

The Annual Report of the ESSDA Board 2007/2008 **(18. February 2007 until 25. July 2008)**

(Report postponed of the Annual General Meeting, held on Friday the 25th of July 2008 in Barcelona, to be delivered by Email to the members because of time reasons):

Board members 2007/2008: Female Co-President Roswitha Wetschka A, Male Co-President Ralf Schiller UK, General Secretary Jacky Appleton UK, Treasurer Sharon Vickers UK, Board members Andrzej Selerowicz A, Davy Brocatus B, Dörte Lange GER.

The focus of the work of the ESSDA Board 2007/2008 was on building up ESSDA and on preparations for Eurogames Barcelona 2008.

- 1.) We, the Board, and you, the members, have **FOUNDED ESSDA** with the main missions and aims to provide constantly high quality and attractiveness of same-sex dance competitions, to provide a communication and support system for the same-sex dance world and to work towards a climate of tolerance and acknowledgement in the mainstream dance sport world. (more details look at the ESSDA Constitution on www.essda.eu)
- 2.) **WEBSITE COMMITTEE (Dörte Lange and Frank Morche, Ger):** The ESSDA website www.essda.eu was created and developed as an information centre for same-sex dancers and organisers. An official ESSDA competition calendar was created on our website where all same-sex organisers shall post the dates and coordinate with each other to avoid clashing competitions. This calendar has succeeded to be well established as the central competition calendar in the European same-sex dance scene. No regulations about clashing dates have been introduced, although they were discussed by Board members and it is a theme for the future.

The newest development of the website is the ESSDA Forum which serves for structured information, but especially communication (for example the ESSDA Rules were discussed there) and will be the tool for voting in Referendums.
www.essda.eu/forum
- 3.) Communication and decision structures inside the international Board were built up and a whole team of translators helped to spread the news about ESSDA.
- 4.) **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS WORKGROUP (Jacky Appleton, UK and Roswitha Wetschka, A):** Constitution and Bylaws were put together based on different sources, discussed in detail and voted on by the Board. The Constitution was discussed and agreed by the members at the AGM 2007 in Antwerp. The Bylaws should have been discussed and agreed at the AGM 2008 in Barcelona, but this was postponed because of time reasons to an internet Referendum.
- 5.) **REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY (Jacky Appleton, UK)**

Overview of Membership, (updated after the AGM 2008): 127 ordinary members (= European individuals) from 9 European nations, 4 extraordinary members (= 4 clubs), 5 associate members (=5 individuals from outside Europe, all from US)

6.) EGLSF AND BARCELONA EUROGAMES CONTACTS (The Co-Presidents Ralf Schiller, Uk and Roswitha Wetschka, A)

During the preparations of the ESSDA Rules for Eurogames the organiser of the Dance competition at Eurogames Barcelona 2008 didn't communicate with ESSDA people for months, so ESSDA went strictly the official way. Roswitha became contact person with EGLSF and offered collaboration and help from ESSDA (with Rules, knowledge and experts) to make sure that the dance competition had high standards, which offer was very welcome by the EGLSF.

ESSDA applied to the EGLSF Board for the official tasks to provide the Competition Rules and to provide support and advice to the organiser (next time from the start). The EGLSF board supported this, "but has to make a proposal towards next year's Annual General Assembly for the membership 2009 to vote on and if they accept - meaning stricter general rules re. Eurogames - we will officially ask/appoint/agree with not just ESSDA but all other organisations to do that job for all future games." (Gabriella Körmendi, EGLSF).

Ralf became contact person for the Barcelona organiser and the Eurogames Barcelona Team and, as the EGLSF Board now recommended ESSDA, welcomed the provision of Rules, expertise and then also experts.

In the end, ESSDA provided the whole executing team at the Barcelona competition from Chairman, Scrutineer, 2 Masters of ceremonies, ... (including Ralf Schiller, Nicky Miles, Niels Menge, Mette Bugge, Thorsten Reulen, Dörte Lange,..) and nearly all judges (organised by Davy Brocatus).

7.) RULES AND GUIDELINES COMMITTEE (Thorsten Reulen, GER, Ralf Schiller, UK, Niels Menge, GER, Roswitha Wetschka, A, Sharon Vickers, UK):

The "ESSDA Dance Competition Rules for Eurogames 2008" were developed by the committee (main work done by Thorsten Reulen) discussed by the members in the ESSDA Forum in spring 2008, then adapted by Thorsten until 3 days before the Eurogames and tested in Barcelona. Have a look at <http://www.essda.eu/news/news.htm>

The "ESSDA Dance Competition Rules EG08" for the dance competitions of the EuroGames 2008 were set up to enable the organisers in Barcelona (who had no experience with same-sex dance competitions) to carry out EuroGames competitions of a high quality. These "ESSDA Dance Competition Rules EG08" consist of basic rules, implemental provisions and points of advice. They are pooling and updating existing sets of rules to a comprehensive compendium.

They were explicitly created for the EuroGames 2008, will also serve as draft for future EuroGames, but will be further developed after having been tested in Barcelona. The Board and the membership did not yet agree and vote over these Rules, the discussion and voting of the membership at the AGM 2008 in Barcelona was postponed because of time reasons.

The "Guide for Classification" and "All round Calculation" were sent by Thorsten Reulen, in German only, three days before the Eurogames Barcelona and was not circulated or discussed by the Rules and Guidelines Committee, the Board or with the members, so has to be seen as an individual proposal by Thorsten.

The "ESSDA Dance Competition Rules for Eurogames 2008" will also be developed to a more general set of ESSDA Rules for other same-sex competitions. This work will be done in the spirit of ESSDA and their goal to ensure a constant high standard for same-sex dance competitions in Europe.

8.) QUALITY AND ATTRACTIVENESS COMMITTEE (Andrzej Selerowicz, A, Jacky Appleton, UK, Roswitha Wetschka, A):

This committee will work on strategies for HOW to maintain a level of quality and attractiveness for both audience and competitors. Here our ideas, ideas are welcome from the members: Encouraging the use of rules and guidelines for same-sex competitions; developing and collecting ideas for guidelines for newcomers in organising same-sex competitions (environment, conditions, hosting, food...); developing and collecting ideas for feedback systems and systems of assurance and quality management about quality AND attractiveness of the competitions. Making recommendations on how to build a wider base of dancers to participate in same-sex competitions at home and abroad and encourage social dancers to compete; promoting same-sex competitions within countries that do not participate currently and supporting dancers to set up their own clubs and providing information that will enable this; collecting ideas to increase audience participation and promotion.

9.) The newest committee:

CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE (Davy Brocatus, (B), Mette Bugge (DK), Sharon Vickers (UK), Thorsten Reulen (G) and Roswitha Wetschka (A)

The task of the ESSDA Committee for Championships is to develop models and procedures for establishing European and World Championships in same-sex dancing, that are neutral, sportive fair and well acknowledged in the international same sex dance community - so unifying, not splitting - , and that are supported by the (bigger) representing associations of same-sex dancing in the related geographical area.

10.) TREASURER (Sharon Vickers, UK): There were no financial activities, as there are no membership fees, so no budget available (for example for membership with other associations...). Preparations and research were done to open a bank account and to make sure that ESSDA is a legally acknowledged association. Any bills like website or leaflets are sponsored by Board or ESSDA members.

11.) There were single activities but **no committees or workgroups about** the themes "Cooperation and Contacts with LGBT sports/same-sex dance sports and dance organisations", "Contacts with mainstream dance sports and dance organisations", "The Characteristics of same-sex dancing: between the poles of copying vs. uniqueness; representation of identities, gender roles, erotic and relationships in styles and routines", "Leader and Follower as teaching term". People from inside and outside the Board with expertise, ideas and resources, please contact the Board!