

SECRETARY'S REPORT for the ESSDA AGM 2009.

This will be my last report as I am not standing for re-election to the board after 2 years of working towards a strong organisation for dancers across Europe.

The organisation of ESSDA now has a substantial website, is affiliated to other major sports and dance organisations across the world. It has a constitution and this year the board has agreed a set of bylaws by which the organisation can interpret and act on that constitution. This is not the most thrilling work for ESSDA. In England we sometimes call this 'Donkey work'. I know some members have been frustrated by the time it has taken. Please be patient. The baby is now born and can be clothed and raised with much input from members in the coming years.

Membership and Communication with members falls under my responsibility as Secretary. The board has responded to 15 or more queries and issues, ranging from suggestions and complaints about competition rules to requests for information about where to dance.

The board has also communicated with EGLSF to resolve a situation where a couple were disqualified for competing in the wrong age category.

Many new members have registered in the past year, attracted initially through other dancers or through the website. I hold the database of membership which I will pass to the new Secretary. During 2008-9 I have set up a system to send communications to members, which still needs improving, as I am aware that for one reason or another emails are not getting through to some members. (I request anybody in this situation to come to me afterwards). I have also administrated the election process. I have also been heavily involved in finalising the bylaws.

In June 2008 there were approx 95 members, by the Eurogames in Barcelona there were 135 members. The membership has now increased to 148. This includes members from 11 different countries.

ESSDA has come a long way since the start in London in 2007. For those who remember this, although lots of groundwork had been done, there were no nominations for a leading body of people to make this organisation a success, therefore a handful of volunteers came forward at the meeting to be the Board of the official ESSDA organisation. The first elections happened in Barcelona. Although fraught with difficulties, 100 people voted either in person, by proxy or by post. For the first time in 2009, the election has followed a rolling system described in the bylaws and will be administrated accordingly.

I am very excited by the prospect of what can now be achieved through a structured and democratic organisation of dancers across Europe. I wish the new board good luck and hope it will now go on to produce a 5 year plan or future vision for the organisation and start working on some of the main issues that have been of concern to members over the past couple of years.

Jacky Logan- formerly Appleton 22/7/09