

# Dance Flame

The Official Newsletter of the Singapore DanceSport Federation

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## 11<sup>th</sup> SGDF SINGAPORE NATIONALS

The 11<sup>th</sup> SGDF Singapore National DanceSport Championships kicked off the new financial year (FY10) with a bang – at a new venue and with new challenges! The beautifully-renovated indoor sports hall at Raffles Institution provided an environment that was perfect for such an event. SGDF had the honour to test out the venue, which was freshly renovated in time for the coming 2010 Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

The event itself was also challenging for both competitors and organisers. For the first time, the SGDF invited guest competitors, from neighbouring country federations, to compete in selected events. This is to provide a new impetus for improvement for our local athletes and at the same time, offer loyal supporters the opportunity to view new faces with different styles of dancing from the region.

Something new for our local athletes to look forward to was the revised ranking points for National Championships with foreign participation. The SGDF Executive Committee recognised that with foreign participation at the Nationals, the competitive bar to do well was raised and hence, as a further motivation to our athletes, the ranking points were doubled. This new system was very well received by our athletes.



The Championships started promptly and the spectators clearly enjoyed the competition. The inclusion of the team from Malaysia was indeed a welcome change. The Guest-of-Honour was Mr Tan Nam Seng, Deputy Principal (Planning & Resources) (left).

During the dinner break, a short video on the projects, initiatives and events that the SGDF has organised in the past eight years was screened. It brought back memories for many who were present in the audience, and it became a talking point over dinner.

We look forward to your support at the 12<sup>th</sup> SGDF Singapore National DanceSport Championships at the end of the year.

## SGDF INVITED TO MALAYSIA

Following the idea that started in 2009, Singapore athletes were invited to Malaysia to participate in the Malaysia Professional DanceSport Council (MPDC) National Ranking Championships. The idea was first discussed between SGDF President Mr Robert Ong and MPDC President Mr George Tan, that both countries could start inviting each other to help raise the standards of competition, and to foster closer friendship between officials, coaches and athletes. The team from Singapore was led by Ms Tiara Zhang and Mr Rick Peh, both seasoned competitors. The SGDF chartered a bus which took the competitors to Kuala Lumpur for the Championship, which was held on 18 April 2010. SGDF members can look forward to more 'dancesport' exchanges in the future.

# OUR FIRST CHAMPIONSHIPS

By YANG ZHENG HAN & CHERIE TAN



The fateful day was 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009 – The Shawn and Gladys Danceworld DanceSport Championships. It was to be our first competition together, an opportunity to put the past few months of training to the test.

We arrived at the competition venue having thought that we were ready in terms of our appearance, but we were so wrong. Comments came in from everywhere telling us how our make-up was not ‘latin’ enough, how our hairdo were not up to standard and that our costumes were not worn properly. It startled us because we would never have imagined the detail that we have to put into such preparations, even before dancing!

Such miscellaneous thoughts filled our minds and did their best to distract us from dwelling too much on the ‘what if’s that could happen on the dance floor. Before we knew it, we were on the dance floor.

Stepping onto the dance floor for the first time, we were excited. It was simply a joy just to be there, having only the chance to be spectators previously. We immersed ourselves into the music and gave the best performance we could deliver.

The long wait for the result finally ended when it reached our prize presentation. To our greatest surprise, we actually won. This was the moment when we felt that the sacrifices in our studies and life were actually worth it, the most gratifying moment in our short dance career thus far.

Fast-forward to January 2010, the 10<sup>th</sup> SGDF Singapore Nationals DanceSport Championships, another first for us. This time, we were up against competitors we have not faced before. Though a 4<sup>th</sup> runners-up position might not be as comparable to the previous achievement, we were proud that we were able to hold our own through 3 rounds, which was the most we had danced then.

These achievements would not have been possible without the guidance of our instructors, Mrs Gladys Tay and Mr Mario Palermo, and the unwavering support from our families and friends. As we continue to strive for more, we know the path ahead will not be easy. However, we are confident of overcoming the obstacles with our passion, for it is this passion that started this adventure in dancesport.

## SGDF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 19th SGDF Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Sunday, 20 July 2010, at 3:30pm at the Grand Mercure Roxy (Singapore). The AGM covered several important issues, including the new directive from the Singapore Sports Council (SSC) that all National Sports Associations (NSAs) are required to register as a Charity by 31 December 2010. Of the 64 NSAs, only a handful were registered as a Charity.

Before the AGM, a short video of the SGDF was also screened.

# TORONTO, CANADA



The 2010 IDSF World Youth Ten Dance Championships were held from 16-18 April 2010 in Toronto, Canada. Ms Sabrina Sim was nominated by an independent selection panel from IDSF, to be on the Panel of Adjudicators for this event. In addition, there was the 2010 Crystal Leaf International Competition which included the IDSF International Open Standard & Latin events, as well as the Open Youth Latin and Standard events.

Representing Singapore at both the IDSF Open Latin & Open Youth Latin events was Singapore's top Youth and Adult pair of Lim Chong Aik & Riane Low.

The outbound flight from Singapore's Changi Airport to Toronto's Pearson International Airport clocked a total of 14 hours, while the return journey took the team a total of 18 hours (including a 6 hour transit in Dubai). The Official Hotel was the Doubletree by Hilton, which was a convenient 5 minutes away from the airport. It was, however, a good thirty minutes away from downtown Toronto. The event organiser, Mr Oleg Yedlin made sure that both competitors, adjudicators and guests were well taken care of, and everything from the check-in ran smoothly.

## **RESULTS**

1. Yuri Soldatov / Irina Gogoladze (Russia)
2. Cristian Radvan / Tatiana Seliverstova (Moldova)
3. Roman Gerbei / Ganna Poberezhnyk (Ukraine)
4. Marc Jimenez / Valeryia Urymahava (Spain)
5. Vito Coppola / Vera Bondareva (Italy)
6. Winston Tam / Anna Nina Kus (Canada)

A total of 29 pairs of young athletes took part in the World Youth Ten Dance event. The raw power and talent that oozed out from the 29 pairs of youth athletes was simply amazing, and you can be sure that the adjudicators had a difficult time selecting the athletes for the next and subsequent rounds. When you think you've seen it all, the Finals itself proved to be a different ball-game – every single finalist upped the ante with even more power, speed, accuracy in timing and fluency in movement. It was amazing!

The next day, both Lim Chong Aik & Riane Low did Singapore proud in the Youth Open Latin when they finished in 18<sup>th</sup> Position; ahead of participants from the previous day (World Championships) from France, Finland, Japan, Canada, Serbia, Latvia, Denmark and Ukraine.

## **LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT TORONTO, CANADA**

- Toronto is Canada's largest retail market
- There are 100 + languages spoken throughout the city
- Over half of Toronto's labour force has a university degree or college diploma



After the Championships were over, the team went on short sight-seeing trip of Toronto. Places visited included the CN Tower, Eaton Centre, Casa Loma (above left), and Niagara Falls (above right).

## KOREA IDSF OPEN

A team of 6 athletes represented Singapore at the Korea IDSF Open Latin & Standard Championships. The team comprised of Mario Palermo & Irma Tan (Latin), Edwin Toh & Carolyn Tan (Latin), Roberto Masanque & May Ng (Standard).

## UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 <sup>th</sup> 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

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- 21st Singapore Lion City International DanceSport Championships
- IDSF Adjudicators' Congree
- Asia-Pacific DanceSport Championships
- and more . . . . .