

*Flying Out
of
Africa*



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Paul & Fuki formally make it official! July 7th.

Paul Holmes & Fuki Uekusa celebrated their December wedding in a formal ceremony at the beautiful New York Athletic Club overlooking Central Park. For more photos check out www.dancebeat.com



Coming next week: Blackpool RS Latin by Nadia Eftedal, plus all the latest news!

Sandra Wilson inducted into Millennium Hall of Fame

Sandra Wilson, organizer of the Blackpool Festivals, was inducted into the Millennium Hall of Fame at this year's Millennium Dancesport, July 2008.

Pictured with Sandra are John Kimmins (left) and Michael Chapman, Millennium Organizer.



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Flying Out of Africa

Exhibition Legend, *David Elkin*, comments on the high flyers from Blackpool

Photos by Andrew Miller www.dancephotoman.co.uk

Couple A from South Africa, Nic Dawson & Cherese Mallen, "Out of Africa"

The Performance began a little aggressively which made the routine noisy and messy.

The routine was creative but not well prepared.

One noticeable mistake may have cost them a little. Lift footwork transitions not as seamless as they should be.



Nick had a difficult time moving from weight to weight. In Exhibition one should move from foot to foot. Ladies should wait. I enjoyed the athleticism of the routine. Great ending! As far as the helicopter, whirly-bird lift; I wasn't sure if I should laugh or be amazed. The audience became hungry the moment this routine started. Being the first to perform gave the audience a lot of enjoyment to feed off of. Their costumes,

which resembled jungle outfits, were a little like "Cabaret Nightclub" and not the typical ballroom costuming. As they develop as a pair and become a better partnership the lady won't have to work so hard to make transitions and they could become next year's winner. I placed this couple 4th and they took 2nd. Congratulations!



Couple B from South Africa, Craig Smith & Natalie Woolf, "Immortal"



Interesting beginning. Nice transitions. Clean and easy to watch. Not a lot of distraction. Footwork and placement was suspect. Well Choreographed. Great Routine. Could have danced to better music. Enough power behind both of them to take on a more powerful song and they would have separated themselves further as clear winners – in my eyes. A little too much hand balancing. Nice counter balance moves. Natalie is one of the best I've ever seen! She seemed to always be in the right place at the right time. Well controlled and beautiful to watch. Craig complimented Natalie

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but at the same time did not distract from her. Would like to see some thing more "ballroom" with them. I feel that if they continue with competitive dance from South Africa, they should be able to hang on to this title for many years. I am glad they were not competing when I was. This couple received 1st place and I gave them 1st place also. Congratulations!

Couple C from U.S.A. Gary and Rita Gekhman

One of my all time favorite show dance numbers. I've enjoyed it every time I've seen it. I think by far they are one of the best couples in the competition tonight. They were dressed in silver and looked fabulous. Several things hurt them. One thing was that the routine was one



year too late getting to Blackpool. The routine sneaks up on you and takes you by surprise. Catchy routine. In a class by itself. This routine exemplifies pantomime, novelty, acting, dance and expression. However,

One thing was that the routine was one year too late getting to Blackpool.

tonight it placed a little low because a lot of people have already seen it. The volume of the music may have hurt them. Maybe it was just where I was sitting but it was a little too soft. Just OK tonight. Gary started to get the audience going. No standing ovation this time. First time I have not seen an ovation for this. Couple was well choreographed. One of the great routine's out of this country. Definitely one to see. I gave them 7th place and they took 7th place.



Couple D from U.S.A., Decho Kriev & Bree Watson, "Unchained Melody"

Very classy entrance. Pretty to watch. A classy work. Performed well tonight. I feel they need a little more time to develop. They had a little trouble with the "Chapman" lift. But, not a big deal. This couple made great use of the space around them. Great ability to move from foot to foot as did the Gekhman's. Bree is fabulous. Decho is the type that when the pressure is on you would never know it. Decho and Bree move together very well as a partnership. This couple's 5th place was a little lower than I would have recommended. I think they should be pleased. Keep it up.

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Couple E from U.S.A., Eric Luna & Georgia Ambarian

I believe Eric and Georgia are trying to compete with what they are not good at. I know they have other routines. After they got past the point where she lifted Eric, they started to turn on and come alive. Some of their accents were slow and rough. But, I found myself saying, "nice strength". Eric packed in some power and it was amazing. Georgia is able to enter this competition without performing a ballet routine. I think ballroom shoes would have complimented her. I had been offered this type of routine before but I always felt I needed to be true to ballroom. This is just my personal opinion. Eric and Georgia are a credit to the U.S.A. They made the competition even closer. Eric and Georgia received 3rd place. I felt they deserved one place higher.



Couple F from Ukraine, Oleg Loparev & Ekateryna Sizova, "Show Must Go On"

Excellent choice of music. Interesting. I was going to use "The Great Pretender" in a piece of mine. (hint) It took them a while but they started to bring in the crowd midway – within the first 45 seconds. Oleg has a little problem moving from foot to foot with weight. I don't feel they are really ready to compete at this level yet. Just because they need a little more grounded dancing. They could learn

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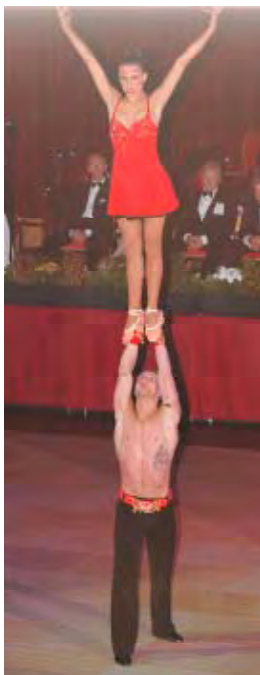


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with just a little more studying. A lot of late mistakes. Routine was forced at the end chasing the music. Couples should lead the music like a conductor of a symphony and show the audience how you visually take control. Visually – they see it. Audit orally – they hear it. Kinetically – they feel it. This all happens at three different times. When it all comes together the audience knows you touched them through dance and through their senses with the magic of the moment. Oleg did back flips and I was waiting for him to maybe do cartwheels next. The audience loved this. I didn't dislike it, but I wondered about it. Oleg and Ekateryna could challenge 1st place winners.

Couple G from Canada, Mentor Sejdiu & Alla Profatilova, "Notre Dame de Paris"

Great novelty. Alla is a marvelous novelty dancer! She makes the most out of any situation. Good routine. Clean performance. Not enough pop. The first time Alla did novelty she surprised everyone. Comedy, mystery, surprise and drama have all been in her previous novelty routines. Her routines have always been "off the charts". Mentor did a great job. The most creativity with production and



changes. A story line goes into Mentor and Alla's performances. Regardless of their placement, they will always go down as one of North America's most interesting dancers and dance personalities.

Congratulations to South Africa, competitive coaching and their country on an outstanding evening. Tonight was a closely contended competition. Everyone danced well. Sad to say, I feel

the U.S.A. is losing its grip where we have had a stronghold for 20 years. We are no longer super powers in the British Competition. Others can set us back temporarily, but only we can set us back permanently. This category has usually been owned by the U.S. and now it's not. In fact, it hasn't been for several years. I feel to lose in a category that usually has the highest ticket sales and biggest response and enthusiasm from the audience is so sad. That being said, I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion and to express myself. I appreciate the honor given to me by Mrs. Wilson to represent the USA in judging this competition.

Italian Closed Championship

Full report coming soon

Photos by Andrew Miller
www.dancefotoman.co.uk

Standard

1. BOSCO PAOLO & PITTON SILVIA
2. COLANTONI VALERIO & DI VAIRA SARA
3. LONGARINI GIUSEPPE & BASILI VALENTINA
4. LUSTRI MARCO & RADICCHIO ALESSIA
5. TARABELLI LORENZO & AGOSTINELLI FEDERICA
6. DECANDIA FRANCESCO & LACONI SABRINA

Latin

1. IANNACCONE FERDINANDO & MUSIKHINA YULIA
2. DE ANGELIS ANDREA & TOCCA FRANCESCA
3. PASECHNIK PAVEL & BERARDI FRANCESCA
4. DI VERONICA ALESSIO & MANGANIELLO ILARIA
5. BOUABDALLAH YASSINE & CAVEDAGNA SERENA
6. PRIOLETTI MICHELE & STANZANI SONIA
7. SENTINA GAETANO & BOCCALARI ELEONORA



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Beata Onefater, Aleksandra Gisher,
Lyubo Assenov, Loreta Krikserikaityte
Irina Bournovskaia, Ekaterina Fedosova

Shirley Ballas
Paul Holmes
Paul Richardson
Olga Rodionova
Beata Onefater
Anastasia Muravyeva
Paul Green
Maxim Kozhevnikov
Yulia Zagoruychenko
Ieva Pauksena
Craig Shaw
Malin Johansson
Andrew Winett
Mirela Prohaska
Lyubo Assenov
Loreta Krikserikaityte
Jamie Josephson
J.Plamen Danuilov
Irena Kaklamanova
Irina Bournovskaia
Cameron Johnson
Ekaterina Fedosova
Olga Tsykaliuk
Aleksandra Gisher

Open British Professional R/Star Ballroom

Report by Stephen Hannah

Photos by Andrew Miller

www.dancefotoman.co.uk

From a 1st round entry of 259 couples the judges decided on the following 8 couple final

1st 259 MIKHAIL AVDEEV and ANASTASIA MORAVYEVA (U S A)

Wining all 4 Dances and one could say rightly so upper body shapes were consistent all night; Lady has a light and bright personality on the floor. This man gave this young lady every opportunity to find balance within the space he was creating and what a super job she did to work her magic. They are on the crest of a wave at the moment. However, flat footed actions from the man is a concern, roll through the feet is an integral part of the actions in Ft and certainly in waltz and quickstep. At the moment it is their Achilles' heel. This is some-

thing I am assured will be dealt with in the near future.

2nd 152 ISAIA BERARDI and CINZIA BIRARELLI (Italy)

The Mr. cool of the competition, from beginning to end, 2nd in all dances and generally every bar of music choreographically tastefully executed. However, space and time aspects are not what they should be, so all actions looked smooth and finished yet short in energy from the standing leg.

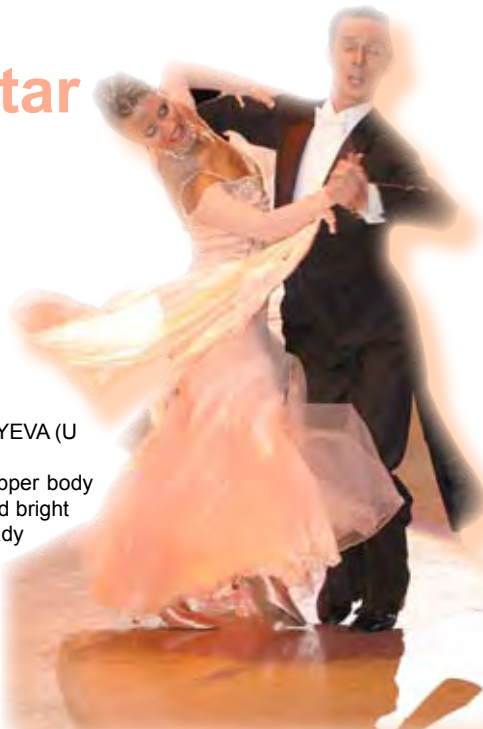
3rd 64 CHRISTOPHER SHORT and ELISA CHANAA (England)

First competition as professionals "no retreat no surrender" All the things that rising stars are about - imperfect, new, exciting, in your face, no compromise. This young Lady has something... commitment and in the moment. And yes there are imperfections, but for a new partnership, I loved it. It had a passion, "I want to dance", let me show you what I have got, look at it, when the instability and imperfections are dealt with. I look forward to the next installment.

4TH 73 EGOR ABASHKIN and KATIA KANEVSKAYA (U S A)

Pleasing couple on the eye, always happy, hard workers, business like, never offensive, which found favour with the highly experienced panel. I am quite sure they were glad to be included in this final.

5th 14 KOTA SHOJI and NAMI



PAULINA MALINOWSKA (U S A)
High energy couple who normally love to move the shapes across the floor, but not at their best this evening. The rotational figures were too exaggerated for me, and it seems for the judges too. Perhaps a return to how you began your partnership, it had much more of a statement about it?



Berardi/Birarelli

SHOJI (Japan)

Tall, impeccable top line, best I have seen them for quite some time, there was a commitment as a couple and as individuals that was missing on previous occasions. For me could have been higher. Well done!

8th 58 DANIELE PARDINI and PAOLA ROSI (Italy)

Good looking couple who gave their best in every dance. I congratulate them on their work rate and energy but there are fundamental issues of body position and point of swing that would assist in creating high energy without the look of hard work being shown.



Abashkin/Kanevskaya

6th 19 THOMAS PAPPKALA and FRANTSISKA YORDANOVA (U S A)

Tall couple who have a most pleasing exterior look. I last reported on this couple at the Star Championships in January and I was aware of changes. If they can continue the ideas of feet, legs, and ankle accuracy it will bring the stability they so desperately need through movement to gain better results.



Papkala/Yordanova

There was a case for ANTON KOUKAREKO and ALENA FEAKT-SISTAVA (U S A) omission from the semifinal powerful movement and beautiful body lines from the lady well done. RUSLAN GOLOVASHCHENKO and OLENA GOLOVASHCHENKO (Ukraine) omission from the final. Had they performed badly I can understand their omission, but this was one of their best to date. I saw several improvements that could have justified their inclusion.

7th 32 LUKAS CHOCKUBA and



Short/Chanaa

A Birthday Gift To the USA!

Manhattan Dancesport, 2008

Report by Didio Barrera

Every 4th of July the United States Of America celebrates it's independence from the mother country and for a number of years now, every 4th of July dancers from all over the USA gather in Manhattan for "The Manhattan DanceSport Championships"- a very appropriate date. This year the fireworks were not only outside in the Big Apple but inside the ballroom at the Marriott Brooklyn Bridge Hotel. Saturday and Sunday the 6th and 7th of July, our international DanceSport stars delighted America by competing in this popular homegrown event and it was a "Birthday Gift" to the USA and all of us that consider ourselves US citizens.

Saturday Night we had Riccardo Cocchi & Yulia Zagoruychenko with a breathtaking performance. Sunday was the icing on the cake with two British and World finalists, Arunas Bizukas & Katusha Demidova and Victor Fung & Anna Mikhed competing in a heat that could only be described as, the "Perfect Final." As we mention in our blog at www.dancebeat.com "The burden on the judges' shoulders must have been extraordinary and you could see it in their expressions as the final evolved. There were no winners or losers, first or sixth place, if you were in this final you were not only top class but World Class."

This incredible final began with a short presentation from each of the couples and each one of them got better and better. The performances were musical, artistic and even humorous adding a delightful touch to this incredible final. Arunas Bizukas and Katusha Demidova took the Fran Rogers Memorial Trophy home, but it was almost unfair to place all these couples from one to six, so today I will just name them all in no particular order. Urs Geisenhainer & Agnes Kazmierczak, Mikhail Avdeev & Anastasia Moravyeva, Victor Fung & Anna Mikhed, Igor Litvinov & Julia Ivleva and Linas Korieva & Liene Apale.

We cannot forget that within Saturday and Sunday nights we also had the participation in both the Latin and the Standard of the recently crowned World 10-Dance Champions, Gherman Mustuc and Iveta Lukosuite.

The competition was well-supported with over eight thousand entries and lots of participation from neighboring, Canada and of course terrific support in the Pro/Am field by Hong Kong and Russia. We at Dance Beat would like to thank the students, teachers and schools who traveled from such faraway countries and so in appreciation of your attendance we would like to leave you with a mention: Vita Dance Studio, Moscow Russia, Galladance, Russia, Crotaz, Gary Surrey England, Come Dancing Hong Kong,



Arunas & Katusha with sponsor, Natalia Ranchiskaya, & co-organizer, Avi Kafri



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The following report was filed by Dennis Rogers, US Delegate to the WDC Annual General Meeting, 2008, at the July meeting of the National Dance Council of America.

Although it offers a specifically US perspective, we thought some points may be of interest to everyone involved in dancesport worldwide.

WORLD DANCE COUNCIL REPORT Annual Meeting of the General Council Thursday, May 29th, 2008

Following are some highlights of the 2008 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the World Dance Council (WDC).

1. Introduction and welcome address by the president.

In his welcome address, Donnie Burns reported that during this past year, the WDC formed an Amateur League as "mandated" by the WDC at the 2007 AGM. This was in reference to 2007 Agenda item 17.a. where Canada moved to have the WDC and its member countries form amateur associations. As I reported last year, I addressed the delegates to tell them they would be required to do this and was told by the presidium that this would not be a "rule" they had to follow because it wasn't a "mandated" rule. When I pointed this out that now it has become "mandated", the reply was that while the rule did not "mandate" member countries, it did mandate the WDC. I guess rules apply differently to the member countries and the presidium.

Matters arising from the 2007 AGM.

18. Member Matters item e. It was reported that the NDCA was offered to reply to Trademark issues and no reply was forthcoming. At that time, I had raised my hand to reply but was refused as I had already spoken on this issue. They now allowed me to read the following reply – "Several years ago the leadership of the National Dance Council of America urged the WD&DSC to trademark the granted-titles throughout the world. The WD&DSC declined to do so. The NDCA is a non-profit organization committed to represent and protect the interest of its member bodies, competition organizers, competitors, dance teachers, adjudicators, etc. both at home and abroad. In this role the NDCA pro-

ceeded to register these trademarks WITHIN THE USA as a protection from organizations and/or individuals from within the USA or internationally who might take advantage of these titles against the wishes of those we represent.

The NDCA would support actions by other member countries to do the same, such as the British Council registering these titles in Great Britain. As for the titles registered by the Arthur Murray organization, the NDCA had absolutely no idea they were doing this but the Arthur Murray organization has assured us that they were acting for the same reasons and that, as a strong supportive member of the NDCA, they would fully cooperate in controlling the use of these titles."

An editor's note had been added quoting Paul Holmes comments after last year's meeting. Paul rose to object to the quote being included in the minutes of the meeting and was told that, as an observer, he couldn't speak. The USA then immediately requested that if Paul couldn't speak, how could he be quoted? This editor's note was then stricken from the minutes.

7.a. Finance Report. No report was available as the final accounts are yet to be signed and submitted to Companies House. There was discussion about sending the report out by mail and we spoke against this because any questions that might arise could not be presented and discussed in an open meeting. The result was the vote to accept was tabled.

7.c. A budget was proposed but there were many questions regarding expenses for 2007. According to a draft financial statement dated 04 April 2008, expenses for

the Dance Sport executive board were 76,456 GBP. Yet the proposed budget for 2008 showed an expense for 2007 Dance Sport executive board of 58,456 GBP. They acknowledged that this was a discrepancy and would "look into it". The unaudited report showed total expenses for 2007 to be 410,965 GBP, up from 157,023 GBP in 2006, and income for 2007 to be 230,356 GBP, resulting in a (loss) of (175,509 GBP). We expressed astonishment

that as of May 29, they could not explain expenses for the period ending December 31, 2007. Nor was there any statement giving the current financial position. The USA asked if there was any other legal action pending other than the lawsuit with

John Kimmins and we were assured there wasn't.

10. Election of Company Directors. b. (five positions)

There were ten candidates and four withdrew. Of the six remaining, four were up for re-election. Two were new – Steve Powell of Britain who had served on several committees and Jack Rothweiler who was there as a delegate from Hong Kong. There was a suggestion from the floor to take the remaining six without an election. The USA objected as the Agenda called for an election of five and nothing could be changed on the Agenda without the proper procedure being followed as specified in the WDC General Regulations 6.6 "Motions and Amendments at Council Meetings". The chair overruled the objection. This is a case where the chair is its own parliamentarian and therefore all six were named vice-presidents without election. The president had previously stated that absolutely

no changes could be made to the Agenda at the meeting.

15. Motions by the Presidium.

There were several related motions by the presidium to change the member countries from "Country/Countries" to "Member Organization of the Member Country/Member Organizations of the Member Countries". The USA spoke against this and urged the other countries to keep the countries as members just as it is in the United Nations. The primary motion was defeated – 12 for, 18 against, 13 abstentions. The accompanying amendment to change the Articles of Association to "member organizations of the member country" was defeated 33 to 4 with 6 abstentions. All further associated motions were withdrawn.

16a. There was a member motion from Australia that the presidium be granted power to apply levies or additional fees to member countries, as it deems necessary, to fund extraordinary activities but the motion was withdrawn.

16b. Canada proposed a motion that the WDC "support" the efforts of its members in any court actions that members pursue to eliminate restrictive policies regarding sanctioned events. The presidium stated it would support the motion if it didn't include financial support. The motion passed. However, the term "support" was not defined and could be re-interpreted at another time.

16d. There was an agenda item "to pay expenses and legal fees incurred by the president". No country would make the motion so it was withdrawn.

All in all, the WDC presidium was not able to achieve nearly as much as it has in the past as many more countries are asking many more questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Rogers
Delegate for the USA



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