



Cambridge Dancers' Club

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

January 2010

Issue 7

Keeping you in step with CDC

The latest news

Happy new year! We hope you enjoy the latest issue of our alumni newsletter.

2010 is the 60th anniversary of CDC and as we look back over the previous years we can be pleased by the extent that CDC has grown to become a very popular club in Cambridge, both within and outside the university.

2009 was a busy and successful year for CDC. The dancesport team in particular experienced great results, with a clean sweep being overall champions at all of the student competitions: Warwick, Sheffield, SUDC, IVDC and Varsity A & B. At the IVDC last year Cambridge won the A, B, C, D, overall and beginners team trophies—an excellent achievement. Thanks to Blaise Thomson, captain for 2008-09 for his hard work in managing the team. Ballroom coaches Rory & Kitty Costain left following the birth of their son, David, and we would like to thank them for all their help with the team. Last term James & Kelly Prouton were welcomed onto the coaching staff of the team. Bruce Lait is still coaching (congratulations on his recent wedding) and David Mallabone is acting as Director of Coaching for dancesport.



The successful dancesport team at IVDC 2009 in Blackpool

The Rock n Roll team also had a successful year and have expanded. In 2008/09 former CURnRT captain, Steve Romans, helped set up the British Rock n Roll Federation, which is affiliated to EADA (the English Amateur Dancesport Association). The BRRF aims to get more clubs involved with continental European-style acrobatic Rock'n'Roll Dancing and hopes for better representation at student competitions. Their goals are to organise a UK-open competition where WRRC-qualified judges would preside; and for UK dance teachers to become involved with the WRRC and attending their judge-training course.

Members of the BRRF demonstrated at West End Live in London and in Regents Park as part of London Big Dance Week in 2008.

2009 was a busy year for events, with events officer Sophie Newman-Saunders organising three end of term balls with excellent demonstrations including 2009 British Professional Latin Champions, Gregor Rebula & Rachael Heron.

Moving forward into 2010 we can be proud of the large range of both dance classes and social events run by the CDC and our membership of over 1000 dancers. The club continues to offer a wide range of Ballroom and Latin classes, taught by our four Ballroom and Latin teachers; Paul Walker, Clive Hurt, David Mallabone and Russell Sole. Paul and David are also now teaching Dancesport classes at four levels, greatly benefiting the members of the Cambridge University Dancesport Team as well as other CDC members who wish to learn more detailed technique of the dances. We also have on offer a wide range of Salsa and Rock'n'Roll classes. Salsa classes are available in both LA and Cuban styles and Rueda, whilst our Rock'n'Roll teachers, Guido and Cristina, teach Authentic, Modern and Acrobatic Rock'n'Roll.

This last term has seen many Ballroom and Latin social events, with a Halloween and a Baz Lurhman themed GD, as well as tea dances, a dinner dance, and our regular Christmas ball. These have been well attended, by long-standing members and beginners alike. Next term we are hoping to increase the availability of Salsa social events within CDC, to provide a more relaxed and informal atmosphere for Salsa dancing than the Salsa clubs found on station road. As well as our other regular social and competitive events this coming term we are also looking forward to hosting SUDC 2010 this February, and excitingly our 60th anniversary ball will be in March this year (see back page for details). We are increasingly using our facebook group for events so please sign up to keep up to date with the latest information, or you can check our website www.cambridgedancers.org



CU Dancesport

The CU dancesport team enjoyed another successful season in 2008-2009, where the team retained the National Champions title for the fourth year in a row as well as defended their Varsity crown against Oxford for the third year in a row. 10 dancers were awarded Half Blues for their achievements, and Lenka Vackova was awarded an extraordinary Full Blue.

In line with CUDT's mission to train dancers to succeed both on the university and on the open circuit, the team fielded dancers at open competitions: 17 couples at Champions of Tomorrow in Blackpool in January, 8 couples at Stars of the Future in Brentwood in June, 3 couples at the Britain Best finals in Bournemouth in September, and 3 couples at the British National Championships in November.

However, as with every year, students graduating in June meant that new talent was needed for the 0910 season and a strong recruitment drive was launched at the start of Michaelmas term 2009.

A free "Beginners Introduction to Dancesport" class held on the morning of Saturday 10 October 2009 attracted 160 students, the best turnout in recent

years. CUDT Trials were held later that day, where 120 dancers competed for 40 spaces on the Blues team. Another 20 dancers were invited to the CUDT Squad: novice and intermediate level dancers, who together with the Beginners Team provide a strong pipeline of talent feeding into the main team.

The first competition this season was the internal Cambridge Old Team New Team Reunion Match held on 14 November 2009 at Homerton

College Auditorium. Several alumni members including Scott Bradley and Sarah Adams, Chris Horner and Mary Issitt, Alex Marsh and Nicola Gray, and Shiraz Badurdeen and Anna Schaupp turned up to provide strong competition for the current team.

CUDT went to Nottingham on 28 November 2009 for the first external competition of the year. Braced for a challenge because several advanced-level couples were not available to

compete, CUDT placed second overall, winning the D-team trophy and tying with Oxford for the B-team trophy.

To promote dancesport, CUDT has been involved in several demos, including at the 800th anniversary University Staff Garden Party on 18 July and at the 2009 Festival of Ideas on 24 October. A highlight was an invitation to perform for Benefactors of the University, including the Chancellor, the Duke of Edinburgh, on 20 April. Following this demonstration, CUDT was invited to perform at the 800th anniversary gala New York on 5 December. David Mallabone and 4 CUDT couples attended the gala and put on a performance that was very well received. The set ended with Blaise Thomson, CUDT Captain in 2008-2009, inviting the current Vice-Chancellor to dance. CUDT was featured in the sports section of the latest Cambridge Alumni Magazine, CAM (issue 58, pg 51).

For the latest information on CUDT, please visit www.cudt.org.

David Tan, CUDT Captain 2009-10



CDC Events www.cambridgedancers.org/events

Events Review by Events Officer Lucy Moseley

Tea Dance - 6th November: 30 people enjoyed the 'afternoon tea' style cakes and biscuits at St Columbas

Beginners GD - 12th November: We had an excellent turn out for the Beginners' GD in Emmanuel; over 40 people from Dancesport and Ballroom and Latin classes enjoyed the session and have asked us to hold another. CDC has decided to allocate the first 30 minutes of GD to beginner friendly songs (Jives, Chas, Quicksteps and Waltz') to enable beginners to have some uninterrupted dance practice.

Themed GD. We have started holding themed GD nights with themed music and costumes welcome. At the end of October we had a Halloween GD and on 13th November we celebrated the director Baz Lurhmann - 'Strictly Ballroom', 'Rome and Juliet', the risqué 'Moulin Rouge' and 'Australia'. Paul Wright and Emily Scragg won the prizes for best costumes.

Dinner Dance - 21st November: We had a delightful meal at Wolfson College followed by three hours of dancing.

Dancing Dodgems/Party Dance Workshop - 28th November: CDC teacher Clive Hurt taught a Dancing Dodgems workshop, teaching or reminding us of useful steps and techniques that would help us avoid crashing into one another whilst social dancing. Even more popular was the subsequent Party Dance Workshop, which saw over thirty people attending. We learnt the Gay Gordons, the St Bernards Waltz, Sindy Swing and CDC Lindy-hop line dance.

Christmas Ball - 3rd December: The traditional end of term ball at the St Ivo Centre. Guests enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies, between dances sat at tables decked in festive red and green. The Umbrella Big Band played, and we had an excellent demo by Mark and Olga Elsbury, current Amateur British Ballroom Champions.

Events Next term:

- * **Cuppers** - Saturday 20th February 3pm in the University Centre. Your College needs you - see the website for details
- * **60's themed GD** - 19th February 8.30-10.30 University Centre Free
- * **Diamond Ball** - 5th March at the Watford Colosseum, 7.30pm, £35 — see back page for further details
- * **Tea dances** - Sunday 14th March from 3-6pm at the Lee Hall, Wolfson College

Competitions 2010

For information on student competitions around the country and to discuss dancing in our discussion forum with other current and former students see:

www.universitydancesport.com

Please come along to support although if you wish to dance all comps have an ex-student event.

The Sheffield Social

6th February 2010

Hillsborough Leisure Centre

SUDC - hosted by Cambridge

13 February 2010

Bushfield Sports Centre, Peterborough
www.suda.org.uk

NUDC - hosted by Durham

13 February 2010

IVDC

28th February 2010

Winter Gardens, Blackpool

president@universitydancesport.com

Varsity Match - hosted by Oxford

15th May

at the Iffley Gym, Oxford

<http://team.oudancesport.co.uk/varsityblues>



Inter Varsity *Dance* Association
universitydancesport.com

For information about competing on the "open circuit" see
www.eada.org.uk

Rock n Roll

It's been an exciting term for the rock and roll team. With many of our dancers graduating this year there has been a strong focus on recruitment. We've found lots of new team members and their passion and enthusiasm for rock and roll has been extremely encouraging. Their improvement in just a few short weeks has been astounding and I look forward to seeing them continue to progress.

A major workshop was held in November, organised by the team coach Stefan Turok and his partner Laura Cope. The session was coached by Jan Haupt from the Czech Republic and Tea Turková from Croatia. The whole weekend received a very warm welcome from the team who relished the opportunity to train with main class dancers. The event was a huge success

and I'm thankful for everyone who made it happen.

In January the team will be performing in Signatures, the Cambridge University Contemporary Dance Workshop annual show. We've got two exciting routines combining mind-blowing footwork and extraordinary acrobatics and we hope as many people are able to come and see it as possible.

I'm very pleased with the way this term has gone and I'm looking forward to a great term ahead.

Adrian Potter
CURnR Team
Captain
2009-2010



XS Review

With a routine based on Saturday Night Fever, XS Latin were British National champions in 2008. The team placed second at the British Open and at the British National Championships in 2009. Internationally, XS Latin placed 13th at the IDSF World Latin formation championships in Germany last year. The team will be starting a new routine in 2010 and are currently recruiting new dancers.

The team is still trained by David

Mallabone and Bruce Lait and rehearse at least twice each week in Milton. They perform a 6mins routine incorporating all 5 Latin dances and compete at the British Open and British National Championships in Blackpool each year. For more information, please visit www.xslatin.org



Supporting CDC

The difficult economic climate is affecting us all and University clubs and societies are no exception. We are facing increased pressures on our resources and we are constantly seeking additional forms of funding to help keep prices low for students who wish to try dancing and to help build on our teams successes by helping purchase additional costumes and equipment. We are pleased to have worked with the University Development Office during their 800th year to help set up online donations for CDC. These will be counted as gifts towards the University's 800th Campaign and can be made tax efficiently from the UK and USA.

You can make a donation online via the link below

<http://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/giving/nonschool.php?id=18>

or contact the University Development Office to make a gift by cheque or standing order:
enquiries@foundation.cam.ac.uk

The club and teams are also looking for sponsorship and would be grateful to hear from any alumni or friends who might be interested in the opportunity to advertise and promote their company to a large number of students.

Contact president@cambridgedancers.org

60 years of CDC: the Anniversary Ball 5th March 2010

In 2010 Cambridge Dancers' Club will have been running for 60 years, which gives us a grand excuse to celebrate. Instead of holding the usual Lent Term Ball we have decided to splash out and hold an anniversary ball at the Watford Colosseum, London. This venue has an expansive dance floor - so we can accommodate all those extra alumni we expect will make an appearance - and excellent acoustics, which will provide the perfect setting for the legendary Ross Mitchell, His Singers and His Band to perform.

You will be greeted with a champagne reception and thematic decor... and we will have some fine foods for you to nibble on during the evening. A spectacular demonstration is lined up from 2007 British Professional Ballroom Champions Jonathon Crossley and Lyn Marriner.

**Friday 5th March 2010
7:30pm (last waltz at
12:55am) at the Watford
Colosseum, London
Dress Code: Black Tie
Tickets £35, £25 for stu-
dents (plus £5 for return
coach travel)**

Coaches will depart from Queens' Road (behind Queens' College) at 6pm and 6:30pm. If you would like to travel by coach, please specify which coach you would like to be on. Please note that coach times may need to change if we do not have enough people signed up for one coach.

For those of you who will be driving, there is a Pay and Display car park next to the venue which charges £1 for the whole evening.

Venue Details:
Watford Colosseum, Town Hall, Watford, WD17 3EX

To book tickets for this event, please email Lucy on events@cambridgedancers.org. Please specify if you are a student, whether or not you would like coach transport, and if so what coach you would like to be on. Cheques should be made payable to Cambridge Dancers' Club; tickets will be distributed near the event date.



Introducing the...

Cambridge Dancers' Club 60th Anniversary Ball

The Watford Colosseum
5th March 2010



with music by the
Ross Mitchell Band

demo by
Jonathan Crossley and Lyn Marriner
2007 British Professional Ballroom Champions

Tickets £35, £25 students
Available from events@cambridgedancers.org

GENERAL DANCING

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: alumni@cambridgedancers.org

CDC Executive Committee 2009-2010

President: Eleanor Winpenny president@cambridgedancers.org
VP classes: Elena Yudovina and Joseph Roffey classes@cambridgedancers.org
VP events: Lucy Moseley events@cambridgedancers.org
Secretary: Laura Watkins secretary@cambridgedancers.org
Treasurer: Caroline Marriage treasurer@cambridgedancers.org
RnR Team Captain: Adrian Potter rnr@cambridgedancers.org
Dancesport Team Captain: David Tan dancesport@cambridgedancers.org

The CDC tradition of free social dancing on a Friday night continues.

**Social Dancing every Friday
8.30-10.30pm**

**2nd floor, University Centre
off Mill Lane**

We have started to introduced themed GD once a term. 19th February will be at 60s themed GD.

Details can also be found on our web-site:

www.cambridgedancers.org

also find CDC on
www.facebook.com and
www.friendsreunited.co.uk