
Silver Slipper

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Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society

Amateurs or Professionals

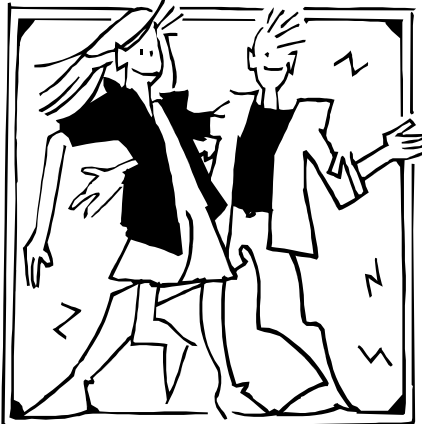
In April, 1995, the International Olympic Committee granted ballroom dancing provisional status as a competitive Olympic sport.

The prospects of Olympic participation for Dance Sport is causing unrest Worldwide. The problem which has arisen is: Who will be representing their countries - amateurs or professionals?

There has always been friction between amateurs and professionals. This problem exists in various countries, in Canada and in British Columbia. Take Nelson and Pinky for instance. They took over the classes from Jim and Della because Della could no longer teach due to health reasons. Complaints were launched by professionals with the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Dance Teachers Association (CDTA) alleging that Nelson and Pinky are teaching and should not be allowed to compete as amateurs. They were even told that "if they do compete, the judges (all professionals and members of CDTA) will not mark them".

The matter of amateur teaching was brought up at the 1995 Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Amateur Dancers Association (BCADA) and a committee headed by Jim Fraser was struck to research and survey the issue. At the 1996 AGM of the BCADA, a lengthy report was presented by Jim Fraser. BCADA received 30 replies to 63 mailouts to IDSF members and 5 members of CADA and the CDTA. A condensed summary of the results is that Alberta, Australia, Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, Southern Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Russia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales allow either regulated or unregulated amateur teaching whereas Atlantic CADA, CDTA, England, France, Northern Ireland, New Zealand, Ontario, Poland, Quebec and Zimbabwe either oppose to or do not have amateur teaching, except that in England there is one amateur IDSF Judge; in France, Northern Ireland, Ontario and Quebec, amateur judging either exists or is restricted to IDSF-licensed amateurs; and in Poland and Zimbabwe, the topic of amateur teaching is under consideration.

Although there is no immediate solution to the problem of amateur being allowed to teach in British Columbia or in various other countries and regions, it has been reported that in order for professionals to be allowed to participate in the upcoming Olympic events, the international scene seems to be reaching a solution by granting associate member status to the professional organization within the amateur organization. In the U.S., however, friction has been steadily building between the hierarchy of these two groups ever since the International Olympic Committee granted Dance Sport provisional recognition as an Olympic event.



In view that Ballroom Dancing will be a demonstration sport at the Australian Olympic in the year 2000 and the possibility of it being fully recognized and included as an Olympic sport in the year 2004, I do hope that the relationship between amateur and professional organizations can be more amicable and the two groups could work together towards the common goal of promoting ballroom dancing. No one will benefit if there is a total breakdown between the two groups.

Get to know the Champions

1996 Canadian Professional Closed Standard Champions

- 1st - Pierre Allaire & Mireille Veilleux
- 2nd - Alain Doucet & Anik Joliceur
- 3rd - Danny Quilliam & Manon Grenier

1996 Canadian Professional Closed Latin Champions

- 1st - Jean-Marc Genereux & France Mousseau
- 2nd - Pierre Allaire & Mireille Veilleux
- 3rd - Brian Torner & Brigitte Mayer

1996 World Professional 10-Dance Champions

- 1st - Kim and Cecilie Rygel (Germany)
- 2nd - Alain Doucet & Anik Jolicoeur (Canada)

3rd - Gary and Diana McDonald (USA)

Current World International Professional Latin Champions

Donnie Burns & Gaynor Fairweather (England). This popular couple will be making their "farewell" competitive appearance this October at the 44th Open to the World International Professional Latin American Championship, one of the most prestigious competitions in the world. They will attempt to win at this venue and if they do, it will be their 11th win.

Current World International Professional Standard Champions

Marcus and Karen Hilton (England)

A world class couple, Marcus and Karen also won the 1996 British Standard Professional Championship, their list of title also include World 10-Dance Professional Champions.

"Macarena"

In South America "Macarena" is the absolute dance floor hit and is danced by the young and old everywhere. The music of "Macarena" is played by the group "Los del Rio". The dance "Macarena" was the winning dance of the 1996 Social Dance competition at this year's World Social Dance Congress in Blackpool, England.

What is the difference between American Style and International Style?

American Style is most popular in the United States, where the International Style which is also known as the English Style, is danced throughout the rest of the world.

The American Style Smooth dances such as Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango and V. Waltz experience more freedom and expression. They may be danced in closed or open position, allowing for additional innovative tricks and creative arm and hand styling. The International Style Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, Quickstep and V. Waltz are danced only in closed position. The technique for both styles is the same.

The American Style Rhythm dances which are Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing, Samba, Mambo and Merengue have a greater variety of patterns, and are more suited for social dancing. The International Style Cha Cha, Rumba, Samba, Paso Doble and Jive are more disciplined and technical. The technique is different between the styles and changes throughout the years.

Summer Outing

Our Society hosted its 1st summer BBQ on Sunday, August 11, 1996 at the Departure Bay Activity Centre. It was well attended by over 50 members, family and guests. Everyone brought a salad or dessert to share and we had more than enough food to go around. Some went for a dip in the water, others just made it a social gathering, still others tried out a few dance steps.

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Special thanks go out to Louise Severn and Irene Scott who organized the setting up, take down, cleanup, and coffee for everyone. Thanks also to Chester Scott who brought his barbecue for everyone to use.

Anniversary Dance

We will be holding our Anniversary Dinner and Dance on Friday, September 20, 1996 at Bowen Park. Limited tickets, so get yours early. Ticket price \$15.00 for members and \$20.00 for non-members. Please come and join us celebrate our 12th Anniversary.

Annual General Meeting

Just a reminder that our Annual General Meeting is fast approaching. It will be held at 4:00 p.m. at Bowen Park, Activity Room #1, on Sunday, October 20, 1996. Please mark this date on your calendar and come attend the meeting. Everyone, especially our new members, should consider running for a position on the executive. Bring with you new ideas to share for the new year.

Proposed Changes by Jim Beaman

Next year I can be your new club president (1996 -1997). I would like to make some changes to the calendar and the way we program each dance:

1. We need to promote ourselves as a Ballroom Dance Club.
2. We should eliminate food as we do it now.
3. No more special nights except the Christmas dance.
4. Always play two tunes for the same dance.

We are not growing as a club. We are starting to recycle the executive (this will be my second time as chairman). We have worked very hard over the past few years trying to keep our old members and encourage new by having special evenings and special foods. It is not working, our membership new and old is declining. We have been very successful hosting the Closed B.C. Championship. We need a very active club to run the annual event.

I think we should change direction and make our twice monthly dances strictly ballroom. We have an excellent selection of music and videos. A format and sound system to present it.

As incoming chairman I would like to start incorporating some of these ideas in the coming year.

Editor

Pinky Wong