



SPA (UK) Presents . . .

# 'The Great Ball of China'

‘中国伟大的球’

## The Official Review

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2007 – The Royal Court Hotel, Coventry

What a success the 2007 SPA (UK) Ball was again this year. We returned back to the place where the themed ball first began, to a hotel set in eleven acres of woodlands and gardens, The Royal Court Hotel in Coventry. This year's theme, The Great Ball of China, brought to all who attended the mystique and feel of the Orient.

Whilst all you guys were busy recovering from the ball of 2006, the Ball Team were busy planning the delights for this year's event. After many, many months of careful planning and organising, the event was ready to go. Tickets went on sale in September and unlike previous years, tickets sold out over a four month period. This showed that the Samaj Ball was attracting a newer crowd whilst the familiar faces opted to take time out.



After last year's success with the Oscars, we travelled to the other side of the world to visit China and its eastern delights. The team has worked hard to bring the theme to life. Décor was well thought out in the main room with huge red embellished drapes, 'Rush Hour style', paper lanterns, and matching table wear. The theme was carried on into the reception area with mini lanterns, paper garlands and even the chance to learn some Chinese whilst you waited!! The ticket desk was adorned with colourful lights, a Buddha statue, and authentic Chinese parasol.

Naturally we hoped that people would dress with the theme in mind and we're glad to say everyone came dressed to impress. The ladies came in the tradition cheongsams in every colour you could possibly imagine and the men impressed too in their kung fu outfits and oriental shirts.

The reception area filled up as soon as the doors opened on the event at 6pm. There was the usual buzz of people seeing friends and family once into the reception area. The drinks were flowing and the bar staff were kept on their toes with all our eager party goers. Everyone took their seats in the main room to begin the event.





As the excited guests made their way into the main hall, the hotel staff ensured that the starters were served to their tables. The night was kicked off with a martial arts performance by the Trinity Warriors. They took to the floor with some free style dancing, traditional stick work, and finally ending with a samurai sword demo. The group were given a huge round of applause by the audience when they finished their set. They got the whole room psyched ready for the next act of the evening – the traditional lion dance. This was performed by Choy Lee Fut Lion Dance Team. It was an experience that wowed the room, with the lion weaving around the room engaging with the audience and the traditional drums of the east playing as the accompaniment. During the entertainment the Chinese starters were served to the hungry guests.

Once the entertainment had finished the Ball Team launched into the speeches and announcements, this year being hosted by Ball Team members Tejal Mistry (Walsall) and Krupa Mistry (Walsall) followed by a few words from our HQ guest speaker Jitubhai Mistry SPA (UK) PRO. Sandip Mistry (Leicester) got the crowd going again with his customary branch shouts, showing that we had attendance from all thirteen SPA (UK) branches this year. As a final surprise, Sandip gave a farewell shout out to Jeetain Lad (London), who will be stepped down from his role after seven years of being the Ball Team leader. Tejal Mistry (Walsall) and Pritesh Mistry (Preston) will be taking up the roles of leading the Ball Team for the 2008 event next year under the guidance of Jeetain.



After the speeches were all completed, the mains were served to the hungry ball goers. This year we had the hotel prepare us an oriental feast and this was ended with an exotic mango and passion fruit cheese cake, which went down a treat. No sooner had the food been taken away, the DJ got the party well and truly started. Entertainment this year was provided by the Saqi Roadshow from Birmingham. They did a fantastic job of making sure everyone had a great time and partied the night away until 2am. The SPA (UK) youth team are keen to promote the skills of our own members and if you are a DJ or if you know of any good DJ's in our Samaj that would like to help with this event please contact the Ball Team on the email address below as we are currently searching for a replacement for our former - Ball Team member DJ Stax a.k.a. Shatish Lad.



Security this year was provided by 'AMT' Security, who did a great job of looking after all the guests and as usual there were no problems during the event. By the end of the evening we knew that we had organised another very successful event. We had brought together 450 Prajapati members who came from across the UK into one place to help make stronger bonds in our Samaj and create pride in being a Prajapati.

We are always looking for new people to join the team, so why not drop the team an email on the email address below, and join in with the fun! Let us know of anyone who would like to be added to the Youth SPA (UK) mailing list, it's a great way to keep up to date with all the events organised by the Youth Team. Please send all your requests, comment and any feedback to the above requests to [youthspauk@btinternet.com](mailto:youthspauk@btinternet.com).

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended the event and helped to make it such a huge success and to everyone who helped us to plan, promote, and set up this year's Ball.

Till we meet again next year..... Zai Jien!

### **SPA (UK) Youth Ball Team**

*A sub-committee of SPA (UK) HQ*

<i>Jeetain Lad (London)</i>	<i>Youth &amp; Ball Team Leader</i>
<i>Chaya Mistry (Leicester)</i>	<i>Ball Team Member</i>
<i>Hema Mistry (Walsall)</i>	<i>Ball Team Member</i>
<i>Kapila Mistry (Tameside)</i>	<i>Ball Team Member</i>
<i>Krupa Mistry (Walsall)</i>	<i>Ball Team Member</i>
<i>Mitesh Mistry (Leicester)</i>	<i>Ball Team Member</i>
<i>Pritesh Mistry (Preston)</i>	<i>Ball Team Member</i>
<i>Rayna Mistry (Preston)</i>	<i>Ball Team Member</i>
<i>Sandip Mistry (Leicester)</i>	<i>Ball Team Member</i>
<i>Sanjay Mistry (Leicester)</i>	<i>Ball Team Member</i>
<i>Tejal Mistry (Walsall)</i>	<i>Ball Team Member</i>

*Written by: Hema Mistry & Sanjay Mistry (Feb 2007)*

*Edited by: Jeetain Lad*

