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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.

CONTENTS:

- (1) How to financially support OUDT
- (2) New Committee
- (3) Results from recent competitions
- (4) Upcoming events

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 & Sarah

You will no doubt remember that dancing for the Blues Team is a rather expensive activity, with each team member spending £800-£1000 a year competing for OUDT - a significant burden on a typical shoestring student budget! In addition, the team must maintain and improve an aging selection of costumes, that include many of the tail suits and dresses that you might well have worn whilst on the team!

Many of our most experienced dancers have graduated over the last two years. We have been steadily rebuilding our ranks and are proud to have successfully maintained our high standard of dancing. However, to continue this development and improve our preparation (e.g. through workshops with world champions,

introducing videoing equipment in our practice sessions) we must, of course, maintain our finances. 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.



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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!

What to do?

You can **donate online** at:

http://www.giving.ox.ac.uk/sport/dancesport_club.html

Alternatively, please complete the [Gift Form for UK residents](#) (and, if you are a taxpayer, the attached Gift Aid Declaration, which gives the Team an extra 28p per £1 donation) and return it to:

The University of Oxford Development Trust Fund
Development Office, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD.

If you are not a UK resident, you might want to download

[US Giving Form](#)

[Canada Giving Form](#)

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact the team captain, Will Lee at captain@oudancesport.co.uk or 07956426003.



Joseph & Ginger

NEW COMMITTEE:

This year, Will Lee (St. Antony's) takes over as Captain, supported by Vice-Captains Oli Zeldin (Lincoln), Ivan Lubenko (Keble) and Amanda Unsworth (Wadham). They are assisted by Treasurer Ginger Turner (St. John's), Social Secretary Sonia Chandaria (Mansfield) and Newsletter Editor Tom Perry (St. John's). Ambitious and hard-working, they are ready to guide OUDT to victory!



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RESULTS:

Warwick Varsity Ball

After 6 weeks of injuries and illness the team took the short journey to Birmingham to compete in a rather full Warwick competition. There was fierce competition at all levels, with Bristol, Cambridge and Featherwaits fielding strong teams, but we still came away with some good results.

In the Opens, future ballroom stars Ian Yenney and Harriet Ackland won both the Beginner Waltz and Quickstep, with Tiffany, and partner Kelsey, and Felicity, who partnered Kathy, right behind them with 2nd and 4th in the Quickstep. In the Novice ballroom Qu and Charmaine walked away with the bronze medal, followed by Luke and Ania who finished in 6th and Eric and Jola finishing in 7th. Saiqi and Diana showed us why they aren't on the Latin team by finishing 5th in the Intermediate Ballroom and Martin Bird and Sarah Ward Jones went on to win the Advanced Ballroom event, despite suffering a nasty fall in the first round.

We had success in the Latin events also. Three Novice couples made the final; Faisal and Rachel finished 2nd, Melvin and Rebecca came 4th and Stuart and Sonia came in 5th. The Intermediate final was packed with Oxford couples; Alex and Helen took the top prize despite Helen suffering an injury in the Ballroom Opens that morning! They were closely followed by Joseph and Ginger in 2nd place and George and Danielle in 3rd. Finally, Alex discarded his tails to come in 5th with Annemarie.



Alex & Annemarie



Boris & Amanda

Roger's animated Latin face was back on show in the ex-student category, where he and his partner Danielle came in 3rd. They had similar success in the Ballroom, finishing 6th.

The team match held mixed results; all 6 Oxford teams made the top division with A, B, D and E teams making the final 12. The A team made the final but unfortunately lost out to Cambridge. The beginners A team (or the Oxford G team) had more luck, narrowly missing out on the top spot in the 2nd division thanks to Warwick's B team (but more importantly beating Cambridge's G team!).

Nottingham Varsity Ball

Less than a week after an exhausting Warwick competition the team came out fighting, dominating the Open events and the team match. In fact, there was at least one Oxford couple in every final!



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In the Beginners Open events wonder couple Felicity and Kathy made all four finals! They took 1st place in both the Waltz and Quickstep, 3rd in the Cha and 5th in the Jive. Jill and Aurelie bossed the Latin dances, coming in 2nd at both Cha and Jive, and reaching the semis of both the Ballroom events. Tiffany and Kelsey also had success, coming 3rd in the Jive and 5th in the Waltz, and like Jill and Aurelie they made the semis of the other two. Anuvrat and Sarah came 6th in the Jive to round off Oxford's representation in the Beginners finals.



Ivan & Helen

The Novice events were ruled by Oxford couples; six of the seven Ballroom finalists and four of the five Latin finalists were dark blues! In Ballroom Qu and Charmaine took top honours, with Tom and Wanzhen and Joseph and Ginger following in 2nd and 3rd. Lukas and Claire finished in 4th, Eric and Jola took 5th place and Dom and Jo came 7th. In the Latin event Tom and Wanzhen went one better and won, with Chris, who only started dancing this year, and Kate coming in 3rd. Lukas and Claire matched their ballroom result by coming in 4th and Faisal and Rachel completed the quartet of Oxford couples, finishing 5th.

At the Intermediate level Paul and Fran took the bronze in the Ballroom competition, undeterred by the extra competition from couples dropping down due to the Advanced event being a five-dance. Like at Warwick we were well represented in the Latin final, with Joseph and Ginger finishing 1st, George and Danielle coming 3rd (even after practicing the wrong dances!) and Alex and Annemarie finishing 4th.

The Advanced events were fantastic to watch, with each couple undertaking all five dances in that discipline. Our captain/ex-captain partnership, Will and Sarah, came 4th in Ballroom followed by Alex and Annemarie who came 5th. Will and Sarah shone brighter in the Latin, finishing 2nd behind our vice-captain, and current national champion, Ivan and his new partner Helen.

We had similar success in the team match; every couple from the blues squad made the top three! Considering that the D, E and F teams were grouped together this was particularly impressive from the lower end of the team. The other teams put up a good fight but the dark blues won A, C and D team matches and finished joint top with Imperial in the B team match. Congratulations to Ivan and Helen and Will and Sarah who won A team Jive and Cha respectively. Joseph and Ginger rounded off a very successful day to win B team Cha, and George and Danielle won B team Jive. All four C Team couples won their contest, and not a single blues couple in D, E or F teams was placed below a couple from another team! Being the generous



Paul & Fran



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team that we are we let Imperial take the B team trophy; we already had the other three and we didn't want to overload the coach on the trip home!

Open circuit competition at Egham:

For the third year running OUAT took a sizeable number of dancers to the Open circuit competition at Egham. Like in previous years the team had great success in both the opens and team match.

In the Open competition all our couples made finals, some making as many as seven! Special mention for Will and Sarah who came 1st in the prechamp Latin, 2nd in the amateur Latin and 3rd in the open Jive. They had success in the ballroom also making the final of the prechamp Ballroom and Open Viennese Waltz, the latter of which was won by Martin and Sarah. Alex and Annemarie showed their Varsity credentials by winning both the Intermediate Ballroom and Intermediate Latin and making 5 other finals! Stuart and Sonia came top in the Novice Latin event, and made the final of the Ballroom. Both Novice finals were also reached by Luke and Amanda, who came top of the Ballroom and second behind Stuart and Sonia in the Latin. Alumnus Millie and her partner Andre came in 2nd in the prechamp Latin event, and Nick and Erin grabbed the bronze in the Intermediate Latin final. Finally, Paul and Helen finished runner-up in Intermediate Ballroom and 4th in the Intermediate Latin, making a couple other Open finals along with that.



Owen & Joanna

In the team match all three teams made the final, with Oxford A walking away in first place for the 3rd year running. The team would like to thank alumni Hazel and Millie, and their partners Hanno and Andre, who danced for us in the team match. Cambridge were there again with their video camera, although their view was 'accidentally' blocked every so often by a dark blue who wishes

to remain unnamed! All the filming must have distracted them though; Cambridge A finished below all three Oxford teams in the team match....



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sheffield Social Dance Competition

When: Sat 7th Feb

Where: Octagon Centre, University of Sheffield

No knockout! ☺

SUDC

When: Sat 14th Feb

Where: K2, Crawley

IDVC

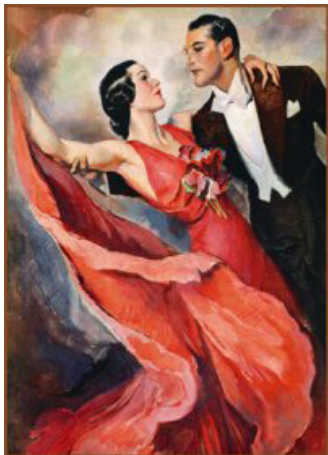
When: Sat 28th Feb

Where: The Winter Gardens, Blackpool

Note: As it's very popular with ex-students we wanted to know if any of you wanted to take advantage of the discounted accommodation offered to the team and travel there and back with the team. The plan is to go on Friday evening from Oxford and return on Saturday night. Prices will be confirmed nearer the time but if you think you might like accommodation or transport on either or both days please let us know. We just need a rough idea of numbers at this stage.



George & Danielle



OU DC Ball

When: Sat 7th March

Where: Emperor Ballroom, Roman Way

The President and Committee of the Oxford University Dancesport Club would like to invite you to their Annual Black Tie Ball.

Team presentations will be held at a VIP dinner reception before the ball.

Join our facebook group for more details:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=117157160429>

or email: oudc.ball@gmail.com.

<http://www.oudcball.co.uk/>



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OTNT Match

When: Sun 8th March

Where: Cowley Conservative Club

Those interested in entering the OTNT match should email the Old Team captains Tim Colyer (timothy.colyer@oliverwyman.com) or Sarah McGinley (sarahjmcg@gmail.com) stating their partnerships, or if they are looking for one.

Provisional Setup: Judges – Neil Kelly, Dave Douglas, Anthony Price, and Compere/Music – Bruce Richardson



Hope to see you all soon,
Your team exec.