

Michael's Social Dance Review

Latin Fever

Who:

Rosina Bosworth Fellow ISTD Ballroom and Latin, L.VV

Julie Caller ISTD Ballroom and Latin, UKA Assoc. Le Roc

Where/When:

Monday 2.00-4.00pm Tea Dance
4.30-5.15pm Children's Ballroom and Latin
5.15-6.00pm Children's Line Dancing
St Matthew's Community Centre Drewery Drive Wigmore

Wednesday 7.30-8.30pm Adult Beginners Ballroom, Latin & Sequence
8.30-10.00pm Adult Improvers Ballroom, Latin & Sequence
Howard School Derwent Way Rainham

Friday 7.30-8.45pm Adult Beginners Ballroom, Latin & Sequence
8.30-10.30pm Adult Improvers Ballroom, Latin & Sequence
St Matthew's Community Centre Drewery Drive Wigmore

Review:

A visit to Latin Fever reminded me of the continuity of ballroom and Latin dancing. Mother and daughter team, Rosina and Julie can trace their dancing back to the great Peggy Spencer MBE. Now those of you who are involved with ballroom and Latin will not need to be informed of the significant contribution that Peggy has, and continues to make to this form of dancing. Rosina started her dancing career with Peggy and became one of her student teachers. Like mother like daughter, Julie began her dancing in Peggy's Penge Dance Studio as a member of the Penge Latin Formation team. Rosina explained that the dance ethos of Peggy was to be happy and enjoy your dancing. And that is exactly what I found at Latin Fever when I attended the Friday classes at St Matthews.

A medium sized community hall with a wood dance floor. There is ample free parking and refreshments are available. I discovered a non-threatening and friendly atmosphere where the social side of dancing is stressed. Indeed, Latin Fever organises dance weekends in Eastbourne, visits to shows and other social events which all can participate in. The emphasis for the class was on dancing not the absolutes of technique. That's not to say that technique was neglected but it was not the main emphasis of the class.

Julie took the main beginners group and provided precise and clear instruction for the Tango whilst Rosina provided instruction in a separate area for those who had recently joined the class. The emphasis was certainly on getting you dancing and enjoying it. I spoke to some of the husbands who had initially been dragged along reluctantly to the classes but were now the first out of the door on class night. Their enthusiasm was clearly attributable to the Julie and Rosina factor; they did create a very social and happy atmosphere. The improver class covered some new steps in the Quickstep with mother and daughter combining to provide the instruction. The class finished with the teaching of the Cindy Swing. I did like the idea of the two classes combining for 15 minutes for some social dancing. Rosina explained that it created more of a social atmosphere and encourages the beginners to progress to the next class and the inclusion of sequence dancing further reinforced the social side of dancing.

Now what surprised me was that Latin Fever has only been in business in its present form for just over 3 years. Mum and daughter took some time off from teaching to accommodate family commitments, yet their classes can attract 40 plus and they have had to expand to meet demand with an additional evenings teaching on Wednesday.

I think their success is down to making people happy whilst teaching them dancing, sounds simple but very hard to put into practice. Peggy would be proud. I congratulate Rosina and Julie on creating a winning formula, long may it continue.

Contact: Tel 07983 397 439 Web: www.latinfeverdance.co.uk Email: latinfever@blueyonder.co.uk