



Silver Slipper

Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society
Newsletter — September 2005

The President's Corner

Well, it has been an interesting year, a strange year, for ballroom dancing in Nanaimo. We have seen the first Canadian Closed Ten-dance Championship on Vancouver Island and the best ever attendance at the Island Fantasy Ball. We have had the first weekend social dance camp at Newcastle Island with excellent attendance. However, in spite of new workshops and other improvements aimed at welcoming first time ballroom dancers, few beginners have responded and attendance at Friday dances has continued to decline.

In spite of having top social dance instructors for workshops, attendance at the 4th Friday dances has often been low and the last two for 2005 have been cancelled. Only a handful of NBDS members ventured across the harbour to enjoy the tea dances at Newcastle Island. If there is a trend here, it seems that mid-Island dancers are becoming less attracted to regular dances and more attracted to one-time or annual events.

These highlights were the result of a tremendous amount of hard work by a small group of active members. As the outgoing president, I want to thank every one of the board members for the past year for their hard work. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with tasks such as admission, bar service, food and catering, newsletters, web page work and phoning. And thanks to everyone who pitched in to help in any way at the IFB, Newcastle or Bowen dances.

With rising hall costs and declining attendance at regular dances, clearly something has to change. And yet there are also many reasons to be optimistic about the future. Several of our most active members of the executive have indicated they are willing to continue, assuming of course that you, the members of NBDS, elect them. The financial position of the Society is stronger than ever. There are more opportunities for ballroom and social dancing available around Nanaimo than has been the case in recent memory.

What role will the Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society play in the future? Should we focus on one dance per month at Bowen? Should we try to hold dances on Saturdays? Or hold dances at alternate venues, like Nanoose Place, or the Bradley Center? These are among the questions for discussion at our annual general meeting on September 18. Don't miss it! The AGM will be a turning point for the NBDS, and we need you to help set the direction for the future.

John



I-F-B Spells Success for Local Dancers

Before a capacity crowd in his hometown of Nanaimo, Zillion Wong and his Vancouver partner, Sarah Liang, handily won both BC Closed Championship titles at the Island Fantasy Ball last Saturday by placing first in all dances.

Unique to this year's IFB was the Canadian Closed Ten Dance Championship. In the Standard dance portion, competition was extremely close. However, Francis Lafreniere and Claudia Primeau of Quebec, increased their lead during each of the five Latin dances. Wong and Liang finished second. Third place went to Lukasz and Karolina Rajzer from Calgary.

In the Senior Open Standard Championship, Nanaimo's David Duncan and Evelyn Matthews placed sixth. Part time Nanoose residents Friedrich and Brigitte Mark, who danced for Germany in this event, finished fourth.

At the other end of the spectrum, Steven and Lesley Toombs (Errington), and Bill and Jean Pennington (Lantzville) competed for the first time. "This sure beats sitting at home watching TV and drinking beer," observed an enthusiastic Steven Toombs during practice the previous evening.

Central Island dancers also won medals in several non-championship events:

- Kevin Fahy and Kimberley Beerman (Nanaimo)
– 1st in Adult Gold Latin
- Brian and Beth Morgenstern (Qualicum Beach)
– 2nd in Senior Bronze Standard
- Vahe Tilbian (North Vancouver) and Naomi Goffman (Nanaimo)
– 3rd in Adult Pre-Championship Latin
- Fred Rockwell & Barbara Yee (Nanaimo)
– 3rd in Adult Pre-Bronze Latin & Senior Bronze Latin.

Chelsea Arnott (Nanaimo), Barbara Graham (Nanaimo) and Sally Webber (Ladysmith) danced solo exhibitions with their teacher Nelson Wong. Each received First Class marks from the adjudicators and Arnott's gold-level Cha Cha was judged to be the best Latin solo routine.

Wayne and Carrie Smith (Port Alberni) received medals in Salsa/Mambo, West Coast Swing and Merengue, as did John and Tina Maher (Nanaimo) in Salsa/Mambo.

The IFB is an annual ballroom dance competition hosted by the Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society. This year's ball attracted 160 competitors and a total audience of over 700. IFB 2005 was made possible, in part, by a donation from BC Hydro and an Arts and Culture Grant from the City of Nanaimo. *Fred Rockwell, IFB Spokesperson*

Norm's Place



A little gossip ...

In January of 2005 Norm Whelpdale bought a 2 story house and has been working all Winter, Spring and Summer to complete renos. on the ground level - the result is a beautiful 1200 sq. ft. dance floor — which is where Gwen Spinks will be teaching and it will also be available for practising and for dances. His grand opening will be **Saturday, September 24**, at 7:pm - 6731 Aulds Road. Call Norm for details 390-0282.

Bob and Helen Green would like to thank all their friends for their many warm wishes and prayers during Bob's illness - it has been greatly appreciated.

Dance Demonstration

On June 7th, 2005, six couples from the Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society performed a wide variety of dances at a Spring Tea for clients and volunteers of Nanaimo Lifeline, (a personal response system program of the Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation) held at the Nanaimo Ecumenical Centre.

Participating NBDS members were Dave and Norma Stevenson, Jim and Minnie Beaman, Marilyn Metcalf and son Devon Joiner, Gwen Spinks and Norm Whelpdale, Les and Daphne Barley and Jack and Audrey Watson.

An audience of about 150 people looked on as the dancers performed International Standard dances Waltz, Quickstep and Slow Foxtrot, and Latin dances Cha Cha, Rumba and Jive.

The Stevensons, the Watsons and the Barleys also performed Old Time sequence dances, "The Alison Waltz" and "Saunter Together" while dressed impeccably in tuxedos and lace.

Gwen and Norm treated the crowd to impressive solo performances of West Coast Swing and Argentine Tango. With the music expertly handled by Dave and emceed by Marilyn the afternoon turned out to be a big success and was very well received by everyone.

submitted by Marilyn Metcalf-Joiner

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

check-out Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society
website: www.ballroomnanaimo.ca

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



Monthly Events ...

First Friday Dance at Bowen Park

Next Dance: October 7th, 2005

7:30 **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 John or Tina Maher at 758-5272

Second Friday Dance

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

Next Dance: September 9th, 2005

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

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

Hosts: Dave & Norma Stevenson 751-8669

Third Friday Dance at Bowen Park

Next Dance: September 16th, 2005

6:00 Practise time

7:30 Workshop

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

Workshop: Ballroom FUNDamentals with Nelson Wong

For more info contact John or Tina Maher at 758-5272

Fourth Friday Dance at Bowen Park

Next Dance September 23rd, 2005

6:00 Practise time

8:00 Workshop

9:00 pm - 12:00 dancing

Cost: \$10

Workshop: check our website

For more info contact John or Tina Maher at 758-5272

Sunday Tea Dance

Bradley Center, Coombs

Second Sunday (most months – **no dances in the Summer**)

Next Dance: September 11, 2005

2:00 - 4:30pm **Cost:** \$5

Great mix of Standard and Latin

Hosts: Ken & Margaret Yung kmteyung@shaw.ca



A little history ...

Rumba

Rumba has its roots in the rhythms brought to Cuba by the African slaves. The ballroom dance was introduced around 1928/1929 when a traveling Cuban group visited the UK. It is characterized by Cuban motion done to romantic Latin songs and music. The American Style version of the Rumba uses the square as its basic step, while the International Style version uses forward and back breaks and uses a different musical interpretation and hip action.

by Gwen Spinks, Wanna Dance, 247-9756



Left: Zillion Wong and Sarah Liang,
BC Closed Latin and Standard Champions

Above: Francis Lafreniere and Claudia
Primeau, Canadian Ten Dance Champions

Photos by Nelson Wong

Disc Jockeys

You know what people want when it comes to dance tunes. Take control of a great collection of disks for a dance, and program the best dance tunes the way you know they should be done. Demonstrate your talent for entertaining the audience with your MC skills. No remuneration but lots of reward doing this key job for the club. More than one required. Instruction provided. Contact your executive to join the team.

Music Director

Our clients require the services of an individual with talents in talking to other folks, to ensure there is music ready for each dance. You are a responsible member of the Society who can take charge of the sound system and CD collection. Coordinate the DJs for each dance and draft the music schedule.

Qualifications: ability to negotiate dates with DJs and record them. Must have access to a telephone. To join the team, contact your executive.

President, Chair and CEO

The candidate: You are motivated to help develop and improve ballroom dancing in the Nanaimo area. You are not shy about speaking up as the spokesperson for the Society and can command order at a meeting of volunteers.

Responsibilities: Oversee the function of various committees; call and chair 4 to 6 Board meetings; make or arrange for announcements at dances.

Qualifications: You have helped with organizing the Society functions or equivalent experience, and are a member in good standing.

Join the Team: Contact any member of the executive team to discuss the future of dancing in Nanaimo.

Director, Educational Programming

You appreciate diversity among dance instructors and welcome the opportunity to keep in touch with them to schedule workshops for dances.

You will need a phone and/or e-mail and a few hours of time to arrange for workshop instructors and prepare input top the dance calendar for 2006. No previous experience necessary. Information and support will be provided. Contact any executive member to join the team for this exciting opportunity.

Island Fantasy Ball **VOLUNTEERS**

The Island Fantasy Ball Planning Committee has opportunities for enthusiastic fans of ballroom dancing to join the team planning IFB 2006 (May 6, 2006). Help with sponsorship, programme and advertizing, arranging for officials and staff, catering plans, volunteer coordination, marshalling and a variety of other duties. To sign up contact Nelson Wong.

Door Coordinator

NBDS requires a coordinator to schedule admission control volunteers or hired clerks. Working closely with the Treasurer, the Door Coordinator ensures that the door people are instructed on NBDS admission requirements, and ensures proceeds are delivered to the Treasurer. Talent for persuasion, twisting arms etc would be an asset. To join the team, contact Barbara Yee.

COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Take charge of liaison with the media. Find out who has the signboards and put them to work. Feed information to the webmaster and editor of the Silver Slipper. Keep members informed. Attract new members and guests to attend dances. Join the team; talk to any member of the executive.

Bar Services Coordinator

You are committed to having a pleasant social atmosphere at our Bowen Park dances. Obtain the required liquor licenses, hire bartenders, arrange for bar supplies, and maintain bar stock. Talk to any executive to join the team.