

37th Nuit De La Danse

An 'On The Spot' Report by Anne Gleave From Paris, France

According to Audrey Hepburn, "Paris is always a good idea", so it was with this thought in mind that Richard and I set off for a romantic week-end in Paris to attend The 37th Nuit de la Danse et de l'Elegance, superbly organised by the popular former competitors from France, Odile Aufrere-Auxenfants and Michel Aufrere in conjunction with Club Danse '92. The event dates back to 1968, when Odile's parents pioneered the very first competition and her Mother, Colette Auxenfants was the President of the French Amateur Federation. The Town Hall Centre Evenementiel de Courbevoie, presided over by the Lord Mayor, Mr. Jacques Kossowski, provided the perfect setting for what was to be a fabulous weekend of dancing. Huge thanks must go to the sponsors who provided wonderful accommodation for all the competitors and dignitaries, FraserSuites Harmonie Paris-LaDefense.

Outstanding features of the weekend was the great camaraderie and spirit between the competitors who were performing to a crowd of enthusiastic dance fans. The other outstanding feature was the dance fans themselves, who crowded the floor with their eagerness to join in with the general dancing. It is wonderful to see another WDC-AL event taking place in Europe, but most importantly the support it engendered from the couples in the Free World of Dance - congratulations to you all!

Adjudicators for the two days were: From France - Odile Aufrere-Auxenfants, Atika Bounouh, Nathalie Delcroix, Martine Marouby, Laurence Masse, Jose Sarabia; from Italy - Gaetano Iavarone; from Denmark - Klaus Kongsdal; from Canada - Maurizio Vescovo and from England - Pamela McGill, and Anne Gleave.

On the first evening, six teams formed the 'Nations Cup' Team Match, and one of the highlights was the spontaneous group disco dance at the side of the floor, with couples from each country dancing together, and such was the fun that we would like to have joined in! The results were as follows: 1st England, 2nd Italy, 3rd France, 4th Holland, 5th Czech Republic, 6th Germany.

The following day, there were many events, featuring the WDC-AL Grand Prix International. The quantity of entries was so great that the morning commenced at 9.30am and we concluded a brilliant final at 11.45pm!

The results of the WDC-AL Grand Prix de Courbevoie Latines was as follows: 1st Vjaceslavs Visnakovs & Tereza Kizlo (Latvia), 2nd Damir Haluzan & Anna Mashchyts (Slovenia), 3rd Andrew Escolme & Amy Baker (England), 4th Roberto Imperato & Beatrice Tiberia (Italy), 5th Rami Schehimi & Susan Fichte (Germany), 6th Michael Vaganay & Amandine Mauceri (France), Federico Marianasonte & Federica Salute (Italy).

The results of the WDC-AL Grand Prix de Courbevoie Ballroom was as follows: 1st Kyle Taylor & Izabela Skierska (England), (Kyle and Izabela are pictured above by Christelle Montague) 2nd Andrew



& Ylenia Dalla Bona (Italy), 4th Alessandro Lippi & Sofiya Aksenych (Italy), 5th Marco Babera & Rosella Saladino (Italy), 6th Danny Van Zal & Patricia Bach (Netherlands).

Maurizio Vescovo and Andra Vaidilaite's rendition of the Latin American rhythms during their demonstration was superb! The combination of the music chosen and their physical and musical phrasing was captivating. We enjoyed the Paso Doble tremendously, particularly the interpretation to the music and their final dance Rumba, was breathtakingly beautiful!

A special and wonderful end to the evening was the Duel of the Giants competition from Amateur WDC-AL finalists in Ballroom and Latin all giving a fabulous Show Dance performance. The results were as follows: 1st Damir Haluzan & Anna Mashchyts (Slovenia), 2nd Andrey Sirbu & Alexandra Hixson (England), 3rd Andrew Escolme & Amy Baker (England), 4th Vjaceslavs Visnakovs & Tereza Kizlo (Latvia), 5th Kyle Taylor & Izabela Skierska (England), 6th Ivan Iacobbe & Ylenia Dalla Bona (Italy).

Richard and I would like to thank, once again Odile and Michel and Club Danse '92 for their generous hospitality, and brilliant organising skills! To all competitors don't miss it next year and in the words of Friedrich Nietzsche, "An Artist has no home in Europe