



Cambridge Dancers' Club

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

May 2007

Issue 5

Keeping you in step with CDC

The 2007 Varsity Match – Cambridge success

This years dancesport varsity match was set to be a close run contest – Cambridge had won the national student dancesport championships in Blackpool a few months ago, but Oxford had been only a few points behind and eligibility requirements meant the line up of both teams were affected. Oxford had won the match for the past 6 years so the pressure was on Cambridge....

This year was the 34th Dancesport Varsity M, which attracted over 150 spectators to support some of the top student dancers in the country. The 2 universities host the event in alternate years and this year Cambridge Dancers' Club hosted the event in the Burgess Civic hall, St Ivo Centre. The 8-couple Challenge Shield event (the second team match) was run first. Cambridge had never won this event since it was introduced in 1999. The event involves all couples from one University dancing waltz, quickstep, cha and jive against all couples from the other University, judges place the couples 1-8 in a series of heats and points are added up for each position, such that the university with the highest number of points wins. The event started with the ballroom competition, which Cambridge won 752 points to 688. The team were confident and this showed in the latin events, which Cambridge won much more convincingly, 827 points to 613. Cambridge therefore managed to achieve their first win in the second team match, although the best couple in the B team overall was from Oxford.

The Varsity match was the highlight of the day. This year



Nejc & Pauliina

was the first year it had a nine couple format. All couples dance waltz, quickstep cha and jive with points allocated to couples depending on their placings in each of the heats. Again the ballroom was first and it was an incredibly close competition – Oxford won by just a few points, 953 points to 937. However Cambridge had a much stronger latin side and had a very convincing win in the cha and jive, 1095 points to

795, and they were therefore crowned the 2007 Varsity champions. The best couple overall was Nejc Jus and Pauliina Markkula from Cambridge. Special mention should also go to Cambridge couples Blaise Thomson

and Felicia Yap who jointly won the ballroom overall with Nejc and Pauliina and to Shiraz Badurdeen and Nicola Gray who won the best overall latin couple. The top four couples in the event were Cambridge couples and a total of 20 students from Cambridge will be receiving their Half Blue in dancesport as a result of the high standard of their performance in the varsity match. Dancesport has been a half blue in Cambridge since 1991 for women and since 1999 for men. In contrast, dancesport is a Full Blue sport in Oxford.



Blaise & Fely

The afternoon consisted of various events for all standards, open to all; which attracted a lot of Oxford and Cambridge alumni and students from London. The beginner, novice and intermediate categories acted as a qualifier for Stars of the Future for the first time. There were also events in Salsa and Rock n Roll, which were won by Cambridge. There were also fun events for the Oxford and Cambridge teams (including a very interesting and unforgettable Ox-bridge version of "Hanky Panky") and after the tension earlier in the day it provided the much needed opportunity for the dancers to relax.



Nicola Gray, the team captain, commented: "We are delighted with the result of the Blues team and the second team matches. Both teams danced fantastically and richly deserved the victory." After an

unbeaten run all year and achieving the titles of national dancesport and Varsity champions, let's hope that the Cambridge team's success will continue into next season.

The match was dedicated to Oxford team member Tsz Fok, who was tragically killed in a road accident a few weeks before the competition.

Many thanks to our exhibitor Fars Dance and to all of our sponsors Club Salsa, International Dance Shoes, Crystal Clover, Supadance, EADA and Cambridge Wine Merchants.

Full results can be found here:

<http://www.cambridgedancers.org/events/varsity/varsity2007.html>

CUDT – National Champions 2007

Cambridge University Dancesport Team had a spectacular season, their A team was unbeaten all year and the highlight was being crowned national dancesport champions when the team won the Inter Varsity Dancesport Competition.



Cambridge took 60 couples to the 45th annual national student dancesport competition in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool in March. They had won the regional competition a couple of weeks before, with Cambridge couples winning advanced ballroom and the advanced latin events (with another two Cambridge couples in each of the finals) and beating Oxford to win the A and B team competition. All A and B team couples made the finals in each of the dances, but the C and D teams lost out to Oxford. Earlier in the year Cambridge won the A, B and C team and the unique team knockout competition at Sheffield as well as having numerous successes in the open events for individual couples throughout the day. Cambridge also

beat Oxford to win the A, B and C teams at Nottingham in November. However, long-term rivals Oxford were not going to give up without a fight and team injuries meant that the national competition was going to be a close run contest. The competition was at a very high level and record numbers attended - over 900 student dancers representing 26 different Universities across the country.

The morning and afternoon consists of a series of open events from beginner through to advanced in ballroom and latin. Over 175 beginners couples took part in an event of high standard and Cambridge beginners made all of the finals, although they were just beaten into the place of best beginners team by Imperial College. There were two Cambridge couples in the finals of the intermediate latin, advanced ballroom and advanced latin events – an admirable achievement in a field of such high standard. Despite well rehearsed routines, Shiraz Badurdeen and Nicola Gray came a close second to a new couple from Bristol in the advanced latin event. Similarly Nejc Jus and Pauliina Markkula were runners up in the advanced ballroom event which was won by a couple from Durham.

The highlight of the Inter Varsity Competition is the evening team match. Throughout the season Cambridge had dominated the team event having been undefeated in the A and B team matches, but Oxford had been very close behind. The format is such that each University submits 4 teams of 4 couples and each couple dances one of waltz, quickstep, cha or jive. The final was made up of teams from Cambridge, Oxford, Bristol and Imperial College. The couple from Bristol won the team cha but this was not enough for their A team to place any higher than 3rd amongst the A teams. Oxford won the quickstep, but were only able to place 3rd in the waltz, 4th in the cha and 2nd in the jive, which left them as runners up. Cambridge placed 1st in waltz and jive and 2nd in cha and quickstep, which safely secured their A team winners title and the success of their B and D teams meant they were crowned overall national dancesport champions.



The winning A team

CDC Events

www.cambridgedancers.org/events

CDC Ball

7.30pm—1am

Coaches depart from Queens Rd at 7pm

Live music, bar open until midnight and demonstration.

Tickets now available by e-mailing: events@cambridgedancers.org

Thursday 21st June 2007

£20 incl transport, £16 excl transport

St Ivo Centre, St Ives

Dress: Black Tie

Future Ball Dates:

Friday 30th November 2007

Friday 14th March 2008

Friday 13th June 2008

Reunion match: The dancesport term will be hosting a Reunion match for former team members in early November as usual. More details in the next newsletter.

CDC gossip tree!

In future editions I'm thinking of including a CDC members news section so please send in a couple of lines about where you are now and what you're doing. For this issue:

Congratulations to David and Jane Mallabone, captains of the dancesport team in 1990 and 1991. Jane gave birth to their first child, Naomi, a few days after Varsity.



Mother and baby doing well.

Competitions 2007-8

For information on open circuit and student competitions and details of social events and workshops around the country and to discuss dancing in our discussion forum with other current and former students see:

www.universitydancesport.com

Dates for next term:

Southampton Friendly 3rd November

Leicester Comp 10th November

UNIVERSITY DANCE CHALLENGE

A team match for current and former students on 9th December at Egham Leisure Centre. More details in the next issue.



Salsa

The salsa team have also had a successful term. Couples from the team competed in the salsa event at varsity and were placed 1 to 5 in the final. The event was won by the team captains Mark Wolfenden and Samantha Armsby. Thanks to Club Salsa for sponsoring the event.



The team, Barranco, also performed their 4 minute show routine as a demonstration. It was hoped to have an Oxford versus Cambridge Salsa show dance competition, but unfortunately several Oxford couples were unable to make it at the last minute. However the two teams are hopefully that such events will be more commonplace in the future.

The team will also be demonstrating at May Balls this term including Clare, St Edmunds, Corpus and New Hall.

The salsa ball last term, *pasion de primavera*, was yet again sold out with over 200 attendees. There were classes at the start of the evening, a and then dancing 'til late. Five couples from the team also performed a cuban hip hop demonstration. Live band Palenke, were a resounding success and it is hoped there will be a similar event next term.

What can we do for you?

If you'd be interested in any CDC reunion events, whether a dinner back at a Cambridge college or an informal drink in London, let us know. We are keen to keep as many CDC members in touch as possible and we'd like to hear what events would interest you.

E-mail alumni@cambridgedancers.org

If you or your company are interested in advertising with CDC contact the President on: president@cambridgedancers.org

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

Cuppers review

CDC's annual collegiate competition was held back in February at Lee Hall, Wolfson. There were various open events during the day from beginner through to advanced, in Ballroom, Latin, Rock n Roll and Salsa. The highlight of the day was the team match — 10 different Colleges took part. The event was won by a joint Johns-Trinity team who decided to cooperate at the last minute!

Rock 'n' Roll - national champions

The Rock n Roll team also had great success at the Inter Varsity Dance Competition in March. Cambridge Rock n Roll team took 11 couples to Blackpool for the event. They displayed breathtaking acrobatic moves in their competition and easily dominated the event with 5 out of 6 couples in the final coming from Cambridge.

The team were also successful at the Sheffield competition last term, and the acrobatic final consisted solely of couples from Cambridge and CURnRT came 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th

in the footwork competition. The team hopes to continue their success next year.



XS does Broadway!

XS Latin is currently preparing for their participation in the British Open in Blackpool at the end of May. Eight teams from across the world, including another British team, will be taking part.

As part of their preparation they journeyed to Dusseldorf to compete for the first time, in the IDSF European Latin Formation Championships. The top teams from across Europe compete at this event and the standard was incredibly high. Despite a remarkable performance, especially for a new routine, XS did not receive enough recalls into the semi final, and placed 17th. An admirable result for their first European Championships.

The team have worked incredibly hard to learn and polish a new routine in only five months since last season's World



The dress rehearsal

Championships. This is the fastest XS has ever got a routine together. The new routine has a Broadway theme and involves songs from musicals (including "Big Spender", "Whatever Lola Wants" and "Aquarius"), and elaborate "show-girl" style blue and black costumes.

2007 also sees the 10th anniversary of the British Championship winning team and, to celebrate, all of the former and current members of the XS team are invited to an anniversary party in Cambridge on Saturday 25th August. If you would like more information about the reunion or about XS Latin please email David Mallabone:

david@djmallabone.wanadoo.co.uk

XS also exists as a group on Facebook.

See the website for more information:

www.xslatin.org.uk

Introducing ...

May brings the CDC AGM and a new Executive Committee have been elected for 2007-8:

Hywel Room (President) *president@cambridgedancers.org*

Michael Brown (Treasurer)

Austin Anderson & Haibo E (VP Events) *events@cambridgedancers.org*

Jess Wallington & Ian Alden (VP Classes)

Kennieth Yong (Secretary) *secretary@cambridgedancers.org*

Ana Kalabina (Publicity) *publicity@cambridgedancers.org*

Alex Marsh & Pauliina Markkula (Dancesport Captain) *dancesport@cambridgedancers.org*

Emily Green & Zara Jealous (Rock n Roll Captain) *rnr@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

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.

Social Dancing every Friday 8.30-10.30pm

2nd floor, University Centre off Mill Lane

Details can also be found on our website:
www.cambridgedancers.org