



Dance Flame

January – March 2004

A Quarterly Newsletter : Issue 1

SGDF Under The Microscope...



Dear Readers,

Many of our fellow dance enthusiasts probably have many pre-conceived impressions of the Singapore DanceSport Federation (SGDF), from various sources. Pre-conceived ideas about the way we ran the organisation, our strict rules with regards to registration of local competitions, and our strict adherence towards the participation of registered competitions.

We would like to take this opportunity to shed some light into our inner workings of the organisation. SGDF is a NON-PROFIT sports organisation, the only National Sport Association (NSA) under the Singapore Sports Council (SSC), tasked to promote DanceSport in the whole of Singapore. All our activities are planned and executed with this sole aim in mind.

Indeed, with the new elected committee last year 2003, SGDF seeks to provide more opportunities and funding to our members in all aspects of their competitive careers. We aim to provide more subsidies and even training funds in the hope of building a strong Singapore Representative Team in the future.

With funding from various organisations, we are pleased to be able to send our top ranked couples overseas for more exposure and experience. Recently, we were also successful in sending representatives from our lower grades to overseas competitions as well! All our expenditure are strictly scrutinized and audited yearly. Our members are welcomed to review our financial reports at our Annual General Meeting.

It is every competitor's dream to have fair and good judges in the competitions they participate in. Registering of the championships will indeed increase the chances of that happening. SGDF has strict rules with regards to who's judging. Our IDSF licensed adjudicators have and are constantly upgrading themselves by attending congresses that improves judging skills.

Having toiled so hard to request for funding, which is by no means easy to achieve, and to ensure our members are not subjected to undeserving bias judging, it is only natural for us to expect our members to support the organisation by not participating in non-registered competitions. Therefore, we are strict with any members who abuse our goodwill. After all, our members are ambassadors for Singapore when they represent the nation overseas.

With *Dance Flame*, we would like to keep you constantly updated on our mission to promote DanceSport and develop DanceSport talents for Singapore.

Your Editor

SGDF would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Prosperous Lunar New Year! And may the coming year be fulfilling to everyone here!





What is DanceSport?

DanceSport is the term used for competitive ballroom dancing, and involves some 300,000 couples worldwide. The worldwide governing body for dance sports is the International DanceSport Federation (IDSF).



The IDSF received full recognition as a sporting body by the International Olympic Council in 1997, and are currently working towards inclusion as a full medal sports in the Olympic Games.

Singapore DanceSport Federation (SGDF)

The SGDF is a member of the International DanceSport Federation (IDSF), and an associate member of the Singapore National Olympic Council. It is also the only National Sports Association (NSA) under the Singapore Sports Council (SSC) governing DanceSport in Singapore.

Established in 1987, the SGDF is managed by a team of volunteers with a passion for DanceSports, with the aim of raising the level of DanceSports to be the best in Asia.

The SGDF is a non-profit organization with funding totally through member subscriptions and grants from the Singapore Sports Council.

Through this Singapore Nationals Series, SGDF aims to develop local DanceSport talents and to promote DanceSport in Singapore. SGDF also aim to provide more opportunities for our members to hone their dancing skills in a competitive environment.

The Singapore Nationals is a series of ranking competitions for the lower grades C, D and E. The competitors will be ranked on a national level and where there are opportunities, these top competitors will be chosen to represent Singapore in overseas International DanceSport Championships.

About IDSF

IDSF today has 78 National Member Federations on five continents. 49 of these Federations are recognised by their National Olympic Committees, and IDSF's only Continental Federation, the Asian DanceSport Federation, has received provisional recognition from the Olympic Council of Asia, and participated as a demonstration sport in the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok.

IDSF is a Member of the following International Federations:

1. **GAISF** - General Association of International Sports Federation
2. **IWGA** - International World Games Association
3. **ARISF** - Association of the IOC Recognised Sports Federations

Following IOC recognition, IDSF continues to work for the inclusion of DanceSport as a medal sport in the Olympic Games. There is a clear correlation between DanceSport and the existing Olympic Winter sport of Ice Dancing, and there can be no doubt that DanceSport will become one of the popular tele-sports.

The Aims of IDSF

1. To promote DanceSport internationally and to work for further acceptance by the IOC.
2. To enhance the sporting appearance of DanceSport and make it attractive to a worldwide television audience.
3. To protect and develop our cooperation with IMG, our Joint Venture marketing partner.
4. To provide standardised rules to which all International Competitions organised by its members are subject.
5. To advise and assist its members with their work in their own countries.



Singapore DanceSport Federation Exco Members

President	:	Robert Ong	Vice President	:	Hwa Mee Thoo
Hon Gen Secretary	:	Darmawan Halim	Assistant Hon Gen Secretary	:	Bridget Lee
Treasurer	:	May Ng	Assistant Treasurer	:	David Lim
Championship Manager	:	Sabrina Sim	Publicity Manager	:	Sharon Tan
Committee Member	:	Jonathan Ong	Committee member	:	Connie Tan
Committee member	:	Meiko Otsuki			



Overseas Competitions Experience!



IDSF World Latin Championships, Russia, St Petersburg, 20 September 2003

Following the successful SGDF Ranking competition in August, we are pleased to be able to subsidise one of our top ranked Latin couple, Melvin Tan & Sharon Tan to represent Singapore in the IDSF World Latin Championships. Only the top 1 or 2 couples of any member IDSF country are invited to participate. This is indeed a very good experience for our couple as competing amongst the World's best is an invaluable learning experience for their dancing career.



Taipei IDSF International Open Championships Taipei, Chinese Taipei, 11 / 12 October 2003



SGDF is pleased to be able to send 2 of our ranked couples to participate in this event. The Standard Category is represented by Richard Tan & Jenny Tong, and our Latin is represented by Melvin Tan & Sharon Tan. Our couples have done well, especially in the Latin Category. Our congratulations to Melvin Tan and Sharon Tan for attaining 4th placing in the Asian Latin Finals and the 10th placing in the IDSF

Semi-finals after several rounds of fierce competitions.

IDSF Asian Pacific Championships Wuxi, China, 18 / 19 October 2003

IDSF Asian Pacific Championships is a competition where only the top 1 or 2 couples in each category are chosen to participate from all Asian Pacific regions. Participating countries in this Championship include Kazakhstan, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Singapore, Korea, China, Thailand, Macau, New Zealand and Australia. SGDF is pleased to be able to subsidise 2 of our ranked couples to participate in this event. Our representatives are Richard Tan & Jenny Tong, and Melvin Tan & Sharon Tan.

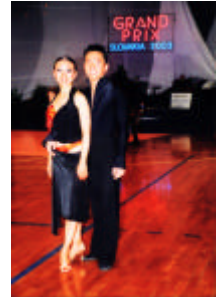


1st Manila IDSF International Open Championships Manila, Philippines, 9 November 2003

SGDF is pleased to provide subsidy to our ranked couples in the participation of this event. Representing Singapore in Grade A Standard were Richard & Jenny Tong, and in Grade A Latin, Melvin Tan & Sharon Tan and Edward Casasampere & Astrid Salim.

IDSF International Open World Ranking Tournament, Latin, Slovakia, 15 / 16 November 2003

"This is a truly exhilarating experience for us. We are very happy to make the second round amidst all the European competitors. In fact, including us, there were only 2 Asian couples in this competition! This is totally different from competing locally & even regionally. The satisfaction you achieve, when you beat a whole lot of Europeans, in an environment where no judges know you, who but truly judge you for your dance performance, is immense. We thank SGDF for giving us this opportunity to gain such experience." – Melvin Tan & Sharon Tan



SGDF would like to congratulate them for making the 63rd place out of more than 160 competitors.

IDSF Asian Championships Macau, 13 / 14 December 2003



This is the largest contingent SGDF has subsidised to compete in an overseas championships. Not only did we send our top ranked Grade A couples, we subsidised the lower Grade as well.

Representing Singapore were : Grade A Standard, Richard Tan & Jenny Tong; Grade A Latin, Melvin Tan & Sharon Tan, Edward Casasampere & Astrid Salim; Grade C Standard, Oh Eng Nam & Chong Kiok Lian; Grade C Latin, Leon Vin Sen & Bella Tan, Youth couple, Ng Phing Keen & Chai Pey Chee; and our Junior couple Ng Wey Keen & Shina Lee.

All our representatives have done well. Our congratulations to Edward Casasampere & Astrid Salim who made 4th in Grade A Latin, Leon Vin Sen & Bella Tan who made 6th in the Grade C Finals; Ng Wey Keen & Shina Lee for attaining 1st in Grade D Youth Latin.



IDSF Tiara Open DanceSport Championships Surabaya, Indonesia, 17 December 2003

Surabaya was the last IDSF Championship that SGDF supported for year 2003. Representing Singapore were Melvin Tan & Sharon Tan and Darmawan Halim & Audrey Lim in the Grade A Latin. SGDF would like to congratulate them for finishing 8th and 10th position respectively in the IDSF Semi-Finals.



SGDF Ranking

All DanceSport competitors must be ranked if they wish to be selected to represent Singapore in International Games, IDSF Championships and other recognised competitions.

The IDSF only recognises ranking points awarded by the IDSF, or from their member associations. Ranking points awarded by any other associations are not valid for selection to IDSF competitions.

Ranking points will be given to SGDF members who compete in all local designated ranking competitions endorsed by the SGDF.

The ranking points will be accumulated over 12 months. For competitors in Grade D, C and B, once they have reached the maximum average of 15 points, they shall be promoted to the next grade. (The average is obtained by dividing the total

accumulated ranking points by the placing obtained at the most recent competition.)

Penalty :

A 6-months ban period is imposed on members who participate in banned competitions. During the ban period, the offender will not be able to participate in ANY SGDF or IDSF registered competitions, both local and overseas.

Members who consecutively danced in banned competitions will accumulate the 6-months for each banned competition danced. i.e. if a SGDF member danced 3 banned competitions within the period of 6 months, the total banned period from IDSF registered competitions will be 6 months x 3 times = 18 months. This 18-month ban period will run consecutively.

Upcoming DanceSport Events

SGDF Registered Local Competitions (January to April 2004)*

10 January	1st SGDF Singapore Nationals	Singapore
1 May	5th SGDF International DanceSport Championships	Singapore

IDSF Competitions (January to April 2004)*

06 February	IDSF International Open Standard & Latin	Canada, Vancouver
07 February	IDSF World Senior Standard	Belgium, Antwerpen
07/08 February	IDSF International Open Standard & Latin	Belgium, Antwerpen
14/15 February	IDSF International Open Standard & Latin	Denmark, Copenhagen
14 February	IDSF International Open Latin	Russia, St. Petersburg
21 February	IDSF International Open Standard & Latin	Ireland, Tralee
07 March	IDSF Grand Slam Standard & Latin	Japan, Tokyo
13 March	IDSF International Open Standard	Italy
13 March	IDSF International Open Standard	France, Marceille
14 March	IDSF International Open Standard	Russia, Moscow
27/28 March	IDSF International Open Standard & Latin	Romania, Bucharest
03 April	IDSF International Open Latin	France, Evry
03/04 April	IDSF International Open Standard & Latin	Czech Republic, Brno
04 April	IDSF International Open Standard & Latin	Thailand, Bangkok
11 April	IDSF International Open Latin	Russia, Moscow
17/18 April	IDSF International Open Standard & Latin	Switzerland, Chiasso
18 April	IDSF International Open Standard	Byelorussia, Minsk
24/25 April	IDSF International Open Standard & Latin	Sweden, Gothenburg
24 April	IDSF World Cup Standard	Moldavia, Kishinev
24/25 April	IDSF International Open Standard & Latin	Moldavia, Kishinev

SGDF competitors who wish to participate in the above events may inform the Secretary by Fax at least 4 weeks in Advance. Participation in IDSF Championships will be through selections based on the SGDF national Ranking Lists and the Asian Ranking Lists. All other DanceSport competitors in Singapore who are not yet members of SGDF are reminded to join the Association immediately to be eligible for participating in the above events.

*This list is correct at the time of publication. Members are advised to check and confirm the dates and other details either from the IDSF website or with the SGDF Personnel.