



St Catharine's College
Cambridge

The 23rd Acheson-Gray Sports Day

20 April 2024

Programme

Main Venue: *St Catharine's College Sports Ground, King's Road, off Barton Road*

Sport	Timings	Alumni Captains
Men's Football	11 noon - 12:30 pm	Henry Hall
Squash	12 - 3 pm	Ollie Rosen
Badminton	12 noon - 4 pm	Varun Hanchinal
Cricket	1 pm - all day	Sam Woods
Hockey	1:30 pm - 2:40 pm	Matt Diesel
Rugby	1:30 pm - 3 pm	Josh Maiklem
Tennis, first round	2 pm - 3 pm	Henry Hall
Croquet	At leisure	Ollie Rosen
Afternoon tea		3 pm in the pavilion
Tennis, second round	3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Henry Hall
Netball	To be decided	Anna Faulkner & Sophia Padt

Dinner (pre-booked only)

7:30 pm, College Hall

Dress code: smart

The Bar will be open after the dinner. Diners are reminded that we are now in the College's Quiet Period.

The origins of the Day

About Acheson-Gray Day

An annual sports day has been a long-standing tradition within St Catharine's College for many years. From the Second World War onwards, a focus of the Catz sporting calendar was a cricket match in the Summer Term between alumni and current College students.

During the early 1990s, Charles Acheson-Gray (1991, Social & Political Sciences) was an avid sportsman at Catz. He was Captain of the College lawn tennis team and played for the University team. Following his graduation, Charles continued his enthusiasm for tennis and encouraged an equivalent tennis match to be included alongside the cricket match. This brought about the idea of expanding the annual event to a recognisable sports day.

However, the purpose of the event is now more poignant for the College and goes beyond sporting achievements. After struggling with depression, Charles very sadly passed away in 2001. This annual sports day is now named the Acheson-Gray Day and held as a tribute to his memory, providing an opportunity for our community to remember the importance of talking openly about the subject of mental health. Ultimately, participating in sports can nurture a sense of connectedness and community spirit, which in turn helps our sense of wellbeing.

In 2004, the President of the Society's London Branch, John Oakes (1961, English), encouraged the Acheson-Gray Day to host additional sports matches, including hockey, following the completion of the all-weather pitch that had been kindly donated by Peter Boizot (1950, History). Rugby was added in 2005. In the years that followed, the programme expanded to include the sports that feature today, such as football, hockey, tennis, rugby and netball.