

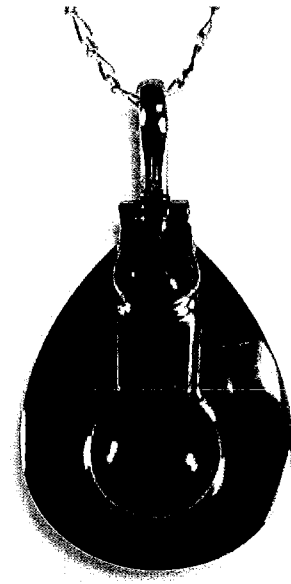
...something new, something Blue

A new Blues Jewellery range for current and 'Old' Blues at Cambridge and Oxford universities was launched on 30 November 2009 at the Women's Blues Awards ceremony at the Cambridge Union. The range has been designed and developed by alumna Laura Davidson (TH 1998), now a barrister in London.

At Cambridge, Laura Davidson was President of the Cambridge University Modern Pentathlon Club, the sport in which she gained her three Half Blues and led to her two Full Blues in fencing. She was also the recipient of one of the coveted Ospreys & IBM Individual Bursary Awards for outstanding achievement in her chosen sports. Laura was also a keen rower and a lightweight triathlete, and competed in many successive Bumps, rowing in two Headship crews. She was Captain of Hall's netball team in 1999 and is a member of the Aula Club. For the last five years she has competed for Northern Ireland in the Fencing Five Nations, and in 2006 she also competed for her country in the Commonwealth Fencing Games.

When Laura gained her first Half Blue – one of many – she was disappointed to discover that there was little for female athletes to purchase to celebrate their achievement. The men were well catered for with blazers, ties, bow-ties and cummerbunds, and the only truly unisex item was a winter scarf.

After the challenging design and production stage she then battled for University licensing, strongly believing that the University shield on the packaging, whilst not at all necessary, would enhance and honour women's achievement in representing Cambridge. Following a two-hour meeting with Cambridge University's Director of Sport, Dr Tony Lemons, she gained his support and enthusiasm for the



project. As a result, the Blues Jewellery range is the first range to be licensed.

The jewellery incorporates semi-precious stones inset in high quality sterling silver. The colours of the inlaid stones reflect whether the wearer has gained a Full or a Half Blue. The Cambridge range utilises turquoise and pearls to represent the colours of the University. As turquoise comes in so many different shades, ensuring the use of individual stones sufficiently similar to 'Cambridge Blue' was a particular challenge for Laura. Already available to current students, alumni from both Universities with Blues and Half Blues will be able to purchase all items from the range online from later this year at www.oxbridgebluesjewellery.com

Cambridge University Channel Swim 2010

This summer will see two students from Trinity Hall, Lisa Goers (TH 2006) and Alastair Kendall (TH 2009), take part in one of the ultimate University sports challenges: the biennial Varsity cross-channel relay swim. Here they describe the challenge in front of them.

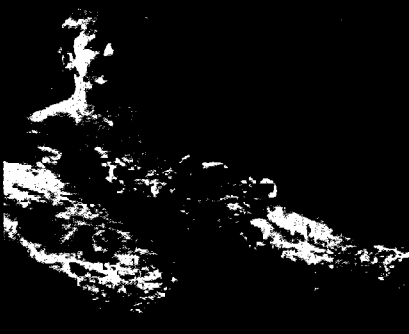
The swimmers will set off in teams of six (three men, three women) from Dover to land in France sometime between 11 and

17 July 2010. Each member of the team will swim for one hour and then hand over to the next person in a pre-determined order with male and female swimmers taking turns. When all six have completed a turn, the first person has to go again etc until they reach the French coast (previous races have lasted 8 – 10 hours).

While the rest of the Cambridge team consists mainly of swimmers, we both play Varsity water polo. This is an amazing opportunity for us. It is a very tough race and we will have to deal with the cold water (14–18 °C!) without the help of wetsuits and then there are the waves, animals and ferries. And the challenges

do not just start on the day of the race. All of us (eight students including two reserves) have been training hard at Jesus Green outdoor pool since it opened in May. Also, we have not found a sponsor yet, which means that we may have to cover the pilotage and boat fees ourselves, but it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a very dedicated team.

For more information go to www.cuswpc.org and keep updated through our Facebook group 'Cambridge University Channel Swim 2010' or Twitter 'CUChannelRelay'. As part of the race, we are also raising money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI).



Alastair Kendall taking a dip.