

ALUMNI NEWSWLETTER

At the end of Trinity Term 2005, **Camilla Sen** (St Hugh's), **Philippa Underwood** (Exeter) and **Kimberley Brownlee** (Corpus Christi) were elected as the new triumvirate captainship, based on the success of past joint captains operating together, and assisted by **Jocelyn Paulley** as Vice.

The continued sponsorship of the team by the **IDTA** has allowed more dresses to be bought as well as much needed tail suits for the men to kit out our new team. This time, two latin dresses were on the list and a ballroom gown, specifically made longer to accommodate for some very tall team members selected this year. Two tails suits were made to the most popular measurements so that all of the men are now suited in smart, fitting tails.

Again all the girls were supplied with dark blue kimonos and the men with ties to wear to and from the competitions.

In September, both the team and their sponsors were mentioned in the Daily Telegraph entitled in an article "Strictly ballroom steps up to rival the Boat Race". Although the article was written from the point of view of the Cambridge dance team, it talked about the Varsity match and the fierce competition between the two sides. It pointed to Oxford's six-year winning streak, which Cambridge claimed was aided by the sponsorship we receive. It was a fantastic piece of publicity for dancesport generally, our team and the IDTA.



Fran Barrow, Camilla Sen and Philippa Underwood

Warwick 20th November

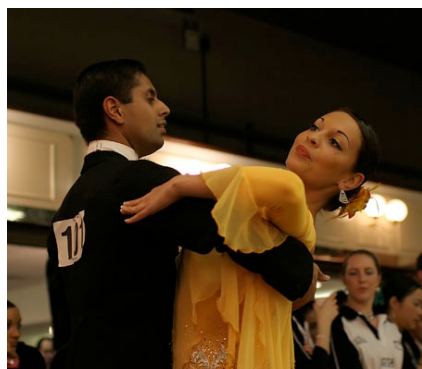
Team Match:

1. **Oxford A**
2. Nottingham A
3. London A
4. Featherwaits
5. **Oxford B**
6. **Oxford C**



With such a fresh-faced team this year, nerves and ambitions were high as we approached the Warwick Intersvarsity Competition, although since Cambridge and IC were not attending, we were hoping to ease ourselves into the new season. The venue for the event proved to challenge even experienced team members as the floor was substantially smaller than is typical of competitions, so there was much last-minute re-arranging of routines by all couples to ensure they could dance round the floor with style.

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Sugata Kaviraj and Alice Pocklington

Every member of the team acquitted themselves admirably, performing to a high standard, which was fantastic to see given that the whole bemusing experiences of competitions was new to many, not to mention the dancing itself!

In the Opens rounds, Oxford took the floor by storm; the Novice Ballroom and Latin were taken by Oxford couples, as were the Advanced Ballroom, by **Sugata Kaviraj** and **Alice Pocklington** and the Latin by **Philippa Underwood** and **Matthew Jones**.

The beginners proved as talented as always with the finals dominated and won by our team. Particularly worthy of note were **Alex Robinson** and **Erin Lane** who won Best Overall Beginners at the end of the day. Two beginner couples were selected to dance on the F team slots based on their impressive performances earlier in the day and did Oxford proud as the F team went on to win the Division 2 stage of the Team Match.

In the all important Division 1, the Oxford University Dancesport Team again achieved excellent results. The A team continued their four year winning streak as they won the day and the B and C teams fended off competition from many other universities' top teams to rank 5th and 6th.

Nottingham 26th November



Pippa Underwood and Matthew Jones

Team Match:

A team 2nd Oxford
B team 2nd Oxford
C team 2nd Oxford
D team 1st Oxford

Having just recovered from Warwick, the Nottingham Intersivity Competition followed only 6 days later. We knew that both our old rivals would be competing this week, so we were fired up to meet them and interested to see what talent they turned out this year. We were expecting them to field strong sides as one of our top Latin dancers has joined IC with his Masters course and Cambridge had some very promising beginners from last year who we knew had graduated to their main team, as well as retaining their top dancers.

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Indeed, competition did prove stiff through a very enjoyable and exciting day's dancing. Despite the pressure though, Oxford A, B, and C Teams each placed second in their respective divisions and the D Team won their event, heightening the ever present rivalry that exists within the team!

The Beginners Team produced some fantastic results again, proving that they had nothing to worry about even against Cambridge and IC! They won the Beginners Quickstep, Cha, and Jive and **Matthew Treece** and **Kate Poyser** won Best Overall Beginners.

In the open events, **Jason Holland** and **Jocelyn Paulley** won Most Promising Couple.



Looking forward...

There is now just one more week before compulsory training for Hilary term begins, although halls and teaching have been available over the Christmas and New Year vacation for those who have remained in Oxford.

Preparations for the Florida trip were also heavily under-way before Christmas. Both team and club members are currently representing Oxford at the 5 day competition in Daytona where they face university teams from around the world!

We look forward to letting you know very soon how the team competed in Florida and look forward to seeing the results of further training this term as SUDA and IVDA approach.