



# Cambridge Dancers' Club

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

May 2006

Issue 2

Keeping you in step with CDC

### Dancing Blues .....

Despite a very close competition, Cambridge have been left feeling blue after they lost to Oxford at the Varsity match last weekend. Having beaten Oxford at the Nationals to win the title of overall national student dancesport champions a few months before, Cambridge looked set to dominate at the competition. There was also great depth in the squad; 21 couples trialled for 16 places on the team. Eligibility criteria had an effect on Cambridge's A team line up, and the psychological disadvantage of competing against the home crowd proved to be just too much for Cambridge on this occasion. Despite a strong fight from Cambridge, Oxford won both the ballroom and latin disciplines and won the Varsity match 1518 points to 1362 and the second team match 1511 points to 1369.

Ten members of the Cambridge team will receive half blues for their strong performances in the Varsity match: Stephen & Cat; Nejc & Pauliina; Scott & Nicola; Shiraz & Anya and Chris & Erika. Special mention should go to Cambridge's best ballroom couple Stephen Ward & Cat Harris who were ranked second overall. Scott & Nicola and Shiraz & Anya tied as Cambridge's best latin couple. In the second team match Cambridge couples were placed first and second: Paul & Vesna and Florian & Mai. Oxford also won the best beginners team trophy, but Cambridge easily dominated the Rock and Roll and Salsa events.

Oxford and Cambridge have alternated annually to host the competition since it started in 1974. A sec-

ond team match was added in 1996. This was the 33rd Varsity match and the current total now stands at Oxford: 22, Cambridge: 11. The Varsity title has eluded Cambridge since 1999 and despite several very close calls Cambridge have never won the second team match.

The Varsity teams consist of 8 couples divided into two heats of four. Each foursome dances against both sets from the opposing university across four dances: waltz, quickstep, cha and jive. Judges place couples from 1-8 in each round - each mark from every judge counts; points are assigned to placings and points are totalled for each couple across all four dances and then for each university. Half blues are awarded to those Cambridge couples who receive over half the maximum number of points. At Oxford, dancesport is a full blue sport for women and a discretionary full blue sport for men. At Cambridge it has half blues status, introduced for women in 1991 and for men in 1999.



New website: [www.cambridgedancers.org](http://www.cambridgedancers.org)

CDC has just launched its new website: [www.cambridgedancers.org](http://www.cambridgedancers.org) with new graphics and styling. The website contains information on all the clubs classes, events and teams and well as a section about CDC and its

history. The new site is already receiving 1,000 hits per day. Thanks go to Chris Newton and Joanne Chapter who have helped to develop the new site. If you have any suggestions for the site or any old photos we could add to the archives then please contact the webmaster on: [webmaster@cambridgedancers.org](mailto:webmaster@cambridgedancers.org)



## Dancesport Team: National Champions

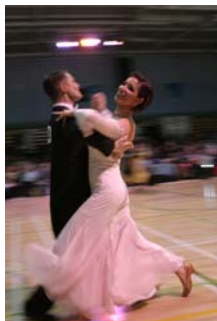
Cambridge had a strong dancesport team this year - as well as keeping hold of experience dancers from previous years there was an influx of new talent and a group of enthusiastic beginners who progressed at an astonishing rate. However, the team was affected by the coach Bruce Lait being involved in the Strictly Ballroom Dancing show. Benoit & Lorraine Drolet stepped in to help out with ballroom classes and the Hilliers acted as guest coaches.

At the start of February was the Sheffield Social - far from a fun competition as Cambridge met with their full team against Oxford and Imperial for the first time in the season. Cambridge had success in the opens with Paul & Vesna and Scott & Nicola winning the ballroom and latin events respectively. The team match was a close run competition but Cambridge came second to Oxford overall. In the nail-biting knockout competition it was an Oxford-Cambridge semi-final, which Oxford won by just one point.

The southern universities competition was held in Farnborough by

Southampton. After a long, fraught journey to the competition, Cambridge regained composure and performed well in the opens with Scott & Nicola placing 2nd in advanced latin. In the team match Cambridge again placed second in the A team just a few points behind Oxford but won the B team match.

The season ended with the national student dancesport competition in Guildford in March, hosted by Imperial College, London. The IVDC team match is different in that it marks teams through as teams,



Paul Fannon & Vesna Kadelburg

rather than as couples. Cambridge won the A team competition by 2 points with 1st in Waltz, 2nd in Quickstep, 4th in Cha and 1st in Jive. Cambridge also won the B and D team events and were crowned overall champions for the first time since 2000. In the open events: half of the



advanced ballroom final consisted of Cambridge couples, Paul & Vesna won this event and Scott & Nicola were runners up in the advanced latin competition. Cambridge also had couples in all beginners finals, although lost out to Oxford for the best beginners team trophy.

The judges awarded the most promising couple trophy to a Cambridge couple: William Lee & Amy Rushman.



Scott Bradley & Nicola Gray

Congratulations to the team for a very successful year. We wish Nicola luck for further success next year as she takes over as team captain from Cat & Mildred.

## CDC Events

[www.cambridgedancers.org/events](http://www.cambridgedancers.org/events)

### Argentine Tango Evening

**Thursday 25th May, 7-10.30pm**

St Columba's Halls, Downing Place £3 incl workshop, £2 excl workshop  
7-7.30 Demo; 7.30-8.30 Workshop, 8.30-10.30 Social

### Summer Ball

**Friday 16th June, 7.30pm-1am**

Burgess Civic Hall, St Ives £18 incl transport, £15 excl transport  
The traditional end-of-term Black Tie ball, featuring Ross Mitchell and his Band and a demonstration by the EADA Showcase and Cambridge Rock 'n' Roll Team. Transport available from Queens Rd, Cambridge at 7pm. Tickets go on sale from 19th May and are available at GD or by e-mailing: [events@cambridgedancers.org](mailto:events@cambridgedancers.org)

### Future Ball Dates:

**Christmas Ball**  
**Spring Ball**  
**Summer Ball**

**1 December 2006**  
**16 March 2007**  
**21 June 2007**

**CUDT Reunion Match Provisional Date:** Saturday 4th November 2006  
**Cuppers 2007 Provisional Date:** Saturday 17th February 2007

## Competitions 2006-7

### Warwick

Saturday 11th November

### Nottingham

Saturday 25th November

### Sheffield Social

Saturday 10th February,  
The Octagon, Sheffield

### Southern Universities

Saturday 24th February (TBC)

### Inter Varsity Dance Competition

Saturday 10th March,  
Empress Ballroom Blackpool (TBC)

### Varsity Match 2007

Saturday 5th May,  
Burgess Hall, St Ives

[www.universitydancesport.com](http://www.universitydancesport.com)



## Rock 'n' Roll - flying high

Steve The 12-couple Rock 'n' Roll team have had great success this year with couples in the finals at all of the major student competitions. Once again, Cambridge are national student Rock n Roll champions following their success at the Inter Varsity Dance Competition in March. Special mention must go to the former team captain Steve Romans, and the 2005-6 captain Amy Oliver, who



Steve and Amy

won all of the Rock n Roll events at the Sheffield Social, SUDC, IVDC, Manchester and Varsity this year.

At the end of April four couples from the team went to Ljubljana, Slovenia, to receive tuition from Matjaz Izac (World #3), Miriam Izac

(World Rock n Roll Confederation President) and Marko Rus (former world top 8). They had a very full week with 5-6 hours of training each day in footwork and acrobatics. It allowed them to add lots of new moves to their repertoire, and they have returned to Cambridge full of enthusiasm and new ideas for their individual routines. Hopefully some CU RnR team members will be able to compete in the B-class European Cup in Ljubljana at the end of the year.



## 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](mailto:info@cambridgedancers.org)

## XS Latin

[www.xslatin.org.uk](http://www.xslatin.org.uk)

The XS Latin Formation team will be performing their new routine "Songs of South America" at the British Open Championships in May in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool. They hope to qualify for the World Championships in Lithuania in December. Eight couples (including students and ex-students) will be competing in the team coached by Bruce Lait and David Mallabone



## Salsa success

Barranco, has grown from strength to strength this year following a record turnout at team trials. The team competed at the Nottingham Inter Varsity Ball and two couples made the final. Cambridge salsa couples also dominated the Varsity salsa event, winning 1st to 4th places. The team has also spent the year mastering a complex demo, choreographed by new teacher Sally McCairn and will be performing this demo at several May balls and at a fundraising event for humanitarian aid.

## Offbeat team

Performing a lively country ho-down style routine "Sold", the Offbeat team placed second at SUDC behind Sussex-Brighton's hip hop routine, and joint second at IVDC behind Liverpool's version of West Side Story. A very positive welcome back for the team's old coach Steve Smith.



## CDC Success 2005-6

2005-6 has been a successful year for CDC. Membership levels have hit a record high (over 2500 members this year) and the teams have had numerous successes in the inter university competitions. The dancesport and Rock n Roll teams won the national student dance competition and the offbeat team were runners up. These teams will be demonstrating at numerous May Balls next month.

The club continues as one of the largest university dance clubs in the country and one of the largest societies at the University, and has expanded to offer classes six nights a week, including classes in different styles of Rock n Roll and Salsa.

The club has also offered a packed programme of events this year with advanced dancesport workshops from Jonathan Wilkins &

Katusha Demidova and Andrew Cuerden & Hanna Haarala. There have been Rock n Roll and Salsa nights with live bands as well as the traditional tea dances and social dancing. The end of term balls been as popular as ever, with a demonstration by *Strictly Come Dancing* Stars Darren Bennett & Lilia Kopylova as the highlight last term.

Over 145 CDC members took part in the annual Cuppers competition in February. This consisted of a series of open events during the day for all levels from beginners through to advanced; as well as the Cambridge Salsa Championships. The team match in the evening was a true inter-college match with teams from colleges consisting of 4 couples each dancing one of waltz, quickstep, cha or jive, in the same format as inter-university competi-

tions. The match was won for the first time by Darwin College, who gained 58 points.

### Cambridge Dancers' Club Executive Committee for 2006-7:

**President:** Nick Jones  
president@cambridgedancers.org

**Dancesport Captain:** Nicola Gray  
dancesport@cambridgedancers.org

**Rock n Roll Captain:** Peter Smith  
rnr@cambridgedancers.org

**Salsa Captains:** Mark & Sam  
salsa@cambridgedancers.org

**Offbeat Captains:** Henry & Michelle  
offbeat@cambridgedancers.org

**Events:** Chris Newton  
events@cambridgedancers.org

### Looking for long lost members from CDC?

CDC is now one of the clubs that you can register as having been part of on *Friends Reunited*. If you haven't already signed up, it's a free website allowing you to create a profile, be listed under your former school/university and search for lost friends. To list CDC as one of your former clubs/teams, log on to [www.friendsreunited.co.uk](http://www.friendsreunited.co.uk) and click on team and then dance club/South East/Cambridgeshire and you'll find CDC listed. You can then find out what your fellow Robin & Glennis class attendees are up to now!



## 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 welcome to call in:

### Social Dancing Fridays 8.30-10.30pm

During term: 2nd floor University Centre off Mill Lane

Outside Term: St Columba's Halls, Downing Place

### Term dates:

24th April 06—16th June 06  
3rd October 06—1st December 06  
16th January 07—16th March 07  
24th April 07—15th June 07  
2nd October 07—30th November 07

Details can also be found on our website:  
[www.cambridgedancers.org](http://www.cambridgedancers.org)



### 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](http://www.cambridgedancers.org/alumni)

For details on events please e-mail:  
[events@cambridgedancers.org](mailto:events@cambridgedancers.org)

For any other queries please e-mail Rachelle on:  
[alumni@cambridgedancers.org](mailto:alumni@cambridgedancers.org)