



European Same-Sex Dance Association

ESSDA News February 2010

Another exciting year of dancing ahead of us... To all of you who have come from afar to be at the Pink Jukebox Trophy and to the local couples. Best of luck!

To the **competition organisers** and **volunteers**, many thanks for another great party!

In the following lines you will find a brief update on the work and plans of ESSDA for 2010 and some very important news. Keep dancing!

From **Angelo Berbotto**, General Secretary and Chair of the Outreach Committee (COC):

I love the PJT because it brings together dancers from distant corners of Europe and elsewhere. In my role as COC I have the opportunity to liaise and work closely with dancers from countries where same-sex dancing is developing.

Together we are working on finding ways to consolidate s-s dancesport in those countries. Our immediate project is the publication of a country-by-country report.

The following countries are represented in the committee: Austria, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. We are looking for contacts in other European countries as well! If you would like to help, please contact me on: angelo@essda.eu

Currently, over 150 people support ESSDA's goals with their membership. ESSDA's work and projects keep growing for the benefit of dancers all over Europe. If you are not yet a member of ESSDA, you will have the chance to become a member at the PJT and be part of it! Just fill out a form (available online or at the registration desk) and hand it in with your fee to Carley. Thank you! -- Angelo

From **Davy Brocatus**, Treasurer

Dear Members of ESSDA,

At last year's AGM, the members gathered at the meeting decided that a small membership fee of €10 would be charged in 2010 in order for ESSDA to be able to continue its work.

Some of you have already paid your membership fees promptly... to those thinking about joining, let me tell you that ESSDA, as the umbrella organisation for same-sex dancing, is instrumental in ensuring the sound development and quality of same-sex dancing into the future. We sincerely hope that you appreciate the goals achieved so far and that you will support ESSDA by renewing your membership. May I wish all competitors a very successful dancing year!

davy@essda.eu

Upcoming competitions:

07.03.10 – Amsterdam (the Netherlands)
20.03.10 – Zwolle (the Netherlands)

27.03.10 – Bielefeld (Germany)
17.04.10 – Hamburg (Germany)
18.04.10 – Schönberg (Kiel, Germany)
08.05.10 – Eindhoven (the Netherlands)
15.05.10 – Hannover (Germany)
26.06.10 – Berlin (Germany)
31.07.10 – Gay Games VIII, Cologne (Germany)
25.09.10 – Vienna (Austria)
09.10.10 – Cologne (Germany)
30.12.10 – Copenhagen (Denmark)

... and see the entire calendar and hyperlinks to the competition sites on the ESSDA website:

<http://www.essda.eu/calendar/calendar.htm>



IMPORTANT!

PAYMENT of FEES

If you wish to pay at the PJT, please see ESSDA member **Carley Haslam**. The fee is €10 but £10 will be accepted (but no change will be given).

Members living within the Euro zone, you may pay your fee by bank transfer to:

Dexia, Belgiëlei, 2018 Antwerp, Belgium

Account No: 068-2510049-07

IBAN: BE74-0682-5100-4907

BIC: GKCCBEBB

Thank you for your support!

From **Vernon Kemp** and **Dörte Lange**, male and female Co-Presidents of ESSDA:

Following a motion at ESSDA's 2009 AGM, ESSDA continues to support the "One Games Campaign" together with many other LGBT organisations worldwide. The Board sent an open letter to the FGG and GLISA and Dörte and Niels joined the FGG Annual Meeting in September 2009 where this was an important topic in the agenda.

ESSDA is planning to send a delegate to the EGLSF's Annual General Assembly that will take place in Manchester, UK, on 5-7 March, 2010.

ESSDA has established contacts with local teams in Rotterdam and Budapest, the host cities for the Euro Games 2011 and 2012 respectively, in order to work together with them in the organisation of their dancesport competitions.

We have consolidated our relationship with NASSPDA through frequent email contact and have established a joint committee to update the FGG Red Book for Dance Sport for the upcoming Gay Games.



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Best wishes to you all and see you on or around the dance floor!

vernon@essda.eu and doerte@essda.eu

ESSDA elections

They will take place at the AGM in Cologne. The offices held by Vernon Kemp, Niels Menge and Thorsten Reulen are up for election. More information will be available closer to the date of the AGM.

SUGGESTIONS, NEWS AND TRANSLATIONS

ESSDA's PR & Marketing Committee needs your help and support! Do you have ideas and suggestions? We would love to have your thoughts and comments. ESSDA is looking at establishing a team of editors / correspondents from all over Europe to convey ESSDA's goals, news, etc... You can help by writing articles and/or translating them. If you have news from your club, school or association and you post it on your website, forward the information to ESSDA in your language as well as in English! Thanks in advance and hopefully we'll achieve more exciting goals in 2010!

ESSDA's PR & Marketing Committee

HOT OFF THE PRESS :

"Celeb" Belgian on ESSDA-board

Davy Brocatus, ESSDA's Treasurer, has been asked again to be a judge in the 4th season of the Flemish version of *Strictly Come Dancing* on VTM, Belgian Television. Check it out: www.vtm.be/sterren-op-de-dansvloer every Friday live from the television studios in Brussels (starting on 26th March and on air for 10 weeks.)

The Pink Jukebox's Free Birthday Party!

Jacky and Ralf invite all Pink Jukebox members and PJT competitors, judges and stewards to celebrate The Pink Jukebox's 14th birthday on Sunday 21st February from 1pm to 5pm at *La Cantina*, 4 Wild Court, Holborn, WC2B 4AU (3 minutes walk from Holborn Tube Station).

"Come, chat and dance with us before you travel home!!!" N.B. There will be no lessons on that day.

And don't forget to check out: <http://samesexdancing.blog.co.uk/> for news, pictures and stories on the PJ Trophy.

From **Niels Menge**, Board Member

Preparations are underway in my hometown, Cologne, to host the 2010 Gay Games and I am one of the Dancesport Competition co-organisers.

The competition will be held in one of the most spectacular venues in Cologne -- the Maritim Hotel's ballroom. The grand ballroom will see four days of competitions in the following categories: Balroom, Latin, Showdance and Country and Western

It will also host the official closing ball of Gay Games 2010. ESSDA's AGM will take place during the Games in Cologne and we look forward to seeing you there. Check out the website:

www.games-cologne.de

and "BE PART OF IT". Contact me if you have any questions: niels@essda.eu

From **Thorsten Reulen**, Chair of the Rules Committee

In 2009 ESSDA finalised the rules in regards to age requirements to enter senior competitions. The next step is to obtain the necessary support so that they may be applied consistently in all European competitions after the Gay Games 2010.

As the EuroGames in 2011 and 2012 approach, it will be necessary to update the competition rules well in advance and this is one of the Committee's objectives for 2010.

Finally, work has already begun on developing software that will make the classification of couples into A, B, C and D levels faster upon inputting the data from the classification rounds without needing a scrutineer to work it out manually as it is currently the case. This software is expected to be used in conjunction with a future set of rules for regular competitions.

If you have any queries or suggestions regarding the competition rules please contact thorsten@essda.eu

Berlin Open rescheduled due to World-Cup 2010

Pinkballroom Berlin, a member of ESSDA, has rescheduled its 11th Berlin Open Championships which will now take place on Saturday 26th June 2010 and not on 19th June as originally announced. This is because the city of Berlin decided in December 2009 to organise a large FIFA World Cup street party in Berlin due to the popularity of the previous one held back in 2006 when Germany was the World Cup host country. The street party will start on 26 June and this has caused some important changes to the LGBT calendar of events. The Berlin Gay Pride (CSD) had to be brought forward from 26th June to 19th June and the Gay and Lesbian street party will no longer be on 19-20th June but on 12-13th June. Hence the Berlin Open Championship for same-sex couples had to be moved to 26th of June -- one week later than initially planned in order not to clash with Pride. The competition organisers apologise for any inconvenience caused.