

AGM Meeting Notes

Woodson Sport Centre

Friday 10/11/2017

In attendance,

Patrick McGeough, Lin McGeough, Emma Millward, Iain Richards, Leona Waldron, Clare, Sue Cummings, Ruth Boyne, Roberta Beaton, Sharon Edwards, Linda Wilson, Dawn Rawle, Marie Doney, Paul James, Elizabeth Harding, Madeline Harding, Laura Barnes, Debbie Pickersgill, Gary Lyness, Paula Moulton, Rachel Eaton, Chloe Kidder, Alastair Oddy

Absentee Apologies

Kate Dickinson, Ros Cramp, Solent Wheelers, Donna Levett, Emotions Kidderminster, Wyre Forest District Inclusive Dancers, Patricia Reilly

Patrick McGeough – Good Evening, Thank you very much to you all for coming to this year's new style AGM/Forum at what will be over the next Day our National Championship Venue Tomorrow.

Emma Millward – All housekeeping including fire exits etc. For your information we are recording this meeting for the purposes of note taking and it will be destroyed once minutes are completed.

Patrick McGeough – This is the first year we've taken this format for what used to be our AGM's moving forward we'd like to if this works continue to meet before the National competition in the hopes to get as many members involved as possible. We have listened to your recommendations in developing more opportunities to be more social and we hope that these events will enable more opportunities for us to update you and for you to share your own thoughts and views on what Para Dance UK has and is doing over the years.

As with all organisations we change and grow and I am pleased to announce the board have agreed to appoint a Chair of the Board Roberta Beaton. Roberta joined the charity in 2016 and in that short time has worked with the team to look at how we can grow and develop the charity in 2017-18. We shall hear from Roberta later but I wanted to take this point to congratulate her on her new position

CEO - Key Highlights from 2016/2017.

Patrick McGeough – Well 2016 being our 10th anniversary it was certainly an eventful year, with enough going on to keep us on our toes!

WDSA (UK) is privileged to have the continued support from our patrons. We look forward to working with all our patrons in 2017/18. We sadly said goodbye to one of our patrons this year Rashmi Becker who is looking to develop her own activities in the community and we wish her luck in her future endeavours.

Board of Trustees, We say goodbye to Fred Chak and Chrissie Kimmons and we welcome Roberta Beaton, Michael Farrell, Brianna MacPherson and Leke Osibamowo who will join our two remaining Trustees Dr Steve Brain and Timothy Palmer and our National Representative Sharon Edwards and Independent Chair Rodney Moss. We are still advertising for a Finance Trustee which we hope to fill in due course.

This year has seen our courses revamped with online learning to ease people's access to the learning and we hope to lead us to have a better retention rate of instructors, therefore more active groups around the UK. Which as it stands we have 28 active groups 10 unaffiliated groups and as of the 31st July 2017 we had trained 51 new instructors over the year which gave us a total of 90 affiliated instructors, 50 competitive members registered and we had around 5000 individual active across the UK in Para Dance Sport and Inclusive Dance

We've been pleased to have been able to support some members to compete internationally at the European Championships in 2016 year and we're planning to go with them to the worlds in 2017, it's an exciting time for international competitions.

We have been fortunate with our funding and grants program this year and have been successful in meeting the criteria for delivery and are keeping the staff busy with more projects and grants moving into next year.

I would like to Thank all the staff and my senior management Colleagues Emma and Lin for their time and dedication and I look forward to an interesting 2017/18

Annual Accounts - 2016/2017.

Sam Perkin – Finance overview as there is no finance trustee.

This year there has been a slight loss, not substantial it was an overspend of £2000. I've had a good look at it, there is nothing of concern in there. It's just a case of a lot going on, we just need to ensure that the cost of things such as taster sessions etc are funded in advance and start to aim at being cost effective.

I am pleased to see the Restricted fund income has done really well this year raising £100,000 which is brilliant but we need to push that unrestricted too and keep a balance between the two.

I would also confirm that Para Dance UK has joined the pension scheme this year and is complying with the minimum required and not providing extra.

Other than that I'm perfectly happy with the accounts and am happy to answer any questions.

Gary Lyness – the accounts show a large amount of Unrestricted funds?

Sam Perkins – This has been factored in the boards planning the reason is due to the Charity accessing a large grant from Esmee Fairburn Foundation which crosses Years 2017-18.

Memorandum and Articles of Association Changes

Patrick McGeough – As you are aware last year we were trying to transfer to a CIO to ease the running of our charity and make our regulatory document fit with the way we're currently being run, as our M&A's were out of date. Due to the UK National election being called the process to update the law that allows charities to transfer over a CIO were put on hold. So we took all the changes voted and agreed by the membership from the prospective constitution of a CIO and updated our M&A's. These were accepted by Companies' house and Charities Commission in September 2017.

We will keep an eye on what happens with CIO's in relation to existing charities moving forward as we still believe in the benefits of not having to be a registered company and a charity, it is not however a high priority at this time we feel our M&A's suit where we currently are as a charity and cover the three membership groups of Instructor, Competitor and Supporter.

Linda Wilson – will you have a date to follow up on this?

Patrick McGeough – as soon as we have any more information on when the CIO can happen we shall of course let you all know.

Gary Lyness – Can this be re sent as some of our members had not received a copy.

Lin McGeough – Yes this can be resent when we are back in the office next week.

Changes in WDSA (UK) Brand and Membership

Patrick McGeough - There has been some interesting changes within Wheelchair Dance Sport internationally this year that has also enabled us to move our charity into our next phase, to give you more information I will handover to Iain Richards our Marketing officer to explain more as to what this means for you as Members and WDSA (UK) Branding.

Iain Richards (slides shown as speaking) – Good evening to you all WDSA (UK) started in 2006. (Slide One) This is what the WDSA (UK) looked like in 2006. Over that time we have been a small charity who have been battling a rapid growth in interest over the years.

It led us to this... (Slide Two) We celebrated our 10 year anniversary last year. Some of you may remember that night we held in honour of our 10th year. As our growth continued (more participants, more instructors, more dance classes, etc.) we had to adapt and change. But since we held our 10th Anniversary Gala. We realised that we were able to change with a wider scope into the disability community who were not necessarily wheelchair users, and so the change was made from 'wheelchair dance' to 'Inclusive Dance' to allow all to take part. And Wheelchair Dance Sport is now called Para Dance Sport as confirmed by the International Paralympic Committee. So if our charity is the national governing body for Para Dance Sport and inclusive dance in the UK. Why are we called the Wheelchair Dance Sport Association (UK)?

(Slide Three) This is our big change. As of today we are called Para Dance UK. We still put all our beliefs into our slogan, Everyone Can Dance, and that will remain the same supportive and challenging charity we have always been. Taking our original logo design we wanted to bring a name that can represent all of our community but bring our History together and we believe that to be Para Dance UK!

(Slide Four) Alongside the brand we have developed a new strategy that we believe will enable more of our community to come together giving you as members an easy way to communicate and engage with what we are aiming to achieve. This is broken down into four main points on the back of our rebrand.

Firstly our "Voice". With this new name, it allows us to have stronger voice, we're a stronger national governing body developing and promoting Para Dance Sport and inclusive dance in the UK.

We get a clearer and more positive first impression, we're already stating from our name that it's not just for wheelchair users, we are actually open to all disabilities and we are for all abilities and not just a tiny slither of the dance market.

(Slide Five) We want to be more "Professional" and focus on athletic development for Team GB so we can send a support and robust team to compete at International Championships. The strategic plans are in place to start in early 2018. We hope to develop those, who want to compete, into highly competitive athletes in the international field.

On another level, the National Championships will continue to grow getting even more competitive. As you'll see tomorrow there are more groups than last year and we have received a lot of interest from instructors who want to work on sending their groups to competition next year and that will continue to gain traction in years to come.

The key thing from the professional side of things here is that Para Dance Sport is being heavily developed again and the plans are in place and ready to move forward.

(Slide Six) "Learning" This is a key element for our sport or Dance activity to grow we must look to grow and develop Instructors. Along with the need to include people with all abilities, our training needed to evolve to suit this. The IDT was launched in 2017 to give instructors their first steps into the world of working inclusively in a non-genre specific way to suit their participants, or adapt their existing practices to include all. This has proved to be our most popular course to date with 100% positive feedback and dates are already filling up for 2018. The Debutante Dance Sport (DDS) course will launch in 2018 and is the first level in Para Dance Sport training.

(Slide Seven) That leads us nicely over to our last point "Community". As it says, because of all the courses we will be running. This will mean more groups. In 2017 alone, we've managed to train up a great base of instructors in different areas of the UK. The majority of which have set up groups privately (schools, care homes, day services, etc.) so we've built great bonds with those communities as well as setting up and hoping to set up even more local groups up and running and make them established in their community with other great charities and support groups.

We are already seeing a higher conversion rate of people taking the IDT course being able to successfully run their groups and we have had repeat bookings from a number of large dance and community organisations. This has helped us to re-connect with organisations previously distanced from us. This also has given us a chance to reflect on

how to gain access to more members. If we are to reach a wider community we need to ensure that we design a membership that is reflective of that community. This is why we also happy to announce that we will be looking to change our support membership over this year to be free. This not only helps us to reach more of the community but also enable those that cannot afford it to be part of the wider Para Dance UK family. Some may feel this is unfair looking to give our supporter membership for free and charging for other membership types. We disagree in that in a more practical sense Instructor and competitor members require more resources and dedicated support, whereas our support membership will become more as it says a supporter of the charity. It does not mean they will not be as important but we cannot bite off more than we can chew so we are looking to start somewhere and that will be with building our membership so we can inspire and engage more people to be part of our community and support those who want to compete and be active in dance and Para Dance Sport

(Slide Eight) so how is this going to work? Well for the moment this means our social media has all changed over and any marketing materials produced from this point onwards will be Para Dance UK branded. A rebranded website will be up in early 2018 which will then have clear information on the Sport, Dance and becoming a Member (Supporter, competitive and Instructor) including case studies and promotion of affiliated groups and new and exciting ways to fundraise for Para Dance UK. There will also be an email changeover period, so all of our head office email addresses will change to @paradance.co.uk but any emails to our old address will be forwarded until we cut it off which is looking to be end of 2018.

All of this redevelopment is part of the Para Dance UK community coming together realising that we are all from different communities and that dance in a sport, creative or social context means different things for all of us and we want to show we understand this and that #everyoncandance. Thank You. Any questions?

No questions were asked.

Plans for 2017/18 in Para Dance UK

Roberta Beaton – Firstly thank you Iain for the presentations and I assume that the members will have more questions as we move forward with what is to be a really exciting change moving forward for us all.

I will not take up to much time as I realise you have had a lot of information but I did want to let you know that this change is only a first step in moving Para Dance UK forward. We want to take the charity in the right directions that embeds these four key pillars of a Voice, Professionalism, Learning and Community. To do that we need some more time to reflect and gain feedback from you our membership on what you would want to see us offer and support to enable your own communities to grow above what we have presented today, but we also have to be mindful of that we do have a new Board of Trustees and this new brand to ensure is rolled out and understood by all going forward.

We as the board will now enter a reflective and listening phase, we shall take these next few months to listen to you views on these brand and membership changes and reflect on that feedback before we take next steps as we want to move this community together not just Dance Sport, Instructors or Supporters but as a Para Dance UK family, to do that we need to implement what we have agreed and review next steps and we shall of course keep you all engaged and updated as we look to capacity build local groups and instructors, continue to develop the competitive program within the UK, create a robust and influential national voice for Para Dance Sport & Inclusive Dance within the UK.

So please continue to support and believe in Para Dance UK and we shall ensure that myself, the board and staff and volunteers will continue to listen, reflect, and react in the best way for the Para Dance UK Community.

Before we move on to the National Representative Vote I would like to personally say congratulations to Paula Moulton & Gary Lyness for this competitive season, in which they attended a number of competitions including their first world championships in Belgium last month. I wish you Good Luck for the coming year!

National Representative Vote 2017

Rodney Moss (Independent Chair/Returning Officer) - As you all are aware we had a public vote for the National Representative role. This role is voted for by the Instructor, Competitive and Supporter members of what was called Wheelchair Dance Sport Association (UK) now known as Para Dance UK. I can confirm as the returning officer that all votes have been counted and verified. I can confirm a total of 30 votes with no spoiled papers. I can therefore announce that the outcome of that vote is a draw of 15 votes for each candidate.

I can confirm I have discussed the outcome of this vote with the two candidates and the Chair and CEO of Para Dance UK and it has been agreed to decide the outcome of this vote via a coin toss at today's meeting. This system is undertaken in similar circumstances at local and general elections if a draw occurs.

(Sharon Edwards and Gary Lyness were invited to join Rodney Moss, outcome of coin toss was to Gary Lyness)

Rodney Moss – I can confirm that following the coin flip that Gary Lyness has been duly appointed as National Representative for the Membership of Para Dance UK for 3 Year from this date 11th November 2017. Gary would you like to say a few words.

Gary Lyness - Thank you to all who voted for me and I hope to be a good representative for all of the membership over the next few years. I look forward to the challenges and building a good relationship with the Para dance Team and wider community. Thank you.

Rodney Moss - Sharon would you like to say anything?

Sharon Edwards – congratulations to Gary and I know he will build on the relationship and engagement I have made working with this amazing group of individuals. Congratulations to Gary again.

Rodney Moss – With Gary's appointment I shall now had back over to Roberta Beaton.

Retirement

Roberta Beaton – Firstly thank you Rodney and the team for all the hard work that has been put into setting up and completing that Vote and secondly a big Congratulations to Gary Lyness I look forward to working with you and developing Para Dance UK more with you over the next 3 years and commiseration to Sharon Edwards your work as the previous National Representative has been outstanding and has made a difference to so many members lives we hope we can continue to work with you in the future as an Instructor.

This leads me on to our final piece of news....

We would like to give thanks and appraise to Sue Cummings and Ruth Boyne who have retired from their roles as Chair and Vice Chair this year. Sue and Ruth, as you may well know, have been instrumental in the success and growth of the charity in its first 10 years. While we will miss them, we're sure they won't miss the paperwork or strategy meetings.

As they retire, we'd like to say thank you for your service and the whole team, from the board down to the volunteers, will continue your legacy. As most people know there would not have been a WDSA (UK) or Para Dance UK if it had not been for the passion and determination of these two very inspiring and emotive ladies. This year is in part a celebration of 10 amazing years of achievements of the Wheelchair Dance Sport Association (UK), celebrating numerous championships in the UK, to attending qualifications and training internationally and nationally to bringing a sport back from Holland and developing that into what we know as Wheelchair Dance Sport (Para Dance Sport) in the UK. The ladies were not happy with the fact they had developed a group in Devon that was competing and the fact they instigated 10 other people to be trained, no they wanted this joy to be spread across the UK so working with Linda Wilson and Nigel Cummings the four of them hatch a plan to develop a charity that would build on the premise that

- 1) Everyone was equal

- 2) Nobody is told they cannot dance
- 3) That if someone wanted to compete they should be given the opportunity.
- 4) That dance should be open to all no matter what the ability
- 5) It needed to be fun

Taking those 5 simple ideas in 2005 they started the charity in 2006 which at that time only had 10 members and 3 groups this soon grew to where the first Championship was taken place with 20 athletes and continued to grow to other competitions and more athletes and more people being shown that they can dance to couples competing internationally and a Para Sport level Championship to today where we have a National Governing Body with a reach across the UK and a desire to reach more people to be involved in Wheelchair Dance Sport and Dance in general. All of that from an idea that nobody should be left out!

When these two ladies met to say they had an impact is an understatement from dragging Ruth kicking and screaming to international training course to teaching our CEO how to RUMBA, their talents and knowledge is something I know the team will miss alongside the shoulder to cry on and the ear to listen to. When I spoke to the team about the decision Sue and Ruth have made I think the response was one of loss that a member of the WDSA (UK) family is leaving but when a member of that family leaves you need to remember what they leave behind and also to the fact they still both will I assure you be feed backing and commenting as active members and as Technical Classifiers in the UK competitions.

As Chair you always have some of the most difficult decisions and I know filling Sue and Ruth's shoes is not going to be easy, but I know the all the team stand ready and willing to continue the legacy that you both started and with that on behalf of the WDSA (UK) Trustees, staff, volunteers, instructors, competitors, members and anyone else that have been touched by the work of the charity we like to say Thank YOU and we wish you both the best of luck in your retirement as Chair and Vice Chair and Thank you for being you and wanting to make a difference in the community.

(Sue and Ruth comes to Front of the room)

Sue Cummings – Wow, thank you all for those kind words we never thought the charity would ever get to this stage. We did it because we wanted people to see what they can do and see those lights go on when you see people dancing and seeing they can do it has always inspire us to continue to make sure dance is offered to all.

Ruth Boyne – We not dead yet! We still will be around, I got involved in this as something to support Stephen my son to be active in that I found a very special friend and a wider family in Emma, Lin and Paddy. The work and dedication they have put in to taking our idea forward has been amazing and something I will not forget!

Sue – We look across this room and see so many inspiring athletes and supporters of the charity and I would like to say thank you because we came up with the idea but you all supported it and got behind it! So thank you for being the amazing people you all are! And long may the legacy of Para dance UK as it is now continue for may many years and as Ruth said with the guiding light and work Lin,Patrick and Emma have done the charity would not be half of what it is now. So thank you all.

Any Other Business

Roberta Beaton – Thank you all for attending this meeting and I would like to wish good luck to those of you competing tomorrow at the National Championship. I shall be cheering you all on form the side-lines! As we have no other business I would like to draw this meeting to a close with a thank you to the team for setting up this meeting, thank you to you all for attending.