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# *Silver Slipper*

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Volume 2 Issue 1

*Nanaimo Ballroom Dance  
Society*

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February 1997

## Snowball Classic

This year's Snowball was expanded to 2 days. It was held at the Grand Ballroom on Friday, January 24, 1997 and at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Saturday, January 25, 1997.

One of the reasons for the expansion was that Snowball was running more competition events this year. Not only was there a new category for children, Snowball also hosted the 1997 Canadian Open Amateur Senior Standard competition as well as the 1997 Canadian Open Amateur 10 Dance competition.

Friday was an evening event only with competitions for children in the Juvenile (under 12 years), Junior (12 to 15 years) and Youth (16 to 18 years) categories and for adults in the Newcomer (limited to couples who have never competed or had only competed once before) and Bronze levels.

The evening was sold out with more than 200 spectators in attendance filling the Grand Ballroom to its brim. The children all looked sharp and captivating with the boys dressed smartly in their white shirts, bow ties and dark pants and the girls in their feathered ballroom gowns and fancy Latin outfits. Although most of the children competitors had been dancing for just over a year and our Nanaimo children couple for only 4 months, they had no trouble maneuvering their way around other couples on the dance floor and at the same time showing the grace and confidence of experienced dancers. The long evening did not seem to exhaust the children, when they were not on the floor, they would be

cheering and yelling out the numbers of their favourite teams which added much joy and excitement to the whole evening.

Other than one children couple competing, we also had two Newcomer couples and one Bronze couple who all did very well. Our other children couple **Zillion Wong** and **Michaela Konecny** had to withdraw from the competition due to an illness suffered by Michaela.



The major competition events were all held on Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The ballroom was bustling with both spectators and dancers in the early

morning hours. The day started at 8:00 a.m. with the first competition event scheduled at 9:00 a.m. The preliminary rounds from Silver to Championship levels were all danced in the daytime with the finals to be danced in the evening. The daytime rounds ended at around 4:30 p.m. which gave the spectators and dancers a break before the evening got under way.

The evening brought a capacity crowd with over a thousand people in attendance. There were competitors from all corners of the globe including Germany, Italy, Norway, England, U.S.A., Hong Kong and Canada. The Canadian contenders consisted of competitors from British Columbia, Quebec, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Ontario and our neighbouring Province of Alberta. The Championship competition was a show in itself. The competitors were mesmerizing the crowd with their exquisite and sensuous moves in the Latin dances and with their extraordinary smoothness in the Standard dances.

Congratulations to the British Columbia Amateur Dancesport Association for presenting such a superb show. It was indeed a World Class event.

The results of the Nanaimo couples who competed at the Snowball were as follows:

**Darryl Wong and Robyn-Lynn Ponferrada** (4th Place in Junior Standard; 5th Place in Junior Latin; Winners of the Most Sportsmanship Award).

**Rob Creese and Jane Garcia** (3rd Place in Newcomer Standard; Semi-Finalists in Newcomer Latin).

**Dave Lorette and Keni Lorette** (Semi-Finalists in Newcomer Standard).

**Bruce Joiner and Marilyn Metcalf-Joiner** (Semi-Finalists in Bronze Standard and Latin).

**David Duncan and Evelyn Matthews** (Semi-Finalists in Pre-Championship Standard).

Well done, couples! We are all very proud of your accomplishment.

## Bal de Prestige

The Bal de Prestige was presented by the Canadian Dance Teachers Association (CDTA). It was held at Hotel Vancouver on Saturday, March 1, 1997. The difference between this event and most of the other competition events was that all competitions were run in the daytime which leaves the evening for people to relax and enjoy. There was a dinner, lots of general dancing and a fabulous and exciting show performed by the 4 times United States Rhythm Champions, Bob Powers and Julia Gorchakova.

Originally, CDTA did not intend to run a children's event. However, I am very happy that they had decided to add the children's event after the idea was suggested to the Co-Chairperson of the Organizing Committee. I am also very grateful to them for scheduling the children's events in the afternoon so as to enable our children couples and their families enough time to travel to Vancouver on the morning of the competition, and not have to incur extra expenses of staying overnight.

Our children couples consisted of **Darryl Wong and Robyn-Lynn Ponferrada** (Junior) and **Zillion Wong and Michaela Konency** (Juvenile). With over 10 couples in the Junior events, semi-finals had to be run. Our Junior couple did very well but were unable to place. Our Juvenile couple, Zillion and Michaela, came home with 3 medals placing 1st in Newcomer Juvenile Latin, 2nd in both Bronze Juvenile Standard and Latin. Way to go, Darryl, Robyn, Zillion and Michaela! Keep it up and who knows, you might be our future Olympians.

## Executive Meeting

The executives have had a meeting on Sunday, February 23, 1997. The following is a summary of some of the issues discussed:

- Roy Thomson, our elected director and bar coordinator has resigned due to other personal commitment. Chester Scott has agreed to step in to replace Roy Thomson as the bar coordinator. Thank you Chester, you are a gem.
- Ed Hong, our music coordinator, has purchased 12 new CD(s) for our Society and some of them were played at our last Friday night dance on February 21, 1997.
- John Maher, our vice-president, has prepared the first draft of a manual outlining the different job description of the various committees in connection with the operation of our Society's routine functions. You will be given a copy when it is finalized.
- There was a discussion regarding our current inventory, like what do we have and where are they kept? Since executives come and go and different people take up different positions each year, it would be best that inventory (like records, files, foodstuff, liquor, decorations, videos, books, supplies etc.) be passed to the new board of executives each year by the retiring executives (e.g. all foodstuff to food committee, all financial records to treasurer, all decorations to entertainment committee, membership list to phoning committee etc.). So, we need your help in compiling this list of inventory. **If you have anything stored at your house which belongs to**

**the Society, please make a list of each item and their quantity as soon as possible and hand the list in to Dave Lorette, our secretary.** Arrangements will be made with you at a later date for the items to be transferred to the current executives for safekeeping until the next AGM.

- Demonstration/Formation Team - for those members, singles or couples, who are interested in performing as a team and willing to make a commitment to regular practices, please sign up by March 21, 1997 with Jim Beaman, who will be our temporary demonstration coordinator until a replacement is found for Robert Creese who has also resigned. Auditions may be held to limit the number, a registration fee may be charged and all team members are responsible for the cost and the making of their own uniform.

## Island Fantasy Ball

Tickets are now on sale for our 5th Island Fantasy Ball which will be held on **“Saturday, May 3, 1997”**. This year we are bringing a Finnish Latin couple, Jukka Haapalainen and Sirpa Suutari, to perform a Latin show at our ball. With the retirement of the current World Professional Latin Champions, Donnie Burns and Gaynor Fairweather, the 2nd ranked couple, Bryan Watson and Karen Hardy became the number one contender in the World. However, at last month's French Open Competition our performing couple, Jukka and Sirpa defeated Bryan and Karen to take the French Open title. Other titles which Jukka and Sirpa hold are *the Finnish Professional Latin American Champions and all England, Star and Imperial Latin American Champions*. Don't miss your chance to see this spectacular show. Get your tickets early!

We will also be running a children's event at our ball. It is hoped that we will have enough children entries from Vancouver to make the children event a success. We have offered billeting to these children and their families to help cut down their traveling cost. Anyone interested in providing billeting to these families, please contact Della Burrell at 758-3378.

Tickets may be obtained from Nelson Wong at 758-7007. Ticket prices are \$45.00 for front row (**already sold out**) and \$37.50 for second row.

## Did You Know

That taping of our Island Fantasy Ball was not only shown on Vancouver Island, it was also shown on the community channels in Vancouver and as far away as in Toronto. Hey, not bad for a Nanaimo event!

## Editor's Notes

I wish to apologize for the delay in having the first issue of our newsletter published. When I took on the job last year, I did not intend to carry on the job for another year. However, as no one was willing to stand for the position at the AGM, I was asked to do it again. If there is anyone in our membership who wishes to take over this job, please let me know.

Also, if anyone has anything interesting or dull you wish to share with our membership, please submit them to me.

## UK Champions

To bring you up to date on the World events, the following is a list of the Champions at the most recent UK Open.

### Rising Star Professional Modern

1. Massimo Giorgianni - Alessia Manfredini (Italy)
2. Tony Dokman - Amanda Owen (England)
3. Ichiro - Ayumi Suzuki (Japan)

### Rising Star Professional Latin

1. Peter Siddall - Alexandra Gisher (USA)
2. Ian Waite - Inga Haas (England)
3. Alexandre Litvinenko - Elena Poliakova (Russia)

### Rising Star Amateur Modern

1. Arunas Bizokas - Edita Daniute (Lithuania)
2. Thomas Atkocevicius - Sniegoule Naujokaityte (Lithuania)

3. Francesco Flumiani - Angela Ferraro (Italy)

#### **Rising Star Amateur Latin**

1. Matej Krajcjer - Jasna Koselj (Slovenia)
2. Vladislav Pavlov - Svetlana Polianina (Russia)
3. Klaus Kongsdal - Viktoria Franova (Denmark)

#### **Pioneer Professional Modern**

1. Marcus - Karen Hilton (England)
2. Luca Baricchi - Loraine Barry (England)
3. Augusto Schiavo - Caterina Arzenton (Italy)

#### **Pioneer Amateur Latin**

1. Michael - Wentink Beata (South Africa)
2. Holger Nitsche - Charlotte Egstrand (Denmark)
3. Matthew - Nicole Cutler (England)

#### **Pioneer Professional Latin**

1. Bryan Watson - Karen Hardy (England)
2. Hans Galke - Bianca Schreiber (Germany)
3. Jukka Haapalainen - Sirpa Suutari (Finland)

#### **Pioneer Amateur Modern**

1. Christopher Hawkins - Hazel Newberry (England)
2. Alan - Donna Shingler (England)
3. William Pino - Alessandra Bucciarelli (Italy)

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Saturday, March 15, 1997**

The 35th Annual UBC Gala Ball, Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre, ticket prices \$45.00 front row, \$40.00 2nd and 3rd rows, \$35.00 4th row. Professional Show by Kim & Cecilie Rygel, 1996 World Ten-Dance Champions. Contact Pinky Wong 758-7007 for tickets.

### **Friday, March 21, 1997**

St. Patrick's Dance (Our Society's Friday night special theme dance - come dressed in Green), Bowen Park Auditorium.

### **Saturday, May 3, 1997**

The 5th Annual Island Fantasy Ball, Beban Park Auditorium, featuring Finnish and French Open Professional Latin Champions, Jukka Haapalainen and Sirpa Suutari. Contact Nelson Wong for tickets 758-7007.

### **Saturday, June 14, 1997**

Dance Pacifica '97 at Saanich Commonwealth Place, Victoria, B.C. presented by the Victoria Ballroom Dance Society. Professional show by Alain Doucet and Anik Joliceur, Canadian Ten-Dance Champions, also ranked 2nd in the World. Contact Nelson Wong 758-7007 for tickets.

#### *EDITOR*

*Pinky Wong*