

England
Wheelchair Dance Association



Members Handbook

2019

England Wheelchair Dance Association



Registered Charity number 292352

www.England-wda.org

PATRON

Mr Philip Wylie, Dance Consultant

MEMBERS HANDBOOK 2019

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Copies of this handbook can be downloaded from www.England-wda.org.uk or hard copies requested from the association's Chairperson (see page 3 for contact details).

Handbook edited and produced by Rob Chilcott (wheelchairdance@gmail.com)

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OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR

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SECRETARY

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MEMBER TEAMS

The Choughs

Contact: Mrs Margaret Oliver (see Secretary contact details above)
<http://choughswheelchairdanceteam.btck.co.uk/>

The team was formed in 1970 and competed in the first Wheelchair Dance Festival held in Hammersmith Palais in 1971, and have been dancing and competing with success since that time. The Choughs competed for many years as an 'A' mobility team but more recently as a 'B' mobility. At one time there were 2 teams, an 'A' and a 'B'.

Most of the team are in manual wheelchairs which are a matching set kindly sponsored by interested individuals.

The team meet once a week for dancing in a local village hall. We are lucky to have volunteer drivers who kindly transport some of the team to practice.

At present we have an active team of 10 dancers who travel from all parts of Mid Cornwall. The team are self-funding and are required to fund raise in order pay for hall rent and transport to Fun Days and Competitions. We have been fortunate to receive grants from various Charitable Trusts over the years.

The Concordes

Contact: Mrs Chez Chilcott (see Chair contact details above)

www.wheelchairdance.co.uk

The Concordes have been involved in wheelchair dancing since the 1970s. Based in Bristol, they have engaged with many types of dancing over the years, with team-based wheelchair dances and dances for wheelchair users and able-bodied partners. With a focus on Latin and Ballroom, dancing to a wide range of music, The Concordes have always had a team with varied disabilities, and ages that range from young to not-so-young! The Concordes believe in making the most of the things that you *can* do, not being stopped by the things you can't. They're always looking for new members, so if you're in the Bristol area and want to give wheelchair dancing a try, please do get in touch.

ISCA Wheelchair Dancers

Contact: Ms Natasha Cole – 01392 824529 – iscawheelchairdancers@gmail.com –

www.iscawheelchairdancers.co.uk

Isca Wheelchair Dancers are a dance group based in Exeter, Devon who offer people with disabilities the opportunity to dance and socialise. The dance group is for anyone interested in dancing regardless of ability. Whether you walk, need to use a powered chair/manual chair, self-propel or need someone to push you (or even guide you) we are a group for mixed abilities.

We enjoy all styles of dance from Ballroom to more modern and have a fully qualified wheelchair dance instructor. We are a very friendly group and our ethos is having fun so why not consider giving it a go.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mrs Margaret Oliver (see Secretary contact details above)

Chris Penhaligon (see Treasurer contact details above)

ABOUT WHEELCHAIR DANCING

Wheelchair dancing in the UK began in the 1960s, initially for those with cerebral palsy, starting at one of the Spastic Society's schools (now known as Scope, in England). Initially devised as a means to help paralysed veterans learn how to control and manoeuvre their wheelchairs, the fun and social aspect—and the enjoyment of performing choreographed movements to music—soon led to a growth in popularity among many other wheelchair users. Some of the founding teams of the England Wheelchair Dance Association were instrumental in bringing wheelchair dance to the attention of dancers up and down the UK, and even into Europe. Today, there are a number of wheelchair dance associations globally.

At its peak, there were a large number of teams in every corner of England, regularly competing in regional and national festivals once or twice a year. In addition to the competitions, which invited many diverse categories of dance—team-based Latin, Ballroom and Folk, couples in wheelchairs, and mixed able-bodied with wheelchair couples, even themed dances in full, colourful costume!—member teams also undertook regular demonstration events and fundraisers to raise the profile of wheelchair dance. Member teams still do this when they are able, and news of such activity will be recorded in these pages and on our website.

With a gradual decline in membership numbers over the last few years, the Association unfortunately does not currently host any regional or national wheelchair dance competitions. We do, however, present annual or sometimes more frequent Wheelchair Dance Fun Days, which are hosted by member teams in turn around the country. The Fun Days are a great opportunity to try out wheelchair dancing for anyone who may be curious, with no pressure and only a small entry cost at the door. There are generally opportunities to eat cake and drink coffee, too, which are always well-received!

For the most up-to-date event information, please visit the England WDA website, www.england-wda.org.uk, or contact the committee via the details in this handbook.

Subscription due dates

The annual membership fee for a full member team is £50.

For associate members, the annual membership fee is £25.

Member subscriptions are due by 1st of June of each year.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ENGLAND WHEELCHAIR DANCE ASSOCIATION

1. NAME

The name of the Association shall be "The England Wheelchair Dance Association" hereinafter called the Association.

2. OBJECT

The object of the Association is the relief of disabled people by the provision or recreational facilities in the form of wheelchair dancing in furtherance of the above object but not further or otherwise the Association shall have the following powers:

- a. To form an Association of wheelchair dancing clubs in England and Wales.
- b. To encourage co-operation between member clubs and to promote wheelchair dancing in all its forms for people who are disabled.
- c. To collect and publish information about wheelchair dancing by means of our website, and or any other form of publication.
- d. To offer advice and help to member clubs and to run courses or events to instruct wheelchair users and other persons in the teaching of wheelchair dancing.
- e. To raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any persons whatsoever by means of subscription, donation and otherwise provided that the Association shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its charitable objects.
- f. To do all such things as will further the object of the Association.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Any club, society or group which shall be formed, whether in England or Wales, with the primary object of promoting, organising and instructing wheelchair dancing for wheelchair users and others, shall be eligible to become a member of the Association. The Executive of the Association shall have the power to decide whether an individual club shall be admitted or expelled from membership of the Association.
- b. Any persons being teachers of wheelchair dancing or other persons interested in such dancing or the objects of the Association may make application to the Executive Committee and if approved they may become Associate Members.
- c. Members and Associate Members shall pay a subscription of such amount and at such time as shall be decided from time to time by the Executive Committee.

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The onus is on each team organiser to ensure that the health, security and safety requirements of each member of the team are adequately met, including when outside their usual environment. To ensure the safety of our members all volunteers within the Association should be disclosure checked.

5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a. The Management of the Association shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee consisting of the following members: Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, all of whom will be elected to serve for a term of three years, and will be elected and removed at any time and from time to time by the Association in the General Meeting.
- b. At the Annual General Meeting of the Association the officers and Committee who have completed their term of office shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to fill any casual vacancy occurring on the Committee by death, resignation, or by reasons of any member of the committee becoming of unsound mind or ceasing during the term of office to be a member of the Association. Any member absent for three or more consecutive meetings shall automatically cease to be a committee member, unless the Executive Committee shall determine otherwise.
- c. The Executive Committee shall have the power to:
 - i. Do all things as may be calculated directly or indirectly to further the objects of the Association.
 - ii. Appoint sub-committee for special purposes, and to delegate any powers to them as they think fit, provided that no amendment shall be made that cause the Association to cease to be a charity in law.
- d. The quorum of meetings of the Executive Committee shall be three, and the Chairman shall act as Chairman of the meetings and shall have a casting vote.

6. GENERAL MEETINGS

A General Meeting of the Association shall be held once a year, on a date fixed by the Executive Committee. At the General Meeting the following business shall be transacted:

- a. The presentation and, if accepted, the passing of the accounts for the previous financial year, which accounts shall first have been externally examined in accordance with current legislation.
- b. The election of the officers and members of the Executive Committee under 5b) above, in place of those retiring.
- c. Such other business as shall have been communicated to the secretary and included in the notice of the meeting sent by him/her to the members.

- d. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at any time by the Executive Committee and shall be convened within 14 days on the requisition, in writing, of not less than 6 member representatives of the Association, given to the Secretary stating the purpose for which such a meeting is required.
- e. The Secretary shall, at least 28 days before any General Meeting, send to the secretary or other officers of all the members and to the associate members a notice of meeting, stating the time when and where it shall be held and the business to be transacted, and nominations for any office shall be sent to the said secretaries or other officers in writing, not less than 21 days before a General Meeting. The quorum at a General Meeting shall not be less than one third of the members. At all General Meetings of the Association each member shall be represented by one nominee or representative. Each team shall have 4 votes, to be exercised by the said representative or nominee. Each associate member shall be entitled to 1 vote.
- f. Any member not represented at the General Meeting may vote by proxy, by post or representative in writing. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting (who shall be the Chairman of the Executive Committee) shall have the casting vote.
- g. If a proposal has been either passed or defeated at an AGM or by a postal vote, the decision should remain in force for at least three years.

7. DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT

The day to day management of the Association shall be in the hands of the Chair of the Executive Committee who shall be responsible to the Executive Committee.

8. BANK ACCOUNT AND MANAGEMENT EXPENSES

The Association shall keep such accounts as the Executive Committee consider necessary and cheques will be signed by persons authorised by the Executive Committee. All costs and expenditure incurred in the running of the Association shall be paid out of the income of the Association. All monies shall be paid to the Treasurer, and all financial transactions shall be made through the Treasurer. Cheques will be signed by the Treasurer, Chairman or one member of the Executive, two out of three signatures being necessary. To ensure good practice prevails throughout the Association, each region and each Team must annually have their accounts externally examined according to current legislation and provide a copy to the Associations Treasurer.

9. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION

Subject as hereinafter mentioned these rules may from time to time be replaced, amended or added to by a majority of not less than at least three quarters of the members present or represented, and voting at any Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, provided that such proposed repeal, amendment or addition has been duly given in accordance with these rules.

10. FINANCIAL YEAR

The Associations financial year shall run from 1st April to 31st March.

11. DISSOLUTION

The Association shall be dissolved by a majority of not less than three-quarters of the membership at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, provided that notice of such proposed dissolution has been duly given in accordance with these rules. On dissolution, the assets and funds of the Association, after payment of all expenses and debts, may be given to a charity or charities having similar objects, which is determined by the three-quarters majority of the membership.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ENGLAND WDA WEBSITE

Contributions to this handbook from member teams are always welcome, including news from your own corner of the wheelchair dance world, features, games and other any stories of interest to other members. Put the spotlight on your contribution by sending your news updates to wheelchairdance@gmail.com, or by contacting the Committee Chairperson via the contact details on page 3 of this handbook.

We also want your updates for our website, www.England-wda.org.uk – which we aim to keep fresh and up-to-date with news from around the Association.

Starter packs

The England Wheelchair Dance Association do not currently produce starter packs, but we have members who have many years teaching experience – we actively seek to encourage wheelchair dance teams and interested individuals, so if you are looking to start a group in your area, we would be happy to get you started. Please get in touch via the contact details at the beginning of this handbook, or visit www.England-wda.org.uk to find out more.

