



Dancing Profile:

Dave Campbell and Beverley Adams

by
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SOUTH AFRICA'S Beverley Adams started dancing when she was just three years old — Scottish dancing, that is. Beverley's mother is part Scots and this form of dancing is very popular amongst South Africans who are descended from Scots. They keep together through Caledonian Societies which maintain pipe bands and run dancing classes for children.

Beverley did Highland dancing until she was thirteen, then a friend introduced her to ballroom. Even then she showed no interest in competition dancing. At least, not until Dave Campbell appeared on the scene.

Like Beverley, Dave was brought up in Johannesburg but he did not start dancing until he was nineteen, having always considered it a cissy pursuit. So much so, in fact, that although his girlfriend of that time, Yvonne Olfen, was taking lessons at the John Wells and Renée Sissons School, Dave would never actually enter the school when they met after her lessons.

Then, one night when he was in a hurry, he did go into the studio and was surprised to find that the dancing appealed to him. Masculine pride prevented Dave from admitting how wrong he had been, so he went off to a different school in order to take lessons.

When Dave and Yvonne went to a dance together, Yvonne expressed surprise at his ability and asked him to partner her in competitions. Dancing in the Novice grade, they did quite well but when they stopped dating, the partnership too came to an end.

It was Beverley's mother who was responsible for bringing Beverley and Dave together. She started the ball rolling by inviting Dave to one of her house parties.

At first things did not go at all smoothly for Dave and Beverley went to different Johannesburg schools of dancing. That created immediate rivalry since dancers in South Africa tend to go to one school and one school only. Beverley then committed the error of asking Dave to do the latest rage, the "Shot-gun Madison". Dave, already a competitor, was not impressed.

The difference in their ages was a further barrier. Beverley was fourteen — five years younger than Dave. She wore long dresses, an unsophisticated hair style and no make-up. Dave regarded her as plain and uninteresting.

It was only under pressure from Beverley's mother that he agreed to have a trial session in front of his teacher, Freddy McCann. Even

then he hoped that Freddy would say that Beverley was not right for him.

In the event, they danced very well together and began to compete as Novices, soon winning a Championship. There being no Pre-Championship grade in those days, this pushed them straight into the Amateur section.

They made the semi-finals of the South African Latin American Championship in 1964, and took first place in both 1965 and 1966. Their progress in Modern was equally rapid. Starting as Novices in 1965, they won the South African Rising Stars in the same year.

Competing at this level in South Africa involves an awful lot of travelling. It is a big country and dancing is centred around the major cities. A competition in Cape Town, for example, meant a two thousand mile round trip for Dave and Beverley. Luckily, competitors do get assistance with travelling expenses.

Unfortunately, just as Dave and Beverley reached the top as Amateurs, Beverley became very serious about the boy she was going out with and she and Dave split up. For a year Beverley did not dance at all, then she had a two month spell with another partner, coming second in the South African Championship. When this ended, she found another partner, became engaged to him, and again forsook dancing.

Meanwhile Dave had partnered up with a former South African Champion, Leanne Moore. In Latin they won the South African Championship, twice came fifth in the British and were runners-up in the World's. They also achieved ninth in the World's in Modern and were second in the South African. The partnership ended when Leanne sustained a knee injury in a motor accident and had to give up dancing. Dave then turned professional and started teaching.

He and Beverley had remained good friends so, when her engagement ended, it was only natural that she should use his shoulder to cry on. As a result they started dancing together again, initially intending this to be just for practice. After three months Beverley turned professional and they began to compete together again.

At the next South African Championships they came second in Latin, taking two dances from Peter Van Reenan who had been undisputed champion for the previous eleven years.

They also won the Modern, although Dave



Above, prize presentation after judging a competition during the Transvaal Championships. The picture on page 478 was taken at the Forget Me Not Ball in 1974.

insists on pointing out that this was only because the reigning champions were unable to compete.

They had travelled abroad occasionally as Amateurs but they now began to spend the bulk of their time in Europe, having lessons and taking part in competitions. They received a number of invitations to compete on the continent — one of which led to a somewhat embarrassing situation. The promoter in question booked Dave and Beverley into a local hotel, not realising that they were just good friends with no plans for marriage and that, being South Africans, they had rather strict moral standards. Dave and Beverley now remember this incident with amusement, for the time they have spent in Europe has given them a far less conservative outlook!

Lengthy stays away from home do, of course, present financial problems but when they recently spent a prolonged spell in England, Dave and Beverley were fortunate enough to get jobs at the South African

embassy. Accommodation, too, worked out well. Ann Fenkal, a friend of Dave's mother, agreed to put them up for the night when they first arrived and they ended up staying with her for the rest of their visit.

During their period in England they followed their 1973 second place in the Latin Rising Stars with a semi-final in this year's British plus a fifth in the Rising Stars Modern.

Dave and Beverley have now returned to South Africa to open a school. They do, however, intend to continue to compete for another couple of years, which means that we shall again have the opportunity to watch this lively and popular couple.

Next month: The Dancing profile in October will be about the popular Australian couple Robert and Helen Richey.