

world DanceSport magazine

Official Magazine of the International DanceSport Federation Issue #3 · June 2009



Let the Games Begin!

This is the first **Special Issue** of World DanceSport Magazine. Its primary focus is on DanceSport's fourth appearance on the programme of The World Games. In July, some of our best athletes from all continents travel to Kaohsiung, TPE, to unite with 4,000 peers from 30+ other sports in the quest for excellence.

24 couples each in Latin and Standard together with 20 couples in Acrobatic Rock 'n' Roll represent the new DanceSport we envision to take shape over the years to come. Competing side-by-side, 136 athletes transmit the essence of our 'Vision 2012' to the world at large. Different forms of dance come together under the brand – it becomes the encompassing genre for different disciplines contested in a sporting spirit.

It was for the participation in these multi-sport games that the notion arose to close ranks between the disciplines as well as between the organisations governing them. In 2001 Akita, JPN, Rock 'n' Roll was demonstrated prior to the competitions in Latin and Standard. In 2005 Duisburg, GER, all three were official medal events. And DanceSport started to change in the public perception. The World Rock 'n' Roll Confederation, our longest standing Associate Member, was the strong ally then and will be on our side again in 2009 Kaohsiung.

Ten pages of this issue are dedicated to The World Games. The look at our involvement in previous editions confirms that we have contributed a fair share to making them the premier showcase for the sports currently not featured in the Olympics. With the 121st Session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) voting this October on four of the World Games sports – karate, roller sports, rugby and squash – to possibly be included for 2016, their medal events in Kaohsiung are scrutinised again by IOC experts. And while athletes give their best on the mat, track, pitch or court, their world governing bodies are expected to ensure much more than the proper conduct of the competitions. Media relations and communications are among the many tasks expected to be handled expertly by a prospective Olympic Federation.

DanceSport has failed to make it onto the shortlist for 2016. But on 24 and 25 July we have the opportunity to launch our campaign for 2020. The athletes on the floor of the Kaohsiung Arena are by far the strongest argument for it to be considered in the next review of the Olympic Programme, which will start for all the Recognised International Federations with an in-depth evaluation of their sport by the IOC in 2011.

More about the International DanceSport Federation's (IDSF) future will also get decided in Asia. Even before The World Games take place in Kaohsiung, the delegates of our mem-



ber bodies gather in Macau, PRC, for the Annual General Meeting. It is definitely not business as usual when we discuss how to define DanceSport anew – in a much broader sense of the term – and how to establish the democratic structures for the World DanceSport Federation (WDSF), the unified body for all disciplines. The fact that IDSF has been able to develop from its foundation more than 50 years ago – to steadily progress despite the increasing demands put on it – should give us the confidence that we are up to the challenge this time too, and that we will take the right decisions on 14 June.

Our 'Vision 2012' was first presented as such to the 2007 AGM. Two years of hard work were required to take it to the next level and a preliminary motion to the delegates in Macau. But parts of our vision started to turn reality already. We forged alliances with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the United Country Western Dance Council last year to pursue the emergence of WDSF together with them too.

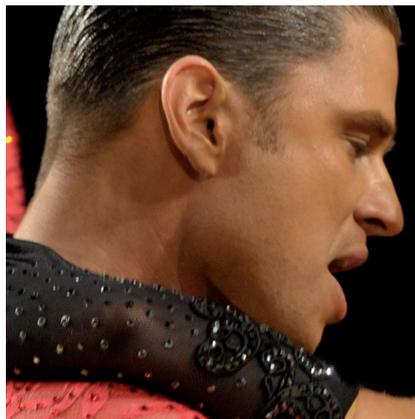
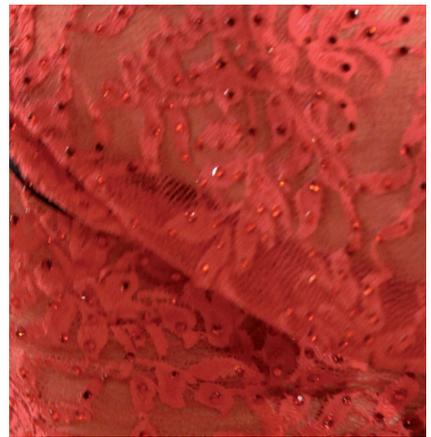
An IPC-sanctioned Wheelchair DanceSport Open was held very recently together with an IDSF World Championship. The overwhelming acceptance of the formula by all athletes leads me to suggest that other organisers should emulate it in the future. Promoting Wheelchair in our 86 member countries and incorporating its events into IDSF Championships are decisive steps towards the realisation of 'Vision 2012'.

By becoming a united and strong DanceSport family we will attain even our most ambitious goals. I encourage you to read 'Vision Applied'. As the World Wheelchair Champions in Standard Combi II give us their views on a joint future, you will discover that we share the same dream!

In this issue, the International Dance Organisation (IDO) – an Associate Member of IDSF since 2004 – presents its unique approach to advancing DanceSport. The growing list of disciplines under IDO rules covers the range and brings it to enthusiastic dancers of all ages. It is 'DanceSport of the Varied Kind' which makes for the universal appeal across the generations. The rhythms of time, however diverse they may be, keep all of us in step – and in tune with each other.

Carlos Freitag, IDSF President

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THE WORLD GAMES: A Review of Success

2009 Kaohsiung marks the fourth consecutive appearance of DanceSport on the Official Sports Programme of The World Games. The look back at how DanceSport fared in the previous editions should justify the International DanceSport Federation's highest hopes for another successful participation in July.

1997 Lahti

It was in Lahti, FIN, where DanceSport premiered in the multi-sport games which – at intervals of four years – gather an ever increasing number of athletes for top-level competition in 30+ sports and as many as 200 different medal events. The International DanceSport Federation (IDSF) had become a member of the International World Games Association (IWGA) in 1995 and succeeded to have its disciplines Latin and Standard included on the Official Sports Programme for the games' fifth edition. 72 athletes – 18 couples each in Latin and Standard – were selected for competitions as well as exhibitions at the Urheilutalo Sports Hall, a 2,000-capacity venue.

Lahti, with a population of 100,000, replaced Port Elizabeth, RSA, after the latter had withdrawn as host. With only two and a half years to prepare, the Finnish organisers managed to deliver on the one thing which is of utmost importance to the World Games concept: exposure on national and international television! The coverage produced by public broadcaster YLE was ample and of superb quality. Plus: the international distribution through Trans World International allowed for unprecedented airtime to a record number of countries. Throughout Europe, viewers were able to watch 40 hours of coverage on Eurosport, NTV aired two hours per day in Russia, and ART carried 30 hours in the Middle East. Additionally, the games were seen in parts

of Asia and South America. This made up for the fact that there were too many empty seats at the venues.

DanceSport, which was scheduled over two evenings, held up well against the other 30 sports. At the gate, it recorded the second highest attendance figure per day behind floorball, an invitational sport which is very popular in Finland. That the figure stood at merely 1,100 didn't matter. It was the scale of Lahti. In terms of visibility on television, DanceSport was equally successful. The two one-hour broadcasts, both aired on YLE during late evening, garnered some of the best viewing figures of the games, including a record 49% audience share for the Standard dances. This didn't go unnoticed. The official magazine of the General Association of International Sports Federations wrote: *"The inclusion of DanceSport was another successful innovation of The World Games 1997"*.

1997 Lahti – Medal Table

Standard

Gold

Hazel Newberry – Christopher Hawkins, GBR

Silver

Alessandra Bucciarelli – William Pino, ITA

Bronze

Pia David – Stefan Ossenkop, GER

Latin

Gold

Mie Bach – Steen Lund, DEN

Silver

Katerina Venturini – Andrej Skufca, SLO

Bronze

Katja Koukkula – Jussi Vaananen, FIN





2001 Akita

DanceSport also made it onto the programme of The World Games 2001 Akita, JPN, the first edition to be held in Asia. IDSF First Vice President Lukas Hinder, who had been elected to the IWGA board after 1997 Lahti, worked together with IDSF Presidium Member and Technical Delegate Keiji Ukai from Japan on ensuring that the Latin and Standard competitions would again be a perfect showcase for the sport.

Akita – between the city and the prefecture – exceeds one million in population. The prospects for bigger crowds were decidedly better than in Lahti. The Akita City Gymnasium with a capacity of 2,500 was the venue for DanceSport as well as the five gymnastics events. And everything else proved to be on a larger scale too, including the IDSF contingent of athletes.

96 athletes and 18 officials took part in the Latin and Standard competitions – and another 100 demonstrated Rock 'n' Roll and Wheelchair DanceSport. The 16-man orchestra and the enthusiasm of the Japanese audience made for a vibrant atmosphere on both days.

In the final tally, a total of 4,658 spectators – who had paid the highest ticket prices of 31 World Games sports – were recorded. DanceSport placed fourth in number of tickets sold and first in revenue from the gate.

Host broadcaster NHK produced outstanding coverage on The World Games 2001 too. Even though there was no live broadcast this time, DanceSport featured very prominently on two of the ten daily highlights programmes which aired in Japan and around the world.

The Akita organisers had pledged to use “a new way to present sport”. They certainly did. And DanceSport did too!



2001 Akita – Medal Table

Standard

Gold

Kylie Jones – Jonathan Crossley, GBR

Silver

Alessia Betti – Mirko Gozzoli, ITA

Bronze

Edita Daniute – Arunas Bizokas, LTU

Latin

Gold

Katerina Venturini – Andrej Skufca, SLO

Silver

Anna Bezikova – Dmitriy Timokhin, RUS

Bronze

Maria Manusova – Eugene Katsevman, USA



2005 Duisburg

2005 Duisburg was next. The German city between Rhine and Ruhr was already a seasoned organiser of multi-sport games. The World University Games – which are similar in scale and scope to the ones under the auspices of IWGA – were staged there in 1989.

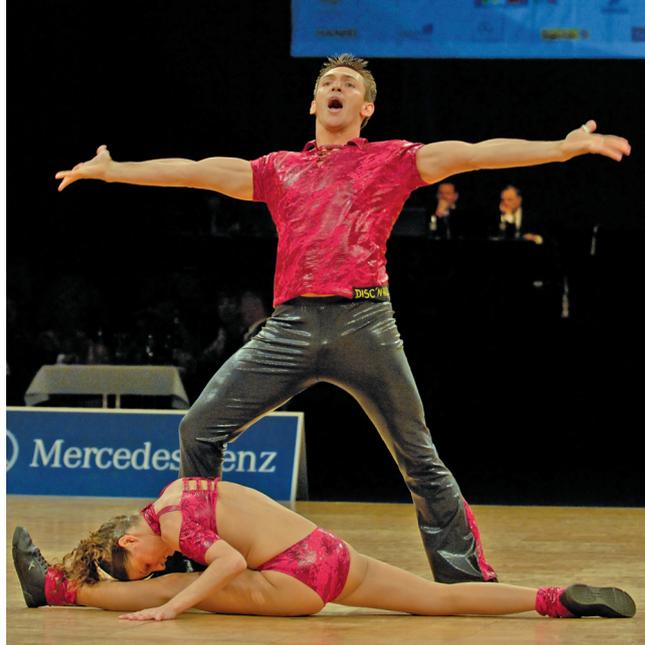
The Seventh World Games were the first ones to be held in adherence to the new protocol which is based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between IWGA and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). In the ceremonies, the athletes paraded no longer by sport but by nation, and the medallists' national flags were hoisted at all awards presentations. Following a call for support made by IOC President Jacques Rogge, a record number of National Olympic Committees fully endorsed their multi-sport delegations at The World Games 2005 Duisburg.

Overall, 3,500 athletes from 88 nations participated in 179 different events. The IDSF contingent was made up of 134 athletes: 23 couples in Latin, 24 in Standard and 20 in Acrobatic Rock 'n' Roll. The latter was contested alongside the classic DanceSport disciplines after its much acclaimed demonstration during 2001 Akita.

DanceSport was assigned the "König-Pilsener-Arena" – named after a well-known German brand of beer and by far the biggest indoor venue of the games (capacity: 9,000) – in Oberhausen, a city adjacent to Duisburg. The splendid arena proved to be a perfect setting for the couples on the parquet and for the 4,730 spectators.

Even if public attendance was well below the expectations of organisers, the fierce competitions on the parquet inspired everyone present. *"All who came did not regret their decision – nor the fact that they had to dig deeper into their wallets"*, reads the write-up on DanceSport by sportswriter Friedel Kaufhold in the official World Games 2005 book. *"They were rewarded with world-class performances and the most fantastic atmosphere. Where tux for men and long gowns for women usually dominate, in Oberhausen they were mixed with shorts, rucksack and sneakers. Contrasting with discrete applause merely accompanying the dancers' actions at other DanceSport events, here you had the tumultuous cheers of entire rooting sections beneath their home-made banners"*.

The worldwide televising of The World Games 2005 Duisburg met the high expectations. 25 hours were aired in Germany alone, reaching a cumulative total audience of 116 million. 192 channels in 137 countries carried coverage on the sporting action as well as the particular fascinations of these games. DanceSport was again covered with highlights only – but this time with three different disciplines! The addition of Acrobatic Rock 'n' Roll as a competitive event, under the auspices of the World Rock 'n' Roll Confederation, was very favourably reviewed by the IWGA executive and the media.



2005 Duisburg – Medal Table

Standard

Gold

Edita Daniute – Arunas Bizokas, LTU

Silver

Natascha Karabey – Sascha Karabey, GER

Bronze

Silvia Pitton – Paolo Bosco, ITA

Latin

Gold

Maria Manusova – Eugene Katsevman, USA

Silver

Kristina Juel-Stokkebrø – Peter Stokkebrø, DEN

Bronze

Annalisa di Filippo – Stefano di Filippo, ITA

Acrobatic Rock 'n' Roll

Gold

Diane Eonin – Christophe Payan, FRA

Silver

Olga Sbitneva – Ivan Yudin, RUS

Bronze

Fanny Delebeque – Alexis Chardenoux, FRA





2009 Kaohsiung

During the 2005 Duisburg Closing Ceremony the city of Kaohsiung, TPE, presented itself as host of the next edition of The World Games to thousands of athletes and officials. That this was done through music and dance boded well for IDSF – as it was setting out to prepare for its fourth consecutive participation in 2009.

Given the immense popularity the sport enjoys all over Asia, the hopes are high that previous attendance records will be shattered, and that new benchmarks will be established in terms of media exposure.

A memorable DanceSport competition staged in the capital Taipei only confirmed the validity of such expectations. When the 2007 Grand Slam Finals in Latin and Standard were held at the Taipei Arena, IDSF President Carlos Freitag hailed them an outstanding success. *“The Chinese Taipei DanceSport Federation made this event unforgettable for athletes and adjudicators”*, he commended the perfect organisation of one of the most prestigious fixtures in the annual competition calendar. *“The enthusiastic audience welcomed all our couples and appreciated their performances”*. Straight from the finals and the capital, a few of the world’s top couples headed down south to Kaohsiung for a series of demonstrations in the 2009 host city.

There, construction crews were hard at work, building – aside from the spectacular eco-friendly stadium, the brand new venue which is assigned to DanceSport and four gymnastics events. The Kaohsiung Arena was eventually completed on schedule, inaugurated and tested with the World Games Pre-Events during the fall of 2008. It was on this occasion that IDSF Presidium Member Shawn Tay first saw the 15,000-capacity dome in all of its splendour. The Technical Delegate for DanceSport in 2009 Kaohsiung could not help but imagine it packed to the last seat on 24 and 25 July, the two days scheduled for Latin, Standard and Rock ‘n’ Roll. With perfect lighting and sound to enhance the performances by the 136 athletes (24 couples Latin, 24 Standard, 20 Rock ‘n’ Roll)!

On 1 April 2009 – at noon – 350,000 tickets for the altogether 37 sports went on sale at 4,000 7-ELEVEN convenience stores across the island. Only 20 minutes later, the 440 floorside seats for DanceSport at the Kaohsiung Arena were all bought up by enthusiasts who paid NT\$ 5,000 (€ 115) for the privileged vantage point. When this special issue of World DanceSport Magazine went to

press – in early June – the remaining tickets for regular arena seating were reported to be selling very well too.

Public Television Service (PTS), the host broadcaster of The World Games 2009, has identified DanceSport as one of six sports to be covered live. Close to two hours on the Standard event as well as the Rock ‘n’ Roll semi-finals will be aired on 24 July by ESPN Star in Asia, a staggering 170 minutes on the Latin event plus the Rock ‘n’ Roll finals are slated for 25 July. While the broadcast schedules are firm – 10:30 to 11:20 h GMT on 24/07/09 and 09:30 to 11:20 h GMT on 25/07 – information on which channels carry the extensive coverage elsewhere in the world is not available at press time. In any case, PTS has pledged to produce the international feed to the highest standards, with Swiss Timing providing the live graphics and a result system that is fully adapted to the requirements of television.



Kaohsiung Host City with Ambition and Passion

Kaohsiung, TPE, the island's second largest metropolis behind the capital Taipei, has reinvented and transformed itself to become the most formidable host to 4,000 athletes and 1,000 officials who will take part in The World Games 2009.

Even if Kaohsiung is still best known for its heavy industry and the world's sixth-largest container seaport, it has metamorphosed into a showcase of modern and eco-friendly architecture, and into a top destination for sports as well as tourism.

"Ever since we won the right to host the games five years ago, their influence became more and more visible in our city", says Kaohsiung Mayor Chen Chu. "The Main Stadium – designed by the renowned Japanese architect Toyo Ito – was completed in January. It is a masterpiece and without equal when it comes to ecology. Its solar-panelled roof is capable of generating over one million kWh of electricity annually. The Kaohsiung Arena, our new dome highlighting the brilliance of local architects, was inaugurated in September 2008".

And not to forget the Mass Rapid Transit, the metro system which opened in March last year, and the Dream Mall, and ... The list is simply too long. *"I believe that the efforts over the past years prove our determination to host successful events in international sports", says Chen Chu.*

Kaohsiung Organising Committee – KOC

The KOC was established by the Kaohsiung City Government, the Sports Affair Council of the Executive Yuan and the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee to organise The World Games 2009 through its nine departments, and to deliver the a high-level multi-sport event which leaves a unique legacy for the city and the country. Mayor Chen chairs the non-governmental organisation. She is assisted by KOC Managing Director Shyh-fang Liu and Executive Director Emily Hsu.

International promotion is among the highest priorities of the KOC. Promotional and public relations activities on four continents include an exhibition at The Olympic Museum Lausanne, SUI, and a recent meeting between KOC delegation and Chinese sports leaders in Beijing, CHN.



Top Sports – High Spirits

The Chinese character 高 – KAO – translates into HIGH. It is taken up in the emblem as well as in the motto of The World Games 2009 Kaohsiung, reflecting high aspirations and respect uniting in the fairness of athletic competition. It also stands for the SPIRIT and the passion of a city which carries HIGH in its name!

The Mascots – Kao Mei and Syong Ge

In the shape of droplets and translucent, the two water spirits personify Kaohsiung as a city of the sea and the sun. Water and light make for the siblings' radiant appearance. The spheres above their crested heads absorb solar energy – like the roof of the World Games Main Stadium – and illuminate both with a message of ecology and environmental protection. "Kao Mei" and "Syong Ge", in their pleasing pink and blue, are expert dancers too!



DanceSport Athletes

The athletes contesting the World Games medals in the three DanceSport events were selected based on their results in the 2008 World Championships, and on their standings in the World Ranking Lists of the International DanceSport Federation (IDSF) and the World Rock 'n' Roll Confederation. In compliance with the regulations of the International World Games Association, the objective in the selection process was to have the best couples from all five continents entering the events, and – in some cases – to have the National Olympic Committees approve their nomination. On 15 May, IDSF accredited the following 136 athletes with the Kaohsiung Organising Committee. However, unforeseeable circumstances could still bring about last-minute changes in the DanceSport contingent for 2009 Kaohsiung.

Standard

Soules, Clinton / Kleinhans, Maegan	RSA
Gilin, Alan / Trutneva, Anastasia	CAN
Pashkov, Pavel / Karagach, Daniella	USA
Yang Chao / Tan Yiling	CHN
Chao, Eric / Kao, Cherry	TPE
Ishihara, Masayuki / Kubo, Ayami	JPN
Pokhikh, Yevgeniy / Klyuchnikova, Yele	KAZ
Lee Sang Min / Kim Hye In	KOR
Todaro, Salvatore / Yaneva, Violeta	BUL
Ivanovich, Vladislav / Tribushevskaja, Olga	BEL
Dvorak, Martin / Silhanova, Zuzana	CZE
Ratas Veiko / Liiv, Helena	EST
Vainionpää, Sami / Styf, Merje	FIN
Gaudet, Steeve / Colmard, Laure	FRA
Ferruggia, Benedetto / Köhler, Claudia	GER
Lászò, Csaba / Mikes, Anna	HUN
Bosco, Paolo / Pitton, Sylvia	ITA
Rogovenko, Andrejs / Voronchuka, Anna	LAT
Vezelis, Donatas / Chatkevichiute, Lina	LTU
Coropceanu, Serghei / Cheptene, Marioara	MDA
Kiszka, Wiktor / Garlicka, Malgorzata	POL
Gimaev, Marat / Basiuk, Alina	RUS
Rovira, Isaak / Martin, Desiree	ESP
Kolyubaev, Anton / Lantukh, Anna	UKR

Latin

Motsepe, Keoikantse / Mabuse, Otile	RSA
Milot, Jean-Philippe / Bolduc, Laurence	CAN
Onik, Sergey Alexander / Blanco, Melissa Elaine	USA
Shi, Lei / Zhang, Bai Yu	CHN
Peng, Yen / Zi, Vicky	TPE
Kubots, Yumiya / Kubota, Rara	JPN
Kim Sung Min / Kim Mi Sun	KOR
Kibkalo Alexei / Kachalko, Viktoria	KGZ
Ronnie Steeve Vergara / Charle Lagaras	PHI
Suasuebpun, Watcharakorn / Jumbala, Warapa	THA
Zaripov, Zufar / Ludwig-Tchemodourova, Anna	AUT
Pradka, Radim / Kolmanova, Katerina	CZE
Piiopola, Joonas / Mäkinen, Katri	FIN
Kulczak, Timo / Mabuse, Motshegets	GER
Nagyimihaly, Balázs / Szögi, Szilvia	HUN
Goffredo, Gabriele / Goffredo, Antonella	ITA
Kutuzovs, Daniils / Puhovik, Viktorija	LAT
Grigonis, Gedimnas / Zemaityte, Justina	LTU
Fiksa, Marek / Jurecka, Kinga	POL
Custodio, Carlos / Plescenco, Elena	POR
Silde, Alexey / Firstova, Anna	RUS
Batagelj, Jurij / Strukelj, Jagoda	SLO
Rosenko, Dmytro / Granko, Natalya	UKR
Kishinian, Arsen / Nikitenko, Yuliya	AUS

Acrobatic Rock 'n' Roll

Rene Taumberger / Valerie Eder	AUT
Neven Ivic / Ivana Mihalic	CRO
Tomislav Matacun / Dinka Lelic	CRO
Petr Haidinger / Christina Becisova	CZE
Julien Foulon / Ingrid Foulon	FRA
Christophe Payan / Kathy Richetta	FRA
Andreas Heidler / Verena Rau	GER
Jens Wedemeyer / Marina Elvers	GER
Mark Horvath / Kata Szabo	HUN
Miklós Horváth / Katalin Kis	HUN
Simone Cintio / Lucia Lattanzi	ITA
Steinar Berg / Anne Ragnhild Olstad	NOR
Jacek Tarczylo / Anna Miadzielec	POL
Ivan Klimov / Katrin Gazazyan	RUS
Ivan Youdin / Olga Sbitneva	RUS
Bostjan Pav ek / Barbara Šercer	SLO
Michal Kozmal / Dasa Danihelova	SVK
Jimmy Järvekvist / Ida Victorin	SWE
Christopher Gerdil / Jessica Prunier	SUI
Maurizio Mandorino / Jade Mandorino	SUI



DanceSport Athletes: Across All Continents

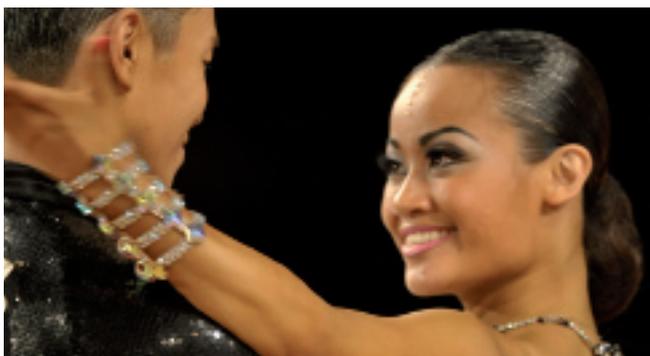
Clinton Soules and Meagan Kleinhans, RSA

Clinton, a police officer, and Meagan, a student support officer, are cousins. The couple got off to a good start when they teamed up for the first time: *"When we were younger and dancing with other partners, we entered a tournament and competed without any practice together whatsoever. But we won!"* Clinton, 27, likes rugby and cricket – Meagan, 25, prefers to read. They are the South African Standard Champions since 2007.



Lei Shi and Yu Zhang Bai, CHN

The Under-21 Champions have made it onto the podium in Adult too. In that age grade, they are currently ranked second by the Chinese DanceSport Federation. The prospects of competing in 2009 Kaohsiung has them all excited: *"Chinese Taipei and China are both looking forward to The World Games. Chinese people everywhere love DanceSport. It will be great to be part of this magnificent event!"*



Eric (Chao) Chunlun and Cherry (Kao) Chialin, TPE

They have just won their third National Standard Champions in succession. Eric, 29, and Cherry, 27, both lecture at a university and frequently train in England. In the not too distant future, the two will be a couple off the floor too: *"This year we get engaged and the marriage is scheduled for 2010!"*



Jean-Philippe Milot and Laurence Bolduc, CAN

When the two young champions were selected for The World Games 2009 – on the basis of their seventh place in February's World Cup – they first had to get more information: *"We went to Kaohsiung's website and were all impressed. It is a huge event – and dancing there will be the highlight of our careers so far"*.



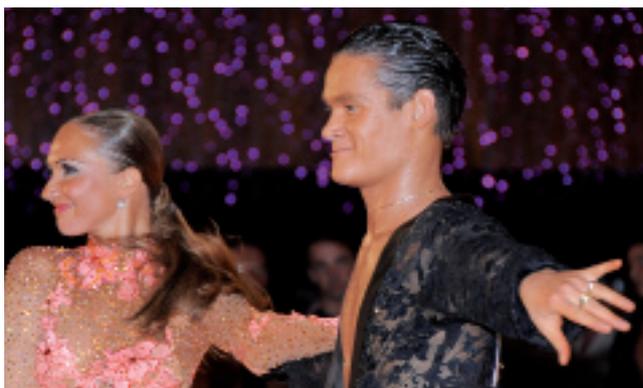
Pavel Pashkov and Daniella Karagach, USA

Even though their partnership is fairly new – it started in January 2009 – Pavel and Daniella are already the U.S. Ten Dance Champions. Both live in New York, where he is a college student and she attends high school. The couple's strongest sides? *"Determination, discipline and willingness to work hard – that is what it takes to make it to the top in this sport!"*



Zufar Zaripov and Anna Ludwig-Tchemodourova, AUT

Tenth in last year's World Championship in Australia and Austrian Champions for three years running, Zufar, 26, and Anna, 26, each have their own Latin dance of preference. He likes the Cha Cha Cha, she likes the Rumba. But they agree on a common goal for 2009 Kaohsiung: *"To dance as well as possible!"*



Photos courtesy of the athletes, Rob Ronda (robbronda.com), Mark Gadsden and Elisabeth Eliasch

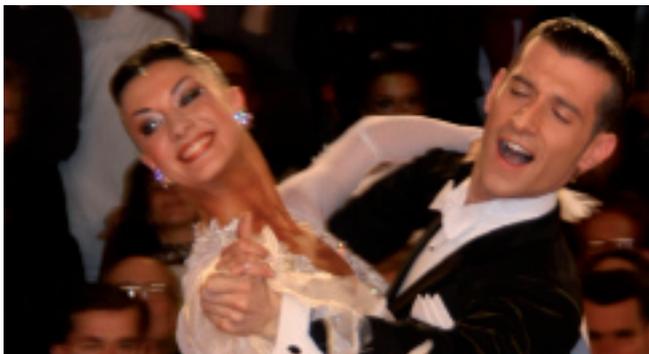
Timo Kulzak and Motshegetsu Mabuse, GER

The married couple calls Aschaffenburg home but is hardly ever there. DanceSport requires more international travel than most of the other sports. Luckily, Timo, 32, and Motshegetsu, 29, list travel as one of their hobbies. After their sixth-place finish in May's Platja d'Aro Grand Slam, they will aim for the final in Kaohsiung too.



Paolo Bosco and Silvia Pitton, ITA

The reigning World Champions in Standard compete in their second World Games. The bronze medallists of 2005 Duisburg search for gold in 2009 Kaohsiung. When they won the 2007 Grand Slam Final in Taipei, TPE, they brought down the arena with their performances. The same is likely to happen on 24 July, when whirlwind Paolo leads Silvia across the parquet in the couple's trademark style, combining phenomenal skills with strong charisma.



Arsen Kishishian and Yuliya Nikitenko, AUS

Arsen and Yulia teamed up in 2007. Their biggest international success to date was taking second place in the 2008 IDSF International Open in Melbourne, AUS, and the 12th place in the Tokyo, JPN, Grand Slam earlier this year. They will proudly present Australia and Oceania in 2009 Kaohsiung together with fellow athletes from the same continent: Aussie lifesavers, the Fiji rugby squad, New Zealand's squash players and many more!



Ivan Yudin – Olga Sbitneva, RUS

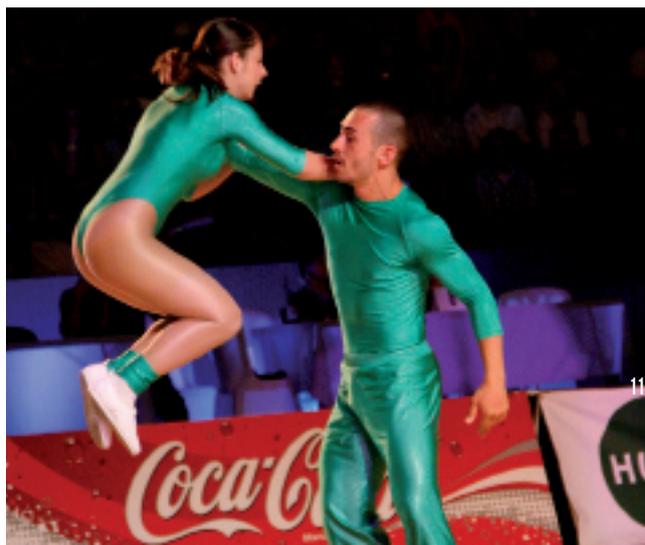
Ivan and Olga are about to combine their first trip to Asia with their second participation in The World Games. In 2005 Duisburg, they were the runners-up behind Christophe Payan and Kathy Eonin, FRA. Since then they have made it to the very top of the World Rock 'n' Roll Confederation's (WRRC) rankings on several occasions, becoming World Champions in 2006 and 2008.

Their 2007 season was going well too until October, when they were crowned European Champions in Geneva, SUI. Unfortunately, Olga hurt herself shortly thereafter – they had to stand down from the World Championship. Not a couple to quit in the face of adversity – after Olga's injured ligaments had healed, and after putting in more hard work – they came back to win the world title again in 2008. Olga's husband is one of their two trainers. Ivan's sister, Anna Yudina, is the other and also responsible for the choreography. Her unique ability to come up with routines that fit Ivan and Olga – including their personalities – to perfection comes across in the performances. The two look forward to present their very best in 2009 Kaohsiung. Their motto: "Let's rock the world!"



Maurizio and Jade Mandorino, SUI

The brother-sister team started to compete in Rock 'n' Roll's premier league in 2004. Training four to five times every week – for four hours at the time – Maurizio, 29, and Jade, 19, reached the pinnacle in 2007. Declared WRRC World Champions in Ingoldstadt, GER, and later making it to first in the World Masters Series, they have won the highest titles. Except one: World Games Champions! That is why they decided to step up the training under the guidance of their coach Gianni Fiorucchi. More hours per week! More preparatory tournaments in the spring and early summer! Physical conditioning is prerequisite, and the routines need to be rehearsed thousands of times. They were the stars of a promotional event for The World Games 2009 Kaohsiung at The Olympic Museum Lausanne, SUI, in June.



NUMBER ONE – TEAM OF TWO

Alexey Silde and Anna Firstova, RUS

Alexey and Anna are the number one Latin couple in the current world rankings. Russian Champions for many years, the runners-up of the 2009 IDSF European Championships set out on the conquest of the supreme titles in Kaohsiung, TPE, and in Maribor, SLO, later this year. Together with their coach Anastasia Titkova, the two talked to WDSM editor Heidi Götz about their views on DanceSport and about their impressive career.

WDSM: After watching round one of the European Championship in Oldenburg, GER, it was obvious that four out of the 65 couples would make the final. You were one of them. You must have known too that you would eventually dance in the final, and that passing through the four rounds until then would be a cinch. How do you motivate yourself in such a competition from beginning to end?

Alexey: We believe that there are two important stages in every competition: round one and the final. In the first round you leave an impression which you cannot change afterwards, it must be the best impression. Prior to the first round we warm up and do our mental preparations. We do exercises and we have certain things which we look for in each dance: in the Samba we are concentrating on the changes in the rhythm, in the Rumba on more togetherness and softness, etc. We do a lot of thinking before we start.

WDSM: In Oldenburg I perceived what I thought were a few face-offs, challenges of sorts, between you and Stefano DiFilippo. Competitive but done with sportsman-like fairness! Was I wrong or was there something?

Alexey (smiles): I should probably explain that Stefano and I know each other for many years already, and that we are really good friends. We spend a lot of time together outside of DanceSport: before and after we compete. Particularly in the big events you need to motivate yourself, and this is what Stefano and I do. We motivate each other. It is always fair; we never touch each other! Somehow he manages to pull up right next to me on the short side of the floor and says things like: Come on, now! It is fun. The audience loves it. And we both want to have the audience on our side.

WDSM: There are many events throughout the year on the IDSF calendar. You are one of the few couples entering all major competitions, regardless where they are held. Of course the organisers and the audiences around the world appreciate that. But how do you make the travels compatible with your training? And which competitions have priority, when do you plan to be in your best form? Being on top for the whole year is impossible.

Alexey: First of all, I think it has to do with the Russian mentality, at least little bit. We always have our goals clearly defined. We wanted to be number one of the IDSF World

Ranking List and we achieved it. We were first for ten months, gave it back to Stefano for one month, before we reclaimed the spot again earlier this year. Secondly, for us, competing is more or less like passing an exam. I always ask Anastasia, our trainer, to critique our performances, or my parents come along to record the competition for us to review afterwards. This way we see what we have accomplished, what it looks like to us, and what we need to work on in training. Last but not least, we carefully select the countries, trying to be in all the different parts of the world. Even though we do get tired sometimes, in the end, we go to these competitions to please ourselves too. Of course, we focus on the same events every year: the Russian Championships, the World Championships and then the Europeans.

Anna: This year we concentrate on The World Games as well, they are the other highlight. Before every big event we try to have two weekends off – just to relax.

WDSM: So there is never a longer period for changing your routines or to recover?

Alexey: Both of us graduated from a sports university; there we learnt that some relaxation is part of the preparation.

Anna: Non-stop training and too much work on your routines would surely drain us. Especially in our sport it is necessary to be strong – mentally strong.

Alexey: Take the May Grand Slam in Spain. We went there for the competition, but afterwards we stayed for two extra days in a nice hotel with a spa, having massages and just relaxing. We always try to put in three or four days before we start working again. Three weeks prior to the European Championships I went to Egypt for one whole week.

WDSM: IDSF is running the Grand Slam Series since 2005. It consists of five competitions per year with prize money for the top-placed couples – and even more prize money for the 12 couples who qualify to dance in the Grand Slam Final. Could it be that the purses are no longer big enough for top athletes who all live like professionals?

Alexey: I can only say what we think about that, I cannot speak for the other couples. And it depends where the couples come from. In some countries, the government



– be it national or local – or other organisations support these couples outright. Their living expenses are covered more or less.

Anastasia Titkova: The situation in Russia has become very difficult. All the travelling, the airfares, everything is very expensive now. Plus: we have troubles sometimes in getting our visa sorted out.

Alexey: We are interested in the price money, of course, it is important for us, and that is why we do these competitions. On the other hand, take the March Grand Slam in Tokyo! The return flight from Russia was 1,500 Euros. If the organiser does not pay for our travel, we spend pretty much what we earn.

WDSM: In many countries IDSF couples are teaching regularly. That is how they earn the money which they need to cover their own lessons, the travelling, etc.

Alexey: For us – in Russia – it is only possible to help and assist within our own club. We don't go to other clubs for teaching.

WDSM: Something else is different about the two of you. Other dancers seem to constantly change their partners – and you have been together for a long time.

Both (in unison): For nearly ten years!

WDSM: Is there a secret to your enduring partnership, something that you could advise the other couples to do – or not to do?

Alexey: When problems occur – above all with young couples – in 90% of the cases they start with the parents. Fathers and mothers everywhere are convinced that their son or daughter is simply the best. But they always assume that he or she has picked the wrong partner. The conflict is programmed.

As far as our situation is concerned, I am sure that it was difficult for Anna. She came from Siberia and was all on her own. I saw her parents maybe four or five times in all these years. We always tried to decide things together, to train and to argue together, but we never allowed my parents to interfere.

Anna and I share the same goals. She wanted to be a World

Champion since she was seven. My parents had brought me to a dance school to loose weight. After one of the classes, my first teacher told me that I could become World Champion one day. He brought me on my way to mastery and made me ambitious. I think the most important thing is to have the same goal. Anna and I form a team, like in football. But ours is the smallest team possible – it is just the two of us. Therefore we have to help each other even more.

WDSM: How did you get started in DanceSport?

Anna: My mother brought me to figure skating lessons first. Then we watched dancing on television together, and my mother liked the dresses of the girls. That was probably the reason why she brought me to a dance school next. At first I did not like it at all: I did not want to dance with a partner – and certainly not with a boy. I cried and for a whole year I was suffering greatly every time I went to my dance school. But when I was nine I changed my mind. I had found a nice partner and started to win in the beginners' classes. Even if going to these national competitions was not at all easy from my hometown Omsk.

Alexey: I come from St. Petersburg. Ever since the Junior grade I was travelling to different competitions everywhere. I was in Cervia, Alasio and, of course, in Moscow. During one of these competitions I saw Anna don the floor for the first time. When I split with my partner I did not compete for eight months. Somehow I succeeded to get Anna's phone number and asked her to try out with me. My father talked to her father, telling him that I wanted to become World Champion. He asked whether they would like to go with me on this journey. As simple as that!

Anna: My friends tried to persuade me to stay on in Omsk. But I thought this is my life, I want to be the one who decides what to do. Soon I made up my mind, left my parents and went to St. Petersburg. We started to take lessons in England and did Standard as well. Eventually we met Anastasia and started to go to Moscow for lessons with her. We did serious Ten Dance at the time and travelled to Moscow once a month for four days of lessons. This back and forth did not make much sense and we decided to move to Moscow. This was on the 1 August four years ago.

WDSM: You told me that both of you went to a university. What did this do to your dancing?



Alexey: We graduated from the Sports Academy. It is considered an excellent school in Russia; especially in St. Petersburg it is a really big thing. When we started with our studies, DanceSport was part of gymnastics, and we had to pass a practical entrance exam. The examiner was a lady who was judging gymnastics at the Olympics. She was not a dancer; strange, we thought. She just asked us to show her some of our routines and watched very attentively. It turned out that we were in very good hands with her. She tried to help us every way she could – because we had to travel a lot.

WDSM: When you retire from dancing you have your education to fall back on, to get a job in another field.

Alexey: We have received an additional education in physiology and know exactly how the body functions, how we have to train. We both passed our final exams and have our degrees. This is very important!

WDSM: Looking at your career in DanceSport, do you feel that you have always been on the lucky side? What do you think is the reason for being successful?

Anna: I always compare life with the hide of a Zebra – with its white and black stripes. We all have white and black episodes in our life. We made our experiences with bad results. In 2004 we got down to semi-finals, even the quarters, and did not know why. This was a black time. The white stripe in our career started in 2006.

Alexey: But I also believe that we have been lucky throughout our career. Because we met each other; because we are able to work together as a team! We have also been fortunate to meet all the people who are with us in our club back in Moscow. And very lucky to meet Anastasia: she is really good for us and helps us a lot! We met Hans too.

WDSM: Who are the most important teachers you were working with?

Alexey: I was training in England from the age of 12; there I had my lessons with Samy Stopford and Barbara McColl. But I don't have many teachers: Samy and Barbara, Hans and Brian. That's it!

WDSM: Let us talk about the future. What are your other ambitions for 2009, what will happen next year?

Alexey: This is another hard question. I prefer short-term planning for my life and career. We take it one day at the time and postpone our decisions until after we have enjoyed it. I don't know what we will do in the future. I don't think about turning professional or staying "amateur" at this point. We will give it a real go at the World Championships, of course, but afterwards it depends on how the situation develops. We shall see. This year we are looking forward to two events: The World Games and the World Championships. Only then will we decide on everything else.

WDSM: There are rumours that Stefano DiFilippo and Anna Melnikova are about to split up.

Alexey: Well, it is more than just a rumour: they will split soon. They will do their last competition in Blackpool.

WDSM: This summer you will be at The World Games. What do you expect from being able to compete there?

Alexey: This means a lot for us. In a normal competition you represent yourself: if you fail in the first round, you can go home and cry. In The World Games you represent a country – in our case Russia – and this is something special. This is why we go all out in preparing ourselves. We take a short holiday now, because until The World Games we will have to work hard. I am very fond of sports in general. During the Olympic Games, I am watching TV whenever I get the chance. I really look forward to be in the ceremonies with all these athletes from the other sports.

WDSM: You know that IDSF continues with its campaigning to have DanceSport included in the Olympic Programme. What do you think are the chances to be successful?

Alexey: I believe that the prospects are good: our sport is interesting and attracts many spectators. I have heard that the tickets for DanceSport at The World Games are selling well, even better than many of the other sports. The people's enthusiasm for our sport is amazing. I am convinced that it will be on the programme of the Olympics one day. We will not be there – but maybe our children will!

WDSM: Let us talk about your lives outside of DanceSport, about your hobbies and interests!

Alexey: In these things we are totally different from each other. I cannot stay in one place; I have to be on the move – constantly. I cannot stand it to be all by myself, I have to have my friends around me – all the time. I like each and every sport. I also enjoy driving; that is how I move around, from one barbecue to the next.

Anna: I prefer to spend time with my family. Most of my remaining time is taken up by preparing mentally. We always have to be fit physically, but I like to practise mentally.

WDSM: What do you like most about your partner?

Alexey: I am not an easy person. But Anna finds her ways of coping with that. There are only two people who know me as well as she does: Anastasia and my father. Anna is always able to talk to me, regardless what mood I am in, because she reads me perfectly. She is a very clever woman and likes to work. Since we are so very different, it was hard when we started to dance together ten years ago. But now we make an excellent team. We have a lot of fun together – and she can make me laugh. I was not like that when our team got started.

Anna: Alexey is very honest and he is one of my best friends. No, he is MY BEST FRIEND. I trust him and I can come to him with whatever problem I have. He will always help me.

WDSM: Are you together in private life?

Alexey: No, we established a simple rule from the beginning: on the floor we are a couple, working together – just the two of us. Away from DanceSport, Anna can have her boyfriend, I can have my girlfriend. I don't want to see him, she won't ever see her. It is very difficult for the partner to know that the boyfriend or girlfriend is sitting somewhere in the audience – and he or she should dance the Rumba.

Whether in training or in competition, it is only me and her – always! That's the secret!

WDSM: Did you ever think what will happen after your dancing career is over?

Alexey: At this time I am only able to think about the party that I will throw. It will be huge, even bigger than the one George Bush had when he went out of office.

WDSM: Is there a last piece of advice you want to pass on to the readers of **WDSM**?

Alexey: Enjoy every single day, be positive and treat the people kindly as you deal with them on your way up! You might meet them again on your way down.



J. A. Samaranch: Words of Wisdom

The International Olympic Committee Honorary President for Life, HE Juan Antonio Samaranch, is the IDSF Ambassador at Large. He occasionally meets with IDSF President Carlos Freitag to discuss the development of DanceSport and to give his valuable advice. World DanceSport Magazine was present when the two met earlier this year. President Samaranch agreed to answer a few questions for this special issue.



WDSM: You know DanceSport from having dealt with its application for recognition by the International Olympic Committee and from attending various IDSF World Championships. What makes it attractive and different from the other sports?

Juan Antonio Samaranch: Your sport has a very unique and important trait. It combines sport with music. This results in something very special and very spectacular. The same happens in artistic figure skating – which features on the programme of the Winter Olympic Games, and which is quite possibly the number one sport there. I see plenty of similarities between artistic figure skating and your sport. It is my opinion that DanceSport – properly aligned with all requirements – does have much going for itself. There is a select group of sports which excel through the fact that there is no separation of genders, therefore no discrimination against men or women, and where participation is equally divided: 50% and 50%. That is a considerable advantage.

WDSM: Whenever you see DanceSport performed at the highest level, what impresses you the most?

JAS: I can only stress the importance of the music once more. The unity between sport and music! It is something I consider very important, very positive. Aside from that, one can easily appreciate the challenges which the athletes face in performing their routines. Dancing is not easy! It

should be obvious to everybody that extensive training and preparation are required before dancers in Standard – in DanceSport generally – can present themselves on the floor the way they do. This is what makes your sport demanding, athletic.

WDSM: DanceSport is not among the sports on the short-list for a possible inclusion into Sports Programme of the 2016 Olympics. What should be done by officials as well as athletes in the lead-up to the next review of the Olympic programme?

JAS: The International Olympic Committee and its President are concerned and willing to go to great length in order to ensure that the programme of the Olympic Games is up-to-date. That means it must appeal to the youth of today as well. There is great determination to avoid that the Olympic Programme is based on sports which could have gone out of fashion, and which start to register a decreasing participant base. Your sport is growing at what appears to be a significant rate. That allows it to meet at least one of the criteria to be considered again for the Olympic Games of the future. I encourage you to invite – every time your federation holds a major competition anywhere in the world – some of the International Olympic Committee members who live nearby to come and watch. Showing DanceSport is important. And we know perfectly well that it is its visibility on television that will mark the difference. Having thousands and thousands of participants

is one thing, having many hours of the sport broadcast is the other!

WDSM: The World Games are the surrogate for DanceSport's Olympic participation. Our athletes and officials will again be in Kaohsiung, TPE, in July. What would be your personal message to them?

JAS: To the athletes: go and play! The officials I would encourage to step up their efforts to establish judging and scoring systems which can easily be understood by the general public. A system which is above reproach: transparent and justifiable at all times. We all remember the judging-related scandals we have had at the Olympic Games with artistic figure skating. The International Federation concerned, the International Skating Union (ISU), had to fundamentally review its procedures for the evaluation of the performances. It took a considerable amount of time, but in the end a solution was found. I believe – and the experts confirm – that the new ISU judging system has brought about considerable improvements. The system is successful in doing away with bias. It could be well worth to study the approach that was taken by ISU further, with a view of possibly adapting it to DanceSport.

I have attended several of your competitions and I have observed the judges moving around the dance floor. Wouldn't it be better to assign them one specific and fixed location from where to do their work? They could all be seated together on a stage and at a table. But I am aware that bringing changes to the sport is a process.

WDSM: VISION 2012 describes the ambitious IDSF programme to unite all forms of dance under a single brand – a generic DanceSport – and under the umbrella of one sole governing body. What are your thoughts on that?

JAS: It is positive to evolve. Bringing new and young people to DanceSport is necessary. I have seen Wheelchair DanceSport at a competition in Germany and I was impressed. If there are new dance styles which the young generation prefers over the traditional ones, they should have their rightful place within the sport. But when it comes to your Olympic aspirations, I must caution you that adding disciplines is bound to complicate matters further. The more competitions a federation seeks to have included in the Olympic Programme the more difficult it becomes. To achieve your goal, it is above all a matter of limiting the disciplines to the minimum.



The Honorary IOC President for Life, HE Juan Antonio Samaranch, is a stern supporter of DanceSport. It was during his presidency, on 4 September 1997, that the 106th IOC Session granted outright recognition to the International DanceSport Federation. In 1999, President Samaranch attended the IDSF World Latin Championship in Berne, Switzerland. After stepping down in 2001, he continued to support DanceSport by honouring several IDSF championships with his presence and – most memorably – by addressing the IDSF Annual General Meeting in 2007. He was awarded with the IDSF Gold Medal and the IDSF President's Award for his visionary understanding of the sport.

President Samaranch continues to work every day from his office in Barcelona.



2008 IDSF World Ten Dance Championship

The German capital Berlin was host to the 2008 World Championship in the discipline for DanceSport's best all-rounder. From the preliminary round, five dances in Latin plus five in Standard doubled the challenge technically as well as athletically for the 33 couples, the National Ten Dance Champions from as many countries. The six finalists had to perform 42 dances before the winner was declared in the early morning hours of 30 November.



Photos by DTV and Heidi Estler



IOC Vice President Dr Thomas, right, Bach with Carlos Freitag and DTV officials

Christoph Kies and Blanca Ribas Turón, GER, were able to defend the title once more. The couple was crowned IDSF World Ten Dance Champions for the third consecutive time. Silver medallists Misa Cigoj – Alexandra Malai, SLO, and bronze medallists Andrey Zaytsev – Anna Kuzminskaya, RUS, merely changed their respective positions on the podium from 2007.

The excellent performances by all couples were commented upon by the President of the German Olympic Sports Confederation, Dr. Thomas Bach, who was the guest of honour. "A magnificent sport," was how he started his remarks – words spoken with the authority of an Olympic Champion in fencing and Vice President of the International Olympic Committee. The sports leader thanked the athletes and the hosts for their respective parts in making the World Championship an absolute hit with all who had come to watch.

7,000 spectators – between afternoon and evening sessions – were recorded at the Max-Schmeling-Hall. Named after the German boxing legend, the venue had served for memorable DanceSport events in the past: World Championships in Formations and in Youth Ten Dance were the most recent. Berlin and DanceSport: a perfect match on the parquet and in the seats.

The enthusiastic crowd of 5,000 attending the evening's semi-finals and finals cheered all the couples on – as these passed through the replica of the Brandenburg Gate on their way to the floor. "To be able to dance in front of so many people is an overwhelming experience, thank you Berlin", said Christoph Kies, the old and new IDSF World Champion, during an interview right after the final.

Spectator turn-out and impact in the media exceeded all expectations. RBB, the Berlin affiliate of the German public broadcasting network ARD produced the coverage and aired 45-minute highlights on 30 November and 1 December. The television partner of IDSF, Stockholm-based IEC in Sports, used the RBB coverage to produce yet another 52-minute highlight as part of its series "Best of DanceSport 2008". In its third year by now, the series is distributed to a steadily increasing number of countries around the world.

Pre-event interviews with the favourites and other programmes on RBB's InfoRadio made Ten Dance the talk of the capital. The media partnership with the Berlin daily "Der Tagesspiegel" upped the profile of the event in print. And a dedicated website, world-10dance.org, provided enough technical background on DanceSport for the spectators to do their own adjudicating.

The formidable organiser of the 2008 World Championship was again the DanceSport Federation of Berlin. It was commissioned by the German DanceSport Federation and assisted by more than 200 volunteers from local clubs.



2008 IDSF World Standard Championship

Vienna, the city which lends its name to a Waltz, welcomed those who know how to dance it better than anyone. 73 couples from 39 nations competed on 15 November for the coveted title of World Standard Champion. After four challenging rounds, six finalists were called up to present their five Standard dances one more time to the panel of IDSF Adjudicators and the sell-out crowd. In the end, Italians Paolo Bosco and Silvia Pitton did the Dance of Honour: the last Viennese Waltz performed by the old and new champions!

The IDSF World Standard Championship was the absolute highlight of the 2008 Austrian Open. The Open itself was bigger than any of the 14 previous editions, gathering 3,000 athletes for 20 international and national competitions staged over four days. The capacity of the "Stadthalle," the traditional venue for DanceSport in the Austrian capital, was put to the ultimate test on the evening of 20 November, when the semi-finals and finals of the World Standard Championship alternated with the decisive stages of the International Latin Open. Fire code restrictions frustrated hundreds who tried to buy their tickets at the last minute. "Sold out," was the disappointing message transmitted with Viennese politeness at the box office. There simply was no standing room left!

The atmosphere in the hall was marked by the contrast between formal attire – the couples on the floor as well as some of the spectators were dressed to a code of gowns and tails – and tumultuous scenes in the most partisan sections of the audience. The tricolour flags waved by Italians, Germans and Russians, and incessant cheering, brought back memories of football's Euro 2008 held in Austria only three months earlier.

That Paolo Bosco and Silvia Pitton would defend their title won in Moscow was expected by many. Again, it was their technique combined with charisma which had them prevail over the strong runners-up Benedetto Feruggia and Claudia Köhler, GER, and the convincing bronze medallists Andrea Ghigiarelli and Sara Andracchio, ITA. The five-minute standing ovation by the expert audience rewarded the six finalists for their excellence in the Standard dances.

The organisers had to be congratulated for their outstanding work in upping the event's profile even further. Pub-

lic and media relations were carefully planned and promotional campaigns launched months ahead the World Championships. Billboards went up in the streets of Vienna in September, and advertisements were omnipresent in the city's tramway and subway systems too. In October, targeted mailings went out to Austrian DanceSport enthusiasts – thousands who had attended the Open in previous years – and a press conference was held to present some of the favourite couples to the journalist.

Austrian public broadcaster ORF produced the coverage of the semi-final and final of the World Standard Championship as well as the International Latin Open with six cameras and super-slow motion. The one-hour programme was aired on the ORF sports channel Sport Plus and then edited into an international version for worldwide distribution through IEC in Sport. The Standard highlight of the "Best of DanceSport 2008" series was seen in 16 countries.

Even though the Viennese DanceSport Federation counts among the world's most seasoned organisers of large-scale competitions, the preparatory work for the event took up one full year. 100 volunteers from the 18 clubs making up the capital's federation plus another 120 from the Austrian Federation were involved. They succeeded to prove once more that Vienna is THE city of dance!



2008 Standard Medallists; all photos by Elisabeth Eliasch - blitzlichter.eliasch.at

2008 WRRC World Acrobatic Rock 'n' Roll Championship



The 2008 World Championship in Acrobatic Rock 'n' Roll – Main Class – was held in Austria, in the Styrian capital Graz. From the granting by the World Rock 'n' Roll Confederation (WRRC), it had taken the organisers two years to prepare for the extraordinary event staged at the “stadthalle I graz” on 6 December.

The government of the Austrian State of Styria as well as the City of Graz supported the event to unprecedented levels, thus contributing to an absolutely perfect organisation by the local Rock 'n' Roll Club 88.

The atmosphere at the “stadthalle I graz” – the city's modern centre for congresses, concerts and sports – was outstanding for the premier annual event in Acrobatic Rock 'n' Roll. A crowd of 2,500 was able to enjoy the performances by the world's finest athletes in this spectacular DanceSport discipline. Among the spectators were high-level representatives from the state and city governments. The Styrian State Secretary, the President of the Styrian Parliament and the Mayor of Graz honoured the World Championship with their presence.

Public and media relations were a high priority for the organisers. The “Kronen-Zeitung,” Austria's most popular

tabloid with a circulation of one million, was an official media partner of the 2008 World Championship. The reporting by the other printed press also provided imagery and news nationwide.

Public broadcaster ORF aired more than two hours of coverage on its sports channel Sport Plus and on ORF 1. The viewing figures were downright spectacular, and the ORF executives were more than satisfied with the ratings Acrobatic Rock 'n' Roll achieved. The total number of viewers far exceeded that of audiences tuning in for sports like handball or volleyball, which are broadcast frequently in similar time slots on Sport Plus.

41 Main Class couples entered the competition. Of the WRRC World Ranking List's top twenty only two couples were absent due to injuries. Not just the participation was higher than ever, the general level of the performances reached new heights too. In addition to the WRRC World Championships, the organisers held a national competition for Youth and Junior age grades. It provided a great opportunity for the next generation of Austrian athletes to perform before such an enthusiastic audience.

Sound, light and video engineering were superb and enhanced the stunning performances by the couples further. The stage was well designed and perfectly adapted to the requirements of Rock 'n' Roll. More than 100 volunteers supported the organisation in the backstage and VIP areas.

Edi Finger junior – a well-known radio personality and sports journalist who has the insider's view on good footwork from his participation in the Austrian “Dancing with the Stars” – led the audience through the evening with charm and wit. Pop singer Valerie Sajdik, winner of the Amadeus Award for the best Austrian single in 2008, provided for entertainment too.



2008 WRRC World Acrobatic Rock 'n' Roll Championship – Main Class

1	Ivan Youdin / Olga Sbitneva	RUS
2	Maurizio Mandorino / Jade Mandorino	SUI
3	Jacek Tarczylo / Anna Miadzielec	POL
4	Christophe Payan / Kathy Richetta	FRA
5	Ivan Klimov / Katrin Gazazyan	RUS
6	Neven Ivic / Ivana Mihalic	CRO
7	Julien Foulon / Ingrid Foulon	FRA

Photos courtesy of WRRC

2008 IDSF World Latin Championship

World-class DanceSport returned to Melbourne four years after the IDSF World Ten Dance Championship was held in the city thriving on sporting culture like no other on this planet. Just one month prior to the tennis aces taking to the court in the Hisense Arena during the Australian Open, true masters of the Latin dances fought it out on the brand new floor put into the spectacular venue. The Tattersall's 2008 IDSF World Latin Championship will long be remembered by all who were involved. Stefano Di Filippo and Anna Melnikova, ITA, should have the grating voice of Tina Turner singing "Simply the Best" engraved in their memory forever. The track was played as they were declared the winners. The new World Champions had finally arrived at centre stage.



Photos by Mark Gadsden - Dancesportphoto

It started with the spectacular opening ceremony showing how diverse and universal at the same time the Latin dances can be. A perfectly choreographed firework of movements, colours and sounds went off as dancers performed in front of elaborate backdrops setting the moods. Latin in the Caribbean, in South and North America, in Australia – around the world – is temperament put into the most expressive steps and gestures. Margaret Lonsdale, the Event Director, had pledged to showcase DanceSport in her trademark style, combining it with art and show. "Sizzling hot entertainment," was what she had promised. She delivered on that over four days of competition: the Australian DanceSport Championship and IDSF Opens – even the Asia Pacific Salsa Championship – were held prior to the World Latin Championship.

The 64 Latin couples from 39 nations were the uncontested stars of HOT, the watchword used in the Melbourne-style promotional campaign which had started in September. The "World Event City" was covered with out-of-home media of every kind promoting the Tattersall's 2009 IDSF World Championship.

When the finalists stepped onto the parquet, at 10 p.m. on 14 December, the summer down under became even hotter. IDSF Adjudicators and the knowledgeable audience agreed that Stefano DiFilippo and Anna Melnikova, ITA, were nearly on fire in their last five dances. The new Latin champions

were "Simply the Best" of the best Latin dancers from around the world. Runners-up were Alexey Silde and Anna Firstova, RUS, and bronze medallists were Andrey Zaitsev and Anna Kuzminskaya, RUS. 5,000 frenetic spectators – on their feet – just wouldn't stop applauding the six couples. They were even clapping along as "Il Canto degli Italiani," the winners' anthem, resounded in the fabulous arena.

The final report on the 2008 IDSF World Championship – including a financial impact study by Ernst & Young – led the State Government of Victoria to extend its support to DanceSport Australia and the Australian Dancing Society for another four-year cycle. Lonsdale and her crew have embarked on new ventures already: Australian DanceSport Championships from 2009 to 2012, an Asia Pacific Championship in 2011, and an ambitious bid to organise the IDSF World Standard Championship in 2012.

The track record established by the organisers with the World Championships in 2004 and 2008 is impressive enough for the bid to be a HOT contender once more. The product "DanceSport – Melbourne" (see WDSM issue # 2) is perfectly established by now – as it is for all the other sports that have made the Victorian Capital a regular fixture in their competition calendars. Title sponsors and expert broadcasters are eager to get on board for the next whirl on the dance floor. And hundreds of volunteers are already waiting to sign up too.



VISION APPLIED

A cooperation agreement was formalised between the International Paralympic Committee and the International DanceSport Federation in 2008. Both organisations pledged to jointly develop Wheelchair DanceSport and to work towards uniting the two forms of dance under the umbrella of the World DanceSport Federation in the future. The agreement produced results already. An International Wheelchair DanceSport Open was held in Spain for the first time ever. It was firmly integrated into an IDSF World Standard Championship for the able-bodied. And it allowed six couples in Latin Combi II to shine with inspiring performances. Hanna Harchakova and Ihar Kisialiou (BLR) talked to World DanceSport Magazine about the experience and their hopes for the future.



The dances by six couples made up of an athlete in a wheelchair and an able-bodied partner had swept the entire audience off their feet. The standing ovations didn't stop for several minutes at the Sports and Congress Centre in Platja d'Aro, the popular Costa Brava resort town. After taking their bows, and after the awards were presented to them, the runners-up of the Open, Hanna Harchakova and Ihar Kisialiou from Belarus, are visibly moved. *"This was a brilliant competition! The people here are incredible – very, very supportive – and they brought out the best in us"*, says Hanna.

She had teamed up with Ihar in 2005 and made it to the very top of Wheelchair DanceSport last year, when the couple won first place in Standard and second in Latin at the IPC World Championship held in Minsk, the capital of their home country. Ihar reminisces about how they got started on their journey to the world title. *"It was through my wife and dance partner! She encouraged me to go with her to an event held by a foundation working for people with disabilities. At first I was reluctant, but then I went along anyway. That is where I first met Hanna. When she proposed to give it a serious try and to train – to really go for it – I happily agreed too. That is how we made our debut in the sport"*.

27-year-old Ihar brought along his wealth of experience as an S Class dancer who competed at the highest levels both nationally and internationally, and who now holds the title of Master of Sports of the Republic of Belarus. Not much of a surprise: his mother had first brought him to the dance studio when he was only six.

Hanna's background was an entirely different one. She worked as a psychologist at a support centre sponsored by the foundation for the disabled and had started to dance

there for other reasons. In spite of her athletic build, she had never considered any of the other sports practised in a wheelchair. *"It was only DanceSport which appealed to me. Why? Dance is life; dance is as unique as life itself. The life of every person is different. Whenever I dance I am able to physically express how unique I am – almost like a bird flying through the sky"*, a radiant Hanna explains her motivation.

To the 30-year old, dance is more important than sport in her pursuit of self-expression. Nevertheless, she commits to a disciplined routine which has her and Ihar train for two hours a minimum of three times per week. They don't have a coach and do their own choreographies. *"Most wheelchair couples depend on another set of eyes to help them develop their dancing"*, says Ihar. *"Hanna and I work always on our own. We look at ourselves in the mirrors during training and correct whatever mistakes we can make out. I guess that makes our approach –above all that of Hanna – so personal. Sometimes Hanna even composes her own music for our dances"*.

But there is genuine competitiveness as well. *"Watching all the other couples perform on the floor motivates us. Seeing our peers dance to perfection makes us want to be better all the time"*, is how Hanna describes the striving for perfection. It has ultimately led the couple to win gold and silver medals last year.

Even though Ihar knew everything about stepping onto the podium from competing with his wife in tournaments for the able-bodied, this win was very different from all the others. *"Wheelchair DanceSport does have certain things in common with what I normally compete in. The programme is the same – five dances in Standard, five dances in Latin. But Wheelchair is far more challenging than normal dancing."*



The chair complicates matters. It is a cumbersome piece of equipment which makes it all the more challenging to be perfect," says Ihar. "It is hard to manoeuvre it gracefully, even if a state-of-the-art chair is used. Hanna makes it look almost too easy. She is seated perfectly and handles the chair perfectly. My part in the performance is straightforward dancing – fairly simple by comparison".

Wheelchair's premiere in Spain coincided with the IDSF World Championship Standard for able-bodied Senior II. Holding the two events jointly took up on the spirit of the agreement between International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and IDSF, and it aimed at bringing the two forms of DanceSport closer together. "This will help our sport to move forward and to develop further," Hanna is convinced. "Here we competed side by side – many other ways of joining forces are imaginable too: in seminars and in workshops. Wheelchair could receive input from world-class trainers and able-bodied athletes. Such collaboration is bound to benefit not only Wheelchair but the whole of DanceSport".

A long held dream of Hanna and Ihar could also come true through improved synergies. "We – like everyone else in Wheelchair DanceSport – hope to be competing in the Paralympic Games one day", says Ihar. For the time being, the couple doesn't receive hardly any support from the National Paralympic Committee of Belarus. "This will change once the sport is contested at the high-profile games for disabled athletes", Ihar is convinced.

A higher profile for Wheelchair DanceSport events is also achieved through their fullest integration into the IDSF competition structure. With increasing frequency, IPC and IDSF World Championships should be staged at the same

time and venue – and both televised as a DanceSport package. Public awareness will increase rapidly; and the combined lobbying powers of two international sports organisations – the IPC Wheelchair DanceSport Committee and IDSF – can do the rest.

The 2008 IPC World Championships had 137 athletes from 17 countries entering Standard and Latin events in two disciplines, Combi and Duo – where two Wheelchair dancers perform together – and in two classes (depending on the degree of the athletes' disability). Incorporating a competition of similar size into one of the different IDSF World Championships should be achievable for any organiser.



Even though Wheelchair DanceSport is already growing rapidly around the world, participation will certainly increase further through this strategy. Many more countries could soon be involved in the different Wheelchair competitions. Hanna and Ihar have recently returned from Beijing, where they were invited by the National Paralympic Committee of China to take part in the Open Asian Cup. "From there we went to Hong Kong to do shows together with dancers like Riccardo Cocchi and several other world famous couples. The Hong Kong festival was amazing – a huge event promoting DanceSport – and Wheelchair was part of it", Ihar reports. "During our trip, Hanna and I have discovered that strong competition will soon come out of Asia. We believe that many couples we saw there will undoubtedly be able to make the finals of our World Championship – maybe this year, maybe the next".

Hanna and Ihar are undeterred and will continue their quest to combine self-expression with sporting goals. "Our ambition is to dance, dance, dance – to get better every day – and to be the absolute IPC World Wheelchair DanceSport Champions one day. Champions in Standard and in Latin", says Hanna. "It is our dream. And, of course, if we are able to compete in the Paralympic Games, to win the gold medal there too. We are determined to carry on dancing for many years to come. Dance is life, remember!".

One urgent matter needs to be resolved before the two get onto the floor in the upcoming IPC competitions. "Friends in the Netherlands advised us to buy an American-brand wheelchair, and we finally got one through a representative in Poland", says Ihar. "But something went wrong with the design: it is not in compliance with our new rules and, on top of that, it is not as balanced as it should be". Even if Hanna has found her ways in making it perform spectacularly, the chair will need to be replaced. "The rules are the rules", Ihar explains. "The two wheels on the rear of Hanna's chair are no longer accepted under the IPC norms. One single wheel is stipulated, and it needs to be elevated by a few centimetres – not continuously touching the floor". As in the other wheelchair sports, the essential hardware comes with a hefty price tag. Two thousand Euros and much more are spent by athletes on their latest-generation chairs – which have become examples of supreme engineering by now. "We are desperately looking for a sponsor", says Ihar. "Maybe the readers of DanceSport Magazine can help us to find one?".



All photos by Amadeo Vilari
www.dsphoto.it

IDO: DanceSport of the Varied Kind

The International Dance Organisation has been an Associate Member of the International DanceSport Federation for the past five years. Its unique ability to constantly evolve, and to adapt to the requests of its growing constituency, explains part of its success. The other part is based on the organisation adhering to strict best practice standards – and on IDO using the latest-generation tools in the administration of its many DanceSport disciplines.



Photos courtesy of IDO

The International Dance Organization (IDO) was founded 1981 as a non-profit organisation in Florence, Italy. Mr. Moreno Polidori, Italy, was the initiator. The founding members were Italy, France, Switzerland and Gibraltar.

The organisation's purpose was to provide an international competition structure for both amateur and professional dancers in styles which were not covered by any of the existing world governing bodies. Continental and world championships in Swing and Dance Show Formations were among the first competitions staged by IDO.

"At that time it was a very limited organisation", IDO President Bill Fowler looks back at the early days. "The new Presidium took over in 1998; from that point onward it started growing by leaps and bounds".

A seven-member commission had previously restructured the entire organisation under the leadership of Nils-Håkan Carlzon, SWE. The new statutes, by-laws and competition rules were ratified by the Annual General Meeting in October 1998. The same body elected the commission, who had authored the governing documents over a period of two years, as its executive board, with Carlzon as President. The modern IDO was born. And it set out on an expansion course right away.

"We started with nine national federations; today we have federations and contacts in over 90 nations", Michael Wendt, IDO Vice President and Chairman of the Competition Committee, reports on a decade of growth. And growth not only in terms of affiliated member organisations around the world!

Dance Disciplines

Starting with the governance of a handful of different dance styles back in 1981, today's IDO arrived at a numbers that are without match in DanceSport. "We currently have over 50 different dance disciplines and over 200 titles which we look after", says Wendt. In fact, the breadth of dance styles covered under the rules of IDO calls for an additional structure to be applied in order to make it more manageable. More than 50 disciplines fall into different departments.



Performing Arts

Tap Dance	Character/Ethnic/Folk	Oriental/Belly Dance
Show Dance	Jazz	Cabaret/Theatre Art
Modern	Flamenco	Acrobatic/Gymnastics
Production		

Street & Pop Dance

Disco Dance	Street Dance Show	Electric Boogie
Disco Dance Freestyle	HipHop	Break Dance
Techno		

Special Couple Dances

Argentino Tango	Bachata	Caribbean Dances
Nordic Tango	Mixing Blues	Street Latino
Argentine Tango	Hustle/DiscoFox/DiscoSwing	Theatre Arts Exhibition
Rising Star	Bugg	Latino Show
Salsa	Double Bugg	Street Mambo
Salsa Rueda de	Jitterbug	American Mambo
Casino	Special Couple Dance	Merengue
Salsa Shines	Formations	

Other Dances

Synchro Dance	Mix Dance 1/Mix Dance 2
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This covers the full range: from the classic to the most contemporary dances, from solo and duo performances to those by groups, large formations – even entire casts! But it is merely the inventory as of early June 2009. IDO adds new disciplines with great frequency. "Particularly in Street & Pop we find that the dance of today is created by the music of today", President Fowler explains the process. "If new music is sufficiently different from the existing, a new dance is bound to emerge. Our newest discipline is Techno, a combination of Disco, which covers the entire floor, and HipHop, which is more stationary".

Even though many new disciplines have been adopted in recent years, IDO exercises some restraint in doing so. To stage competitions in a dance style which has not sufficient global appeal, or which turns out to be a fad, would be counterproductive. The principles of entrepreneurship apply. Generally, once a new style has become popular in 10 to 15 countries, the other IDO nations are bound to follow rapidly.

Very often it is the community itself which suggests the inclusion of a new discipline. In Street & Pop, adopting a new and entirely different style, House, is already under discussion. At important HipHop competitions, young dancers start to use steps and movements which did not comply with the current rules. IDO observes and studies for the time being. It will eventually decide whether to create the new discipline.

Brazilian dancers approached IDO with the formal proposal to have it administer international competitions in Lambada Souk. The rules have been established and it should soon be contested at the world level for the first time. "We respect what comes out of the community", Fowler confirms. "But we must believe in it as well!" Working through its committees and subcommittees which convene on a regular basis, IDO strives to continually develop all its disciplines.



DanceSport Events

The number of events which the IDO oversees has increased considerably too. And its events tend to become bigger and bigger. Some IDO championships not only stand out because of massive participation – even more so because of their loyalty to a location. *“Take the Show and Tap Dance World Championships in Riesa, Germany”*, says Fowler, *“they have become perennial fixtures for the German city and a success story for IDO”*.

2009 will again see the World Show Dance taking place in Riesa, over six days, and it will be followed by the World Tap Dance with yet another five days. For the thirteenth consecutive time! 3,500 dancers from close to 40 nations are expected to contest the titles in all age grades in November.

“We prefer our organisers to do a competition more than just once”, says Michael Wendt, *“and we normally negotiate a three-year commitment with the hosts”*. Riesa is already signed up through 2013. *“We like it there. It is such a congenial place with a perfectly sized venue for our event”*, Bill Fowler explains the loyalty to the location in Saxony. *“And no other city was able to submit a better bid”*, he adds. IDO focuses on medium-sized cities or regions for most of its major championships. The hosts are expected to contribute to the financing of the event.

On one end of the scale are an ever increasing number of IDO approved events: generally national events, many of them open. IDO-appointed supervisors ensure proper organisation and adjudication, relying on judges who hold minimum a national license. On the other end are the official IDO events – World/Continental Championships, Cups, Masters, etc. – where the panels are made up exclusively of IDO-licensed judges. Among these official events is one held annually in Moscow, RUS. It combines top-level competition in nearly all IDO disciplines with IDSF Opens in Latin and Standard. Despite the economic crisis affecting the world of DanceSport as much as everything else, over 12,000 dancers were accredited in May 2009. *“And each of our disciplines contested in Russia does have its own panel of specialist judges”*, President Fowler points out.

Judging

To become an IDO-licensed judge, an applicant needs to hold a license issued by the national member federation and must be nominated by the latter. Only then can he or she attend an IDO-run seminar, where lectures and a 100-question exam focus on the competition rules and on the mechanics of judging. While points systems are used for the preliminaries, all finals in the IDO disciplines are judged with the skating system.

Additional examinations put the candidates' knowledge of every dance style for which they want to be licensed to a test. Command over proper technique and knowledge of teaching methodology are prerequisite. *“The candidates could be challenged to provide a basic outline for running a class in Flamenco”*, is how Fowler describes a screening which needs to confirm the candidates' unquestionable expertise. Obtaining a license in certain dance styles definitely requires a professional background of the candidates.

Before the actual license is awarded for the discipline, the candidates are put to a final test. *“They have to mock judge at an official IDO Championship, working alongside the proper panel without their scores being considered for the results”*, Fowler explains. Only after the hands-on evaluation of their judging skills are they entitled to adjudicate for a period of three years, before they are required to take a refresher course. On top of that, a two-hour judges' briefing precedes all IDO events.





The Future

IDO has consolidated itself as a governing body and as a worldwide movement for DanceSport of the most varied kind. "We had some 25,000 dancers back in 1998, today we register over 250,000 at our events", says President Fowler. And further growth is on the horizon. While IDO is firmly established in all of Europe and North America – even in South Africa – other continents and key countries have only recently joined and started to play an active role. Australia has held its first approved event this March, Japan sends dancers to some of the championships, but many more are just now getting organised. "Asia is a continent where dance is booming and where we still have open territory", says Fowler. "Even in Japan we have disciplines in the Performing Arts that are hugely popular and that we have not yet been able to crack – and then there is China!" And South America, too, is still lagging behind. But IDO is confident that it will grow on these continents in the foreseeable future.

The problem of expanding IDO membership further is found in the nature of some of its dance disciplines. "Many of our dancers come off 'the streets', organisation is not their strongest side, and they take a little longer in getting their national body together and sorting out their affiliation", Michael Wendt describes the typical participants in the most contemporary styles. What should help this particular generation is the fact that IDO conducts all of its business online. "Our organisation got started together with the Internet – virtually at the same time – that is why we never have any papers to fill in", says Wendt. "Licenses, competition enrolments, whatever – it is all done online; after every event the official results are uploaded directly to our website: this helps in running a global organisation". It also helps in the administration of events which have reached the limits of manageability in their most recent editions. Certain World Championships have grown so big that IDO will soon have to limit the entries from one country to two per category and age division. All events include at least three age grades: Children (11 years and under); Junior (12 to 15 years); Adult (16 years and over). An Adult 2 grade (31 and over) for all and Senior grades for some disciplines are frequently contested in conjunction with the others.

IDSF Championships, Cups, Grand Slams Results

2008 IDSF Grand Slam Final Standard

Tokyo, JPN, 24/11

1	Paolo Bosco / Silvia Pitton	ITA
2	Benedetto Ferruggia / Claudia Koehler	GER
3	Andrea Ghigiarelli / Sara Andracchio	ITA
4	Marat Gimaev / Alina Basiyuk	RUS
5	Simone Segatori / Annette Sudol	GER
6	Federico Di Toro / Genny Favero	ITA
7	Sergey Konovaltsev / Olga Konovaltseva	RUS
8	Wiktor Kiszka / Malgorzata Garlicka	POL
9	Valerio Colantoni / Sara Di Vaira	ITA
10	Donatas Vezelis / Lina Chatkeviciute	LTU
11	Angelo Madonia / Jerena Samuilova	LAT
12	Ivan Novikov / Margarita Klimenko	RUS
13	Masayuki Ishihara / Ayami Kubo	JPN

2008 IDSF Grand Slam Final Latin

Tokyo, JPN, 24/11

1	Stefano Di Filippo / Anna Melnikova	ITA
2	Alexey Silde / Anna Firstova	RUS
3	Zoran Plohl / Tatsiana Lahvinovich	CRO
4	Nino Langella / Natalya Maidiuk	ITA
5	Evgeny Imrekov / Elizaveta Divak	RUS
6	Martino Zanibellato / Michelle Abildtrup	DEN
7	Vladimir Karpov / Maria Tzaptashvilli	RUS
8-9	Nikolay Voronovich / Maria Nikolishina	RUS
8-9	Timo Kulczak / Moshegetsy Mabuse	GER
10	Jesper Birkehoj / Anna Kravchenko	GER
11-12	Marek Dedik / Kristina Horvatova	SVK
11-12	Zufar Zaripov / Anna Ludwig-Tchemodourova	AUT
13	Yumiya Kubota / Rala Kubota	JPN

2008 IDSF World Latin

Melbourne, AUS, 15/12

1	Stefano Di Filippo / Anna Melnikova	ITA
2	Alexey Silde / Anna Firstova	RUS
3	Andrey Zaitsev / Anna Kuzminskaya	RUS
4	Zoran Plohl / Tatsiana Lahvinovich	CRO
5	Jurij Batagelj / Jagoda Strukelj	SLO
6	Martino Zanibellato / Michelle Abildtrup	DEN
7	Nino Langella / Natalia Maidiuk	ITA
8	Michael Miziner / Anastasia Belykh	AUS
9	Mirko Sciolan / Nuria Santalucia	AUS
10	Zufar Zaripov / Anna Ludwig-Tchemodourova	AUT
11	Timo Kulczak / Moshhegetsy Mabuse	GER
12	Jesper Birkehoj / Anastasiya Kravchenko	GER

2009 IDSF World Cup Latin

Antwerpen, BEL, 07/02

1	Jurij Batagelj / Jagoda Strukelj	SLO
2	Aniello Langella / Natalija Maidiuk	ITA
3	Jevgenijs Suvorovs / Andrea Zelinkova	LAT
4	Andrea Silvestri / Martina Varadi	HUN
5	Manuel Frighetto / Carin Rooba	EST
6	Sergey Tatarenko / Viktoria Tatarenko	GER
7-8	Jean-Philippe Milot / Laurence Bolduc	CAN
7-8	Stefano Oradei / Veera Kinnunen	SWE
9	Joonas Piippola / Katri Mäkinen	FIN
10	Shi Lei / Zhang Baiyu	CHN
11	Jiri Hein / Lucia Krncanova	SLO
12	Giacomo Cucchese / Elena Mantaluta	MDA

2009 IDSF World Junior II Latin

Bassano, ITA, 14/02

1	Dmitry Bunin / Natalia Rusetskaya	RUS
2	Valery Pavlov / Karolin Maevskaya	RUS
3	Adrian Kopczynsky / Natalia Globocka	POL
4	Sergejus Skripchenko / Goda Zajauskaite	LIT
5	Winson Tam / Anna Nina Kus	CAN
6	Enrico Cavazza / Valentina Fiorini	ITA
7-8	Marco De Angelis / Erika Attisano	ITA
7-8	Drobotov Roman / Xeniya Ovchynnykova	UKR
9-10	Szymon Sabatowicz / Natalia Krzyszton	POL
9-10	Vadim Gorbach / Jana Rubleva	BLR
11	Ion Simboteanu / Ina Motnaia	MDA
12	Arturs Freimanis / Agate Labalaika	LAT
13	Abylaikhan Akkubekov / Veronika Popova	KAZ

2009 IDSF Grand Slam Latin

Aarhus, DEN, 14/02

1	Stefano Di Filippo / Anna Melnikova	ITA
2	Andrey Zaitsev / Anna Kuzmunskaia	RUS
3	Jurij Batagelj / Jagoda Strukelj	SLO
4	Zoran Plohl / Tatsiana Lahvinovich	CRO
5	Aniello Langella / Natalija Maidiuk	ITA
6	Martino Zanibellato - Michelle Abildtrup	DEN
7	Evgeny Imrekov - Elizaveta Divak	RUS
8	Nikita Brovko - Alina Zharullina	RUS
9	Karpov Vladimir - Mariya Tzaptashvilli	RUS
10-11	Valentin Voronov - Alina Imrekova	RUS
10-11	Jesper Birkehoj - Anastasiya Kravchenko	GER
12	Nikolai Voronovich - Maria Nikolishina	RUS

2009 IDSF Grand Slam Latin

Tokyo, JPN 08/03

1	Silde Alexey / Firstova Anna	RUS
2	Zaitsev Andrey / Kuzminskaya Anna	RUS
3	Plohl Zoran / Lahvinovich Tatsiana	CRO
4	Batagelj Jurij / Strukelj Jagoda	SLO
5	Zanibellato Martino / Abildrup Michelle	DEN
6	Imrekov Evgeny / Divak Elizaveta	RUS
7	Langella Aniello / Maidiuk Natalia	ITA
8	Smagin Evgeny / Kazachenko Polina	RUS
9	Goffredo Gabriele / Goffredo Antonella	ITA
10	Karpov Vladimir / Tzaptshvilli Maria	RUS
11	Zaripov Zufar / Tchemodourova Anna	AUT
12	Kishishisn Arsen / Nikitenko Yuliya	AUS
13	Kulczak Timo / Mabuse Motshegets	GER

2009 IDSF Grand Slam Standard

Tokyo, JPN, 08/03

1	Ferruggia Benedetto / Koehler Claudia	GER
2	Ghigiarelli Andrea / Andracchio Sara	ITA
3	Segatori Simone / Sudol Annette	GER
4	Konovaltsev Sergey / Konovaltseva Olga	RUS
5	Bussoletti Luca / Vulic Tjasa	SLO
6	Kiszka Wiktor / Garlicka Margorzata	POL
7	Dvorak Martin / Silhanova Zuzana	CZE
8	Yang Chao / TanYiling	CHN
9	Zharkov Dmitry / Kulikova Olga	RUS
10	Gasjuns Edgars / Saykina Yulia	LAT
11	Petrov Yury / Kozhukar Yana	UKR
12	Muretov Alexander / Killirova Ekaterina	RUS

2009 IDSF European Cup Standard

Marseille, FRA, 21/03

1	Nikolay Darin / Ekaterina Fedotkina	RUS
2	Luca Bussoletti / Tjasa Vulic	SLO
3	Rosario Guerra / Grazia Benincasa	ITA
4	Evaldas Sodeika / Ieva Zukauskaite	LIT
5	Oliver Rehder / Jasmin Rehder	GER
6	Steeve Gaudet / Laure Colmard	FRA
7	Edgars Gasjuns / Juliya Saikina	LAT
8	Vladimir Slon / Bianka Zubrowska	AUT
9	Krzysztof Musiol / Katarzyna Kozlowska	POL
10	Stanislav Portanenko / Natalya Kolyada	UKR
11-12	Siarhei Kisialiou / Ekaterina Popova	BLR
11-12	Bogdan Tyaglyy / Natalia Shegutova	AZE
13	Herman Lak / Michele Gleimann	NED
14-15	Yov Eussen / Elisabeth Novotny	SWE
14-15	Szymon Kulish / Margarita Zvonova	EST

IDSF World Junior II Ten Dance

Moscow, RUS, 28/03

1	Valeriy Pavlov / Karolina Maevskaya	RUS
2	Adrian Kopczynski / Natalia Glebocka	POL
3	Sergejus Skripchenko / Goda Zajauskaite	LTU
4	Valeriu Ursache / Tatiana Sceghiriova	MDN
5	Mykyta Klyuchko / Mariya Krivko	UKR
6	Matteo Trincia / Julia Di Nardo	ITA
7	Winson Tam / Anna Kus	CAN
8	Aliksei Tkachuk / Nadzeya Valui	BLR
9	Ilija Schaefer / Christina Zelt	GER
10	Arturs Freimanis / Agate Labalaika	LAT
11	Daniel Shapiro / Katya Kovalyova	USA
12	Dimitar Stefanin / Daniela Makneva	BUL
13	Abylaikhan Akkubekov / Veronika Popova	KAZ
14	Dusan Grla / Alexandra Ksiazekova	SVK

IDSF European Cup Ten Dance

Moscow, RUS, 04/04

1	Domenico Cannizzaro / Agnese Junkure	ITA
2	Anton Azanov / Ekaterina Isakovich	RUS
3	Miha Vodigar / Nadiya Bychkova	SLO
4	Valentin Lusin / Renata Busheeva	GER
5	Steeve Gaudet / Laure Colmard	FRA
6	Isaac Rovira / Desiree Martin	ESP
7	Vladimir Slon / Bianka Zubrowska	AUT
8-9	Vladimir Besarab / Ekaterina Petrova	MDA
8-9	Nikolay Fanagin / Valeria Fetisova	EST
10	Artsiom Kazyra / Anastasia Veslova	BLR
11	Piotr Wlodarczyk / Marta Wach	POL
12	Lukas Spisak / Eva Tibenska	SVK
13	Ivan Knezevic / Milena Zogovic	SRB

2009 IDSF European Standard

Megève, FRA, 11/04

1	Benedetto Ferruggia / Claudia Koehler	GER
2	Marat Gimaev / Alina Basyuk	RUS
3	Emanuel Valeri / Tania Kehlet	DEN
4	Simone Segatori / Anette Sudol	GER
5	Federico Di Toro / Genny Favero	ITA
6	Marco Cavallaro / Joanne Clifton	GBR
7	Viktor Kiszka / Malgorzata Garlicka	POL
8	Valerio Colantoni / Sara Di Vaira	ITA
9	Marek Kosaty / Paulina Glazik	POL
10	Nikolaï Darin / Ekaterina Fedotkina	RUS
11	Luca Bussoletti / Tjasa Vulic	SLO
12	Donatas Vezelis / Lina Chatkeviciute	LTU

2009 IDSF European Cup Latin

Linz, AUT, 18/04

1	Evgeny Imrekov / Elizaveta Divak	RUS
2	Gabriele Goffredo / Antonia Goffredo	ITA
3	Zufar Zaripov / Anna Ludwig-Tchemodourova	AUT
4	Jevgenijs Suvorovs / Andrea Zelinkova	LAT
5	Mykhaylo Bilopykhov / Anastasia Shpylyina	UKR
6	Manuel Frighetto / Karin Rooba	EST
7	Stefano Oradei / Veera Kinnunen	SWE
8	Ivan Bocharov / Josefina Ortova	CZE
9	Andras Faluvegi / Mirona Toncean	ROM
10	Marc Ocana / Maria Larionova	ESP
11	Marko Paunovic / Ana Mijailovic	SRB
12	Yosef Laskin / Evgenia Libman	ISR

2009 IDSF Central European Latin

Mikolajki, POL, 18/04

1	Marek Dedik / Kristina Horvatova	SVK
2	Krystian Radziejowski / Sylwia Maczek	POL
3	Sergey Tatarenko / Viktoria Tatarenko	GER
4	Laszlo Kovacs / Erika Kelemen	HUN
5	Michał Stukan / Susanne Miscenko	GER
6	Jiri Hein / Lucia Krncanova	SVK
7-8	Balazs Nagymihaly / Szilvia Szogi	HUN
7-8	Krzysztof Psciuk / Monika Heinze	POL
9	Iliia Russo / Maria Albert	SVK
10-11	Paweł Muchewicz / Karolina Urban	POL
10-11	Marvin Nigg / Claudia Obmascher	AUT
12	Filip Karasek / Sabina Piskova	CZE

2009 IDSF European Youth Standard

Krakow, POL, 25/04

1	Jacek Jeschke / Wiktoria Wior	POL
2	Igor Kruglov / Olga Sherbina	RUS
3	Ilya Mazurov / Svetlana Tikhonova	RUS
4	Dariusz Mycka / Hanna Zudziejewicz	POL
5	David Moretti / Francesca Sfascia	ITA
6	Errol Williamson / Christine Hojmark	DEN
7	Yaroslav Byelyey / Elizaveta Mokeeva	UKR
8-9	Ronalds Abols / Santa Vitenberga	LAT
8-9	Gerds Ivuskans / Beate Katrina Zeltina	LAT
10	Luca Balestra / Klizia Balestra	ITA
11	Cristian Radvan / Tatiana Seliverstova	MDA
12	Konstantin Gorodilov / Emma-Leena Koger	EST

2009 IDSF European Latin

Oldenburg, GER, 25/04

1	Stefano Di Filippo / Anna Melnikova	ITA
2	Alexey Silde / Anna Firstova	RUS
3	Zoran Plohl / Tatsiana Lahvinivich	CRO
4	Jurij Batagelj / Jagoda Strukelj	SLO
5	Martino Zanibellato / Michelle Abildtrup	DEN
6	Timo Kulczak / Motshegetsu Mabuse	GER
7	Liepnieks, Valts / Diure, Daniela	RUS
8	Gabriele Goffredo / Antonia Goffredo	ITA
9-10	Sergey Tatarenko / Viktoria Tatarenko	GER
9-10	Zufar Zaripov / Anna Ludwig-Tchemodourova	AUT
11	Marek Dedík / Kristína Horvátová	SVK
12	Andrea Silvestri / Martina Váradi	HUN

2009 IDSF Grand Slam Latin

Platja d' Aro, ESP, 01/05

1	Silde Alexei / Firstova Anna	RUS
2	Karpov Vladimir / Tzaptashvilli Maria	RUS
3	Goffredo Gabriele / Goffredo Antonella	ITA
4	Imametdinov Timur / Nikolaeva Ekaterina	RUS
5	Kulczak Timo / Mabuse Motshegetsu	GER
6	Voronovich Nikolay / Nikolishina Maria	RUS
7	Rodríguez Ruben / Zyuzuyukina Elena	ESP
8	Zaripov Zufar / Ludwig-Tchemodourova Anna	AUT
9-10	Tatrenko Sergey / Tatarenko Viktoria	GER
9-10	Suvorovs Jevgenij / Zelinkova Andrea	LAT
11	Belyayev Anton / Popova Antoaneta	CAN
12	Pasechnik Pavel / Berardi Francesca	ITA
13	Kutuzovs Daniils / Puhovika Viktoria	LAT

2009 IDSF World Senior II Standard

Platja d'Aro, ESP, 02/05

1	Lindner Michael / Lindner Beate	GER
2	Valenta Walter / Maurer Irmtraud	AUT
3	Destri Roberto / Lentini Giuseppina	ITA
4	Mannello Luciano / Presti Patrizia	ITA
5	Farwick Bernd / Voosholz Petra	GER
6	Reimann Raymund / Schulz Antje	GER
7	Lazzareschi Bruno / Zotta Ida	ITA
8	Aurigemma Mario / de Falco Maria	ITA
9-10	Halfmeier Claus / Halfmeier Britta	GER
9-10	Molteni Massimo / Pignataro Clara	ITA
11	Diotallevi Giampaolo / Marini Cristiana	ITA
12	Taniguchi Kazuyoshi / Taniguchi Sayoko	JPN



New Openings 2008

- Barceló** Cologne City Center | Germany
- Barceló** Hammamet | Tunisia
- Barceló Old Town Praha** | Czech Republic
- Barceló** Castellana Norte | Spain
- Barceló** Alba de Layos | Spain
- Barceló** Asia Gardens | Spain
- Barceló** Punta Umbria Encbrales | Spain
- Barceló** Raval | Spain

