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HOW TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT OUDT:

OUDT has been fortunate of late to have received generous funding from the International Dance Teachers Association (IDTA), as well as a fixed-term grant from the University's Development Office in recognition of our growing success as a University Blues Team, which have jointly provided the bulk of our finances. However, the period of the development grant has ended, whilst the IDTA has unexpectedly decided not to renew its sponsorship agreement with OUDT this year, meaning both sources of funding have disappeared.



Will and Helen

We are therefore appealing to interested alumni to help us maintain our strong position on the university circuit through small, regular contributions to OUDT through our Alumni Donating Scheme. The scheme is administered through the Oxford University Development Office and enables past members to donate an amount of their choice on a regular basis. This money will be invaluable in improving team's wardrobe and equipment, supporting new team initiatives and alleviating the costs of dancing for team members in the longer term. A small contribution from you could make a huge

difference to those currently competing for OUDT! To donate, see the attached form (below), or visit:
<http://team.oudancesport.co.uk/alumni>

NEW COMMITTEE:

This year, Sarah Farrell (St, John's) takes over as Captain, supported by Vice-Captains Helen Pearce (Keble), Alex Robinson (Worcester) and Roger Abbott (Worcester). They are assisted by Treasurer Erin Lane (LMH), Wardrobe Mistress Helen Hanlon (LMH), Social Secretary Oli Zeldin (Lincoln) and Fundraising Coordinator Ian Preston (Magdalen). Ambitious and hard-working, they are ready to guide OUDT to victory!

RESULTS:

Warwick Varsity Ball

The Warwick Varsity Ball proved to be a fun and successful warm-up comp, with Oxford dominating both the open and team events. To start off, newly-partnered William Lee and Helen Pearce won the Warwick Four Dance, as well as intermediate tango, rumba, and jive. After deciding that one year at Cambridge was more



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than enough, Will defected to join our A-team Latin side. According to Bruce, “nothing good ever comes our way from Cambridge” – here is the first exception, and may similar ones follow! Well done to Simon Douglas and Dasha Pluznyhk for winning both advanced samba and advanced quickstep, and to Martin Bird and Sarah Ward Jones for winning the advanced foxtrot. Alice Pillar and Maciej Kula were runners up in the intermediate latin events, and Mark Penwill won the novice jive with Wanzhen Tang, who just joined OUDT this year. In the Team event, Oxford A, B, C, and D made the finals, finishing first, second, third, and fifth, respectively. Oxford E and F both made the semifinals of the division one team event.

OUdT couple dance IDSF

Congratulations to Martin Bird and Sarah Ward Jones, one of two English couples selected by David Douglas to compete for England in the Slovak Open Dancesport Festival in Bratislava on the 24th/25th November. Martin and Sarah are in their second year dancing on the Oxford University Dancesport Team together and have had a number of successes both on the university and open dance circuit.

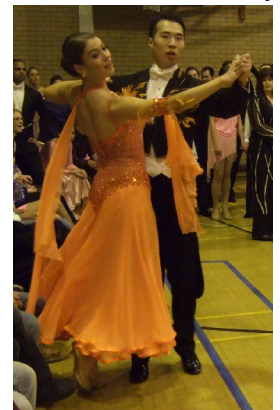
Nottingham Varsity Ball

With Cambridge and Imperial presenting a strong front and Oxford missing two of its A-team couples, the Dark Blues fought hard to produce excellent results in the team match. Our A team drew with Cambridge for first in



Ivan and Pippa

the A team, in fact gaining more first places overall, while our B team came second by only one mark. Much to our relief, the trusty D team won back the trophy which somehow failed to materialize in the Oxford cupboard. Congratulations to Ivan "Travolta" Lubenko and Pippa Underwood for winning A team jive, and to Simon and Dasha for winning A quickstep. The latter overcame tough opposition from veteran tab couple Paul and Vesna, still a threat despite their age. Saiqi Lu and Laura Bury, and Maciej Kula and Alice Pillar, won B quickstep and cha, respectively. Kitty Meeks and Glenn Lacki won D quickstep, and talented Beginners Team couple Ania Szmuksta and Brais Louro Lariño won D jive, beating several finalists from the intermediate latin in the process.



Saiqi and Laura

Oxford had a good run in the opens as well. Cheeky Simon and Dasha were runners up in the advanced ballroom, while lightning-fast Will and leggy Helen finished third in advanced latin and second in intermediate ballroom. Roger Abbott and Caroline Grey successfully changed out of their ballroom outfits to win the novice latin. Roger's animated facial expressions delighted his supporters and the judges as much as they horrified his partner. Lastly, well done to Ian Preston and Charlotte Woolley for breaking into the advanced ballroom finals. Ian and Clive are not only Oxford's tallest couple, but currently Oxford's longest-lasting partnership as well, now in their fourth year together.



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Open circuit competition at Egham:



Simon & Dasha

For the second year running, OUDT took a large group to the open circuit competition held at Egham on 9 December – enough dancers to fill three teams. Oxford A, B, and C all made it into the finals of the university team event, with Oxford A winning the event once more. In the opens, all our couples made finals in their events. Special mention to Simon and Dasha for finishing second in prechamp ballroom and fifth in the amateur division; and to Oli Zeldin and Fancesca Barrow, who were runners up in the intermediate ballroom, and came out on top in the novice. On the Latin end, Ivan and Pippa won prechamp latin, and Nick Haines and Erin Lane made finals in the intermediate 3-dance. Roger and Caroline continued to have more success in latin than in their own discipline,

winning the novice 2-dance, with Alex Robinson and Anne Marie Wait finishing second.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Old team new team match

Our newest event, the old team new team match, promises to be a great day for everyone: a chance for the new team to gain competitive experience and to meet OUDT alumni, and for retired members of OUDT to catch up with each other and brush the dust off their dance shoes. The event will be held at Tingewick Hall at the John Radcliffe Hospital on 2 February, 2008, in the afternoon. For more information, or to register, please email Roger Abbott (roger.abbott@worc.ox.ac.uk).

OUDC 40th Anniversary Ball – Feb 15, 2008

This year, the OUDC ball will be held in the elegant and spacious Town Hall. After the champagne reception and dinner, last year's blues awards will be formally presented after the champagne reception and dinner, with social dancing to follow afterwards. As usual, an excellent opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet this year's team. For more information, and to buy your tickets, contact Rachel Dryden, our OUDC social secretary (rachel@oudancesport.co.uk).

New Sponsors

We are pleased to announce the support of two new sponsors. Thanks to **Acapulco Paradiso** for providing OUDT with one free dress and for offering the team a discount on further purchases of their beautiful merchandise. Thanks also to **Famous Dave's Tanner**, for helping our lovely ladies look incredibly brown this year!

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Bruce's Quote of the Term:

“That Rachelle, I've always fancied bonking her... I reckon she'd be good”

We'll leave you with that thought whilst we prepare for Sheffield and SUDA, leading up to the Nationals in Blackpool on March 8th 2008!

See you soon,

Your dedicated committee

xxx