



Ballroom Dance Society

Silver Slipper

March 2008

The President's Corner

Well, a few things have happened since the last Silver Slipper was published in July 2007. We had a great annual general meeting with an excellent turnout of members, and we elected a new executive (see below). Thanks to everyone who served on the last executive and who helped with every dance, we keep having great dances. We are seeing fresh ideas and new directions from our new board and volunteers.

I especially want to thank Lesley Tombs for stepping up to be Vice President last year. She has had to focus on taking care of health issues since last spring and with good results – it was great to see Stephen and Lesley back on the dance floor at recent dances. I also want to thank Gwen Spinks for editing the Silver Slipper for the last few years. She co-ordinated contributions from various members and organized them with professional skills into the current newsletter format. In recent months she has not been able to dedicate the time needed to this job and as of March 2008 has handed the torch to John Maher.

Best regards, John (for Stephen who is enjoying a well-deserved vacation as we go to press).

A Message to our Members: Costs Go Up, Fees Must Also

At our February 2, 2008 board meeting we reviewed Barbara Yee's detailed report on the club's finances. Barbara's report illustrated that we lose money at most of our non - ticketed dances. At the current projections for income and expenses NBDS would finish over \$1500 in the red for the current year. The board has a responsibility to balance the current income and expenses to maintain the club's sound financial position.

We looked at cutting expenses, ways to encourage increasing the number of people that attend dances, and as a last option – increasing the admission fees each person pays to attend a dance or workshop.

1) Expenses are higher this year for several reasons. We raised the fees we pay instructors to a more normal standard. The venue costs continue to rise at Bowen. We have added to our supply of decorations used at both venues to improve the ambience of our dances.

2) Attendance is a very important factor because the expenses are divided among the number of paid admissions to cover the costs. We plan to increase effort to promote NBDS dances and workshops in the community and to explain to our members the excellent value our events.

3) Admission fees need to be set at a realistic rate that will cover the costs and still be competitive with other groups. This year we are losing about \$2 per person attending both dances and workshops, and about \$1 per person attending only our dances. Our current admission rates are below those charged by most other dance organizations around Nanaimo.

Therefore, after carefully reviewing all options the board decided that it would be reasonable and prudent to raise the price of admission to only the dances by \$1 and the price of admission to dances including the workshops by \$2.

As of April 1, 2008, the new Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society admission fees will be:

NBDS	Dance only	Workshop + dance
Members	\$7	\$10
Junior Members	\$3.50	\$5
Non-members	\$11	\$14

Best regards, Stephen Gower

Island Fantasy Ball May 4, 2008

Tickets are now on sale for IFB 08. At the IFB, NBDS hosts the BC Closed Championships as well as a fabulous show by UK 10-dance champions Gherman Mustuc and Iveta Lukosiute and a buffet dinner catered by Spice of Life. Don't miss out; this will likely be another sell-out. Contact Dave Stevenson to get your tickets now (751-8669).

Committees for 2007-08

During and following the meeting the directors and volunteers assembled a new set of committees to carry on the functions of the society. The leaders are:

Bowen	Vicki Linfitt	
Nanoose	Sara Treutler	
Island Fantasy Ball	Elaine Thompson	
Newcastle	John Maher	
Dancesport, workshops	Nelson Wong	
Door Co-ordinator	Norm Whelpdale	
Food Co-ordinator	Vicki Linfitt	
Music Co-ordinator	Fred Rockwell	
Marketing, Promotion	Sara Treutler	
Newsletter Editor	Gwen Spinks	
Webmaster	Brian Gaines	
Librarian	Bruce Joiner	

AGM Minutes, in a Nutshell.

The Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society Annual General Meeting was held on September 23, 2007. This year we had 37 members at the AGM, probably the best attendance ever! The meeting had 3 main parts: **Reports** (how did we do in the last year); **Elections** (who is leading us forward); and **New Business** (what do you want the society to do this year).

Reports... on how we did last year (to July 31, 2007):

- **Membership is up to 175.** No doubt some continuing influence from the dance movies and TV shows like Dancing With The Stars, and the work of our Promotion Committee
- **Attendance was up** at our regular dances and we did not lose money on them (basically broke even).
- **Bowen and Nanoose committees** kept the wheels turning and dances were held successfully as planned.
- **The Newcastle Dance Camp** was well attended, had 10 social and ballroom workshops and two dances.
- **The Island Fantasy Ball** was the biggest ever with over 700 tickets sold, a great showing by Nanaimo competitors, and came out nicely in the black.
- **The Dancesport Committee** continued to host weekly dance practices, mainly at Nanoose this year. Still about the best value offered by the society and very much underutilized.
- **Workshops** were held before each dance, with 2 new local instructors (Andy Mundy and Elizabeth Stetar) and 3 guest instructors from away (Pat Bovaird, Dianne Gallager and Zillion Wong).
- **Music, library, web page and Silver Slipper** were all carried on, thanks to the volunteers who pitch in all year long.
- **Financially** we had an operating surplus and have a comfortable cushion in the bank to support future dance projects.

Elections... of new officers and directors:

Many people threw their hats in the ring this year. Thanks to all for supporting the Society and giving members a great choice of candidates to vote for.

Our new officers, decided by a hotly contested secret ballot, are

- President Stephen Gower
- Vice President John Maher
- Secretary Andy Mundy
- Treasurer Barbara Yee

Our new directors are:

- Director Vicki Linfitt
- Director Fred Rockwell
- Director Dave Stevenson
- Director Sara Treutler
- Director Jerry Jagers

And of course our

- Past President Keith Wilson

New Business... for the coming year:

Members raised questions and suggestions to the new executive:

- **Amendments to the constitution and bylaws** proposed by Dave Stevenson have been reviewed by a committee of the board and carefully crafted into a proposed set of revisions by Keith. The revisions were passed unanimously!
- **Encouraging younger people to attend** was raised, such as beginner-only dances (less intimidating), experienced dancers asking beginners to dance (and dancing at their comfort level), and encouraging instructors to attend dances (to help their students break the ice).
- **Express check-in** to dances using membership cards was suggested – new board to investigate.
- **Dance hours** – new board to consider earlier end time in view of low attendance after 11:00 p.m.
- **Workshop planning** – request to put workshop instructors and topics on annual calendar
- **Flyers to promote other dances** was raised as a concern as they detract from the table aesthetics. Policy decided at the last AGM needs to be re-inforced.
- **Disruption of social dances** by people practicing competitive routines or teaching lessons has been noted and needs to be discouraged. We provide frequent practices for this.
- **Scent-free hall proposal** – some members have had to leave because of reaction to perfumes etc. – new board to consider how to reduce use of scents at dances.

No Scents Makes Sense *by Stephen Gower*

It is wonderful to see so many dancers turning out for our dances. However, it has again become apparent that we have an issue that we need to address. For the last several meetings our NBDS board has been discussing the virtues of making our dances "Scent free". As you are probably aware, the "scent free" initiative is an environmental and health concern that is becoming increasingly mainstream. There are a growing number of

people who experience a severe allergic reaction and are unable to breathe when exposed to perfumes and aftershave. It is time for all of us to examine our use of scented products. (There are many unscented health care and beauty products on the market).

This is a very personal issue, as scented products have become a daily part of our lives. The ladies, often have a signature scent that they think of as their own, and the men as they groom for the evening out, enjoy the scent of their cologne and aftershave. Unfortunately there are unexpected consequences of our use of these products. We often have couples who have to leave, either Nanoose or Bowen dances, because they can't breathe, and unfortunately, it has happened again at recent dances. Many of us, when we hear this think, "oh, their noses filled in and they felt "stuffed up" but it is far more serious than that. They really can't breathe! Please, we need to be more considerate of our fellow dancers, and *leave the "scents" at home.*

Its time to change and it just makes sense.

Thank-you, and best regards,

Stephen Gower (President NBDS).

In The Comps *by Nelson Wong*

- NBDS couple Kevin Fahy and Christine Gosland danced their first open competition as a couple in the Vancouver Open on October 20, 2007 with great results. One of only two BC couples to be called back in the Adult Standard Championship Final, they finished placing 4th ahead of two strong US couples. Kevin and Christine had been working hard preparing for their debut for the previous three months.
- Also at the Vancouver Open, Zillion and Sarah danced after a period of four months without entering any competition and showed they are still the top BC couple. They came 2nd in the Vancouver Open Adult Standard Championship behind a young New York couple with a 3/2 split decision, and came 5th in the Adult Latin Championship, the only BC couple recalled to the Latin Final.

Coming Soon: Updates On Snowball 2008

and Other Competition Results



Zillion and Sara showing fine form at Snow Ball 2008



Fred and Barbara faced tough competition

Our Workshops

Don't miss Joyce Welford, a top instructor visiting from the UK, teaching waltz at 7:30 March 29 at Nanoose.

We are also bringing back Pat Bovaird for more workshops. He will teach samba before the dance on April 4 at Bowen, then foxtrot, quickstep and rumba starting at noon on April 6 at Departure Bay. Pat is a master instructor, guaranteed to help dancers at all levels to learn new steps and improve technique.

Our Video Library

The dance club has been slowly building a video library over the years for the benefit of the membership. Videos can be a very helpful aid when practising at home. Videos are available (two at a time) at no charge to current NBDS members for a three-week period. Contact Bruce at 754-1735 for details.

Our Practices

Did you know that we host up to 15 practices per month to help you improve your dancing? Check the practice calendar on the web site: www.ballroomnanaimo.ca.

Member News

Fred and Barbara just returned from a 2-week Caribbean cruise. There was plenty of dancing but all on a small circular dance floor just one step and a whisk-and-chasse wide says Fred.

TANGO HOLIDAYS *by John Maher*

Tango has always been a challenge for John and Tina Maher. It was watching Tina dance the Philippine tango (with other guys) that prompted John to take ballroom dance lessons in the first place. The international tango became the "divorce dance" when neither of them could agree on what each step was supposed to look like. They signed up when Susan Peach brought the first Argentine tango lessons to Nanaimo 10 years ago but never got comfortable enough with it to actually dance. So rather than keep dabbling one toe in the water they decided to plunge right in by taking vacations to tango.



John tangoes in Boca

The first trip to Buenos Aires in late November 2006 was fabulous. With some guidance from Lina's Tango Guesthouse, they went to several milongas, and had a little success with lessons, mainly at one studio. After a year of very little tango dancing but feeling confident from the previous trip, in November 2007 they went back to Buenos Aires and attended every lesson and milonga they

could find, with a variety of instructors. Unfortunately the tango dancing got worse, not better, due in part to

confusion arising from the very different styles of tango and of teaching they encountered.

In January 2008, John and Tina attended a 6-day tango seminar in La Manzanilla, Mexico. Each day included an hour of technique for followers, two 1 ½ hour lessons by Michael and Beatrix, and either a milonga or a practica in the evening. Between all these there was time to walk on the 5 km white sand beach, eat at great restaurants along the beach, watch pelicans and crocodiles, and shop along the dusty/muddy streets in the village. And visit with friends from the Nanaimo area, like Sally Webber and Ron who now live a short drive away from La Manzanilla. Sally has been getting requests to start a ballroom dance group north of Manzanillo and may be teaching line dances as a start. After a solid week of tango lessons and practice, all within one style of teaching and dancing, John and Tina almost feel like they can navigate around a dance floor doing a tango! JM

PS: send your dance stories and news items to John for the next Silver Slipper



Ron, Sally and Tina at La Manzanilla, Mexico, January 2008

Coming events

Sock Hop June 6

The next NBDS theme dance at Bowen is featuring tunes from the 50's and early 60's. Get out your Pat Boone or Debbie Reynolds outfit and be ready to party! Note: there *will* be the usual full range of ballroom dances and in ballroom tempo. Elvis or other stars of the 50's may make an appearance!



Who are these 50's stars?

Newcastle Island Dance Camp

Mark your calendars for August 1 – 3, 2008. Tickets will go on sale at the end of April. If you would like to attend please email Gwen Spinks (wannadance@shaw.ca). There will be 10 workshops on a variety of social and ballroom dances and 2 dances included with the weekend pass for \$95 along with lunch, dinner and breakfast, camping and ferry.

New Parksville Dance

On the 4th Saturday of each month, hosted by the Legion to support cadets – see Andy Mundy for more details.

Monthly Dances

Oceanside Tea Dance

Nanoose Place, 2925 Northwest Bay Road, Nanoose

Next Dance: Sunday, March 9, 2008

2:00 - 4:30pm

Cost: \$7.50 includes tea, coffee and goodies

Great mix of Standard and Latin

Host: Ken Yung yungdance@live.ca

Second Friday Dance at Royal Canadian Legion –

1630 E. Wellington Rd., Nan.

Next Dance: Friday, March 14, 2008

7:00 Workshop?

8:00 - 11:pm Dance

Cost: \$5 for workshop only; \$5 for dance only; \$7 for both

Music: Latin & Standard Ballroom

Hosts: Dave & Norma Stevenson 751-8669 email:

evads@shaw.ca

Milonga at Norm's Place — 6731 Aulds Road, Nanaimo

Next Dance: Sunday, March 16, 2008

4:30 - 7:00 dancing

Cost: \$7 at the door - with snacks and punch

Music: 90% Argentine Tango

Host: Gwen at 247-9756; wannadance@shaw.ca

Alldance at Norm's Place — 6731 Aulds Road, Nanaimo

Next Dance: Saturday March 22, 2008

7:00 - 7:45 lesson Latin Hustle with Susan Peach

8:00 - 11:00 dancing & snacks

Cost: \$7 at the door

Music: Latin, Swing, Ballroom & Country

Host: Gwen at 247-9756; wannadance@shaw.ca

Parksville Legion Dance - **NEW**

146 West Hirst, Parksville (behind the Rod & Gun pub)

First Dance: Saturday, March 22nd (4th Saturdays)

7:00 - 8:00 Workshop – by Andy Mundy

8:00 - 11:00pm Dancing

Cost: by donation (suggested \$10 per person)

Music: ballroom / Latin by Andy Mundy

Host: the Legion at 250-951-2646 or 250-248-5633

email: navyleagueballroom@hotmail.com

NBDS "3rd Saturday" Dance at Nanoose Place

Next Dance: March 29th (after Easter)

7:30 Workshop: Waltz with Joyce Welford

8:30 - 11:30pm Dancing

Music: Latin & Standard Ballroom by Norm Whelpdale

Cost: \$8 for members, \$12 for non-members with workshop; \$6 and \$10 after workshop

NBDS First Friday Dance at Bowen Park,

Next Dance: Friday, April 4, 2008

7:30 Workshop: Samba with Pat Bovaird

8:30 - 11:30pm Dancing

Cost: \$10 for members, \$14 for non-members with workshop; \$7 and \$11 after workshop

Music: Latin & Standard Ballroom by Dave Stevenson

Dance Calendar compiled by Gwen Spinks