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WDC AL – Press Release

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WDC Amateur League launched with combined prize-money of over 700,000 US Dollars in Asia alone!!!

Following the acceptance of a proposal from Canada on their Annual General Meeting, the WDC has formed a new Amateur League in support of the wishes of her members and according to the principals of the open market. The slogan is:

“Zero politics – All the finest events”.

For years, and increasing in effect, competitors and officials have been suffering under the ruling of politicians and their struggle for power and control. This struggle is now at a stage that it reaches from major issues like “world dominance” to the simple issue whether or not a birthmark is visible or sleeves are too short. Looking at our greatest competition in the world of dancing, “Blackpool Dance Festival”, it is evident that the competitors do not need this control to reach the highest level of performance. On the contrary, their performance is far better without. They need a good floor, good music, a good panel of judges and an audience. Leave the rest to the competitors and you can see the “state of the art”.

More and more pressure came from ground-level to the WDC to end this political power-play and take a stand for the organisers, judges and competitors to work and dance in a free environment.

This culminated in a press release from the WDC in defense of the open market; couples are free to dance where they want, judges are free to judge where they want and organisers can count on support in running truly open competitions. Of course such a press release is nice, but it needs to be followed up by action.

The AGM of the WDC, by accepting the proposal of Canada, empowered the executives to follow up the press release in a wider range and form an Amateur League that is truly open. Everybody can join, no one is excluded. Immediately after the AGM countries and organisations, as well as individuals, gave their full support to this Amateur League in overwhelming numbers and offered help to set up a structure.

In Blackpool the WDC Amateur League was formed and major events included.

One worthy of mention is the “**Asian Tour**”, in February/March 2008, including already over US\$700.000, prize money in total for Amateurs and Professionals, with the perspective of increasing to US\$1 million!

Organisations that have been fighting each other in the past for “recognition” joined the new Amateur League as friends together. Applications to join have been flooding in from the moment membership was opened. It only shows that exclusion doesn’t work and the era of “protectionism” is something of the past.

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The WDC is now in the process of preparing a good structure for the future of all dancers, to compete where they want without fear of repercussions. A temporary Steering Committee has been appointed, lead by **Sammy Stopford** as Chairman, **Svein Røtvold** and **Sergey Ryupin** as Vice-Chairmen. Numerous advisers and executives, all persons of name and fame, are included to help create an infra-structure.

Naturally the newly formed WDC Amateur League supports the WADA anti-doping code and will look for ways to implement this in its structures.

Within weeks from now members of the WDC, IDSF and those outside the WDC and IDSF will be invited to join the new WDC Amateur League under the principle of the open market. Benefits for the organizations and individuals that join are already in preparation.

More news and free registration for everyone who wants to join is available very at www.danceworldseries.com.

Great sympathy for this initiative by the WDC was shown by the "Blackpool-Crowd" and it was the "talk of the town", so to say, amongst the competitors present. It is obvious that they are all fed up with the pressure put upon them and looking forward to dance again, as before, free from unnecessary regulations.

We, the Presidium of the WDC, are proud to have taken this initiative and of the support of our member countries. We welcome all those who are in support of truly open competitions and will focus on our slogan.

"Zero politics – All the finest events"

The WDC Presidium