

GOC 2011

Grand Slam



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More Than 5200 Couples from 53 Nations at World's Largest Dance Sport Competition!

*Report and photos by
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The dance sport mega-event “GOC” took place this year from 16th – 20th of August in Stuttgart. 2011 was the year to look back at 25 years of tradition. The first GOC started in 1987 in Mannheim. In 2004 the organizer changed the location to “Liederhalle” Congress Center in Stuttgart.

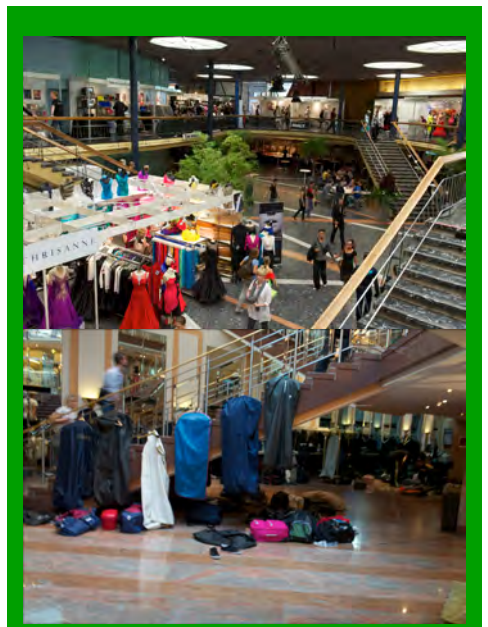


This year, more couples than ever planned to join the competitions and to meet friends from everywhere. The weather was very fine. The outside temperature scored to 90 ° F – citizens of Stuttgart preferred to lie on the grass in parks – while on three dance floors at the congress center the competitions started exactly at 9.00 a.m. every morning and ended around midnight.

It was a huge challenge for the organizer and the team of 370 hands, for the couples, for the adjudicators and for the public too. GOC imparts an atmosphere of a lively fair considering more than

50 exhibitors of dancing clothes and every kind of accessory along the corridors and in several halls.

Walking around you get an impression of “world church congress of dance sport”. Dancers everywhere, in every corner, along the corridors sitting on the ground preparing for the next rounds. Minutes before the start: trainers with last instructions – “more stretch, please” – couples warming up between cases, boxes, shoes, bottles behind the tribune, with “fever” in their eyes. Others pulling their suitcases along the corridors, arriving with an optimistic sparkle in their eyes, dreaming ..., others leaving the location with a straight view to the bottom.



Anyhow, for 25 years more and more couples join this “world dancing market”. Nowadays the Russian Federation represents the second largest brigade with 402 (!) couples participating in the competitions. From the results they took 36 medals home (17/10/9). This is absolutely top.

Franz Allert, President of German Dance Sport Federation (DTV) indicated the performance of the German couples as “very satisfying”. Carlos Freitag, President of World Dance Sport Federation (WDSF) thanked GOC Managing Director Harry Körner for his organizational commitment and the operational readiness of this voluntary working team. With reference to the Mayor of Stuttgart, Dr. Wolfgang Schus-



ter, Carlos Freitag and Franz Allert nominated Stuttgart for “metropolis of dance sport”.

Andrey Zaytsev / Anna Kuzminskaya (RUS) win the Grand Slam Latin

European Latin Champions Zoran Pohl / Tatsiana Lahvinovich (Croatia) Canceled Participation

One of the top events of the GOC was the Grand Slam Latin. The competition started on Wednes-

day early at 9.00 a.m. with 336 (!) couples. The competition proceeded on Thursday at 9.00 a.m. with the 3rd round. The final rounds ended on Friday morning at 0.15 a.m.

After 7 rounds of brilliant Latin dancing six couples had qualified for the finals. Three couples came from Russia, one couple from Denmark, one couple from Italy and one couple from Moldova.

We miss the couple from Croatia in the final rounds? The European Champions of Latin Dances, Zoran Pohl / Tatsiana Lahvinovich from Croatia, canceled their participation shortly before the competition. So it was a chance for Vice European Champions, Andrey Zaytsev / Anna Kuzminskaya to win the Grand Slam Latin.

Andrey and Anna used this chance. They won the Cha Cha Cha curtly ahead of Aniello Langella / Khrystina Moshenska from Italy. Both couples attained five 1st places. Andrey and Anna got ten 1st - 2nd places while Aniello and Khrystina received eight. Very interesting the evaluation of Isabel Perez, adjudicator from Spain,

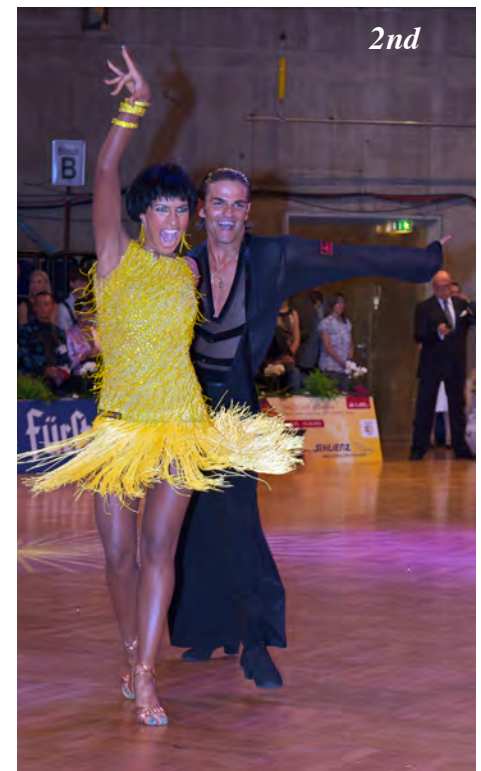
who saw Andrey and Anna at 6th place and Aniello and Khrystina at 5th place.

Same procedure in Samba? Not at all. Aniello and Khrystina won the Samba scantily with 11 against 10 counting 1st – 5th places against Andrey and Anna. Both couples gained five 1st places again. The decision was taken by Isabel Perez, who again set Aniello / Khrystina at 5th place and Andrey / Anna at 6th place.

The Rumba brought a pre-decision for the competition. Andrey and Anna received six 1st places out of eleven. Aniello and Khrystina attained four 1st places.

In Paso Doble Andrey and Anna could convince six adjudicators to vote 1st place for them. Aniello and Khrystina achieved only three 1st places. This was the decision, but no one knew at this time due to the covered evaluation system.

The Jive finally affirmed the trend. Andrey and Anna gained seven out of eleven 1st places. Aniello and Khrystina had to live with three 1st places. So the result was given.



Andrey Zaytsev / Anna Kuzminskaya from Russian Federation won the Grand Slam Latin with 6 points ahead of Aniello Langella / Khrystina Moshenska from Italy who achieved 9 points.

Martino Zanibellato / Michelle Abildstrup from Denmark achieved 3rd places in all dances except Rumba, where they attained 4th place. With 16 points the couple from Denmark won 3rd place.

3rd



Timur Imametdinov / Ekaterina Nikolaeva from Russian Federation obtained 4th place in all dances except Paso Doble, where they won 3rd place. With 19 points the couple was set at 4th place in the competition.

Adjudicator Isabel Perez voted Vladimir Karpov / Mariya Tzaptashvilli from Russian Federation at 1st place in Rhumba, Paso Doble and Jive. For the Cha Cha Cha, she saw the couple on 2nd place, in Samba she voted for 4th place. Opposite to her opinion the majority of adjudicators evaluated Vladimir and Mariya at 5th place in all dances.

Now it is not difficult to guess that the couple from Moldavia, Gabriele Pasquale Goffredo / Anna Matus, were set on 6th place in all dances.

For the audience it was a great pleasure to see all the couples struggling for gold. The atmosphere was excellent in the Beethoven hall this evening. Congratulations to all couples for the excellent performance. It was a great event.

1. Andrey Zaytsev / Anna Kuzminskaya (6) Russian Federation
2. Aniello Langella / Khrystina Moshenska (9) Italy
3. Martino Zanibellato / Michelle Abildstrup (16) Denmark
4. Timur Imametdinov / Ekaterina Nikolaeva (19) Russian Federation
5. Vladimir Karpov / Mariya Tzaptasvilli (25) Russian Federation
6. Gabrielle Pasquale Goffredo / Anna Matus (30) Moldova

Adjudicators

- A Horst Beer Germany
B Felix Castillo USA

4th



- C Sandro Cavallini Italy
D Shu Min Chen China
E Sergey Duvanov Russian Federation
F Alla Matjusenko Latvia

- G Peter Maxwell England
H Isabel Perez Spain
I Oleg Petrovskyy Ukraine
J Brian Torner Canada
K Mirijam Zwijsen-Bakke Netherlands

Photos this page

Clockwise:

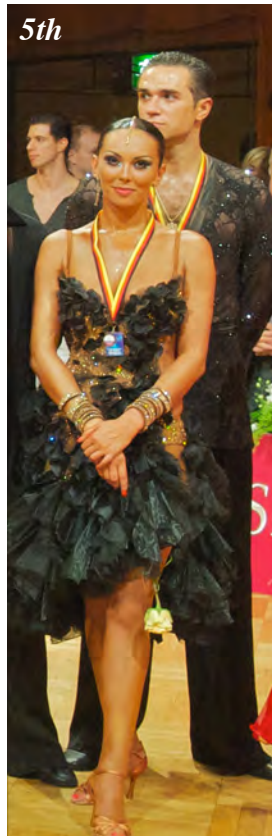
**Zanibellato/
Abiltrup**

**Imametdinov/
Nikolaeva**

Goffredo/Matus

**Karpov/
Tzapsvilli**

5th



6th



Benedetto Ferruggia / Claudia Koehler Superior at WDSF Grand Slam Standard

334 couples started on Friday morning at 9.00 a.m. in the first round of waltz dreaming of the chance to reach the final rounds on Saturday evening at 10.55 p.m. Four supervisors were nominated to moderate the "monster-competition" during the two days: Heidi Estler, Jes Christophersen, Andreas Neuhaus and Jörg Weindl. Chairman Marco Sietas, WDSF Sports Director, was on duty all the time together with the team of 11 adjudicators from 11 different countries.

Due to the upcoming WDSF World Championships Standard in Moscow in October this Grand Slam competition was a really good opportunity to test their position.

At the end we saw an excellent performance of the leading couples but no change in the top five places regarding the results of the European Championship Standard, which took place in May in Kalisz (Poland) this year.

Benedetto Ferruggia / Claudia Koehler from TSC Astoria Stuttgart again persuaded the 11 adjudicators with an outstanding performance in all standard dances. Starting with the first solo dance in Tango, Benedetto and Claudia obtained five out of eleven 1st places and curiously missed the majority of the votes of the adjudicators, because six 1st places were given to their competitor Emanuel Valeri / Tania



2nd



1st

Kehlet from Denmark.

The Waltz of Benedetto and Claudia convinced a strong majority of 9 adjudicators to vote this couple at 1st place. From now on, Benedetto and Claudia won all dances with a definite majority of eight or nine 1st places. At the end they won the Grand Slam Standard once more with 6 points. It really was a special experience to feel the harmony of the couple demonstrating all standard dances with powerful elegance. Congratulations ... and good luck for the World Championship Standard in Moscow! We will be in Moscow to report on this event.

Emanuel and Tania performed excellently too. After winning the Tango the couple won 2nd place in all dances. With 9 points they achieved 2nd place in the Grand Slam competition unchallenged by the other finalists. We are curious how they will perform in Moscow. I guess we will see an exciting duel.

Simone Segatori / Annette Sudohl from Germany again convinced with their special kind of elegance, this time combined with more dynamics and emotions. There was no doubt about the 3rd place in all dances. With 15 points Simone and Annette merited 3rd place in the Grand Slam Standard.

Sergey Konovaltsev / Olga Konovaltseva from Russian Federation catch one's eye with a combination of elegance and athletic power. This couple registers more potential. We will keep tabs on them at the World Championship Standard in Moscow. In Stuttgart they definitely achieved 4th place in all dances with a majority of 8 – 10 votes.

Marek Kosaty / Paulina Glazik from Poland hold their 5th place from the European Championship Standard this year in Poland. In Stuttgart the couple again showed excellent standard dancing. So they won 5th place in all dances except the Waltz. With 26 points Marek and Pauline obtained 5th place and approved their top position in the world of standard dancing.

Knowing the actual hierarchy in standard section, the question was, who would be the one additional couple qualifying for the finals this evening. The adjudicators saw Evgeny Moshenin / Genny Favero in this role. Evgeny and Genny showed excellent standard dancing but had very strong competitors in the final rounds. So, as the “newcomer” in this group they had to take 6th place in all dances except the Waltz, where they could achieve 5th place. With 29 points they obtained 6th place in this “monster-competition with 334 couples.

At the same time the World Championship of Boogie Woogie is on, presenting its final rounds in Beethoven Hall between the 6th and 7th round of the Grand Slam Standard competition. Hundreds of Boogie Woogie fans storm in and sit on the dancing floor cheering their idols.

Winner of the World Championship Boogie Woogie 2011 are Thorbjorn Solvoll Urskog / Susanne Barkhald from Norway) ahead of Pontus Persson / Isabelle Gregorio from Sweden. 3rd place is won by Grzegorz Cherubinski / Agnieszka Cherubinska from Poland.

After the award ceremonies of Grand Slam Standard and World Championship Boogie Woogie the finalists of both disciplines mix up for a last dance. The atmosphere in the Beethoven hall comes to a peak. The tightness fades away, lightness and cheerfulness come to the 25th German Open



Championships in Stuttgart. It is midnight and the couples and the audience know that this is not their last visit to Stuttgart. See you next year.

Final Rounds

1. Benedetto Ferruggia / Claudia Koehler (6) Germany
2. Emanuel Valeri / Tania Kehlet (9) Denmark
3. Simone Segatori / Annette Sudol (15)



Ist

- Germany
 4. Sergey Konovaltsev / Olga Konovaltseva
 (20) Russian Federation
 5. Marek Kosaty / Paulina Glazik (26) Poland
 6. Evgeny Moshenin / Genny Favero (29)
 Italy



Adjudicators

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| A Marek Chojnacki | Poland | F William Pino | Italy |
| B Mircea Gavrilă | Romania | G Yi Shen | China |
| C Olga Komorova | England | H Jörg-Henner Thureau | Germany |
| D Cheslovas Norveiša | Lithuania | I Paul Wilson | Australia |
| E Per Palmgren | Sweden | J Alan Winter | Denmark |

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