



## WDC Amateur League

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### Press Release WDC Amateur League

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The Amateur League has now over 40 member countries with over 55 member-organisations. Thousands and thousands of registered supporters.

Since May the WDC AL has been growing and growing. Our people are working very hard to bring the necessary structures in view and before the end of this year, the WDC AL will be in full operation.

It is amazing, even for us, to see how much support the Amateur League has gathered. It was clear to us before that dancers are fed up with being ill-informed and abused by politicians, but the depth of this issue is now coming to the surface.

On every level we receive response, both from the amateur-side as well as from the professional-side, that our major aims, inclusion of everyone and the freedom to dance and work, are the wishes of all, not just a few.

Organisations, schools, clubs, organizers, judges, sponsors and other individuals are all of the same opinion: exclusion, punishments and bans do not help and work against the whole of dancing. This should stop!

It has been made very clear to us that *not one dancer* would like to see the truly open competitions to be a thing of the past.

Calling it a "poor career choice" is an insult to these competitions with a track-record of over 30-40 years and in one case, Blackpool, even going back longer than the existence of any international organisation at all!

Winning "Blackpool" or a WDC World Title is an unsurpassed credit to any career and changes a dancer's life forever.

Blackpool, as well as all truly open competitions, are the only places where one can really measure the strength of all competitors, regardless where their roots are. Not one competitor can see the benefit of being excluded from this arena. It is the only environment where *all dancers* can meet and compete.

The IDSF and her policy of fighting the open competitions is a disaster for every career in dancing, unless you believe that being a champion in one group (however big and important that group might feel), next to other champions in other groups, is better than being the champion of all.

From the applications to join it has also become very apparent that in nearly every country, both on the amateur-side and the professional-side, more organisations are excluded than included in the international field.

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In some countries more than 5 organisations(!) applied for membership of the WDC AL. Representing very often hundreds and hundreds and in some cases even thousands of competitors. All hungry to join the international family of dancing, all "expelled" before.

All just asking for one thing mainly:

The right to exist as an organisation and be part of the international scene.

How can one deny anybody that right and proclaim at the same time that you alone have that right to exist?

How can one be punished and excluded for just being there?

I'm personally very glad to do anything within my power to change that situation and allow everyone to exist and be part of our dance world.

The points made are not mine, but is the feedback we received so far from all who joined. I'm sure that many of you, who have not joined yet, feel the same.

Again we invite you to join us and form a powerful instrument to go against undermining policies, not against organisations, but in favor of one, united business and acting in the interest of all who are truly important for the business, the dancers of this world

I should feel happy about the support we have received so far, but as a matter of fact it makes me depressive. Never before did I realize that so many organisations and people were excluded, never before did I realise that so many, after so many years of isolation, are still struggling to join in.

Even more depressing if you realize that the news of the existence of the WDC Amateur League has not reached every country and certainly not every competitor.

Our danceworld must have a lot of goodwill from the past and something to offer when people still want to make an effort to join. Let's just believe in that and make sure that we treasure those assets.

Sammy Stopford  
Chairman WDC Amateur League