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**Dancers in world spotlight**

By Rose taylor

A FORMATION dance team from Cambridge had the honour of representing Great Britain in an international competition.

XS Latin, from Milton, flew to Vilnius in Lithuania after qualifying for the World Championships for formation dancing.

Although they were eliminated prior to the semi-finals, coach Bruce Lait said they were far from disappointed.

"We were just proud to be there representing our country," he said.

"Everybody danced their best, but we all knew that this was really a learning experience as it was our first international competition.

"The standard is extremely high, and we've learnt what we need so that next time we can go back meaning business."

The team, who practise at Milton Community Centre, are now busy training for their next competition -- the European Championships in Prague.

Latin formation team dancing involves a six- minute, high-speed routine for eight couples, dancing the five Latin American dances -- jive, cha-cha, rumba, samba and paso doble.

It is a highly energetic activity, so much so that Olympic anti-doping regulations are in force, with competitors being subjected to random drug-testing, and a substantial list of banned drugs.

The XS Latin team was formed five years ago, from former university students (hence the XS), though it now also has current members of the university.

It aims to provide a serious but also social opportunity for dancers to carry on their passion, rather than competing as a single couple.

Anyone interested in joining the team should email catherine@circa-uk.demon.co.uk or call Catherine on (01223) 568017.

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