

British Dance Council

Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No. 502695 - Established 1929

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Member of: The World Dance Council - The Sport and Recreation Alliance

25th May 2020

As we continue lockdown and spend another Bank Holiday without any dancing, I thought it very important as your new Chairman and President of the British Dance Council, to share my thoughts with you with regard to how we as a Council can move forward.

As you all know The British Dance Council started life as "The Official Board of Ballroom Dancing", from then until now, our greatest strength is our community. I believe the relationships we enjoy between our different corporate members, adjudicators, competitors, pupils and parents allow us to craft an exceptional journey that is individually suited to every dancer. I hope that everyone involved with us feels valued and supported, especially during these difficult and unprecedented times.

If we feel supported, cared for, recognised and respected then we will feel comfortable pushing ourselves beyond our comfort zone to discover our true potential and ability. It is only through this process that we can truly achieve.

Through the high expectations and standards we set, dancers are encouraged and helped to go further than they had thought possible when they first stepped on the floor. Regardless of the genre, we want them to become confident, whether that be Freestyle, Sequence, Ballroom or Latin. Whether it's their first medal test or gold star, a social dance, Sunday competition, Championship or an International World Championship, never more than today are they welcomed into the British Dance Council.

Every dancer will have taken a slightly different journey but we are united in our love for dancing and our ultimate destinations for all are the same.

All of us at the British Dance Council have different attributes and it is our unique qualities that add to our overall strength. By recognising this we uphold a community where each cares for all and individuality is cherished. In these difficult times I would ask that we share best practices, and work together as a team as we head back to a world that includes dancing in all forms. During this difficult time we must all adhere to the government guidelines and await the green light.

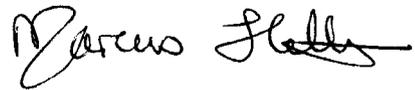
We are working hard behind the scenes to ensure that we are fully compliant with our Regulators. By now you will have seen our new logo and website and we will over the coming months review all our documentation and processes to ensure we fully comply with current legislation. This is to include General Data Protection Regulation, The Companies Act and The Employment Rights Act. I want to stress that a review does not necessarily mean a change in anything we are doing, however it is extremely important to make certain that we are acting in the best interests of our membership.

The Prince of Wales has today paid tribute to musicians, singers and dancers across the UK who have had to deal with the "heartbreaking" cancellation of performances due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“You can imagine the effect on the lives and livelihoods of all those incredibly gifted musicians, singers and dancers whom we are so fortunate to have in large numbers in this country. My heart goes out to them in these anxious times.”

Whilst I know how difficult this situation is for all of us, as your Chairman I want you to know that I will do everything I can to help you and to get us all dancing again as soon as possible. As I have said previously, we must await government guidance on how we can do this safely.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcus Hilton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

MARCUS HILTON MBE
President
Chairman-British Dance Council