

***IPDSC World Professional Ballroom Championships 2009.  
Bassano del Grappa, Italy Sunday 15 February 2009.***

***Whow what a hall, what an atmosphere and what a beautiful couples !***

***That is the first impression about the IPDSC World Championships Ballroom 2009.***

***11 professional judges, from 11 countries, had the difficult task to select from a first round of 23 Ballroom couples a semi final of 12 couples.***

***And... it was not a very easy task for the judges. The quality of couples was great and it was a hard fight for couples and judges to have the 12 selected.***

***Chairman Daniele Tondon with his over view over this great competition together with organiser Mauro Lini made everything possible to create a super atmosphere and the packed audience enjoyed every minute.***

A very exciting moment was when not 6 couples, but 7 couples were called to the final. 2 countries dominated this final; Italy and Russia and indeed also couples from these countries claimed the title.

First by winning all dances was the Russian couple Alexey Galchun & Tatiana Demina.

A wonderful performance. Beautiful dancing, specially in the slow dances Waltz and Foxtrot.

In Waltz they only missed 3 first places from the 11 judges ! In Foxtrot only 2.

A very well deserved win in my opinion, so the other judges thought as well.

Second and giving a great show; Isaia Berardi & Cinzia Birelli

The audiences favourites; of course dancing in their homeland. Specially for them a big group of supporters came for them to yell them into the final.

Their Tango was their best dance and they even got 2 x 1<sup>st</sup>. place.

They were placed 2<sup>cd</sup>. in all 5 dances

Overall their performance was great and they will have a super future.

Knowing them as top amateurs they have grown in their role as professionals.

I am sure we will see a lot more from this very stylish couple.

Third by being 3<sup>rd</sup>. in Waltz, Tango and Foxtrot, 5<sup>th</sup>. in Slow Foxtrot and 4<sup>th</sup>. in Quickstep, also from Italy Guiseppa Magnelli & Francesca Pietramale.

Personally I thought the nr. 4 placed couple Luca Rosignoli & Veronica Haller could have been placed in third position.

I was very wondered that they finished 5<sup>th</sup>. in waltz, 4<sup>th</sup>. in Tango and Viennese Waltz.

But in the last 2 dances they took 3<sup>rd</sup>. position and the total gave them a 4<sup>th</sup>. place in this nice competition.

Luca & Veronica have joined the professionals shortly and they must have been thrilled by being in this Final.

Also for this couple I think that they will have a very good future if they develop their performance and the depth of specially the Waltz. The 5<sup>th</sup>. place in this dance was for me a little bit underrated.

They are stylish and a very good moving couple.

5<sup>th</sup>. place went to Valdis Skutans & Olga Binova from Russia. I know this gentleman dancing for an other country and I must say that I have seen him danced better than tonight.

The transfer of weight was not always good enough for me. He did not dance on his feet all the time and this gave a wrong image to some of the dancing.

Overall he deserved of course to be included in this final but the overall position of the 5<sup>th</sup>. place gave exactly the distance between the other 4 couples.

From Italy in 6<sup>th</sup>. position was Roberto Regnoli & Tania Berto. They must have been disappointed by this result. They were really overall in 6<sup>th</sup>.position as was the nr. 7 from Russia Roman Goncharov & Maria Sekistova.

These 2 couples did not compete for higher places although I enjoyed their dancing very much.

In my opinion Roberto & Tania could have been finished higher specially in Tango.

The final was a high light of the whole competition weekend which was superb organised by a great team from Bassano del Grappa including the World Junior II Latin Championships on the Saturday night and 2 major IDSF International Amateur Championships.

It was a very good idea to include this IPDSC Professional Ballroom Worlds in this dance sport weekend as so the amateurs can enjoy great dancing from the professionals and can dream of their goals to become also after their amateur career a professional themselves. To show this dancing from professionals in the same competition weekend as the amateurs it gives the IPDSC a great future.

The top amateurs from today will be the IPDSC professionals of tomorrow.

The whole weekend showed how true the slogan Amicitia Saltando is, a slogan the great and late Bill Irvine MBE always used at the end of the Blackpool team match.

Friendship through the dance ! I hope this will come true for the dancing world as a whole in due times.

I cannot end this short report of a lovely competition by thanking the organisers, chairman and specially also the terrific music which was played, surely in the Ballroom competitions. Bassano you did a super job ! Up to the next.