

From Russia with Love

Both couples, Mrs Margaret Redmond (Professional representative) and Tim Jackson acting as Chaperone arrived nice and early at 4am at Liverpool John Lennon Airport to begin our journey to Moscow for the European Youth Latin Championships. We flew transit from Liverpool to Amsterdam and then onto Moscow, which was a 3 and a half hour trip. Once we arrived at Sheremetiva Airport, on the outskirts of busy Moscow, it was onto immigration before finally leaving the Airport on a shuttle bus, arranged by the Organisers, Crystal Club Moscow, towards Crocus City Expo centre and the Aquarium Hotel, where they had arranged for all competitors to stay.



Crocus City Expo centre is recorded as the largest Exhibition centre in the World, and from arriving and looking simply at the front, we could see why. The side of this building which we arrived at seemed to continue for ages towards the newly built metro station which was made to link this new building to the rest of Moscow. Situated just off the main motorway into the City Centre, it was easy enough to get to, however rush hour traffic on a Friday night definitely slowed the journey down in addition to the couple of feet of snow that was covering the ground.



In the hotel, our rooms looked out into the main exhibition centre, which was being converted into the venue for the Crystal Cup 2010, with the European Youth Latin Championships the main event along side supporting IDSF Latin and Standard as well as Junior and Juvenile competitions which took place on the same day, on another floor which was divided into two.

The next day began with us getting up at 8 o'clock, with both couples and chaperones feeling good after an extended sleep due to the 3 hour time difference. We went down to Breakfast together to prepare for the up and coming competition, and met such people like; Hans Spaeker & Carlos Freitag of the IDSF and Pavel Dhorakov of DSFR. Afterwards, we began getting ready for the competition ahead of us

We entered the Exhibition hall to the sight of row upon row of stalls selling such items like Aida shoes, DVD's, Dresses and Material. After walking round trying to find the changing rooms, we collected our numbers and checked the board for which heats we shall dance in the first round, with it being selected in random. 49 couples had turned up to the event, which promised to be a very exciting one for both couples. Both couples danced well for their Country, with

Adam Brunyee and Sophie Denton getting recalled into the second round after gaining the most recalls in the repechage of 19 couples, where they finally finished in 33rd position. Callum Sanderson and Natasha Jackson were very close to being recalled into the next round after re-dancing in the repechage missing out by 8 marks. They finished in a respective 39th position.



The first Russian World Amateur Latin Champions Alexi Silde and Anna Firstova, and also Former World Amateur Ballroom Champions Paolo Bosco and Silvia Pitton gave the audience a treat with shows. Both couples then later came on to swap partners dancing a very lively Jive and Quickstep medley. Along with the European Youth Championships, We were greeted with an IDSF Standard and Crystal Cup Latin competitions being held along side this event on the Saturday night, as well as junior and juvenile events taking place on the other floor.

After 4 rounds of adjudicating, a 7 couple final saw Evgeni Kuzin and Elina Popova (Russia) take 1st place and Yuri Soldatov & Irina Gogoladze (Russia) 2nd place with Pawel Tekiela & Agnieszka Kaczorowska (Poland) coming 3rd in an excellent final. As the compere had mentioned before during the presentation of the Couples," The couples dancing here tonight are the future of Dancesport. These dancing tonight are the Champions and Vice champions of their respective countries. It is important that we continue to support these young couples as they carry on in their own career in Dancesport so as to help them progress even further and maybe one day be World or European Champions later in life." Later that night, we were treated by the organisers, to a meal set out for all dancers and judges and officials in the hotel which everyone attended and enjoyed themselves.



Sunday came, and it was time to pack. But we were not going to leave without seeing such a historically important and famous city were we! After finishing Breakfast and checking out of the rooms, the two couples along with Margaret Redmond and Tim Jackson, were given a tour of Moscow by our guide Sergey Volkov, who showed us some of the world renown sites such as St. Basil's Cathedral, the Kremlin, Lenin's Mausoleum, Red Square, the Bolshoi Ballet and Revolution Square. Everyone enjoyed such an exciting tour especially Callum and Sophie, who both study Russian History at A-level. After the tour it was back

to the hotel to pick up our bags and then on to Sherimetiva where our Russian Adventure ended as we began our flight home. However, both couples had such a fantastic time, and gained so much experience and knowledge from this weekend which proved to be a hit with everyone.

Both couples would like to thank Anastasia & Dmitri Titkov for inviting us to the Crystal Cup and the IDSF European Youth Latin Championships and taking care of both couples during the weekend and also to Mr. Pavel Dhorakov of DSFR. Special thanks to Mrs. Margaret Redmond who accompanied the couples on this Journey. Thanks again to EADA for this opportunity to represent England.



Next stop, Linz in Austria for the World Youth Latin Championships!

“Do Svidaniya!” (Goodbye!)

Callum Sanderson