



Ballroom Dance Society

# Silver Slipper

October 2009

## Annual General Meeting Minutes In A Nutshell

The attendance at the AGM was good; 32 members came and contributed to a lively meeting. Here is a summary of the meeting minutes.

### 1. Reports

<> **President** Andy Mundy provided a recap of the successes of the past year; highlights included our first charity fundraiser, and our first 2-day IFB.

<> **Treasurer** Stephen Gower presented the financial statements. Our Operating budget for the past fiscal year exceeded \$ 100,000, and we have a strong position with over \$20,000 in assets. Our regular dances lost money, dinner dances and the Newcastle Dance Camp made money, and the IFB lost money this year. New costs included liability insurance. Adding up all the NBDS "departments" our net income for the year was an operating deficit of \$ 2,794. Stephen recommended that the membership fee be increased to cover the increased costs of the society (independent of individual dance events).

*Moved by Andy Mundy, seconded by John Maher, that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Carried*

<> **Island Fantasy Ball** chairman Jerry Jagers described the doubling of IFB events this year, to include Senior II and open amateur events over two days for the first time. In spite of a poor financial climate this year and increased costs, the IFB was completed with a loss of only \$1848. Overall the IFB was considered a huge success and will definitely continue with the 2-day schedule in 2010.

<> **DanceSport** chair Nelson Wong reported that the drop-in fee was increased from \$2 to \$2.50, practice space usage actually increased by 16% over last year and drop-in revenue increase by 48%. The net deficit for the year was \$1,951. The number of practice sessions was also reduced by 9%. This year we saw more and more beginners coming out to use the practices and would definitely like to see that continue

<> **Music** chair Dave Stevenson was pleased to report that it was not difficult to find DJs willing to do the music, and he thanked all the volunteers who provided music for regular dances and special events.

<> **Bar** coordinator John Maher thanked Ches Scott for his work over the last ten years as bar coordinator. The experiment in providing bar service at Nanoose will not be continued due to lack of customers. Bar service for Bowen dances and special events is generally profitable and should continue.

<> **Newcastle Island** venue chair John Maher reported that Sunday Dances were held on 9 Sundays in the

summer of 2009. Paid attendance ranged from 2 to 44, with revenue to NBDS between \$0 and \$100 for a total of \$400. There is uncertainty about dances at Newcastle in 2010 due to the Park Facility Operator contract being up for renewal.

<> **Dance Camp** chair John Maher reported another successful camp, with attendance down slightly and for the first time a competition among instructors which was well received. The net proceeds for 2009 were \$1,426. Plans for a dance camp in 2010 are uncertain due to the loss of our booked weekend which was double-booked by Newcastle staff.

<> **Silver Slipper** editor John Maher reported that 8 issues were printed since September 2008.

<> **Bowen** venue chair Vicki Linfitt presented a summary of everyone who had volunteered in recent years, thanked all of them, and encouraged everyone else to step up and volunteer for door or refreshments. Average attendance at Bowen was 66, with 117 for Christmas and 115 for the Anniversary dance.

<> **Nanoose** venue chair Sara Treutler highlighted the Dancing With The Stars fundraiser which raised about \$4000 for Haven Society (kudos from members to chair Andy Mundy, MC Sara and DJ/MC Fred Rockwell for making that night special) and the New Years dance to kick off the year with a bang. Attendance has been running at about 30% less than at Bowen, not quite enough to cover all the costs.

<> **Promotion** chair Sara Treutler summarized the regular emails, phoning committee and notices on Shaw TV and in local papers.

<> **Video Librarian** Bruce Joiner reported that four new DVDs were added to the library from Dance Visions, on tango, waltz, foxtrot and quickstep, at no cost to NBDS. The society's inventory now includes 36 videos and 21 DVDs.

There were no reports from webmaster Brian Gaines or from Workshops Coordinator Ted Barnett.

### 2. Resolutions

In response to the trend reported above, in which revenues have been insufficient to meet ongoing costs, the executive had prepared two resolutions for consideration by the membership to increase revenue by raising fees. There was considerable discussion on the merits and drawbacks around raising membership fees and admission fees. It was pointed out that the board has the authority to raise admission fees, and therefore the membership does not need to vote on this but would prefer that the board monitor NBDS financial situation and raise admission fees only if necessary.

*Resolved that the increase in administrative costs of the society be met in part by an increase of \$10 to the annual membership fee, bringing the total fee to \$20 per member. Moved by Chester Scott, seconded by Jerry Jagers. Carried.*

### 3. Elections

Andy turned the meeting over to Ted Barnett as chair of the Nominations Committee. Ted presented the names of members who had agreed to stand for election to executive positions. Additional nominations were made from the floor. The elected officers and directors are as follows:

- |                    |                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) President:      | <b>Andy Mundy</b>                                                                                                      |
| 2) Vice President: | <b>Vicki Linfitt</b>                                                                                                   |
| 3) Secretary:      | <b>Brenda Stewart</b>                                                                                                  |
| 4) Treasurer:      | <b>Stephen Gower</b>                                                                                                   |
| 5) Past president: | <b>Keith Wilson</b>                                                                                                    |
| 6) Directors:      | <b>Jerry Jagggers</b><br><b>John Maher</b><br><b>Elaine Thompson</b><br><b>Debbie Townsend</b><br><b>Sara Treutler</b> |

### 4. New Business

**Volunteers for Committees:** No discussion

#### Comments from Members

During August the Nomination Committee attempted to contact all members to obtain nominations and ideas from consideration at the AGM. The following is a summary of the topics proposed by members and some points raised in discussion.

1. *Only paid-up members be allowed to advertise.* NBDS board should establish a policy on advertising.
2. *More qualified professionals for workshops.* Examples were Joyce Welford, Zillion Wong and Barbara Child; additional costs are a factor.
3. *One workshop per month enough.* Workshops may be less well attended in summer.
4. *Hustle, Swing, etc to be removed from workshops.* The majority of workshops are international ballroom; some variation is also desired by members.
5. *Ways to increase membership.* How to attract and retain more dance students? Consider a questionnaire or exit interview for new guests to obtain feedback.
6. *Increase number of younger members.* Without alienating the "older" members.
7. *Student dances should be a "must".* Consider tunes for older audience early in evening, tunes for younger ears later?
8. *How to reduce intimidation of new students.* Work at welcoming new dancers.
9. *Should not discourage competitors from practicing at social dances.* Competitors are welcome to practice at dances provided that they do not disrupt the flow of dance or make social dancers fear for their safety, i.e. practice floorcraft.
11. *Some theme music should be played at theme dances, e.g. more country 2-step at the cowboy dance?*
12. *What are we promoting? Does NBDS just want strict tempo? Apparently, some of the music played has not always been "strict tempo" and there have been some hard feelings about this.* Recognize that music is key to attracting people to a dance. Consider a questionnaire once or twice during the year (some sense that the music questionnaire was overdone).

Andy indicated that the new board would consider these ideas and where appropriate factor them into NBDS plans and policies.

Adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

## MONTHLY DANCES

### NBDS Saturday Dance at Nanoose Place Saturday, October 17, 2009

7:30 Workshop: cha cha with Andy Mundy  
8:30-11:30 Dance  
Music: Latin and standard by John Maher

### NBDS First Friday Dance at Bowen Park, Friday, November 2, 2009

7:30 Workshop: Dave and Norma on Quickstep  
8:30 Dance – ballroom tunes by Barbara Barnett

### Second Friday Dance at Royal Canadian Legion

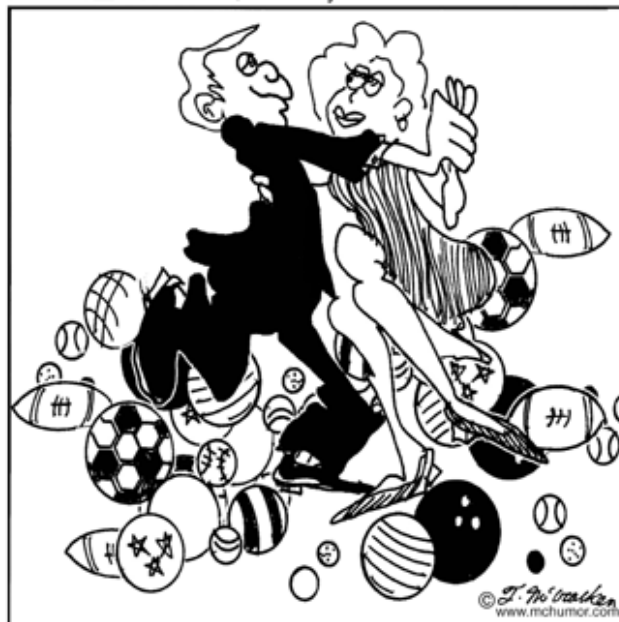
1630 E. Wellington Rd., Nanaimo.

#### Next Dance: Friday, October 9, 2009

**Hosts:** Dave & Norma Stevenson 751-8669

Email: [evads@shaw.ca](mailto:evads@shaw.ca)

**MCHUMOR.com** by T. McCracken



Ball Room Dancing.

©T. McCracken mchumor.com

The Silver Slipper is published occasionally by the Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society. The editor is John Maher ([johnmaher@shaw.ca](mailto:johnmaher@shaw.ca)). Please send any dance related news that you think would be of interest to NBDS members and guests. If you don't send something, we may have to make something up about you, which could be worse than not sending something in your own words. Please share your stories! Thanks.

John