**B.A.S.E. Report from the International 2019**

**for Dance News**

DRAFT

Another year has passed and it is already time to write a report following the International Championships 2019. This was a very enjoyable competition with some excellent dancing, which was thoroughly enjoyed both by those judging and those spectating. Congratulations go to all involved in the organization and to all the competitors.

B.A.S.E. noticed some improvement in the Amateur Latin, with less running around and more dancing being visible. Floorcraft was much improved, there were more basic principals present and more attention to partnering skills was noticed, both in the Latin and Ballroom. The choreographers and couples should be congratulated for this. The Professional Latin was so close in level that there were many contenders for the 24, the Semi-Final and the Final. The level of dancing was generally very high with more quality apparent, especially from the first round at the Royal Albert Hall.

B.A.S.E. would, however, like to hear some improvement in the recorded music being played for the early Latin events. A large number of competitors have expressed their dislike of this music and questioned its suitability for this prestigious event.

Although there was some excellent dancing, there is always room for further improvement and there are a few areas requiring further attention. B.A.S.E. would like to see couples study the technical aspects of the footwork, the use of the feet and contact with the floor, with attention being given not just to feet, but to feet, ankles, knees and thighs, brushing the feet, tracking and timing. Actions are not being thoroughly understood and are not being danced to the full extent, resulting in the finer quality of each movement not being fulfilled.

Gentlemen are sometimes showing a lack of body timing and rhythm. In order to be able to lead and dance their partners more sympathetically, they should be more aware of exactly what happens within their bodies, and at what timing/rhythm. More sensitivity and focus on the touch, along with a softness in the hands and wrists, would improve a strong connected body action without being physical. There should be a softening of the frame in the Ballroom dances. The frame, presented by the man and fulfilled by the lady, is sometimes rather stressed and too wide.

In order to reach the top and further enhance their performance, couples should endeavour to attain a more emotional connection to what they are dancing. Sometimes there appears to be a rather cold, mechanical display of choreography and couples should therefore try to develop their ‘storytelling’ skills further. With improvements in this area, couples would have more chance of ‘touching’ the audience emotionally.

Good luck to all couples in their next event.