 10, 2013, we defeated Oxford 11-5 in a truly exceptional match. The player of the match was awarded to Ann-Marie Elvin who scored eight goals and played an incredible game. Jenny Haskell was unstoppable in nets, and as a team veteran, she will surely be missed.

It has been an extraordinary ride and one that I know none of us will forget.

I could not be prouder of the women who wore light blue this season. It was a great honour to play with them, let alone captain them. GDBO

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**Eskimos** Hugo Keene, Eskimo Captain

After a successful season where we won the closest and most exciting Varsity in recent memory and fell just short of winning two tournaments, the Eskimo have resumed stronger and more determined than ever. Buoyed by completing Coach Harris’s fabled triple, the returning squad looks fearsome and determined to finally go one step closer and win the Varsity/Stahlpokal double. Agonisingly close last year, it feels like this might be the year that the Eskimo come good and show what they are made of.

With an eye always on the Dark Blue foe, the second prettiest Cambridge ice hockey club have a busy season ahead, competing in a record number of EIHA
challenge matches. Our travels this year take us from Streatham to Oxford, Coventry, Grimsby and everywhere in between. Exciting times for the Light Blue.

In addition to a strong returning squad, the Eskimo welcome a number of exciting new faces from all over the globe; including Europe, Asia and the Americas. As is now tradition, we have also drafted in another Australian to further strengthen the colonial hold on the Eskimo Blue. As always the Eskimo changing room has a revolving door and as a new season get’s into swing, we find ourselves welcoming new players as well as farewelling old friends. GDBO  

Once an Eskimo, always an Eskimo.

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**Vincent’s Favourite Things**  
*an Eskimo Poem*

Nighthawks and Jesters  
And Parker’s Piece ice  
These are a few things  
Vincent thinks are nice.

Eskimos slashes delivered  
With malice  
At Planets of Ice or  
Alexan’s Palace.

Out from the Outback  
or cold Scottish bogs,  
They came to play hockey  
With Vincent, the frog,

Who soon travels back  
To Francophone motherland  
With a Cambridge blue jersey  
That boasts “6” and “Brand”.

He will practice and practice,  
His stick is his sword  
And woe will it bring  
To our foes from Oxford

When he comes back this March  
To reap what he sowed  
And bash Oxford brains in  
Like a true Eskimo.

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**Coaches Report**

Every year since becoming coach here, I’ve said to all three teams, “This year we win the triple, all three VMs!” After 16 years, it finally happened. It was even slightly better than that because in Toronto, the Cambridge Alumni team beat the Oxford Alumni team. Total domination in 2013. I am aware, however, that our percentages of winning games means that about once in every 16 years, we should win all three game based on statistical probability. It does not suddenly put us in a position of superiority. Oxford will have something to prove this March. We all feel that.

If you are interested, there are lots of opportunities for CUIHC alumni to participate. Please let me know if you are interested in any of the following:

- Being part of an alum team in Zuoz
- Playing Oxford alum in a match next to the VM in the UK
- Playing in the annual Alumni Game in Toronto.

*Coach Bill Harris wah20@cam.ac.uk*
ALUMNI QUIZ
DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THESE GUYS?

Martin Harris, a collector of ice-hockey memorabilia, recently sent me two photos of CUIHC teams that he bought at auction, but he does not know any of the names or even the year of these teams, so please let me know if you recognise anyone or anything like the approximate year?

We are finally making serious progress on getting the Gattiker ice-rink for Cambridge. If any of you are interested in helping with this project, please let Prof Harris know.

We need your support!