

Dance sport: Not so strictly ballroom

BY LILLI JU

"Dancers. Tango."

And so begins the Mayflower Ball, an annual dance sport competition held the weekend before last in Halifax.

Having only peeped in on a few ballroom dancing classes taking place in the McInnes Room, and having seen the movie *Strictly Ballroom* twice, I have to admit that I had very limited expectations of what I was to experience when I attended the first night of this competition.

With its beginnings in the 1800s with dances like the Viennese Waltz originating in Austria, ballroom dancing has evolved from a dance of the nobles to a modern art and now a sport and a recreational activity growing in popularity around the world.

"For most people, ballroom dancing is an art form but, the way I'm involved in it, it is a sport," says Dean Naugler, who was competing with Wendy Mooney. Naugler is a student at Dalhousie and happens to be the Tiger Patrol Coordinator.

Traditionally called 'ballroom dancing', it is increasingly being referred to as a 'dance sport' to reflect the athletic and competitive nature of this kind of dancing. In September 1997, ballroom dancing as a dance sport was accepted as a permanent Olympic activity by the International Olympic Committee. Dance sport is expected to be included in the 2008 Olympic Games.

So what is a dance sport competition really like? First of all, there are a number of different dances (tango, waltz, foxtrot, quick step, jive, cha cha, samba, and rumba) and different standards of competition (newcomer,

pre-bronze, bronze, silver, gold, pre-champion, and open). The audience sits around a wooden dance floor while judges walk around its perimeter. There is a long table and podium where officials observe the competition and an emcee introduces the couples and announces each dance/event (just like in the movie...). Dance sport is similar to other artistic sports such as figure skating and synchronized swimming.

The competition is quite a formal affair. Competitors wear elaborate and usually sparkling outfits, which may include a sequined dress or a tuxedo with tails. The audience was also dressed in relatively formal attire. However, the formal air is quickly relaxed when the dancing begins and audience members start cheering for their favourite couple.

"Couple number 91! Go, couple 91! Woo hoo! Yeah! Go, go, go!"

Somehow all the cheering and hooting gives this formal competition the feel of a real sporting event.

And the music is not what you would expect. Instead of stuffy, old-fashioned music, many of the dances featured quite modern music, including some techno and some dance. Music for each dance is played for a maximum of one and a half minutes. At this evening's competition, the "Macarena" was used for the samba.

"Different music is played to challenge the skills and concentration of the dancers," explains Naugler. "You never know what song they are going to play. Originally, the samba was danced to the 'Macarena' song, long before someone came up with the 'Macarena dance'."

Although not what most would consider a conventional type of sport, Naugler explains that training for a

dance sport requires the same elements as any other athlete.

"[It requires] hours of practice, patience, rhythm, coordination, flexibility, lots of endurance, and concentration," adds Naugler who has been dancing since he was 14, and with Mooney for the past four years. Obviously, the training paid off as Naugler and Mooney won medals in four different dance categories.

For interested Dal students, a new ballroom dancing club has formed, meeting every Tuesday night, 7-8:30 p.m., in the McInnes Room, with a charge of \$25 per term. For more information, contact Terence Tam at 494-1106 or ttam@is2.dal.ca.



Photo by Lilli Ju

Cross country men on AUAA trails

BY JESSICA FRASER

The air was crisp. The sky was without a cloud. The fall colours were at their best. It was a perfect morning at Saint Francis-Xavier for the 1997 AUAA Cross Country Championships.

As "Eye of the Tiger" blared across campus, the men's team scurried about nervously making last minute preparations. The men knew what they had to do. Memorial had travelled to the mainland but once this season, only to crush the Dalhousie men. Thus, the past four weeks had served as preparation to meet their challenge.

From the moment they bolted out of the starting boxes, they put their best

foot forward. Strategically positioned as a pack near the front, they were clearly racing smart. Gradually, they spread out, each stalking their prey.

Sophomore Jamie Blanchard put in the race of his life, finishing second to Memorial's Scott Young, in 32:44. Scott Simpson, this year's rookie from Sackville, New Brunswick, made a critical move on the third of four laps, passing Memorial's Robert Jewer and Colin Fewer for an eventual third place finish.

Co-captain Trevor Boudreau followed shortly thereafter with one of the most outstanding races of his four-year cross country career: a sixth place

finish in 33:26. Triathlete, marathoner, and veteran cross country runner, Chris Evers put in a solid ninth place finish, pushing ahead of three critical Memorial runners.

Pat McGrath and Richard Menzies played cat and mouse throughout the entire race, each taking turns pulling the other along. They finished 12th and 13th respectively. Tim Lindsay rounded up the seven-member team with an 18th place finish.

Clearly, the men put forth an incredible team performance but Dalhousie supporters knew there was no escaping Memorial's strong presence. During the final lap, fans

cheered ecstatically, while anxiously calculating scores. As the last runner crossed the line, it was confirmed. Memorial 29. Dalhousie 32. (Lowest score wins).

"In the past week and a half, this team has gone to a whole new level," coach Yarr remarked excitedly after the race. Unfortunately, that level was not quite enough for an AUAA title this year.

Disappointment did not linger long however. These men will likely have the opportunity to join the rest of the country's top teams at the CIAU Championships in London, Ontario on November 8.

THE DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION



AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of Dalhousie Student Union

We have audited the balance sheet of Dalhousie Student Union as at April 30, 1997 and the statements of revenue and expenses, net assets and cash flow for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Student Union's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many non-profit organizations, the Student Union derives revenues from ticket sales and advertising, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Student Union and we were unable to determine whether any adjustments for unrecorded revenues might be necessary to net excess of revenue over expenses, assets and net assets.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which might have been required had we been able to satisfy ourselves with respect to the completeness of the revenues described in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Student Union as at April 30, 1997 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Halifax, Canada
June 14, 1997

Ernst & Young
Chartered Accountants

BALANCE SHEET

As at April 30

	1997 \$	1996 \$
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash and temporary investments	785,550	258,728
Accounts receivable	50,486	57,690
Inventories	32,900	10,623
Prepaid expenses	6,166	1,864
Investments at cost (approximate market value - \$319,737; 1996 - \$282,323) [note 2]	289,523	279,511
	1,164,625	608,416
Fixed assets [note 3]	486,077	504,208
	1,650,702	1,112,624
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current		
Accounts payable - Dalhousie University	383,606	327,018
- C.K.D.U.	63,895	55,515
- Other	201,302	94,937
Deferred credits [note 4]	265,476	7,500
Other liabilities [note 5]	28,311	15,650
	942,590	500,620
Long-term liability [note 9]	52,117	57,117
Net assets		
Equity in properties	486,077	504,208
Unappropriated	169,918	50,679
	655,995	554,887
	1,650,702	1,112,624

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Year ended April 30

	1997		1996
	Actual \$	Budget \$	Actual \$
	[unaudited]		
Gross revenues [note 6]	2,332,311	2,395,038	2,717,407
Net revenue	577,785	634,360	578,124
Student Union fees [note 7]	65,528	58,000	79,465
Food service	22,181	(1,000)	61,002
Interest income	155,913	137,500	78,140
Contracts	10,201	13,367	18,885
S.U.B. reservations	(28,946)	18,872	(25,122)
Bar service	802,662	861,079	780,494
Net expenses			
S.U.B. operations	233,497	241,183	328,951
Council administration	208,670	201,890	242,284
Depreciation	55,039	79,500	56,598
Grants	46,107	49,500	34,438
Entertainment	38,471	55,972	43,102
Furniture and fixtures	25,952	23,000	17,970
Miscellaneous	23,542	26,234	26,519
Community affairs	23,393	20,200	7,575
External affairs	20,319	20,150	14,339
Computer support	16,880	25,408	20,654
Shuttlebus	7,306	5,650	3,142
Photography	521	—	464
Course evaluation	—	2,955	13,417
Student Federation conferences	—	—	(868)
Pharos	—	—	(8,389)
	699,697	751,642	819,996
	102,965	109,454	(39,302)
Special events net expense (revenue)			
Orientation	(973)	(10,343)	17,193
Graduation	216	1,500	3,257
Mardi Gras	2,614	1,500	10,939
	1,857	(7,343)	31,389
Net excess of revenue over expenses before appropriations	101,108	102,111	(70,891)

QUESTIONS?

Any members having questions regarding these statements, or any other financial matters, should direct their inquiries to Ted Chiasson, DSU Treasurer at 494-1278 or dsutres@dal.ca