



Dance Flame

The Official Newsletter of the Singapore DanceSport Federation

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Looking back into the crystal ball as far back as 1986, Singapore became the first country in South-East Asia to be a member of the International Council of Amateur Dancers or ICAD.

First registered as the Amateur Ballroom Dancer's Association or ABDA in October 1987, it was during an era when ballroom dancing was enjoying a revival in Singapore. The formation of ABDA was timely and gave impetus and direction to the flourishing activity. Since the registration of ABDA, it has introduced guidelines for amateur status, the chart-rating system to rank couples and the visual marking system in Singapore. Membership of ABDA has grown over the years mainly due to its many diverse activities attracting the dancing public. ABDA members are also given a chance to represent Singapore in overseas championships and meetings. To date, ABDA has sent couples to Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chinese Taipei, England, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Latvia, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Scotland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Thailand to compete.

In November 1990, the ICAD changed its name to the International Dance Sport Federation (IDSF) and amateur competitive ballroom dancing was renamed dancesport. Subsequently, the Association also changed its name to The Amateur Dance Sport Association (Singapore), ADSA in short.

In 1992, the IDSF granted ADSA the rights to host the 1992 World Amateur Standard Dancesport Championship in Singapore, making it the first country in Asia to be given this honour. The IDSF also held its Annual General Meeting in Singapore that year. Then in 1995, ADSA won the rights to organise the 2nd IDSF Asia Pacific Dancesport Championships.

Following the IDSF's provisional recognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in April 1995, the Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC) accepted ADSA as an Associate Member on 1 April 1996. Then in 1997 when the IOC granted full recognition to the IDSF, the Singapore Sports Council (SSC) recognised ADSA as the national sports association governing dancesport in Singapore.

In its effort to promote dancesport in Singapore, ADSA will be embarking on a programme to reach out to schools, colleges and other educational institutions to encourage students and young people to take up this healthy sport. The ADSA has worked together with the Photographic Society of Singapore (PSS) to promote and improve the standard of dancesport photography in Singapore.

With the implementation of these plans, ADSA aims to turn Singapore into the No. 1 Dancesport Centre in this region.

The year 2000 saw the ADSA organising their very first Singapore Open, where world ranking points were awarded to competitors.

In 2002, the ADSA was renamed as the Singapore DanceSport Federation (SGDF), keeping in line with the other world bodies as a Federation. The SGDF also began accepting club memberships into its organisation. 2003 saw the IDSF re-affirming their support of the SGDF when they awarded Singapore the rights to co-host the 2003 IDSF IDSFWorld Youth Latin, 2003 Grand Slam Series (International Open Latin) and 2003 International Open Standard. It was the first time that the World Youth Latin Championships were being held outside Europe for the first time in 50 years. This event was a major milestone for the SGDF - a Training Scholarship was launched for the representatives of the World Youth Event.

Since 2004, the SGDF has grown from strength to strength with the introduction of the SGDF Singapore National DanceSport Championships, which runs in compliance to international standards for local dancesport athletes. The numbers have grown steadily and is now a major local sporting event for both athletes and spectators. To add “flavour” and introduce a “foreign element” into these Championships, neighbouring countries like Malaysia and Vietnam were invited to compete. Our National DanceSport Championships have groomed many athletes, from many age groups – a proof that sports has no age barriers.

In 2005, Singapore became the first country in the world to host both a continental championship (2005 IDSF Asian Pacific Championships) and a Grand Slam Finals (2005 IDSF Grand Slam Finals). The year also saw several of our athletes participating in the prestigious 2005 Asian Indoor Games (Thailand) and the 23rd South-East Asian (SEA) Games (Philippines).

The past few years have seen the SGDF introduce more initiatives than ever before – our programmes include specialised programmes to fine tune the needs of the active competitor can be seen in the Athlete Development Programme (ADP) where athletes are out through a rigorous training regime. The coming years will see even more initiatives that will help to showcase dancesport and the SGDF.

On the international front, Singapore continues to be a firm favourite in providing a source of good, reliable and unbiased adjudicators to major World Championships worldwide. Our number of international adjudicators have slowly grown in numbers to be on the international map.

It has been an extremely remarkable 25 years – considering the fact that the SGDF is fully operated and managed by a group of very enthusiastic volunteers who do not receive any monetary rewards. Their only reward is to witness the happiness etched on the faces of the athletes when they stand on the podium receiving their medals, a sign of achievement that clearly says “Thank You SGDF, for giving me this opportunity”.

***To every parent, athlete, supporter who have stood by us these 25 years, we say
“Thank You” and we look forward to your continued support.***

KIDZ ACADEMY 2012

Our first event of the new year, was a joint promotional exposition with several other suppliers of goods and services to the younger generation. The photos truly captures the joy of teaching the “little ones” as seen on the faces of our instructors, the joy of learning a new skill, and the happy times that even the parents are experiencing.



Goodie Bags for participants



Our happy instructors from SGDF Education Team



“OK now . . . one small step forward”



“Now, that wasn't too difficult, was it?”



“Are we having fun yet?”



Happy parents. Happy Children.

50 PLUS EXPO 2012 – LIVE WELL, CELEBRATE LIFE!

When the SGDF were contacted to be part of an exposition for senior citizens, we jumped at the opportunity to showcase that dancesport could also be enjoyed by our senior citizens. Several quick telephone calls to our senior members, and they too were equally excited at this prospect. The senior couples were from our Hougang Community Club (DanceSport) branch. Well done, everyone!



50 Plus Expo 2012



Instructors from SGDF Education Team



Mr & Mrs Lee Tuck Seng



Mr Jimmy Ng & Ms Kathy Ang



Our Senior Stars and their supporters



Section of the large crowd

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF DANCEFLAME

- TDSA Thailand Open & Asian Single Dance Championships
- Competitions in neighbouring Segamat (Malaysia) and Sabah