



Snapshot April 2009

New Constitution

The Constitution and By-Laws have been completed over a 3-year period. Considerable work has gone into this by the Company Solicitor Keith Hoban, the CEO Margaret Lonsdale and all the Directors. The new constitution was passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting on 17 April 2009 in Melbourne.

In line with the Constitution, all Directors vacated their positions to allow for the new election of the Board. The number of nominated Directors, in accordance with the Constitution, is relevant to the membership in each state.

Given the number of changes within the Corporation Act, it was imperative that the adoption of the new Constitution be given a priority and not delayed until the AGM normally held in September.

The current Board will only be in place until September, 2009 but will be eligible to re-nominate.

Elections of Directors

Madeleine Zoanetti was appointed as President, by the Directors. Madeleine will complete her term as President in September 2009.

It was with regret that the resignation of Malcolm Batty as a Director was accepted. Malcolm has served on the ADS Board as a Director for around 15 years. He was President at the time of the IDSF World Ten Dance Championship conducted through the joint venture Company with DSA.

The Directors' on behalf of the Membership, thank Malcolm for his significant contribution to the Australian Dancing Society and wish him well.

The new Directors are:

Victoria	Eamon McGrath, Tony Hulme, Wayne Douglas
New South Wales	Barry & Shirley Wall, Melinda Hayes
Queensland	Ross Heidke
South Australia	Madeleine Zoanetti
Western Australia	Ray Simmons, Tania McGuinness

We would like to congratulate all the Directors on their appointment and would like to especially welcome our new Directors, Melinda Hayes and Wayne Douglas, to the Board. Thank you to all Members that attended the AGM and to those that took the time to vote by proxy.

Medal System

The Board continued its work on updating the Medal System and with the help of a new sub-committee, a number of options will be investigated. We will keep you posted on the progress.

Australian Championship and Future International Events

The contract for the Australian Dancing Society with the Victorian Government for funding for 2009 - 2012 is now complete. It will include the Asia Pacific Salsa Championship as part of the Australian programme and a Coaching programme. So watch the website for updates.

A special committee will review the dances for the Australian Championship 2009. The closing date of entries for all future Australian Championships, starting with 2009, will be the 1 October. Note that this is 2 weeks earlier than in previous years.

After 25 years, Margaret Lonsdale has decided to stand down as Event Director for the Australian Championship and Eamon McGrath has been appointed as Event Manager. Margaret will remain as a consultant to the event to ensure a smooth succession. Margaret will retain a number of responsibilities which will include sponsorship, government liaison, international affairs, marketing and publicity as part of her contract with the Company as CEO. Margaret has been largely responsible for the development of the Australian from the Broadmeadows Town Hall to the great 'showcase' it now is. Margaret also played a very significant role in bringing two IDSF World Championships to Melbourne within a four year period, with government and corporate backing. This development was a first for the sport of dance.

We thank Margaret for all her hard work and dedication. Eamon is a very worthy successor and we have every confidence in his ability to carry on the role!

Website

Eamon McGrath advised that the websites for both the Australian Championship and the World Latin have proven to be very popular. A total of 650 entries for the 2008 events were made on-line, 80% of total entries. Eamon and Stewart Lonsdale are working on on-line entries for the 2009 event.

Membership

On a positive note, there has been an increase in membership, resulting in an additional Director for NSW. A new online membership renewal is in the pipeline for possible implementation in 2010.

Trade Marking

The Directors discussed the option of trade marking events to protect good will. Further investigation into this is required and State boards may consider their options with this. This is now in the hands of the CEO and Legal.

New Projects

Margaret reported on discussions with Bounce Books re a book covering the history and development of dancing. Discussions should take place with DSA and FATD and others that have played a role.

We have also been approached by Saul Berman who is seeking the support and involvement of the ADS with a new on-line business venture called 'Talentation'.

Office Staffing

Margaret Lonsdale will finalise a job description for the office position being vacated by Anika Cross. Anika will leave us on the 8 May and will be sadly missed. She will take up the position of Major Events Coordinator with the Hawthorn Football Club. If you or anyone you know are interested, the job description is on the website and interviews will commence on Wednesday 6 May.

Margaret's hours will be reduced to four days once all Government reports are completed. Well that's the plan!