

# British Dance Council

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Member of the World Dance & Dance Sport Council - Member of the Central Council for Physical Recreation - Member International Dance Organization, Member of the World Rock'n'Roll Confederation.

**Corporate Members of the Council:** Allied Dancing Association, Ballroom Dancers' Federation, British Association of Teachers of Dancing, British Competitors' Dancesport Corporation, Dance Promoters' Association, English Amateur Dancesport Association, Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, International Dance Teachers' Association, Leisure Parcs Ltd, National Association of Teachers of Dancing, Northern Counties Dance Teachers' Association, Scottish Dancesport, Scottish Dance Teachers' Association, United Kingdom Alliance, Welsh Alliance of Professional Dance Teachers, Welsh Amateur Dancesport Association

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3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009

## **BDC PRESS STATEMENT.**

The British Dance Council is disturbed to note that an IDSF member body, FIDS, has imposed a ban on Junior and Juvenile dancers from Italy participating in the British Open to the World Junior Festival 2009. There has been no direct contact between FIDS and the British Dance Council, the Organiser Sandra Wilson, Leisure Parcs or the IDSF member body in England, EADA.

Although a meeting was held in Bournemouth in January at the request of FIDS it would appear that the internal disputes in Italy have resulted in FIDS imposing a ban on Italian Junior and Juvenile couples, prohibiting them from participation in the 2009 Junior Festival in Blackpool. It was claimed that the organiser was interfering with Italian domestic affairs when it is clearly obvious that it is exactly the opposite, FIDS are interfering with the domestic affairs of Great Britain.

This deplorable ban, many people having already booked flights and hotels, has obviously caused great distress to children and parents. Making matters worse is the declaration of solidarity, again on the FIDS web site, from another IDSF member body in Russia supporting FIDS and additionally the sending out to all IDSF member bodies by the IDSF Secretary on behalf of the IDSF President, details regarding this dispute, most of which are totally inaccurate. The reasons given for this unsupportable and unjustifiable ban are untrue and wholly irresponsible causing damage to relations between organisations and disgraceful distress to dancers and parents.

The British Dance Council is especially troubled that, in view of the wonderful relationship between itself and the IDSF since the foundation of the ICAD (now the IDSF) in this matter no contact was made to ascertain the true facts. We sincerely hope nothing like this can happen in the future.

PRESIDENT

BRYAN ALLEN

