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WDC CC Report: April 10, 2020
Topic: WDC Competitors Commission Report

Introduction

The WDC CC would like to take this opportunity to thank the WDC Board of Directors and the Competitive Dance Executive Board for giving us this opportunity to present this fourth report of the WDC Competitors Commission. Each member of the Management Committee would also like to thank the WDC BOD for giving us the opportunity to serve on the WDC CC and to represent all registered WDC Competitors. We aim to continue to do good work by representing the needs and interests of all WDC Competitors in an unbiased and inclusive manner.

COVID-19 Pandemic

The WDC CC would like to begin by expressing its heartfelt thoughts and prayers to all those that have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic that has swept the globe in the first half of 2020. All lives throughout the world irregardless of age, gender, nationality, social or financial status have been affected by this disease and we at the WDC CC would like to wish everyone who has been affected a speedy recovery and a return to our normal lives full of good health, safety, and happiness.

We know that our own Ballroom dancing industry has had a major hit with this pandemic starting with the cancellation of 4 major Asian Open Tour competitions as well as the cancellation or postponement of a large number of major and smaller events throughout the world. This of course, includes our annual British Open Championships where we were to celebrate our 70th year Anniversary. Naturally, we wish Mr. Michael Williams and Leisure Parcs the very best success in the new dates for the championships.

GoFundMe Campaign

At the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the WDC CC working along with Ms. Anastasia Muravyeva, the WDC Executive Presidential Assistant, and WDC President Mr. Donnie Burns MBE has instigated a GoFundMe Campaign with the hopes of raising funds for our WDC competitors that have been negatively affected by the global pandemic. The goal of this campaign would be to provide some additional funds to the WDC competitors that would be used for basic needs such as food, medicine, or other essential daily items. Many of the competitors have lost all their income, sources of money, as well as are unable to continue pursuing their passion for

dance due to the pandemic. The WDC CC is proud to say that, as of the date of this report, the GoFundMe campaign has raised just over USD \$30,000. And, we have begun a process of distributing the funds to the WDC competitors. In addition, we are continuing to work on the campaign to find other donors both inside and outside of our Ballroom dancing industry.

Major Donors to the GoFundMe Campaign

The WDC CC would like to thank some major donors to the GoFundMe Campaign. Firstly, the WDC CC would like to thank WDC President Mr. Donnie Burns MBE and Mrs. Heidi Burns for being the very first to donate to the campaign and showing their leadership and care for our WDC competitors. We would also like to thank the WDC Board of Directors as they have been so graciously generous to donate USD \$10,000 to the campaign from the World Dance Council as well as individually donating themselves. In addition, we would like to thank the WDC Amateur League as well as the National Dance Council of America for their leadership and generosity in donating large amounts to the campaign.

Moreover, we would like to thank other major donors including Mr. Anthony Tang, Mr. Wayne Eng of Dancevision, Mr. Sammy Stopford and Mrs. Barbara McColl, Mrs. Susana Yu, and Mr. Anthony Fung and Mrs. Jeannie Fung of Club One Studio. Finally, we would like to thank everyone that has donated to the campaign and for their generosity and kindness.

Another generous donor has been Mr. Alessandro Olivato, Mr. Mattia Di-Renzo, and the Olivato Dancesport Orchestra who have developed the CD "Latin We Are the World." They have committed to graciously donating all sale proceeds of the CD to the GoFundMe Campaign thereby further supporting our WDC competitors during these trying times.

We at the WDC CC, feel very blessed and touched knowing that there is so much generosity, love, and support for the competitors during these challenging times.

WDC World Ranking Changes

The WDC CC also understands that there has been an update to the WDC World Ranking points and awards. This topic was discussed and brought up at the meeting early this year in Bournemouth during the UK Championships. As we understand, it is now obligatory to dance the World Championships in order to receive World Ranking points, thereby adding value to the WDC World Championships, the most prestigious event in the WDC calendar.

Hope for a Change

The WDC CC would like to point out the underlying silver lining with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to 2020, there seemed to be much discord and separation in our dancing industry with the development of a new Amateur organization and the division of dancers making them feel forced to choose to dance in one organization or another. The WDC CC would like to express its hope and optimism that this pandemic will not just temporarily isolate but instead serve as a reboot and an opportunity for everyone to come together for the greater good of our beloved dancing industry. And, that we can all put aside our differences and work towards a more harmonious and united dancing world.

Conclusion

The WDC CC is pleased to present this fourth report to the CDEB and the WDC BOD. We look forward to continuing to serve the needs and interests of all registered WDC Competitors and are open to hearing any suggestions that the CDEB and BOD may have for us on how we can improve our commission and our work. We are looking forward to continuing the conversation and thank the CDEB once again for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

**The Management Committee of the
WDC Competitors Commission**