



Cambridge Dancers' Club

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

February 2006

Issue 1

Keeping you in step with CDC

The all new Cambridge Dancers' Club

Cambridge Dancers' Club is still going from strength to strength 56 years after it was first founded. We are pleased to be able to produce this newsletter for former members of CDC, in order to keep you updated with the club's latest news and to keep you involved in CDC's activities. We would love to see you back at our events and social dancing sessions.

In order to better provide for its members and following the retirement of some of our longest serving teachers, the structure of CDC's ballroom classes have changed. The classes are based on two streams: social or dancesport. There has been an increase in demand for higher level classes concentrating on technique and competitive dancing; these dancesport classes have replaced the squad class. There are now fast-track classes for those beginners competing on the beginners team.

Robin & Glennis and Alf all retired in 2003 and CDC have brought in new teachers to cover the ballroom and latin classes. Russell Sole is teaching the social beginners classes and Clive Hurt continues to teach the intermediate and improvers. The team coaches, Bruce Lait, Paul Walker and David Mallabone cover the ballroom and latin dancesport classes. Unfortunately Anton Du Beke and Erin Boag could only stay with us for 18 months due to the *Strictly Come Dancing* series.

CDC still runs a wide range of classes in diverse dance styles, and has branched out to include different styles of Rock n Roll and both Cuban and LA

salsa. CDC still offers over 40 hours of classes per week – now with a beginners class 6 days a week including on Saturdays. The teams are still achieving great success in the university competitions and a salsa team has recently been created.

The CDC has recently been seen in the media as a result of the increased interest in dancing after the BBC Series. Cambridge also hosted the Inter Varsity Dance Competition in March 2005, at the prestigious Winter Gardens, in Blackpool.

Although the club has undergone significant change, the well-loved CDC traditions still remain. General dancing still occurs every Friday night – although increased demand has meant that we move it to the University Centre during term time. We still have balls at the end of every term which regularly attract 200 members. Other events include salsa nights and Rock 'n' Roll nights as well as traditional tea dances. We have invited in some of the top professional dancers to teach dancesport workshops, including former world champions Chris Hawkins & Hazel Newberry. Our programme of events also includes fundraisers for the BBC's Children in Need appeal: in recent years we have taken dancing out to the Cambridge public by performing demos in the Grafton Shopping Centre. CDC has managed to raise over £3000 for this appeal in the past three years.

We hope you that you will have the chance to return to Cambridge to get involved in this exciting range of CDC events and classes.

Strictly Cam Dancing: CDC hits record membership levels

Following the success of the BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing* series dance schools across the country have seen an increase in those attending classes. The CDC has been no exception. Membership levels have soared in recent years, last year num-

bers reached 2458. CDC is still easily the largest university dance club in the UK.

CDC were fortunate enough to have Anton Du Beke and Erin Boag stars of the show, teach ballroom classes and coach the team for 18 months.

The current team coach, Bruce Lait and his partner Crystal Main are currently involved in the *Strictly Ballroom Dancing* stage show which is touring the country this Spring and is choreographed by Anton & Erin.



Former CDC teacher Erin Boag and partner Colin Jackson, runners up of *Strictly Come Dancing*

Dancesport Team

Cambridge University Dancesport Team continues as one of the top three in the country and has been battling it out against Oxford in recent years, coming second overall to Oxford at the IVDC for the past few years and winning the A-team jointly with Oxford in 2003. However Cambridge won the overall title at Nottingham last November, so 2006 could be set to be Cambridge's year.

The team has been renamed from Cambridge University Ballroom Dancing Team to reflect the new image of competitive dancing. The team has grown to include 16 couples (A-D teams) as well as an additional beginners team. The team is now coached by Bruce Lait, along with former captains Paul Walker and David Mallabone. Recently the teams have been helped out by Tom, Pat and Annette Lait; Benoit & Lorraine Drolet and Stephen & Jennifer Hillier.

Cambridge won the A, B and C

teams at Nottingham 2005 and came second in the D team. seven out of eight team latin dances were won by CUdT dancers. Dancers also performed well in opens, with Scott Bradley & Nicola Gray winning the advanced latin event. The team hope to repeat such a successful performance at Sheffield, SUDC and IVDC this term.

Unfortunately Varsity matches in recent years have been dominated by Oxford, although Cambridge came within an agonising few points of winning the B team a few years ago. Dancesport now has half-blue status for men and women at Cambridge, although it is a full blue sport for women at Oxford.



Special mention must go to Fai Asakul, who started at Cambridge as a beginner in 2000 and was awarded the first full blue for dancesport at Cambridge in 2004. Her achievements in-

clude reaching the top 48 in Amateur latin at the English Open, the top 96 at the British Open and the last 24 of the British Closed with partner David Mallabone. She turned pro last year.



Inter Varsity Dance Competition, 2004

Other Cambridge dancers have had notable success on the open circuit and more are continuing to dance once they graduate. Several members of the EADA showcase are former members of CDC.

Each year the team hosts the Reunion Match in November to invite old team members back and to give the new team the experience of their first competition together. We'd love to see as many of you there as possible.

CDC Events www.cambridgedancers.org/events

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| Jive Workshop
by <i>Strictly Come Dancing's</i> Andrew Cuerden & Hanna Haarala | 4th February Parkside Gym 2-5pm | £15 non members |
| Salsa night | 5th February University Centre 8.45-11pm | Free |
| Cuppers
The annual inter-college competition
Four one-dance for beginners (WQCJ); novice, intermediate and advanced two-dances (WQ and CJ), open one-dance competitions (TF, SR) and (time permitting) an open basic four-dance (WQCJ). There will also be competitions in RnR (beginners non acro and open acro), Salsa (beginners and open) and an open Merengue competition. The highlight of the day is the inter college team match (WQCJ) at 7pm and ex-students are welcomed back to dance for their former colleges. | 18th February Parkside Gym 2-10pm | £5 or £3 for one event |
| Spring Ball
Latin demonstration by <i>Strictly Come Dancing's</i> Darren Bennett & Lilia Kopylova.
Live band, large floor, bar open until late
Tickets go on sale from 10th Feb, e-mail events@cambridgedancers.org to book tickets | 17th March Burgess Civic Hall, St Ives 7.30pm-1am
£18 incl transport £15 excl transport | |
| Summer Ball | 16 June 2006 featuring Ross Mitchell & his band | |
| Christmas Ball | 1 December 2006 | |
| Spring Ball | 16 March 2007 | |
| Summer Ball | 21 June 2007 | |

Events next term include a Swing, Jive & Rock 'n' Roll night and a traditional summer tea dance for advanced dancers. See the website for more details.

INTER UNIVERSITY COMPETITIONS 2006

Come and support the teams at:

11th Feb. 06 Sheffield Social
The Octagon, Sheffield
www.shef.ac.uk/dancesport

**25th Feb. 06
Southern Universities Competition**
www.universitydancesport.com

**11th March 06
Inter Varsity Dance Competition**
Guildford Spectrum, Guildford
www.universitydancesport.com

**April 2006 (tbc)
Manchester Spring Comp**

**13th May 06
Varsity Match**
Iffley Gym, Oxford
www.oudancesport.co.uk

Varsity 2007 will be hosted by Cambridge on 5th May in Burgess Hall, St Ives.

Rock 'n' Roll Team News

The Rock 'n' Roll team had a very successful and enjoyable year in 2005, under the enthusiastic captaincy of Steve Romans. Their competition results were fantastic with Cambridge dominating the finals. Special mention goes to Steve and partner Katie Walland who were placed 1st or 2nd in all university competitions in 2005.

A very high energy demo - choreographed by Steve - was performed on numerous occasions last year, with its first outing at the Jewish Society ball. Good fun was had by all, especially since they had to negotiate around World War II aeroplane wings when performing high acro moves, as the event was held at Duxford!

Rock n Roll has been growing within CDC in recent years and the club has added authentic rock n roll classes to its programme of continental style as well as inviting world champion Armando from the

Rock Star Show in Paris to teach and demo.

The team are grateful to Guido and Cristina who have been teaching Rock n Roll for the club since 1998 and 2002 respectively.

For more information see the website:

www.cambridgerockandroll.co.uk



Inter Varsity *Dance* Association
universitydancesport.com

If you used to compete on any of the teams and want to keep up to date with news of inter-university dance competitions, to get back into competitive dancing or discuss ideas on how to improve the university circuit, please see the web-page of the Inter Varsity Dance Association:

www.universitydancesport.com This is the most comprehensive guide to the university dancesport circuit and has a section of the discussion forum specifically for ex-students. There is also a partner advertising and costumes for sale service.

Can you help?

The club is always in need of extra costumes for the teams and trophies for Cuppers. We would be grateful for donations of any such unwanted items, to help ensure the future success of CDC. Similarly we'd appreciate copies of old team/committee photos for our website archive.

Advertising opportunities for companies are available on our website, members termcard and beginners flyer sent to all students. E-mail: info@cambridgedancers.org

New salsa team

Barranco, the CDC salsa team was formed three years ago following the increased popularity of salsa within the club. The team has already been successful, easily dominating the finals at Varsity last year and hopes for more success in the London salsa competition on 4th March. The team has been coached by Ivan Scales and is now coached by Sally McCairn. The team consists of 14 couples, and is made up of students and non-students. For more information see the website: www.teamsalsa.co.uk

Offbeat team

The 2004/5 Offbeat team of 8 dancers performed a routine entitled 'Wild Dances' which placed 6th at SUDC last year. This year the team are planning to compete at SUDC and IVDC with a routine first seen in 1996, called "SOLD!". The team coach of 3 years Lise Smith has moved on to further study in London and we welcome back former team coach Steve Smith, who got involved with the club in 1981 and has helped choreograph 21 routines for CU offbeat.

Dancing to XS: Cambridge formation team are British Champs

 XS Latin is a formation team based in Cambridge and consisting of many CUDT members. 2005 was the teams most successful year to date. XS Latin are now the reigning British National champions, winning the title in November 2005 with a routine based around the music of Tom Jones. In December 2005, XS represented England for the fourth time at the IDSF World Latin Formation Championships in Munich achieving their highest world placing of 15th.

On the back of this success, XS have just started their new routine entitled *Song of South America* which comprises classic latin tracks like *El Bodeguero*, *La Historia De Un Amor* and *Brasil* to create a carnival mood. The team is looking forward to debut this routine at the British Open Championships in Blackpool in May.



The team has been representing England in the latin formation world championships since 2002 and has travelled to Belarus, Lithuania and Germany. XS was formed in September 1997 and has had over 80 members of numerous different nationalities. The team consists of 8 couples who perform a 6 minute routine comprising all five latin dances.

Themes of previous routines include Aladdin, Moulin Rouge and Mystery.

The team is coached by former CUDT captain David Mallabone and Bruce Lait, the current coaches of CUDT. Whilst being committed and competitive, the team is also an active social group and provides a great opportunity for people to continue their dancing after university in a team environment. If you are interested in joining then contact them through the website:

www.xslatin.org.uk

Photos: below left Tom Jones routine; below right The Aladdin Routine; top Moulin Rouge



Your old college needs you! Cuppers 2-9pm Saturday 18th February, Parkside Gym

Cuppers, the annual inter collegiate dance competition will be taking place on 18th February. If you want a chance to compete in a fun friendly environment again and relive the inter-collegiate rivalry then get in contact with the captain of your old college. The team competition has a brand new format which sees colleges battle it out across four dances waltz, quickstep, cha and jive. The day will also have a series of open events suitable for all levels of dancer, as well as a Rock 'n' Roll event and the Cambridge Salsa Championships. See www.cambridgedancers.org/events/cuppers for a list of captains and details of the events.



Cambridge Dancers' Club

We have set up a mailing list for all alumni which will allow you to stay up to date with the latest news and receive details of club events via e-mail. Please register on: www.cambridgedancers.org/alumni

For details on events please e-mail: events@cambridgedancers.org

For any other queries please e-mail Rachelle on: alumni@cambridgedancers.org

GENERAL DANCING

The Cambridge Dancers' Club tradition of free social dancing on a Friday night continues, but we have a new venue to cope with the increased demand during term time. If you're ever in Cambridge please feel free to call in:

Social Dancing Fridays 8.30-10.30pm

During term: 2nd floor University Centre off Mill Lane

Outside Term: St Columbas Halls, Downing Place