

# British National Championships



**Dance Beat World**  
1234 S. Dixie Hwy. # 346  
Coral Gables FL 33146 USA  
phone (+1) 305-531-3087  
email info@dancebeat.com



*Keith Todd*  
Editor



*Trudy Faust*  
Advertising &  
Subscriptions



*Tara Christensen*  
Design Director

DANCE BEAT WORLD is published weekly and is registered as a corporation in the state of Florida. Opinions expressed in Dance Beat World are not necessarily those of Dance Beat World, LLC. or its staff.

# British National Championships

*Rachel Heron reviews the British National Amateur Latin Championship*

*Timothy Palmer reviews the British National Amateur Ballroom Championship*



*photos by Andrew Miller*



**Next Edition:**

**WDSF World  
10-Dance from  
Shanghai.**

*photo by Helmut Roland*



# Be Part of the Great Dance Movement

**Studio Owners:** We invite you to explore all the benefits of support from the world's leading dance instruction organization with over 250 studios in 17 countries. Some of the benefits are:

- All Star Training Program - Cash, Prizes and Awards totaling over \$200,000 including a new car.
- 10 Yearly Competitions & Championships totaling over \$200,000 in Prize Money for Professionals and Pro/AM.
- Complimentary lessons for professional competitors from some of the worlds leading dance trainers.
- 4 yearly In-Studio Promotions
- Full Advertising Support - Sponsorship of ABC.com (Dancing with the Stars), Celebrity Endorsements, Celebrity Speakers, National, regional and local advertising: Indy 500 Parade, Grammy Awards program, National Museum of Dance, and many, many more.
- Franchisee Conventions and Training Seminars
- Student and Staff Dance Camps

**Dance Instructors:** Why not join the world's leading dance organization and share in the benefits that so many others have experienced. Business and dance training, travel, health benefits, competitions and much more. There are openings in all aspects of studio operations and we invite you to contact you local AMFDS or visit [www.ArthurMurray.com](http://www.ArthurMurray.com) for more information.

**Join the largest and fastest growing dance organization in the world.**



**John Kimmins** *President*

1077 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Coral Gables, FL 33134 • USA

Phone: (305) 445-9645 • Fax: (305) 445-0451

[www.ArthurMurray.com](http://www.ArthurMurray.com)

## STUDIOS IN:

Australia

Austria

Brazil

Canada

Egypt

England

Germany

Hong Kong

Israel

Italy

Japan

Jordan

Latvia

Lebanon

Puerto Rico

South Africa

U.S.A.

STUDIOS  
COMING  
SOON

Austria

Mexico

Poland

Russia

# British National Championships

## British National Amateur Latin Championship

Report by Rachel Heron

Photos by Andrew Miller  
www.dancefotoman.co.uk



The British National Amateur Latin Championships held on the Saturday evening promised to be an exciting competition with new partnerships formed since last year's event. You could feel the buzz and adrenaline in the air from the competitors, who were all fully prepared to fight for their positions.

### NEIL JONES & EKATERINA SOKOLOVA (1.1.1.1.1)

Neil and Ekaterina both looked very much at ease tonight defending their title for the third year in a row. It is clear to see Neil loves the communication he has with the audience which

produces a "show style" performance. For me sometimes this results in Ekaterina being neglected. As a female on the floor, Ekaterina has the ability to draw you in with well thought out and planned design and shapes. However, there is still a lack of strength in her legs and feet, which I'm sure with continued hard work can get better.

### ALEJANDRO HERNANDEZ & KERRI-ANNE DONALDSON (2.2.2.2.2)

Tonight Alejandro and Kerri-Anne looked confident in their approach to dancing, but for me at times came across as too aggressive, especially from Alejandro. I would rather see the confidence coming through the usage of the body, which would make their performance more enjoyable to watch. I would like to see more rotation from both Alejandro and Kerri-Anne to create more interesting angles in the body.



### RYAN MCSHANE & KSENIA ZSIK-HOTSKA (3.4.3.3.3)

I am sure Ryan and Ksenia were very happy with their result tonight. I loved Ksenia's look, her peach/mango dress was beautiful. They look like they have now found the style of performance they feel most comfortable with, however, I would like to see them challenge one another more as they both can look a little introverted at times.

### ALEX ZAMPIEROLLO & LUCY

3rd

**JONES (4.3.4.4.4)**

This was their first competition dancing together since they formed their new partnership a few months ago. Alex always delivers a good performance using his body to its full extent, with a lot of different rhythms and changes of speed. Lucy tonight looked elegant in her styling but at times looked too “nice” in her approach, unfortunately nice is not good enough therefore I would like to see more “oomph” from her, which would transform her into a strong and powerful female.

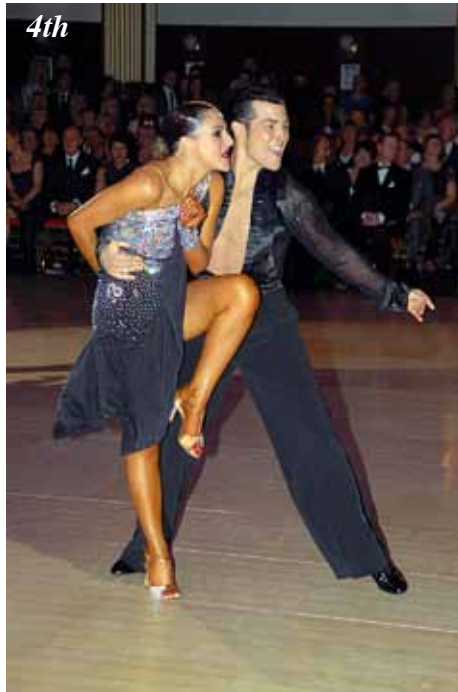
**MANUEL FAVILLA & VICTORIA BURKE (5.5.5.6.6)**

This couple delivered a clear message of their masculine/feminine roles within the partnership. Manuel delivered a good performance tonight but at times looked awkward in his move-

5th



4th



ment, I would like to see more softness in his body which would produce better fluidity of movement. Victoria has the asset of strength but to create contrasts throughout the dances, she could explore different moods/feelings which would make things more interesting and exciting.

**DANNY STOWELL & KATE MOORE (6.6.6.5.5)**

I feel Danny is always there for Kate, but unfortunately I cannot say this is reciprocated. I would like to see Kate more independent, producing more power, and taking responsibility for her own design and shapes. This would give Danny a stronger challenge and a response to his action.

6th



The couples left in the semifinal were as follows:

**ANDREW ESCOLME & AMY-LOUISE BAKER**

I am sure this couple was disappointed finishing in 7th place and being left out of the final. Andrew has a natural softness and flexibility in the use of his body which a lot of the males are trying to achieve but sometimes it looks like he is not aware of his weapon and doesn't always use it to his advantage. Amy has such a strong male in Andrew, she should use this opportunity to feed herself from his power in order to express herself more.

**MICHAEL HEMERA & LAUREN HEMERA**

Far too often this couple is lost on the floor, which is never a good sign as you have to look for them. Once you do find them you can appreciate what they are doing, but I think it is important for them to find their own way of demanding our attention.

**DANIEL POWER & VICTORIA HOLMES**

After winning the Under 21 Latin title on Thursday evening, I am sure this young couple was still on a high. Another newly formed partnership which shows promise for the future once they have had time to gel together.

**BEN JONES & AMY DOWDEN**

I am sure Ben was happy to make the semifinal for the second time with a new partner. I felt when I was watching it still looked new and too much as two individuals dancing steps together, but in time with hard work they should be able to give the choreography more meaning, which would allow them to challenge couples above them.

**VITOR LEMOS FERNANDES & VICTORIA FENELEY**

This was their first semifinal of the British National



# DANCE Legends

April 13-14, 2012  
New York, NY

*Stars of the past, present, and future*

*Arunas Bizokas & Katusha Demidova*

*Victor Fung & Anastasia Muravyeva*

For the first time in the United States, two nights of showdances by Ballroom and Latin World Champions

*Victor Da Silva & Hanna Karttunen*

Do not miss this exclusive experience of elegance and passion!

*Michael Malitowski & Joanna Leunis*

*Sergey Surkov & Melia*

*Riccardo Cocchi & Yulia Zagoruychenko*

*Michael Wentink & Beata*

*Mirko Gozzoli & Edita Daniute*

**MORE COUPLES TO BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY!**

*Buy tickets and find out more at [www.DanceLegends.com](http://www.DanceLegends.com)*

☎ 855-473-4020

📘 [www.facebook.com/DanceLegendsNYC](http://www.facebook.com/DanceLegendsNYC)

📧 @DanceLegendsNYC

Championships, which must be a nice confirmation of the hard work they are putting in. However, there seems to be too much emphasis on performance and how it looks from the outside, which is not supported by strength and awareness of the centre, or movement of the body.

#### **ADELMO MANDIA & LEILA STEWART**

Adelmo always has bucket loads of power and energy, which produces a challenge to Leila. Tonight I felt like Leila didn't always step up to

match her partner's energy. I would like to see her with a bit more fire about her performance which would then give this partnership a much more balanced look.

#### **KYLE TAYLOR & POLINA SHKLYAEVA**

Both Kyle and Polina need to work on using the standing leg much more to move from foot to foot. This will make them look more grounded, increase the speed, and overall give a much fuller look of their actions.

*Be sure to watch the Holiday Classic video for unusual looks at Goran Nordin, Johan Eftedal, Paul Killick, Alan Tornsberg, Colin James, Lorraine Barricci, Lorraine, and more.*

[Click Here](#)

# British National Open Amateur Ballroom 2011

*Report by Timothy Palmer*

*Photos by Andrew Miller  
www.dancefotoman.co.uk*



Those with a professional interest in the moods of Nature develop an eye for the subtle clues to changes in that lady's demeanor: glider pilots can spot rising air from several miles, the best yachtsmen know just when to run with the wind and when to run for harbor, and experienced herdsmen know well when to allow their flocks to graze and when to call them in from the gathering storm. There is a change in the wind, I have thought this for a while, and now I feel certain that the fortunes of British couples are turning for the better. We can see this from recent progress in the Latin field and perhaps too from the growing popularity of the English flag in particular with world-class performers from elsewhere. I perceived this at the last UK Closed, where the standard was also superb; and, watching this year's British National, I came to the same conclusion. It is some years since I have seen so many young competitors of high potential together in the higher ranks of the home amateur field and I sense a

battle royal developing at this level. Who knows what pecking order might develop from the fray but the conflict is sure to raise standards even further! The prospect of a British revival has seemed for a long time only a distant hope, but I now see it as a real possibility. What is particularly pleasing to me is that, in an age when one often hears others bemoan the lack of 'individuals', there is considerable difference of style between this year's top performers. Tonight's winners and runners up are both brilliant performers, but worlds apart in style. Go down the list of finalists and you won't find any that is a clone of either! This is very healthy and a good sign for the future. The British bug in many competitive pastimes is often one of consistency, but I have had the pleasure of judging all of these finalists in other events this year and can say that the strength in their performances tonight is absolutely characteristic rather than just ephemeral. Lean and hungry they certainly all are, but none is ever 'out to lunch'!

Final:

**1: Mark Elsbury & Olga Elsbury (England).** Placed second in quickstep and first in all other dances, last years' champions Mark and Olga held the title fairly comfortably in the final anal-



*1st*





ysis, though the second and third placed couples each received a number of first place marks from some judges. They were certainly on their top form in this final, rising to the occasion as champions do and dancing a particularly fine foxtrot. This result was by no means certain though in the light of the 'International' placings, where tonight's runners-up secured a semi-final place and tonight's champions did not, being left in the quarter-final. Tonight's victory will then no doubt be a great reassurance to Mark and Olga, who achieved the hat-trick with this win. It will be interesting to see whether the magic of three wins engenders any change of course for this talented couple.

**2: Ben Taylor & Stefanie Bossen (England).**

Ben and Stefanie were placed first in quickstep and second in the other dances and made a significant leap from last year's fifth place in this event. They have become of late about as competitive as it is possible to be, having tremendous visual impact on the floor and a totally focused approach to competition exposure. I am not surprised either at their success in quickstep, this being a tour de force in their repertoire.

**3: Kyle Taylor & Polina Shklyaeva (England).**

Kyle and Polina were third in all dances, which is a fair achievement for a newish partnership. Kyle was placed second here last year with former partner Liis End and has shown with Polina much resilience in performance in achieving this result in the



preparation time available. The new partnership with this brilliant Russian looks very promising indeed, combining classic style with considerable physical prowess. I have always thought that Kyle has the mark of future greatness and in Polina he has a partner to match! I am not at all surprised that they also picked up some firsts in their basket of judges' votes and I expect their challenge to intensify as the season progresses.

**4: Andrey Sirbu & Alexandra Hixson (England).**

Andrey and Alexandra, who were placed fourth in all dances, equaled their 2010 fourth place overall in this competition. They also received a first place mark from one judge in tango, this being one of their best dances. It is fair to say that they are "dancer's dancers" and always draw their share of support from audiences. Having great fluidity of movement and faultless musicality, they are always a pleasure to watch.

**5: Stephen Arnold & Karolina Szmit (England).**

Stephen and Karolina were placed fifth in all dances and are likely to be pleased with the outcome of their first appearance in this competition together. Stephen last competed in this event in 2009, when he reached the semi-final with former partner Charlotte Cutler, Karolina



being placed fourth that year with her former partner Jack Beale. I have been privileged to see them dance several times recently and what has struck me most on those occasions has been their great additional power of execution in major basic actions, without any loss of style or smoothness. This has moved them decidedly from the 'nice to watch' to 'exciting to watch' categories on my wish list.

**6: John Giannini & Katherine Giannini (England).**

John and Katherine were sixth in all dances, making a very popular leap from last year's semi-final. A roar of approval greeted their recall to this championship final, underlining the great popularity of this charming young couple. I was a finalist myself here in the first-ever Brit-



ish National in 1975 and know exactly how they must have felt tonight! They looked delighted with their achievement and rose to the occasion in their performance, quickstep being especially notable. There is a great deal of potential in this team and tonight's final placing was a major breakthrough for them.

Semi-final:

**James Cutler & Courtney Taylor (England).** James and Courtney were semi-finalists also

last year. They were next in to the final on the judges' marks this year, with greatest support coming in foxtrot and quickstep. Only one judge voted to see their tango again as opposed to six who liked their foxtrot, which indicates strongly that the dance from Buenos Aires is the one to work on for the push to next year's final. James and Courtney are great crowd pleasers and had many supporters present who were willing that to happen this year.

**Christopher Millward & Victoria Bennett (England).**

Christopher and Victoria were placed sixth in this event last year and must be disappointed with this result. They were eighth on the judges' votes, foxtrot being their most popular dance and quickstep least. That sounds about right on what I saw, the former dance being in my view a stronger contender for a final place than the majority of this year's judges believed and the latter being weak in comparison. They do have lovely personalities on the floor and are very popular for this and their classic style. I know that many in the audience would have liked to see them again.

**Stefano Di Brino & Yasmin Priestnall (England).**

Yasmin was a quarter-finalist here last year with former partner Edmund Ault and looked pleased with this achievement tonight. They gave a very

consistent performance overall, though I liked their waltz best for its lingering closes and strong musicality.

**Edmund Ault & Leanne A Reum Han (England).**

Edmund, as we have heard, was a quarter-finalist in 2010 with former partner Yasmin Priestnall and is likely to be satisfied with this year's achievement. They were at their best in tango tonight, this dance having great atmosphere created through expert use of contrast in the timing of actions.

**Alex Pritchard & Chloe Hewitt (England).**

Quarter-finalists last year, Alex and Chloe are also likely to be pleased with this success tonight. They have had a run of successes this year and seem likely to continue their push through the ranks. They also produced a strong tango in this semi-final, foxtrot likewise being a good dance for them in my view.

**Sidney Chong & Sofya Aksenchik (England).**

Sidney was a quarter-finalist in 2010 with former partner Camilla Due and should be encouraged by this placing tonight, which shows great promise. This is another very musical partnership and I thought their waltz particularly lovely on this occasion, it having strong fluidity, and timing with great empathy towards the music.

## Ask A Dance Expert

Ask questions and read the answers  
from some of the USA's leading  
adjudicators and coaches

Click here for this week's question or to submit  
your own question

*You can submit a question here ([info@dancebeat.com](mailto:info@dancebeat.com)) for any of these adjudicators from the 2012 City Lights Ball. Michel Mead, Corky Ballas, Michael Chapman Alan Dixon, John Eftedal, Olga Foroponova, Elena Kosovich, Susan Puttock, Thersa Shiry, Sam Sodano, Bill Sparks*

**Ask A Dance Expert is sponsored by the City Lights Ball  
January 27 - 29, 2012 - San Jose CA.**



INTERNATIONAL OPEN  
PRO AM COMPETITION

# CHAMPIONS' BALL MOSCOW

21-22 April, 2012

WORLD TRADE  
CENTRE  
MOSCOW

[WWW.CHAMPIONSBALLDANCE.RU](http://WWW.CHAMPIONSBALLDANCE.RU)  
[office@dpg-int.ru](mailto:office@dpg-int.ru)



## The Caribbean Dancesport 2011

*Report by Keith Todd*

*Photos by Moses Goddard*

**Question:** *At which competition on the U.S. circuit can you leave the ballroom and run into a free concert by New York salsa legend, Michael Stewart, in the lobby of the hotel?*

**Answer:** *“Only 1 - the Caribbean Dancesport at the El San Juan Hotel, Puerto Rico!*

For those who have experienced it, there is nothing quite like the lobby of the El San Juan Hotel, home to the Caribbean Dancesport. On Friday and Saturday nights the locals and tourists alike flock here to listen and dance to the best in local salsa music. But this year, as we all exited the ballroom on Thursday the lobby was unusually crowded.



The reason soon became clear. The El San Juan and Grey Goose Vodka were hosting a salsa concert by New York salsa sensation, Michael Stewart. Backed up by twenty plus musicians and singers, this was a totally unexpected treat and one I will remember for a long time to come. Some of the dancers even got photos with the star.



After a one-year hiatus I was delighted to be back at the Caribbean Dancesport, certainly one of my favorite events on the US dance circuit. Few events can boast a tropical Caribbean resort as their venue, situated right on the beach the El San Hotel is a true delight. The lobby, mentioned above, dates from the hotel's birth in 1951 and features a unique central bar and ornately carved wood. The pool areas have been renovated within the last five years and offer plenty of choices for sunbathing. Perhaps one of my favorite events at the Caribbean Dancesport in breakfast! Breakfast is served for the dance group on the rooftop of the hotel with stunning panoramas in 360 degrees. Dinners are also served near the pool with the choice of inside or al fresco dining.



The Caribbean Dancesport is also one of the few events to still offer a Saturday Night banquet, complete with (of course) a salsa band for general dancing throughout the night in between competitions.

It can be a little hard to concentrate on the dancing amid the sun, beach, pool and live salsa bands, yet the Caribbean Dancesport often attracts some quite high-level professional competitors. Of course, it is easy to forget that San Juan is not a particularly long flight from anywhere in the Eastern USA.



*Tuft/Tuft*

My personal favorite event this year, although one that I did not personally judge, was the Showdance. Only four couples were entered, yet each one produced a memorable and enjoyable performance.



*Andrew Begunov*

The winners, with an emotive bolero to "Lady" were Emmanuel Pierre Antoine & Liana Churilova. I was greatly impressed with the skill and dexterity of this remarkable young lady. Equally



*PierreAntoine/Churilova*



*Judge,  
Paul Holmes*

impressive were Travis & Jamie Tuft who were second and produced great dancing with effortless lifts. And then in third spot were the current US TA Champions, Jerry & Virginia Lenoir who have added a new chapter to their careers in the last couple of years. Placing fourth, and causing quite a stir among the ladies in the audience were Andre "The Abs" Begunov & Anna Demidova who gave us their hard rock inspired showdance, Andrew without a shirt for some portions.

Emmanuel & Liana also easily won the Open Rhythm. Second were Jean Michel Erole & Viktoriya Kobenkova who placed 2,2,2,2,4. They really need to watch that timing in mambo! Third were Thomas Varian & Caitlyn Rose Foster (3,3,4,3,3), fourth, Alex Olivares & Lorin Jimenez (4,4,3,4,2) and fifth Mitchel Kibel & Lindsey Dechant (5,5,5,5,5).

Andrew Begunov (fully clothed at this point) & Anna Demidova won all dances in the Pro Ballroom over strong contenders, Basil Issaev & Liene Apale who were second in all. Third in all were Martin & Liene Reinbold, fourth in all Arturas Misurenkovas & Oksana Zaver and fifth Sergey Bolotnikov & Lori Mizro.

I was very impressed with Andre Strinadko & Tatiana Banko who won all dances in the Open Pro Latin. They were well clear in this division. Second were Tomas Vasicek & Kimberley Harris (2,2,2,2,2) and third Nadir Bayramov & Oxana Petukhova.

Four couples entered the Open Pro Smooth and Travis & Jamie Tuft comfortably won all dances. Making quite an impression, however, were Michael Koptke & Chelsea Farrah in second place (2,2,2,2). Third were Aaron Talbert & Danielle Mayzes and

# **WDCAL** **AMATEUR LEAGUE**

## THE SWISS OPEN



**Swiss Open Latin  
World Cup Ballroom  
Professional Ballroom & Latin  
22-23 September 2012**

Mövenpick Hotel Zürich-Regensdorf  
CH-8105 Regensdorf ZH  
[www.theswissopen.com](http://www.theswissopen.com)



*Strinadko/Banco*

fourth Rudolph Rene & Jennifer Cazarez.

On both nights the Open Professional events were danced in an alternating pattern. The first dance from each event followed by the second from each and so on. This is a system similar to



*Johnston/Goddard*

that used at the International Championships in London, and the originator of that system, Robin Short, was a judge here at Caribbean Dancesport this year.

There were two big winners in the pro-am

open scholarships and these were Joan Goddard w/ Chris Johnston who placed first in the B Rhythm, C Rhythm and C Latin and Patricia Mooney w/ Mikolaj Czarnecki who was first in the B Smooth and C Smooth and second in the B Rhythm and C Rhythm. There were also two impressive ladies in the A divisions, Heidi Bucigross w/ Mikolaj Czarnecki who took the A Smooth and Donyelle Werner w/ Steve Vasco who took the A Rhythm.

The largest of the Ballroom Scholarships, the B, was won by Brynda Insley w/ Martin Reinbold. Linda Dillman w/ Arturas Misurenkovas was second in this division and won the B.

No trip to Puerto Rico is complete without a visit to the walled city of Old San Juan, a short taxi ride from our hotel. This year I acted as tour guide for San Juan newbies, Robin & Rita Short and Greg Smith.

I ended my stay at the Caribbean Dancesport as I normally do, sitting in the hotel lobby on Saturday night, listening to wonderful salsa music and catching up with old friends including on this occasion, Mr. Gary Pierce, who I realized with horror, that I had known for about thirty-five years!



# Dancephotoman



Are you looking for photographs from around the world. For pictures from many of the major events from the Uk, Europe, and Asia please go to: [www.dancefotoman.co.uk](http://www.dancefotoman.co.uk)

# ADMETECH FOUNDATION'S DANCE FOR A CURE OF PROSTATE CANCER

SUPPORTED BY  
ARTHUR MURRAY INTERNATIONAL  
DANCEBEAT AND PHILIPS



## PROSTATE CANCER IS AN EPIDEMIC

A MAN DIES EVERY 19 MINUTES

## WHERE IS OUR MANOGRAM:

LIFE-SAVING IMAGING FOR MEN?



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- ABC TV's *Dancing with the Stars* & Professional Cast Members: Corky Ballas and Mark Ballas, Nick Kosovich, Alec Mazo, Edyta Sliwinska, Karina Smirnoff, Louis Van Amstel
- Mary Murphy of Fox TV's *So You Think You Can Dance*
- Lisa Ann Walter of Oxygen's *Dance Your A\*\* Off*
- Hollywood actors Barry Bostwick, Beth Broderick, Florence Henderson and film producer Stephen Nemeth
- Broadway Choreographers Debbie Allen and Sergio Trujillo
- Ohio Star Ball, Capital, Hollywood and other Dancesport Championships: Atlanta, Commonwealth, Eastern, Embassy, Manhattan, New England and Yankee Classic

WWW.ADMETECH.ORG



OUR SPONSORS: ARTISTRY IN MOTION, BOSTON BALLET, DESIGNS TO SHINE, DORE DESIGNS, ELLE DANCE STUDIO, FRONT ROW PRODUCTIONS, HITACHI, LENIQUE AND MANY OTHERS