

Dance Flame

The Official Newsletter of the Singapore DanceSport Federation

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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10th SGDF SINGAPORE NATIONALS

The 10th SGDF Singapore National DanceSport Championships were held on Sunday 24 January 2010, at the Nanyang Technological University. In conjunction with the Singapore Nationals, NTU DanceSport Academy (DSA) took the opportunity to host the 3rd NTU Tertiary DanceSport Championships. Guest-of-Honour at this event was Mr Seah Kian Peng (MP Marine Parade GRC).

CLASSIFICATION OF DANCES	2004-2007	2007-2009	From 2010
GRADE A Latin: S, C, R, P, J Standard: W, T, VW, F, QS	No restrictions on number of events to participate	Some restrictions Introduced – Only max 2 Adjacent events	Elite/Feeder Band 1 (Gr A & B)
GRADE B Latin: S, C, R, J Standard: W, T, F, QS			Intermediate Band 2 (Gr C & D)
GRADE C Latin: C, R, J Standard: W, T, QS			Beginners Band 3 (Gr E)
GRADE D Latin: C, R Standard: W, T			
GRADE E Latin: Any of the 5 dances Standard: Any of the 5 dances			

New in these Nationals, was the introduction of 'Bands'. After several years of fine-tuning and studying the old system, the SGDF Competitions Committee headed by President Mr Robert Ong, came out with a new system to ensure that athletes were participating in their 'correct' events. This came about when feedback was sought from many lower grade athletes, who strongly felt that it was unfair for competitors in Grade C and Grade D to compete with genuine beginners in Grade E events. With this structure in place, the Nationals saw many new partnerships in the Grade E events.

The SGDF is now able to organise workshops based upon the correct level of competitive preparedness, and also identify athletes to be either at the Beginner's Level, Intermediate Level or in the Feeder/Elite Squad. Many athletes approached said that this was a fantastic idea as it encourages them to work harder to move up into the various classifications, and that it was also easier to identify problems to be addressed at various levels of dance.

In the efforts to ensure transparency and fairness of the results, three famous overseas regional adjudicators were invited to be on the panel of adjudicators. These were Mr George Tan (Chairman, Malaysia), Ms Sylvia Loo (Malaysia), Mrs Mary Yeh (Chinese Taipei). In compliance with other IDSF events, the required scrutineering system was employed, ably led by Mr Michael Lim, Mr Gabriel Ang and Ms Rosanne Chong. Their hardwork paid off when results into the next round were made available within minutes of the event completion – with clockwork precision and accuracy.



On the day of the Championships, the Sports Hall 3 (Sports & Recreation Centre) of NTU was transformed into a beautiful venue, with good lighting and acoustics. These alone was sufficient motivation for our budding athletes to give their best performance in search for honours. Officials from the Singapore Sports Council (SSC) who were present at the event commented that the SGDF was to be commended for guiding NTU DSA for hosting the Nationals for the third time. Special mention must also go to Mr Ethan Ow (NTU DSA President) and Ms Joyce Neo (Organising Chairperson) for their hard work in getting the venue ready, and for being such wonderful hosts.





The emcee, Ms May Ng (left), dictated the events for the day like the commander of a battleship – everything ran smoothly as planned, with little margin for errors. From the word “GO”, Ms Ng was in total control.

The event began promptly at 2:00pm, and eager athletes and their supporters were the venue as early as 12:30pm. All the overseas adjudicators arrived at the venue by 1:30pm and the adjudicators were all happy to see each other – such is the close friendship and camaraderie evident in dancesports. For Mr George Tan & Sylvia Loo, the Singapore Nationals was a familiar event to them. For Mrs Mary Yeh, this was her first appearance in our Nationals, and she was impressed that NTU was able to host an event of such a scale. She further commented that other regional institutions should learn from what NTU DSA has achieved and host such events.

The Adjudicators’ Briefing was conducted by the Chairman of Adjudicators Mr George Tan, and adjudicators were informed that for the Grade E events, only the IDSF Restricted Syllabus will be used.

The Championships also featured the much-awaited Tertiary Latin Team Match which was contest by the three educational institutions, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Polytechnic and Ngee Ann Polytechnic. The event was won by Nanyang Technological University, also winning the Best Opening Item title.



Team Match Participants With Guest-of-Honour Mr Seah Kian Peng, MP for Marine Parade GRC



Tertiary Team Match Winners
Nanyang Technological University with Mr Seah Kian Peng



Organising Chairperson Ms Joyce Neo
Jumping For Joy After Organising a Successful Event!

IDSF GRAND SLAM STANDARD & LATIN

Tokyo – 7th March 2010

The second Grand Slam event for 2010 was held on 7th March 2010 in Tokyo, Japan as part of the 12th International Open Tokyo DanceSport Championships. The competition was the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium. Having more than 140 athletes (70 couples) registered for each category, the event began as early at 8:30am, with the bus leaving the hotel at 6:40am.

The new IDSF Adjudication System was tested for a second time, the first being Shanghai in 2009. Training on the use of this new computerised system was provided to all adjudicators prior to the event, and the adjudicators had to arrive in Tokyo one day before the competition for this training. This new system provides fairness and objectivity for all couples – hence there would be no incidents of biasness nor ‘results fixing’. Hence the use of open marking was not used, so as not to influence adjudicator’s ranking of individual couples. This was understandable from the view of the athletes concerned. However for the audience a compromise was reached – the marks could be clearly seen on large screens in the competition venue, placed visibly for the audience but not for the adjudicators. Another step for more objectivity was to eliminate the best and worst marking. So out of eleven adjudicators, only nine markings would constitute the result.

The final results are as follows:

GRAND SLAM STANDARD FINAL	GRAND SLAM LATIN FINAL
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Benedetto Ferruggia – Claudia Köhler (Germany) 2. Andrea Ghiggiarelli – Sara Andracchio (Italy) 3. Emanuel Valeri – Tanja Kehlet (Denmark) 4. Simone Segatori – Annette Sudol (Germany) 5. Federico Di Toro – Genny Favero (Italy) 6. Dmitriy Zharkov – Olga Kulikova (Russia) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alexey Silde – Anna Firstova (Russia) 2. Andrey Zaitsev – Anna Kuzminskaya (Russia) 3. Zoran Plohl – Tatsiana Lahvinovic (Croatia) 4. Martino Zanibellato – Michelle Abiltrup (Denmark) 5. Vladimir Karpov - Maria Tsaptashvili (Russia) 6. Gabriele Goffredo – Antonella Goffredo (Italy)

Singapore’s representatives to this event were Lim Chong Aik & Riane Low, and Rick Peh & Joy Stephanny Lau (right). This was the first overseas competition for Rick & Joy.

The performance and results of Lim Chong Aik & Riane Low also caught the attention of their German coach, Mr Markus Sonyi, who sent an email to the SGDF after the event, stating that he sees with *“some pleasure the positive result of Rianne and Chong in the recent Grand Slam. Being in the 48 shows some much appreciated improvement!!”* and went to say this he has known them *“for some years now and following them at least from time to time, it is nice to see a smooth and constant development over the time.”*



Both Chong Aik & Riane are students at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, and are currently trained by National Coaches Shawn & Gladys Tay, and guest foreign coach Mario Palermo (Italy).

CHANGES TO ADJUDICATING CRITERIA

In late-January a three session workshop on the new judging criteria for competitors, introduced by the IDSF was conducted by Mrs Gladys Tay, National DanceSport Coach. It was attended by students from Ngee Ann Polytechnic and Singapore Polytechnic's respective dancesport clubs. This covered the Restricted Syllabus which will be commonly used worldwide, and being developed by Ms Natasa Ambroz (Slovenia) and Mr Shawn Tay (Singapore). Feedback from the participants was very encouraging, with many saying that "it was truly an eye-opener" as this was the first time that they were exposed to high-quality teaching and coaching.

Both Slovenia & Singapore are working together to develop a more structured approach to the Restricted Syllabus to be used in Asia.

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3 April 2010	11 th SGDF Singapore National DanceSport Championships	Singapore
16-18 April 2010	IDSF World Youth Ten Dance Championships	Toronto, Canada
18 April 2010	MPDC Malaysia Ranking DanceSport Championships	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
24 April 2010	IDSF World Youth Latin Championships	Linz, Austria
1 May 2010	IDSF World Youth Standard Championships	Seoul, Korea
8-9 May 2010	King's Cup Thailand Open Championships	Bangkok, Thailand
27 June 2010	Asian World DanceSport Festival	Tokyo, Japan
3 July 2010	IDSF World Superstars	Singapore
7-8 August 2010	IDSF World Cup Standard	Chengdu, China
28-29 August 2010	IDSF Asia-Pacific DanceSport Championships	Chun Cheon, Korea
28-29 August 2010	World Cup Ten Dance Championships	Chun Cheon, Korea
25 September 2010	IDSF World Senior I Standard Championships	Dresden, Germany
2-3 October 2010	IDSF Asian DanceSport Championships	Macau
10 October 2010	Taipei Open DanceSport Championships	Taipei, Chinese Taipei
10 October 2010	World University DanceSport Championships	Taipei, Chinese Taipei
13 November 2010	IDSF World Latin DanceSport Championships	New York, USA
13-14 November 2010	16 th Asian Games (DanceSport)	Guangzhou, China
27-28 November 2010	Asian Youth DanceSport Championships	Hong Kong
4 December 2010	IDSF Grand Slam Finals	Shanghai, China
18 December 2010	IDSF World Junior II Latin Championships	Riga, Latvia

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF DANCEFLAME

- coverage of the 11th SGDF Singapore National DanceSport Championships
- reporting from Toronto on the World Youth Ten Dance Championships
- MPDC Malaysia Ranking DanceSport Championships
- and more