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Dear Alumni,

Hello and welcome to our newsletter! In this issue we will try to get you up-to-date with all the latest news from the OUDT.

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**IVDA:**



Nick & Erin

After two terms of hard work, the day OUDT had been waiting for finally arrived; the Inter Varsity Dancesport Competition at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool. It was very much a day of two halves for the Dark Blues', whose great success in the Open events was clouded by the Team Match.

Beginner couple Charlie Byers and Florence Graham-Dixon opened the show, coming 5<sup>th</sup> in the Waltz and taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Quickstep, overcoming the squash court sized beginners floor and the huge Empress Ballroom with equal competence. At Novice level Oxford truly reigned supreme in the Ballroom; eight couples made the hotly contested final, five of which were from OUDT! Boris and Jo built on their success at SUDC, walking away as the new National Novice Ballroom Champions. A fantastic achievement, augmented by the fact that they have only been dancing together five weeks! Clair broke through the pain barrier to come in 2<sup>nd</sup> with partner Lucas, overcoming a niggling shoulder injury that has plagued her all year! Completing Oxford's dominance were Joseph and Ginger, Eric and Jola and Qu and Charmaine, who finished in 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> respectively.

At the Intermediate level, Oxford was well represented by two of our most consistent couples; Paul and Fran and Joseph and Ginger. The former once again swung, swayed, hopped, skipped and jumped their way into the

Intermediate Ballroom final (which contained a few Advanced standard couples), finishing 4<sup>th</sup>. The latter wowed judges with their sexy Cha, energetic Jive and powerful Paso, finishing a close 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Latin.

The real highlight however was once again our Advanced couples. In Ballroom, Captain Will and partner Sazzle showed the world their Varsity credentials (and scared Cambridge I would imagine!) by reaching the



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final. They were joined by Oli and Marja who went one better than their SUDC result, coming 4<sup>th</sup>, and Martin and Sarah, who finished runners up by a narrow margin.

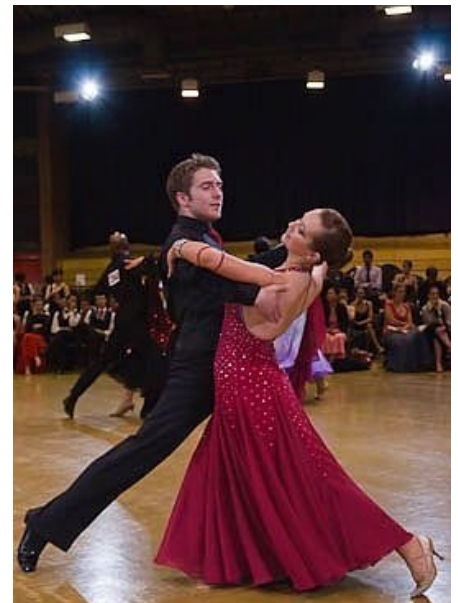
The high standards in Ballroom were matched by fantastic performances in the Advanced Latin event. Both Peter and Reka and Ivan and Helen made the final, and were excellent representatives of Oxford. Between them they ruled the show, with no other couple coming close to matching their performance. The battle for first place was tight, but after the marks were collected Peter and Reka were crowned the new National Advanced Latin Champions, with Ivan and Helen claiming 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

After the break, and some light entertainment provided by the Offbeat and Rock 'n' Roll events, OUDT prepared for the Team Match. As always there was tough competition from Cambridge and IC, amongst others. All four Oxford teams comfortably reached the quarters, with the A and B teams making the final. Once again Peter and Reka dominated the Cha event, with Ivan and Helen coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in Jive and Alex and Annemarie finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in Quickstep. Despite this, Oxford A came a close second to Cambridge, who were also crowned the overall winners of the competition. Well done to all our couples! And with many doing equally well in both disciplines, the signs look good for Varsity.

## OUDC Ball:

What better way is there to relax after a hectic term than some social dancing at a black tie event with live music? Well, thanks to OUDC that's exactly what we did. This year's OUCD ball was held at the Emperor Ballroom on Roman Way; a fantastic venue with a huge sprung wooden floor on which we danced the night away!

For those with VIP tickets the night started with the champagne reception, complemented with food provided by Heaven's Kitchen Catering. Once everyone was settled we were treated to a slide show put together by the team exec, followed by the coach presentations. We would like to echo out thanks to the coaches Bruce, Lorraine, Zoey, Neil Dewar and Neil Kelly. We know how much time and effort being on the team takes, we can't imagine how much it takes to coach us! Following this were presentations to the team exec; running a dance team is far from easy, especially the Oxford team! Will and his exec have done a fantastic job this year and the whole team would like to thank them for their hard work. Next up were the team presentations. Congratulations to all team



Luke & Amanda



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members, both those who have unfortunately moved on and those still with us, for their awards. A special well done to our Captain and Vice-Captain, Will Lee and Ivan Lubenko, and Sarah Farrell, Helen Pearce, Pippa Underwood and Charlottle Woolley, who all earned Full Blues last season.

With the presentations done the dancing started! Excellent live music was provided by the Ticklers Band who played a fantastic selection of songs spread over all the Ballroom dances. Although all we need to have a good time is a place to dance and some music to do it to, that's not all we were treated to. Two demo couples, Mark and Olga Elsbury and Ryan McShane and Victoria Burke, provided a ten-dance demo. Mark and Olga are the number 1 Amateur UK Ballroom couple, so naturally they took the Ballroom dances! Ryan and Victoria are a new professional partnership; Ryan has reached many quarter finals in Professional Latin events and Victoria was previously Champion of the British Closed U21 Latin competition. Of course these two performed the Latin! All ten dances were superb, and we would like to thank both couples for putting on such a fantastic show. Unfortunately all good things must come to an end, and so in the early hours of the morning we packed onto the coaches to go home, ready to get up and compete in the OTNT match the next day! We would like to thank and congratulate Haibo on organizing such a fantastic event, and extend our thanks to Jonas and the rest of the OUDC exec for continuing to support the team.

## OTNT:

After a good night's sleep and restoration, members of OUDT, old and new, travelled to Cowley Conservative Club for this year's Old Team-New Team match. As ever this event gave everyone a chance to catch up with old members and friends, and to show off on the dance floor!

The day started with the customary walk-ons (which featured some interesting use of the Viennese timing from the New Team), and then straight into the Ballroom section. As always the first dance was the Waltz, followed by the Quickstep. The relatively small size of the floor, combined with six couples dancing, proved challenging at times but most people left the floor unscathed (the biggest problem was the music skipping due to the hops, skips and jumps!). Once all eighteen ballroom dances were complete there was a brief break before the Latin started. With so many Alumni couples entering this year, a few of the ballroom couples dropped out to make room for some of the Latin oriented (to the despair of many on the New Team!). The Latin dances also progressed swimmingly, although they actually may have contained more collisions than the ballroom!



Simon & Laura



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Tristin & Indika

Once the results were in the Old Team (AKA Old Gits) came away on top. Congratulations to all of our Alumni that took part. For the individual awards, Oli and Marja were the New Team's best Ballroom couple with Simon and Laura winning the prize for best Old Team Ballroom, and best overall Ballroom couple. Tristin and Indika were crowned the best Old Team Latin couple and won best overall Old Team couple with Tim and Jumin, who performed the Ballroom dances. Will and Sarah walked away with the top honors though; New Team's best Latin couple, the overall best Latin couple, New Team's best overall couple and the best overall couple of the event.

With only nine couples in the New Team, there was also a B Team Match for the other twelve blues couples. This extra 6v6 event ensured that everyone had a taste of Varsity, and gave an idea of which dances needed working on. A special mention to Luke and Paul who, as well as dancing with their own partners, shared Haibo as Terry was ill on the day. Needless to say they were pretty tired after doing 3 consecutive dances! It didn't stop them though; Paul and Fran came away as the best Ballroom couple, and Luke and Amanda took the prize for best Latin and best overall couple of the B Team Match.

The day finished with the Open events. Due to lack of time only four of the Open dances were used (much to the despair of those that wanted to do the Tango and Paso!). Tristan and Indika continued their dominance of the Latin floor winning both the Rumba and the Samba, while Simon and Laura came top in the Foxtrot and Oli and Marja won the Viennese.

We would like to thank all our Alumni for taking part; we look forward to seeing you again next year!

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That's all this time, next up is Varsity! This year Varsity will be held at Cambridge Regional College on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. Please get in contact if you would like any more details.

OXFORD!

Your team exec.