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Dear Alumni,

Hello again! We have just returned from a competition and we thought we would let you know how it went:

Sheffield Social

Barely three weeks into the start of term OUDT braved the snow, taking the long trip up to The Octagon to compete in the Sheffield Social. With our beloved captain unfortunately absent the team was left in the capable hands of Amanda, who provided hugs, Ivan, who provided inspiring speeches, and Oli, who provided doughnuts. Boosted from the successes of last term the team once again had a great competition, with a dark blue in almost every final.

In the Beginners events, undeterred by the non-rectangular floor, Ben Williams and Felicity Rhodes took the bronze medal in Quickstep and finished 4th in the Waltz. They were joined by Robert Walport and partner Georgia Clegg in the Waltz final, who came 6th. Ella Davis and Elizabeth Manly also walked away with a medal after finishing 6th in the Jive.

Our Novice couples continued to dominate their events; Tom and Wanzhen switched disciplines to win both the Novice Waltz and Quickstep. They were closely followed by Joseph and Ginger who finished 2nd in Waltz and 3rd in Quickstep. Lucas and Claire also reached the Waltz final, finishing 5th, and Christo and Natalia and Melvin and Rebecca came 4th and 6th in the Quickstep. In Latin, Stuart and Sonia came 4th in Cha, with Lucas and Claire finishing in 6th. Stuart and Sonia upped their game for Jive, finishing 2nd, with Melvin and Rebecca and Eric and Jola placed right behind them in 3rd and 4th.

In the Intermediate Events, Paul and Fran made the Ballroom final once more, taking 3rd place. The Latin final, like last term, was filled with Oxford couples; George, with chest hair on full display, and Danielle took the top prize, Joseph and Ginger took 3rd place with Alex and Annemarie finishing 6th.

In the Advanced events vice-captain Oli made a big splash (which isn't surprising given his size) with his partner Marja on their debut to the 08-09 circuit, finishing 2nd in the Ballroom competition. Alex and Annemarie also made the hotly contested final, finishing 5th. As per usual Ivan and Helen were more Latin than Enrique Iglesias, finishing 2nd in the Advanced event.

As well as the regular contests there was an Open Viennese and an Open Paso. The former provided surprisingly few collisions, with Oli and Marja finishing 3rd. With the Intermediate Latin dance at IDVA being the Paso, many used this open contest as a trial run, with some rather amusing outcomes. Oxford's own God and



Oli & Marja



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Alex & Eliza

Goddess of Latin, Peter Kecskemethy and Reka Balogh, won with an overwhelming margin, with Ivan and Helen also featuring in a fantastic final. With no Oxford dancer dropped during the event, despite it's potential for disaster, I think we can count it as a huge success!

Onto the team match; the depth of the team was proved beyond a doubt with 16 dark blue couples making it to the semi final in their dance! We had our share of victories too; our C1 team went on to win the C team trophy and our C2 team (or D team) came in 3rd behind Cambridge's C1 team. Unfortunately the A and B team very narrowly missed out on their trophies, coming in 2nd behind Cambridge's A and B team. Congratulations to Peter and Reka again, who dominated the team Cha event, and George and Danielle and Joseph and Ginger who also made the Cha final. Ivan

and Helen and Oli and Marja came 2nd in the Jive and Waltz and Alex and Annemarie came 3rd in the Quickstep. Our Beginners Team was also unlucky, coming 2nd to Cambridge in the beginners team match.

The competition ended with the Knockout event, which as usual provided it's dramatic moments. Oxford had a tough ride, being drawn against the Featherwaites and Liverpool before competing in the three-way final with Cambridge and IC. It was a heated final but we came away the trophy; or at least we would have but Cambridge "forgot" to bring it. We'll get it off them at SUDA....

That's it for now. We have a busy few weeks ahead of us, with SUDA on the 14th and IVDA two weeks after. We'll email you a report from both of those competitions as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, don't forget we have the OTNT match coming up; 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. Also the OUDC ball is shaping up to be a fantastic night. For more information go to <http://www.oudcball.co.uk/>.

Until next time,

Your team exec.