

# Dance Flame

The Official Newsletter of the Singapore DanceSport Federation

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## OUR YOUNG DANCERS IN ITALY



*Timothy & Wan Ching Proudly Hold Up The Singapore Flag in Bassano Del Grappa, Italy*



*Timothy & Wan Ching On The Dance Floor*

For 13-year old Timothy Ong and 12-year old Pang Wan Ching, competing in a World Championship in Italy was the farthest thing on their minds when they first started dancing together in 2006. That was when they first competed in the Latin Grade E (Upper Primary Cha-Cha-Cha, Rumba and Jive) as well as in the Juvenile Latin category.

DanceFlame interviews them in a candid setting in this issue, sharing with us their experiences competing in the 2009 IDSF World Junior II Latin Championships in Bassano Del Grappa, Italy.

**DF: How did you manage to pair up with each other?**

WC: I enrolled at Shawn & Gladys DanceWorld for a Children's Class in 2004. Teacher Gladys (Mrs Gladys Tay) paired us up in 2006.

TO: Yes (giving us his mischievous smile)

**DF: How did you take to the preparation of this competition?**

TO: The competition was just after the Chinese New Year, so we had to try not to eat too much cookies in case we cannot fit into our costumes.

WC: I missed eating all the yummy cookies that we had at home

**DF: What were your first impressions of Italy?**

TO: Cold. We arrived at night and the bus from the airport to the hotel was late

WC: Very cold and hungry.

TO: And we went to this restaurant and had pasta near our hotel.

WC: And the competitors were bigger than us!!!!

(Both kids burst into giggles)

**DF: Were you both scared at dancing at such an important competition, representing your country?**

WC: Yes. I was very nervous but luckily my parents were with me to comfort me throughout the competition

TO: I danced the competition like any other competition. Just to go out to the dance floor and enjoy myself.

WC: The European dancers were all very, very good.

**DF: Did you make any friends in Italy?**

WC: I was too nervous and shy to speak to some of them

TO: Yeah, me too.

(Both kids burst into giggles again)

**DF: What did you learn from this competition?**

WC: That we need to try harder and work harder

TO: When is the next competition?

WC: We always look forward to the next competition

**DF: Thank you, Timothy & Wan Ching. We wish you all the very best in your future competitions.**

## 2009 – An Eventful Start To The Year

### FEBRUARY 2009



The competition year started early in 2009 – in the month of February. While many were still celebrating the Lunar New Year, four of our athletes were preparing to travel to Bassano Del Grappa, Italy for the 2009 IDSF World Junior II Latin Championships, and the Bassano Open Championships.

Representing Singapore in the Junior II Latin were Timothy Ong & Pang Wan Ching, and in the Bassano Open were Lim Chong Aik & Riane Low.

Mr Robert Ong was nominated by the IDSF as one of the Adjudicators for the event.

### MARCH 2009



March was a busy month for the SGDF, beginning with the 2009 Tokyo Open (IDSF Grand Slam) Championships and the IDSF Adjudicators' Congress. The IDSF Adjudicators' Congress was attended by Mr Robert Ong & Ms Sabrina Sim. The Congress was conducted by Ms Natasa Ambroz, Mr Ralf Lepehne and Ms Jennifer Hillier. The 2009 Tokyo Open Championships were held the next day, and Singapore was represented by Lim Chong Aik & Riane Low, and Lim De Xian & Kek Wei Lin (photo left). Mr Robert Ong was invited as one of the Adjudicators for the event.

Immediately following the Tokyo Open, the 9<sup>th</sup> SGDF Singapore Nationals DanceSport Championships were held a week later. The Chairman of Adjudicators was Ms Natasa Ambroz (Slovenia). Overseas adjudicators at this event included Nick Fok (Hong Kong), George Tan (Malaysia) and Sylvia Loo (Malaysia). The event was held at the Hougang Community Club, and this was the second time that the Nationals were held at this venue

Ms Natasa Ambroz also conducted several workshops for our members the next day after the event. This was very well attended by members who came away with valuable knowledge and lessons on basic dance techniques, and ways to better improve their dancing.

### APRIL 2009



Two pairs of athletes represented Singapore at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thailand DanceSport Open Championships 2009 in April. They were Lim Chong Aik & Riane Low, and Sng Li Wei & Tan Wei Jing.

Ms Sabrina Sim was one of the adjudicators at the event. It was a two day event, and the experience of competing against other athletes in the region was valuable.

It was also a time to renew old friendship, and foster new ones. All in the spirit of sports, where color, race and creed knows no boundaries, and everyone was happy to see each other.

## 2009 – An Eventful Start To The Year

### MAY 2009



The Korea Open Championships 2009 was held in Seoul, Korea. Singapore was represented by Lim De Xian & Kek Wei Lin, Sng Li Wei & Tan Wei Jing, and Mario Palermo & Irma Tan. Ms Sabrina Sim was one of the invited adjudicators.

Our congratulations to Mario Palermo & Irma Tan for making the semi-finals of the Latin Grade A (IDSF International Open).



### JULY 2009



Singapore was specially invited to participate in an Invitational Event at the Final Malaysia National Ranking Championships, held in Batu Pahat. A team of 10 athletes (Latin Grade C) and 2 athletes (Latin Junior), accompanied by parents and supporters were present at the Championship. Supporting this event were Ms May Ng, the emcee for the event; Mr Michael Lim & Ms Hwa Mee Thoo, the official scrutineers; and Mr Robert Ong & Ms Sabrina Sim, the overseas adjudicators.

The team came away victorious, returning home with a medal haul of 1 Gold, 2 Silvers and 1 Bronze Medal. Our Latin Grade C athletes did Singapore proud by finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> placing, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Latin Junior event. For many in the Latin Grade C event, this was their first Grade C event, and first overseas championship.

# OUR FIRST CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Lim De Xian & Kek Wei Lin



*Lim De Xian & Kek Wei Lin  
(File Photo By Tan Poh Sim)*

The nervousness in us did not set in till the night before the competition at the grand ballroom of Shang Ri La, Manila. The butterflies in my stomach reminded me of how green we are to this realm and grade of competition. I can still remember the first time we touched the Grade A competitive floor overseas, it was both exhilarating and intimidating. Tomorrow, though not our virgin competition, was the first major competition we are taking part in.

The morning came quickly, as we woke up and prepared ourselves; make up, costumes, warm ups and hairdo. Before long we were in the competitors' holding room waiting our turn on the floor. Bracing ourselves, we did the best we could on the floor and completed the rounds we are involved in.

Our results were expected and rather demoralizing at first. We felt the routine thoughts of "Oh we should have had more practice!" and "That wasn't our best attempt yet!" running through our minds.

These slowly went away as one of the judges gave us kudos for a job well done, he said we improved quite a significant bit since our last competition. This was all we needed to hear!

The competition was over, the anxiety and tension finally ebbed away. Only now did we take notice to our surroundings. The hotel we were in, no doubt one of the finest in the region, was beautiful and the city outside its doors, fast asleep now, was waiting to come back to life. Manila has a very beautiful morning, which presented itself to me when I drew the curtains in the morning letting the sun paint the room an orange glow. The morning sun slowly faded as we rushed to pack our bags so that we would have enough time to catch a glimpse of the city before coming back home.

We would say the trip was indeed a success and we are winners still. It has enriched our dancing and our partnership greatly, with a promise and drive to perform better and better each day.

## **COMING UP IN AUGUST 2009:**

The 8<sup>th</sup> SGDF Singapore Open DanceSport Championships featuring the 2009 IDSF Asia-Pacific DanceSport Championships will again be held in Singapore on Saturday 1 August 2009, at the Conference Halls A-F of the Singapore Expo.

The event will feature both the Standard & Latin Asia-Pacific events, as well as the IDSF Open Standard & Latin events and lower grade events. Catch all the excitement of the regional dancesport athletes at these Championships. For details, log on to [www.dancesport.org.sg](http://www.dancesport.org.sg)

