

## What's Going On?

Press release from  
the USA's Top  
couples and world  
championship  
representatives!  
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Just  
My  
Opinion!

Phillip Nicholas  
on the Amateur  
Latin from  
Blackpool.

Was he kind?



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## Press Release

From: *John Kimmins, Arunas Bizokas, Katusha Demidova, Riccardo Cocchi, Yulia Zagoruychenko, Victor Fung, Anna Mikhed, Andrei Gavriline, Elena Kryuchkova, Gherman Mustuc & Iveta Lukosuite.*

### What's Going on Here?

At the United States Dance Championships in Orlando in September 2007, World Dance Council President, Mr. Donnie Burns, MBE, clearly stated his support for the National Dance Council of America.

It is well known that the leadership of the WDC and NDCA are at loggerheads over several issues, but that has not eroded the support of the couples from the USA for WDC World Championships and they have had considerable success, oftentimes with two couples in the finals of Standard, Latin and 10-Dance and many times winners and/or runners-up and finalists in both Showdance styles.

We can clearly remember the outcry by Denmark and in our opinion rightly so, when Hans & Anne Laxholm had to defend the European Professional Standard Championships without any judge from a Scandinavian country on the selected panel.

The mantra in general over these past few years of political turmoil has been, "we have to be fair to the couples." We certainly agree.

Er-go, how does it happen that for the last six WDC World Championships and as far as we know, for the five in 2008, there has been no invitation to the NDCA to provide a US judge for any of these professional championships?

These WDC actions are truly malevolent.

## COMING SOON IN DANCE BEAT WORLD:

**Blackpool Pro RS Reports from Stephen Hannah & Nadia Eftedal.**

**Blackpool Exhibition report  
Report from JBDF event in Japan**

# Just My Opinion!

**Phillip Nicholas on the Amateur Latin, Blackpool**

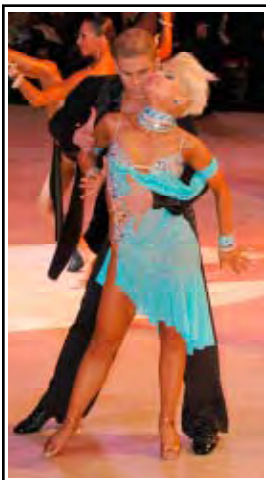
**Photos by Andrew Miller**  
[www.dancefotoman.co.uk](http://www.dancefotoman.co.uk)

This year the British Amateur Latin Championship promised to be an exciting competition and it was. The 2 top form couples were there and they are both couples that I like very much and I was very pleased that I did not have to judge them. After the first couple of rounds it was very clear that they were both at the top of their form showing two completely different styles of dance, both excellent and interesting. So in my opinion either couple could have won.

When the result was announced I was very happy for Matej and Iwona and sad for Stefano and Anna.. First place by winning all 5 dances were Matej Krajcer and Iwona Golczak from Slovenia. It would seem like they won easily but I am sure it was very close. This man is a beautiful dancer, his movement so smooth and fast like a cat. Their choreography is very different and interesting, not at all commercial, but including so many of the basic figures with a mixture of the unusual. His lady is an excellent dancer and has developed so well to be his equal. I remember when I first saw them I thought they could never win this Championship but I was wrong. The only thing that I feel could be better is her look. I am sure her look could be changed to create a more striking picture. I believe that this was their last competition - what a pity! I will miss them.

Second, from Italy, Stefano Di Filippo and Anna Melnikova. If the result had been reversed, it would not have been wrong. I have been watching this man since he was a young boy and have always loved his dancing. What a beautiful couple - perfect bodies, great looks. Everything seemed to go well for them on this night. I have never seen them dance better. Stefano is not the most technical dancer, but he has so many other qualities and Anna was showing us it was not only Stefano who was the star. She is a beautiful lady dancer with fast, good legs and feet and a great natural personality. Her choice of dresses were perfect for her. So after these 2 great couples I found the rest of the final rather dull.

Third went to Jurij Batagelj and Jogoda Strukelj from Slovenia. A great result for this couple and I am sure they are very happy. I find this couple too careful and plastic. The man needs to get rid of the Elvis look, loosen up and have a go.



Batagelj / Strukelj



After the first couple of rounds it was very clear that they were both at the top of their form .....  
 Left: Matej Krajcer & Iwona Golczak. Right: Stefano DiFillipo & Anna Melnikova

They are good dancers but slow and uninteresting. They need to take a few risks.

Fourth place, from Russia, Alexei Silde and Anna Firstova. This couple has been in the final for a couple of years now and I always find them difficult



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**Latin dancing is about man and women together.**

to watch. To me the man's dancing is all about him. He is always dancing to the public or the roof and all those artificial facial expressions are just too much. And now about the lady he did not dance with. What a pity! She is actually a fine dancer but he

pays no attention to her at all. She is often looking to him and trying to dance to him, but there is no reaction from him at all. Latin dancing is about man and women together.



Smagin / Kazachenko

Into fifth place, again from Russia, came Evgeny Smagin and Polina Kazachenko. Another great man. I was so pleased to see him back in the final. He is always so much with his lady showing great connections. Today there are so many men dancing on there own, it is such a pleasure to watch Evgeny dance. But unfortunately his lady at the moment is not up to his standard. She never seemed to really get going. I could not find many saving graces.

And in sixth place Zoran Plohl

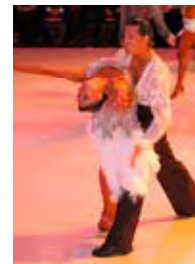
and Tatsiana Lahvinovich from Croatia. I have been watching this couple for a long time. Everything is always very controlled and nice and very boring. They also are good dancers but when are they going to explode and really put in a challenge? Careful does not win! So have a go and surprise me!



Plohl / Lahvinovich

In the semi final there were some interesting couples and I feel sure some came close to the final, but it was not to be this time. From Denmark were Martino Zanibellato and Michelle Abildtrup. This couple I always have difficulty finding on the floor, but when I did find them they were not bad at all. In the semi they seemed to run out of energy. I feel they give too much energy and waste it. You need only to give the right amount of energy for what you have to do. And from Italy Aniello Langella and Natalija Maidiuk. Before the competition I thought this couple would have a good chance to make the final; In the early rounds I felt that he was just taking it easy. But he did that until he did not make the

final! In my notes I wrote "the man is not there." In the 24 he woke up for the Rumba then went back to sleep. The Rumba was very good. In the semi I wrote "man not there." Was he not well? What a pity! From Russia another very good Anna; I found this lady excellent very fast very on her feet. This couple were very together so nice to see. From the U.S.A. Valentin Chmerkovskiy and Valeriya Kozharinova. They started off very well, I thought they could have made the final until the semi when the lady seemed to have run out of energy and started to throw herself all over the place. Great man excellent Samba Rolls, beautiful sense of line. Girl needs to work on legs and energy level. From Poland came Przemek Lowicki and Asta Sigvaldadottir. I was pleased to see this couple in the semi; I was often drawn to them. Very aware of the body shapings in Paso. A little too busy and over-danced a little in the semi. So important to know just how much energy is needed. Perhaps with the excitement of being in the semi they got a little carried away. And from Moldova were Dorin Frecautanu and Roselina Doneva. I found their dancing all a little too much. I am sure they were excited and happy but do not hit the chandelier!



Chmerkovskiy / Kozharinova

The man especially was rough, but the talent is there and needs to be used in the right way. In the earlier rounds there were some excellent couples, and some great dancers. There are many unbalanced couples where one is much better than the other. This to me is a great pity.



Frecautanu/Doneva

And so another Blackpool is over and we will all be giving our different opinions about this Championship. And so this is just my opinion. Hope you enjoyed my opinion.

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# IDSF Grand Slam in Hungary

**The show must go on!**

**Report by Tibor Kerekes**

Just about a week after the Blackpool festival finished, some of the dancers already had to defend their titles.

This time In Hungary in the beautiful city of Szombathely. Many of the current and past judges and coach-

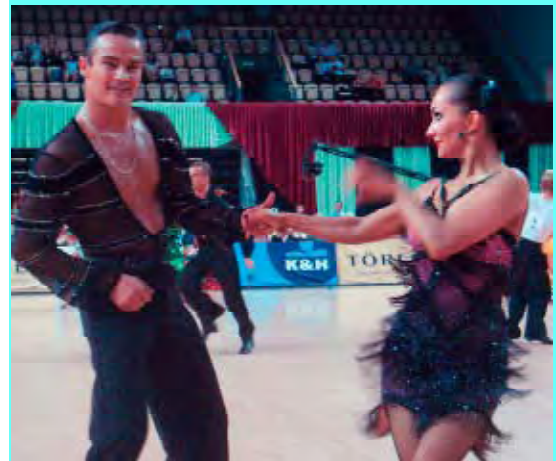
es danced there in the Competition Called Savaria.

This time was the 43rd year in this event's history. The IDSF has granted the right to organize a Latin Grand Slam competition in the adult division.

Over 50 couples entered and there were no major surprises in the results.

1st Alexey Silde - Anna Firstova ,Russian Federation 11121

- 2nd Jurij Batagelj - Jagoda Strukelj , Slovenia 22212
- 3rd Zoran Plohl - Tatsiana Lahvinovich ,Croatia 33333
- 4th Aniello Langella - Natalija Maidiuk ,Italy 54454
- 5th Martino Zanibellato - Michelle Abildtrup ,Denmark 46545
- 6th Evgeny Imrekov - Elizaveta Divak ,Russian Federation 65676
- 7th Fernandino Iannacone - Julia Musichina ,Italy 77767

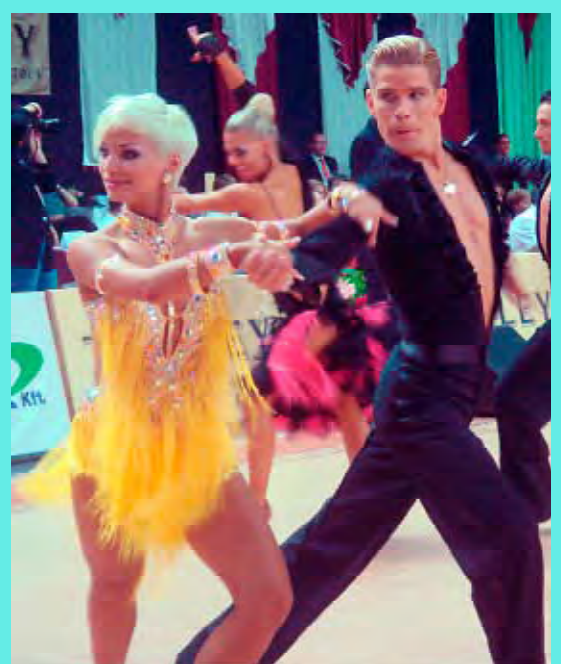


Alexei & Anna

- Michelle Abildtrup ,Denmark 46545
- 6th Evgeny Imrekov - Elizaveta Divak ,Russian Federation 65676
- 7th Fernandino Iannacone - Julia Musichina ,Italy 77767

Since I had the best seat in the house (Being the MC this time), the organizers placed me right next to the floor. I had a chance to have a close look.

Dancing just shortly after the "BIG" event took a toll on the couples. They managed to perform as well as they could to hold on to their positions. But something was missing. It wasn't as competitive as just a week ago. The only one showing a great push for moving up was the 6th placed Evgeny and Elizaveta who had a really strong rumba and paso. But the panel of adjudicators ( representing 11 nations) saw it differently. I still think they are someone to keep an eye on.



Jurij & Jagoda

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