

Details of the Open Forum held 16th April 2016

The purpose of the “Open Forum” was to encourage discussion, dialogue and interaction between professionals for ideas and suggestions to build, encourage and expand ballroom dancing in the general populace. To build up the number of students and competitors in studios and clubs to ensure ballroom dancing has a brighter future.

To try to co-ordinate registered (and non-registered) competitions along with other in-house activities to avoid clashes and maybe foster better relations between studios and societies. To additionally define the boundaries of “professional” and “amateur” and their specific status where each stand in the dancing environment.

At this forum we encouraged professionals to attend and express their views and concerns. We tried to define as best as possible the aims and expected outcomes we hoped to achieve. Being successful I would hope that they will be an ongoing process to further and enhance ballroom dancing’s image.

These details will be sent to the registered professionals, studios and societies of ballroom dancing in the hope that a concerted effort will be put into co-ordinated cooperation within the dancing community.

T – True
H – Helpful
I – Inspiring or Insightful
N - Necessary
K - Kind

We allowed the membership to drive the ideas and what they (thought) they wanted. We will try to hold the forum on an annual basis.

It was mentioned of the previous problems had – decision made over, done and gone forget it and start again – clean.

2008 – WDC (World Dance Council) accepted NDC (National Dance Council) Australia creation and became part of the WDC. Reinstated for International Licence were ADB (Australian Dance Board), NDC and SATD (Society of Australian Teacher of Dance).

There was an acknowledgement that numbers have decreased everywhere studios and competitions.

Dance is a performing art not a sport.

There is a need to introduce dance at a “grass-roots” level.

We have never really promoted outside to advise of studio and/or professionals qualifications or affiliations.

BIG question – What can we do?

Will co-ordination of the societies (registered and non-registered) and studios work?

Can we promote ourselves as a more attractive organisation?

Include all Pro/Am events to enable ALL competitors a better opportunity.

Pay judges?

Topics of discussion and answers reached

- 1) Consideration of inclusion of 'new' dance style
 - a. There was discussion regarding the inclusion of the "Modern Jive" and possibly "Hip Hop" into the curriculum. WDC is discussing development of Ballroom, Latin, Urban, New Vogue, Hip Hop.

- 2) Is there a need to rewrite 'old' rules and regulations?
 - a. There is a need to clearly define and distribute the structure of the regulations and the associated rules which contain these definitions.

- 3) Overhaul of the dance styles and teaching methods related to New Vogue and inclusion of new dances.
 - a. The addition of choreography competitions –
 - 1 it's seen as a good idea
 - 2 would be up to the studio to incorporate if they do it.

- 4) Discussion on number of gradings and levels (reference to length of competitions).
 - a. This is not necessary (will monitor if number increase).

- 5) Rewording of 'Social' and 'Novelty' events to possibly 'recreational hobby'
 - a. No current wording is fine reflects competitor better.

- 6) Licencing of official's, professionals and others related to competition committees (child protection scheme).
 - a. This is already in place by state (adults included). Licencing would not be required as the Child Protection Scheme already covers it.

- 7) Look at getting ballroom dancing into the school system (preferably primary).
Would possibly involve political lobbying and mainstream media of all types.
 - a. This has been tried
 - through personal and private marketing
 - we could supply details if someone wants to take it forward.

- 8) The ADB as an organisation needs meaningful change, needs higher quality and greater promotion and be 'Pro-active'.
 - a. This moves as quickly as possible and as support is available.

- 9) Consideration to rethink the syllabus that is affected by each style.
 - a. They are what they are – each style is each style.

- 10) The perception of the ADB in an 'ivory tower' with closed meetings for elite only.
 - a. If anyone needs more information or details they only need to ask (not all meetings are closed for committee only).

- 11) Communications and information distribution – modern website, multi-media (Facebook, Instagram, etc....)
 - a. The website will be redeveloped and updated regularly with all information supplied by the societies and studios (and professionals if valid). The information should be supplied to the Secretary of the ADB to be coordinated and posted to the website once confirmed.

Is there a clear definition of amateur, non-professional and professional dancers and competitor's status? What is the current ABD charter?

The Board would also like to let it be known the appreciation for the participants.

We would like to acknowledge the input from the professionals who turned up to take part in the discussion and the professionals who could not make and but did bother to send through topics for discussion. All topics were addressed in one form or another.

If any professional has anything else that they think needs to be added we will gratefully accept any further input relevant to the above, other topics or ideas will be held over to our next forum, thanks.

The Secretary of the ADB will endeavour to contact the secretaries of the societies, club and studios to hopefully coordinate the events and programs they will be presenting (to try to resolve conflict of date) and promotes those events and programs through the ADB website. The idea of this is to centralise all events involving dance with links to the relevant website and or professional related to that event.