

Mr President, Esteemed Directors of the British Dance Council, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you tonight as the representative of the English Amateur Dancesport Association and to congratulate the Council on its 90th Anniversary.

EADA is proud to be a corporate and active member of the Council and to act as a spokesman for all amateur dancers in this country. We are a registered charity and run by a council of volunteers who give of their time for no recompense, other than to see fairness in all aspects of dance. EADA took over the legacy for English dancers from the British Amateur Dance Association (BADA) in 1989 and has seen 30 years of active service, and we are the only UK dancesport association recognised by Sport England as the official governing body for English amateur dancers. I could not let this moment pass without taking the opportunity to pay tribute to two of our former Presidents and Chairpersons, namely the late David Corfield and the late Mrs Rita Thomas, OBE who were outstanding characters and did so much for the amateur dancer and indeed for the dance world in general. They are sorely missed. Thanks must also be expressed to all those who have served on the Council of EADA over the years, some of whom are here tonight. There are also many unsung heroes who volunteer, with little recognition, to put something back into our fabulous world of dance, and to those such people we say a massive thank you.

EADA's objectives continue to be to represent English amateur dancers interests by forging strong ties with all those bodies and organisations that are able to further the aims of all dancers, and to maintain a strong, united, inspiring and democratic association for all bona-fide amateur dancers. Our strong relationship with the British Dance Council, and its support to the amateur dancer in this changing world, is testament to this and long may it continue. Once again heartfelt congratulations to the Council and to Mr Bryan Allen on his 38 years of dedicated service, eleven of those years as its hard-working President. Thank you.

