

SPONSORED BY THE *IDTA*

Issue 1

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Following the success of triumvirate captainships in recent years, **Mairi McGuiness** (Brasenose), **Alice Pillar** (Christ Church) and **Eliza Eagling** (Christ Church) were elected Captains at the end of Trinity Term 2006. They are assisted by **Jason Holland** as vice-Captain.

We are very grateful for the continued sponsorship of the team by the **IDTA**. This year the money has gone towards much needed men's costumes. Amongst other items, we purchased four new Latin shirts and four new pairs of Latin trousers. Everyone is very pleased with them, particularly as we previously owned only one Latin shirt and no trousers at all. We also invested in ballroom accessories for guys, including shirt studs and cufflinks. As in previous years, all the girls were supplied with team kimonos and the guys with team ties.

To help us look after all these costumes, we are extremely lucky to have **Vicky Stimson** as our wardrobe mistress. Not only has she completely reorganised our costumes and created a catalogue so we know exactly what the team owns, but she has also made us several fantastic 'Jumin style' dresses.



Mairi McGuiness, Alice Pillar and Eliza Eagling with wardrobe mistress, Vicky Stimson

On a completely different note, we are very happy to announce that one of our coaches, **Neil Dewar** recently got married in autumn of last year. He continues to coach us, and the only recent change been the addition of **Zoey** to our brilliant coaching team of **Bruce, Neil, Lorraine** and **Dave Weston**.

## THE ANNUAL DANCESPORT BALL AND BLUES DINNER 2007 OUDC Masquerade Ball

When: **17th February**

Where: St. Anthony's College

Time: 6:00pm to 12:30am or 9:00pm to 12:30am

Cost: £38 dining, £15 non-dining



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This year's club ball will take place on the 17th of February, in the gorgeous St. Anthony's college. There will be a drinks reception, followed by a three course meal. Afterwards there will be presentations of awards and speeches, followed by dancing until the wee hours of the morning. Tickets will go fast, so book now to avoid disappointment. Please contact: [sarah.farrell@st-johns.oxford.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.farrell@st-johns.oxford.ac.uk) if you would like to buy tickets.

## DEMOS

With the increasing popularity of Strictly Come Dancing the demand for demonstrations has also taken off considerably. Over the summer there were a number of opportunities including the summer ball for Pirbright Officers and a dance extravaganza at **Weston Manor Hotel**, Bicester. The opportunity to demonstrate for the **BBC's 'Big Dance Class'** was however sadly missed when the rain poured just as the OUDT dancers were taking to the outdoor stage.

The start of the new term brought a new team, and again a number of opportunities to demonstrate. Even with a very young team, and the pressures of the competitions, demos were given for **KEEN** (a charity in Oxford) as well as for OUDC and at the beginners' trials. A particular highlight of the demonstrations so far was at a corporate Christmas party where we recreated our own Strictly Come Dancing Style competition. After a 30minute Cha Cha lesson from Bruce, Serco employees took to the floor with the OUDT 'professionals' to some hilarious results.

Upcoming events include more corporate events, a charity ball in London, and an evening at a Rotary Club as well as a number of Oxford events. Should you be interested in having the team demonstrate at an event with or without Bruce teaching afterwards please email [captain@oudancesport.co.uk](mailto:captain@oudancesport.co.uk).

## WARWICK 19 NOVEMBER 2006

OUDT has continued its long winning streak at Warwick. All six Oxford teams made the division one semi-final, A team won first place for the fifth year running, and B team won second place.

In the Open rounds, Oxford took the floor by storm: Oxford couples were placed 1 to 6 in the final of the Advanced Ballroom, with Martin Bird and Sarah Ward- Jones taking first place, and Oxford also placed 1 to 5 in the basic waltz, again with Martin Bird and Sarah Ward-Jones taking first place, who also won the Warwick 4 dance. Alex Robinson and Vicky Stimson came second in Intermediate Ballroom, Alice Pillar and Bilal Khan won second place in Intermediate Latin, Ozzy Uhiara



Christoph Ortner and Kim Brownlee



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and Sarah Farrell took first place in Advanced Latin, as well as Basic Cha. All in all, an extremely successful day for Oxford.

## NOTTINGHAM 25 NOVEMBER 2006



Nottingham was yet another successful year for Oxford. Despite some very stiff competition from Cambridge and Imperial college and with one couple down following a foot injury, the Oxford A, B and C teams were each placed second in their respective divisions and the D Team won their event.

In the Ballroom opens, Martin Bird and Sarah Ward-Jones, one of our new partnerships, were placed first in the Advanced Five Dance while Richard Wassal and Helen Hanlon came first in Novices. On the Latin side, a beginner couple, Maciej Kula and Tania Mann, did very well and won Cha and came third in Jive. Richard and Helen won the Novices, Bilal Khan and Alice Pillar won Intermediates and Matt Jones and Pippa Underwood came first in the Advanced Five Dance.

One of our beginner couples:  
Augustine Rapson and Danielle Sullivan

## ALUMNI SUPPORT

You will no doubt all remember that ballroom dancing for the Oxford team is far from cheap. We estimate that despite our current sponsorship, each team member spends around £900 a year – a significant burden on a student budget! In addition, the team must continually replace and update an ageing selection of costumes.

A small contribution from you would make a huge difference to those currently competing for OUDT and your support is vital. Please click on this link if you would like to find out more, or to download a donation form:

[http://team.oudancesport.co.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=65&Itemid=50](http://team.oudancesport.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=65&Itemid=50)



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## **LOOKING FORWARD TO**

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all at the OUDC ball. The next Alumni newsletter will be out post-Varsity, which this year will be taking place in Cambridge on 5 May. We will of course update you on the results of Sheffield, SUDA, IVDA and most importantly, Varsity. In the mean time...

Keep dancing!