

IPDSC European Championships Latin and IPDSC Open Standard

Tampere Winter Dance Festival in cooperation with FDSA had the great pleasure to host the 2009 Latin Championship competition as well as the Open Standard competition in Tampere, Finland, on the last weekend in January. We thank IPDSC for accepting us as members and also for trusting us to arrange this happening. My special thanks also to Mr. and Mrs. Sami and Karita Yli-Piipari, who inspired us to make this dream come true. We find IPDSC as a natural continuity of your dancing career after you have turned professional. You can stick to your way of thinking and sensing, you are used to the demands of active sport and you need not change your values at all. That's why we in Finland wish to give our and other couples also this opportunity, a true choice.

The competitions took place at Tampere Fair and Sports Centre. Finland showed up some exotic features with plenty of clean white snow and minus degrees this weekend. Tampere is an industrial town with some 220.000 inhabitants, the area of which is so large, that the EU first did not qualify this town as anything else than countryside as we have not enough inhabitants on a square kilometre to be accepted as a town. Anyhow, we used to be known for our paper, steel and cotton industry. Nowadays we are better known as the home of Nokia mobile phones, high technology and the universities, and of course of dancing. We have more than three thousand dancers in seven dance clubs here, I and my first vice president live here. Also our latin couples in this competition both came from Tampere.

This year 18 couples from seven countries participated in this European Latin Championship. Three rounds were danced to find out which couple was the best. The competition was quite nice, the quality of dancing was good and all the competitors were well prepared. I admire those couples, they have had the courage that still unfortunately is needed to take part and dance a balanced performance without any need to underline their professionalism by e.g. wearing improper outfits or anything else. They are all committed to their sport and a life without doping. The outstanding winners in this competition were Maurizio Ghigiarelli and Manuela Andracchio from Italy. The silver medallists, Andrey Prosvirnin and Julia Rogozina from Russia, did not give them an easy victory with their speedy and skilful performance. Also the contest for the third placing was quite even and ended up with bronze medallists Mikko Kaasalainen and Adrienn Fitori from Finland leaving the Russian couple Alex Kabrinov and Anna Elnikova on fourth place. Placings five and six were danced by Vitaly Bil and Natalia Moshkova from Russia and Stefan Green with Adriana Signora from Italy.

It was not an easy job for the distinguished panel of adjudicators, as the level of performance was so even. This can be seen from the fact that all finalists got markings from one to six. The chairman of this competition was Mr. Daniele Tondon from Italy and his panel was made up by Mr. Roberto Borelli (Italy), Mrs. Melissa Dexter (USA), Mr. Nenad Jeftić (Serbia), Mr. Frederic Mosa (France), Mr. Lasse Ødegaard (Norway), Mr. Søren Pilgaard (Denmark), Miss Karina Rubio (Spain), Mrs. Anastasia Titkova (Russia), Mrs. Verena Šulek (Slovenia), Mrs. Merja Satulehto (Finland) and Mr. Rudi Trauz (Germany).

Also an IPDSC Open Standard competition was danced on Sunday with five couples from three countries. The differences in this competition were more easily found between the couples and every placing could quite clearly be predicted by watching them dance. The winners Isaia Berardi and Cinzia Birarelli from Italy won all the five dances and the runners up Luca Rossignoli with Veronika Haller also from Italy were second in every dance. Sergey Parakhin and Maria Galtseva from Russia showed good quality and were third, Sami Helenius and Jutta Helenius from Finland fourth as well as Aleksey Panov and Olga Shnyakina from Russia were fifth in all dances. This

competition had a slight change in panels and we could see Mr. Daniele Tondon as chairman and in the panel the following adjudicators: Mr. Roberto Borelli, Mr. Asis Khadjed-Nouri (Germany), Mr. Lasse Ødegaard, Mr. Søren Pilgaard, Mr. Thomas Shaughnessy (Ireland), Mrs. Verena Šulek, Mr. Peep Vardja (Estonia), Mr. Robert Wota (Poland) and Mrs. Merja Satulehto.

Both these competitions were televised by the national Finnish broadcasting company YLE for channel TV2. Also two other programs from the competition (a collage of standard and another of latin) will be done. If some other country would like to also show these competitions, do not hesitate to ask the Finnish Dance Sport Association (FDSA) for help if needed when contacting YLE.

It was the first time I watched an IPDSC competition. I'm glad I did. There are so many rumours going around that you really need to find out about this yourself. These competitions suit in quite well with other international events. I hope also new organizers among members are willing to take the step into cooperation with IPDSC.

Carola Tuokko
President
FDSA