



Silver Slipper

Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society
Newsletter — December 2005

The President's Corner

A Fresh Look to NBDS!

Question: What happens when you take experience, mix in some new ideas and a little innovation, and follow it up with action? **Answer:** You get a fresh look to NBDS.

A number of new members have recently joined NBDS and brought with them some great ideas, talents and insights. These have carried through to the new Board, which was selected in September by our membership to reflect this mix of new and experienced members. After a series of meetings and countless email exchanges, we looked over what has worked for us, what has not worked, and what we can do differently. Then we made a number of decisions affecting the way NBDS will operate over the next year.

Here are the highlights:

1. A New Dance Calendar

After considering such factors as volunteer support, venue costs and the demographics of existing and potential members, we decided to retain the popular First Friday workshop/dances at Bowen Park, and phase out the Third and Fourth Friday dances. In their place we will hold Third Saturday dances at Nanoose Place, an attractive, wooden floor venue just 10 minutes north of Woodgrove Centre. See the new calendar in our new brochure and our website. Doug Sheaff has written a separate piece on Nanoose Place in this edition of the Silver Slipper.

2. A New Committee Structure

Because we now have two venues, it made sense to organize ourselves around these venues. The Nanoose Place Venue Committee, under the leadership of Stephen Gower, also has Sara Treutler, Doug Sheaff and Jerry Jagggers helping out. The Bowen Park Venue Committee is under my chairmanship and I have the help of Nelson Wong, John Maher, Dave Stevenson and Jim Beaman. These two committees will plan and carry out the dances to be held at each venue. They will organize the volunteers to do the door, music, bar and food, and bring in any other resources they need to make the dances exciting and entertaining for our membership.

3. Two Big Events

We will continue with the very successful Island Fantasy Ball, (May 6, 2006), under the continuing chairmanship of Nelson Wong, and the very well attended Newcastle Island Dance Camp (July 15, 2006), organized last year (and this year) by John Maher. These two events met all of their objectives and also made a positive contribution to our financial health.

4. A Big Welcome to New Members

To maintain the vitality of our club, we need to attract and retain new members. We have found that newcomers who are comfortable on the ballroom floor tend to like what they see at

our dances, but students who are new to ballroom dancing are hesitant to get up and dance along with couples which they see as more advanced. To encourage students to come to our dances and mix with our members, we no longer hold "student nights" but instead issue courtesy passes to beginner ballroom students, which allow them to attend as many of our dances as they wish free of charge, while their classes are in session. In addition, to help newcomers mix in, we have prepared "Welcome" cards which show which table seats are available. If you see new people at your table, please take a moment to introduce yourself and to make our visitors feel welcome. Also, please use your best floorcraft skills to give lots of space to students who are brave enough to give our floor a try!

5. More Practice Times

We all like to see our social dances well attended and fun for everyone. At the same time, we like to practice what we have learned, or at least hang on to what we already know! This may involve going through some intricate steps which are difficult to do at a well attended social dance. To help us polish our steps, and to give our competitor members more space to practice, Nelson has arranged, through the DanceSport Nanaimo Committee, to rent low cost floor space at different venues. These are published on our website. Both members and non-members are welcome to attend for a small user fee. This fee is waived for practices ahead of our regular dances, and in return we would ask those practicing to help set up tables and chairs in time for the workshop/dance which follows.

6. An Improved Website

One of our talented new members, Brian Gaines, has refurbished and redesigned our website so that it presents in a window-based format, loads quickly and presents easy-to-find information about our dances, our events, and our club. Please have a look and consult our new website for up-to-date information about forthcoming dances.

7. New Sound Equipment

As a dance club, we need a sound system which produces high quality sound, uses current technology and is easy to transport and operate. Our current system is 15 years old and in need of replacement. John and Nelson are working hard to find a suitable replacement system, and will be experimenting with candidate components over the next few dances. They may ask for your opinions, so please tell them what you think!

It is our hope that the functions organized by NBDS will be exciting and fun events where we all enjoy what we love to do – ballroom dancing. Give us your feedback. Let us know how we are doing!

Keith

A Special Thanks to the Previous Board.

I would like to speak on behalf of all NBDS members and guests, and thank the 2004-2005 Board for their hard work and dedication, and for making 2004-2005 a very successful year. I would especially like to thank John and Tina Maher for their tireless efforts in organizing and delivering the Fourth Friday Dances, and the Newcastle Dance Camp held last summer. Although we could not find the volunteers needed to continue with the Forth Friday dances, we have appreciated the experience of mixing ballroom and non-ballroom dancing in a party atmosphere. I would also like to thank Nelson Wong for the tremendous personal effort he put into chairing the 2005 Island Fantasy Ball. With a record number of attendees, this competition will go down in the NBDS history books as the biggest and best so far. Well done Nelson!

Keith

NBDS 2005-06 Executive

President	Keith Wilson	
Vice President	Stephen Gower	
Secretary	Deborah Wilson	
Treasurer	Barbara Yee	
Past President	John Maher	
Director	Sara Treutler	
Director	Doug Sheaff	
Director	Fred Rockwell	
Director	Tina Maher	
Director	Nelson Wong	

Committees

Bowen	Keith Wilson	
Nanoose	Stephen Gower	
Island Fantasy Ball	Nelson Wong	
Newcastle Dance Camp	John Maher	
Dancesport	Nelson Wong	
Marketing & Promotion	Sara Treutler	
Newsletter Editor	Gwen Spinks	
Webmaster	Brian Gaines	
Database	Keith Wilson	
Librarian	Bruce Joiner	

To get the latest on ballroom dancing around Nanaimo and around the world, with a listing of the mid-island dance instructors, check our web site at

www.ballroomnanaimo.ca

A little gossip ...

I don't know if this is a secret or not but I have heard that Ken & Margaret Yung are opening a dance studio in Parksville in January — Watch for It!!

Volunteer! Volunteer! — We need Volunteers! Doing a little helps a lot! Talk to Keith about what you can do.

Wanna Dance website has a new calendar with *all* the Nanaimo dance events on it — check it out!

<http://members.shaw.ca/wannadance/calendar.htm>

Saturday Night's for Dancing

NBDS has done it! We can now dance on a Saturday night! We also have a new venue where the floor has enough room for all couples waltzing and six cats swinging. So mark on those 2006 calendars that NBDS' second dance is on the third Saturday of the month. Our new location is Nanoose Place, 2925 Northwest Bay Road. There is excitement at the Board Table now that we have two venues for our club. In addition some eager members are racking their brains to spice up each hall for the coming year. It is fortuitous for the Board that the inaugural event for Nanoose Place will be a New Year's Ball.

NBDS' New Year's Ball

Here's a wonderful opportunity to attend a New Years extravaganza for \$15.00. It is a potluck of cold finger foods but there will be complimentary tea, coffee, punch, party favours and at midnight, champagne. Included is a no host bar. Join us at Nanoose Place from 9:00 to 1:00. For tickets phone Sara (250) 468-2095 or Jim at (250) 390-2489.



Note from the Editor ...

Help! I do desktop design — I am not a writer! Please contact me with your contributions and ideas and we will all enjoy the Sliver Slipper a lot more. 247-9756 or wannadance@shaw.ca Gwen

Photo Credits: Nelson Wong



Grand Ball 2005

Nanaimo competitors danced their first competition of the season at the Grand Ball 2005 in Richmond last weekend. Very excited and high energy competition with world class competitors from around the world. Results as follow:

Fred & Barb - 2nd Senior Bronze Latin & Finalist Adult Bronze Latin

Brian & Beth - 3rd Senior Silver Standard & Semi-Finalist Senior Gold Standard

Kimberly & David (new partner from Vancouver) - 2nd U21 Gold Latin & 5th Adult Gold Latin

Kevin & Dasha - 3rd U21 Pre-Champ Standard, Semi-Finalist Adult Pre-Champ Standard, 1st U21 Gold Latin & 3rd Adult Gold Latin

Zillion & Sarah - 2nd U21 Standard & Latin, 9th Adult Standard & 6th Adult Latin

Congratulations to all *Nelson*

Nanaimo Dance couple become

After seven years of dancing together in ballroom competitions, Nanaimo's Kevin Fahy and Kimberley Beerman went head to head for the first time with new partners at the recent Grand Ball in Richmond. One event was of particular interest, the Under-21 Gold Latin, in which Fahy, Beerman and their new partners were the only dancers on the floor.

Fahy signed up for his first ballroom class about ten years ago. He needed a dance unit for physical education as part of his grade 4 home schooling program. Irish dancing, his first choice, wasn't available so he reluctantly agreed to try ballroom. "I didn't want to do it at first," said Fahy, "but when I heard about the competitions, I really got interested."

He met up with Beerman seven years ago at a Canada Day Dance Festival in Nanaimo. She had been taking jazz, tap and ballet lessons since age three and was to be part of a jazz demonstration at the festival. When her performance was cancelled, she decided to watch some of the other events.

After seeing the ballroom dance exhibition, she went up to the group's coach, Nelson Wong, and announced, "I really want to do this." Wong called Fahy over, had him stand beside Beerman and pronounced that the pair "looked good." Eight months later, Fahy and Beerman were competing as Juniors at the prestigious Snow Ball in Vancouver.

Over the next five years, they competed regularly, achieving a Pre-Championship rating in the Standard division and Gold in Latin. Beerman left Nanaimo to attend UBC in Sept. 2004.

That year, neither could find a suitable partner. They continued to compete together for enjoyment, but without the opportunity for regular practice they were not able to progress.

In September of this year, Dasha Reut came from Russia to study English at Malaspina in Nanaimo. A skillful dancer, she was soon paired with Fahy, who also attends Malaspina. At about the same time, Beerman met David Marasigan of Richmond, who had dancesport experience, but no partner.

In the spirit of mutual support, which is typical of dancesport, the foursome had a group hug before going out on the floor to compete against each other in the Under-21 Gold Latin event. Fahy & Reut placed 1st overall, winning the samba and cha cha. Marasigan & Beerman won the rumba in this three-dance event.

By Fred Rockwell



A little history ...

Salsa

Salsa is an exciting partner and club Latin dance that is easy to learn and is a close relative to the Mambo. The timing is quick, quick, slow (QQS). Its history is very interesting and the website below covers it very well. There are seven sections to the website in all, and they are arranged in order of argument instead of chronology: beginning with Izzy Sanabria's use of the word; then tracing the introduction of Old World and African culture to the Caribbean; through to how Cuba became the focal point of Latin music. It concludes with a perspective on both the concept of ownership, and the adaptation of Salsa to the UK environment.

www.salsa-merengue.co.uk/revealit/histsal/prologue.html

by Gwen Spinks, Wanna Dance,

Monthly Events ...

Second Friday Dance at the Legion

Royal Canadian Legion – 1630 E. Wellington Rd., Nan.

Next Dance: December 9th, 2005 - Christmas Dance

8:00 - 11:pm **Cost:** \$5

Standard, Latin and Old Time dances – try it, you'll like it!

Hosts: Dave & Norma Stevenson 751-8669

NBDS Christmas Dance

Friday, December 16, 2005 at Bowen Park

6:00 **Cocktails**

7:00 **Dinner**

8:30 **Dancing**

This year we offer a special Christmas present – a professional showcase of standard dancing by Young Ryu and his new partner Magda Rudzi. We will keep announcements and other non-dance interruptions to a minimum to allow time for this special five-dance standard presentation.

Please welcome Young, his wife Angela, and his partner Magda to our dinner dance, and make sure you have your tickets! Jim (phone 390-2489, email mjbea@shaw.ca) will be able to set you up. The cost is \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members.

Oceanside Sunday Tea Dance

Nanosee Place, 2925 Northwest Bay Road, Nanosee

Next Dance: December 18th, 2005 - Christmas dance

2:00 - 4:30pm **Cost:** \$7.50

Great mix of Standard and Latin

Hosts: Ken & Margaret Yung kmteyung@shaw.ca

NBDS New Year's Eve Party

Saturday, December 31, 2005 at Nanosee Place

9:00 pm - 1:00 am

Great Ballroom and social dance music. Party favours, no host bar, complimentary champagne at midnight. Bring some cold finger foods and join us! Cost is \$15 per person. Tickets available from Sara (phone 468-2095) or Jim (390-2489).

First Friday Dance at Bowen Park

Next Dance: January 6th, 2006

7:30 pm **Workshop**

8:30 - 11:30pm **Dancing**

Cost: \$8 for members, \$12 for non-members with workshop;

\$6 and \$10 after workshop or on non-workshop days.

Workshop: check our website

For more info, contact Keith at 751-1899

Third Saturday Dance at Nanosee Centre

Next Dance: January 21st, 2006

6:00 pm Practise time

7:30 pm **International Night** with floor show & potluck snacks

Cost: \$8 for members, \$12 for non-members with workshop;

\$6 and \$10 after workshop or on non-workshop days.

Workshop check our website

Our Video Library

The dance club has been slowly building a video library over the years for the benefit of the membership. Here are some titles of the more recent videos that are available. Videos are available (two at a time) to current NBDS members for a three-week period. Contact Bruce at 754-1735 for details.

Latin

Beginning level **Jive** – by Corky and Shirley Ballas

Intermediate level **Jive** – by Corky and Shirley Ballas

Advanced level **Jive** – by Corky and Shirley Ballas

International Latin **Jive** techniques – by Corky & Shirley Ballas

Intermediate level **Rumba** – by Corky and Shirley Ballas

Advanced level **Rumba** – by Corky and Shirley Ballas

International Latin **Rumba** technique by Corky & Shirley Ballas

International Style Techniques and Principles **Cha Cha** Volume 1 – by John and Nadia Eftedal

International Style Intermediate **Cha Cha** by Corky & Shirley

International Latin **Samba** techniques – by Corky and Shirley

International Style Open Bronze **Samba** Variations DVD by

Johnson and Kozak

International Style Doctor **Latin Introductory** Tape – by Corky and Shirley Ballas

Turns and Spins DVD – by Shirley Ballas

Latin technique & muscular exercises DVD by Shirley Ballas

Standard

International Standard Beginning & Intermediate (Bronze)

Waltz – by Veyrasset and Smith

Basic modern **Waltz**, Look, Listen and Learn – by Andrew and Loraine Sinkinson

Technique on video **Waltz** Membership – by Elizabeth Romain

International style Beginning thru Advanced **Viennese Waltz** – by Veyrasset and Smith

International Bronze **Foxtrot** – by Veyrasset and Smith

International Style Beginning and Intermediate (Bronze)

Quickstep – by Veyrasset and Smith

International Style Open Silver **Quickstep** variations &

technique DVD – by Veyrasset & Smith

International Style Standard technique **Tango** – by Veyrasset and Smith

International Style Beginner / Intermediate Bronze **Tango** – by Veyrasset and Smith

Ballroom dancing for beginners – by Andy and Wendy Wong (Tango, Foxtrot, Samba, Jive)

International Style Advance 1 **Ballroom Technique** – by Veyrasset and Smith

Standard and Smooth **Exercises for the Ladies** Volume 1 – by Heather Smith

Simply Beautiful **Ballroom dance** – Marcus and Karen Hilton

Time to Dance, a **dance video of the superlative** – by Donnie Burns and Gaior Fairweather