

# CONSTITUTION:

Bournemouth University  
Ballroom and Latin Dance Society

The name of the society shall be:

**'Bournemouth University Ballroom and Latin Dance Society - BUBLDS'**

## 1. Executive Committee

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- **President**  
The President is responsible for the overall running and management of the society, as well as to provide leadership to the rest of the committee. The President shall uphold the principles by which the society was founded and act in the best interest of the society and its members. The President shall preside at general meetings of the society and assist all the executive officers in the performance of their roles. The President is also to ensure regular interaction and communication with the Students Union.
- **Vice President / Secretary**  
The Vice President is required to assist the President in their functions. The Vice President will preside at general meetings in the absence of the President. The Vice President also serves a monitoring function for the President. Due to the nature of the role, the Vice President shall make sure he/she is always informed about what is going on.
- **Treasurer**  
The Treasurer is responsible for managing the accounts of the society, as well as undertaking initiatives to acquire sponsorship and financial resources for the society with the help of the President and Vice President. The treasurer shall inform the board of all financial matters.
- **Safety Officer**  
The Safety officer is responsible for the overall safety of members and the committee at all times. The main task is to identify possible hazards and notify others and reduce risks where possible. A main function is the responsibility for risk assessment forms, ensuring these are given to SUBU in time and up-to-date.
- **Equipment Officer**  
The Equipment officer serves one simply purpose, namely that to keep track of the society's possessions and belongings. This includes keeping an inventory as well as ensuring property and items are not left behind at classes and competitions.

All functions of the committee are at any given time required to notify the President or committee if they have noticed something of interest to the society. This can include, but is not limited to, risks, opportunities, criticism or suggestions. Furthermore, these are the basic five roles that always have to be filled – where possible, all three signatories should be BU students (signatory roles are President, Vice President and Treasurer). The Vice President however could possibly be an AUCB student. Each committee is elected for one year; re-elections however are possible without limitations.

## 2. Our mission/vision

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The overall aim of the society shall be the support, development, improvement and promotion of Ballroom and Latin American dancing in general as well as within Bournemouth University specifically. A very important aim is also the promotion of inter-varsity competitions and the participation of such competitions, which are of a competitive but fun-oriented nature and for all students across all British universities that have a dance club. As such, we do offer fun non-competitive classes for students, but our focus remains on competing to promote our society as one of the most successful Ballroom and Latin dance societies in the United Kingdom. We are lastly a non-profit society and are student-oriented; we are run by students for students. Consequently, all financial resources have the sole aim of helping the before mentioned aims. Where profits are made, we seek to invest them where appropriate or/and to decrease costs overall for our members.

### 3. Membership

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Membership costs £15 and is a one off payment – it entitles a student for membership for the whole duration of his/her time at Bournemouth University.

To be eligible for classes, students have to be active students at Bournemouth University, the AUCB Arts University or Bournemouth University's affiliated partner institutes. The general rule is that we require a student to be in possession of a valid student ID card. This means the student is an active student which is compulsory for Insurance-reasons.

The committee may remove a person from membership for good cause. The person concerned may appeal against such removal to the President. Members will be invited to the AGM or other meetings as required for important decisions that affect all members. Each member will have a single vote at these meetings, not being able to attend also results in a loss of chance to vote. The society and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of race, colour, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, sex, age or handicap.

### 4. Meetings

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The committee will hold executive meetings throughout the year when appropriate to ensure a smooth running of the society. These meetings mostly serve the purpose of communication regarding events and the likes.

The AGM will be held annually and ideally during early summer, however can also be held around the time of the start of the new academic year. The AGM's main purpose is to review the year and makes changes where appropriate and necessary. A main function is also to elect the new committee. Where required for major decisions and major decisions only, additional meetings can be held. These meetings will be announced at least two weeks in advance and all members are invited to attend. Each member will have a single vote. Not attending means a loss of voting rights, for any reason of non-attendance. Nominations must be submitted to the committee at least three working days before the AGM. Nominees must be members and active students for the current/forthcoming year. Votes are to be counted by two elected people other than candidates. The simple majority voting system applies; meaning a simple majority in the number of votes determines the winner. Each member can vote for one person only for each position to be filled. To reach a valid result, the previous main five committee members should be present at least; however a valid result may also be reached if only the three signatories are present, if these agree to each other as in one voice. Lastly, the committee may introduce new committee positions, given that the majority of the existing committee agrees to this change. This may happen outside of the AGM – to fill a new position, a specific meeting shall be held, to which to above rules shall apply.

### 5. Team

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The society has two main functions: to teach dancing in a fun manner and to prepare and promote inter-varsity competition. For the competitions, there is an unofficial team, which basically consists of any member wishing to compete. This team will carry the name of the society and will represent the society and Bournemouth University as well as the Students Union at inter-varsity competitions.

As a general rule, we invite all members to participate in competitions, as these cater to all levels of skill and provide a fun way to make new friends while putting the learnt abilities to the test. Due to the nature of competitions, members are required to enter this team as a couple. As we intend to be one of the best societies, boasting some of the best couples, we expect couples to join this team to give their best and to attend regularly to the appropriate classes. As it goes for all members of the society, team members especially should also enjoy themselves and must at all times remember they represent BU, SUBU and our society – hence it is important to act one's best, be friendly to people and ensure we keep our good reputation.

For each year, the committee and the head coaches will appoint two team captains, one for the boys and one for the girls. The team captains can be any member that is in this team and competes and can also be a

committee member. The main function of the team captains is to be familiar with competition rules (such as dress or step regulations) and advise all competitors of their sex. Also, the team captains are responsible for competitions, meaning they have the responsibility to find out which couple will compete in which dances for example, ensure registration forms are completed and sent within the given deadline and in general the overall management of competitions, which also includes transport. The team captains shall do this work in cooperation with the President and Vice President, as well as the Treasurer for financial matters.

Regarding transport, usually a SUBU 15-seater minibus will be hired for competitions. In case 20 or more intend to come, the society shall try to hire a second minibus, if possible. Members are free to drive themselves, but at their own cost given that free spaces would be available in the minibus. In case more signed up than seats are available and no member can or wants to drive, the team captains retain decision power regarding who will go in cooperation with the President and/or Vice President. Competitors have priority over spectators. Also, as a general rule, competitors dancing in a higher level will have priority over beginners, however it will always be tried to accommodate for everyone, which usually always works out well one way or another.

## 6. Competitions

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The University circuit consists of various inter-varsity events throughout the academic year, usually concentrated around October-December and February-March. The former typically sport the more friendly competitions, whereas the regional national and overall national championships will be held in March typically, with big competitions before those for preparation.

Each competition varies slightly, but follows a similar format, usually with the following categories:

- Beginner one-dance events (four of them, typically Waltz, Quickstep, ChaChaCha and Jive)
- Novice two-dance (Waltz & Quickstep + ChaChaCha & Jive)
- Intermediate three-dance (as Novice, plus one dance for each Ballroom and Latin)
- Advanced four-dance (as Intermediate, plus one more dance for each Ballroom and Latin)
- Ex-student five-dance (all five Ballroom dances and all five Latin dances)

Sometimes, Advanced, Ex-student and possibly Intermediate are mixed together due to low registrations at smaller competitions. As indicated, Ex-student is open for former students; current students however can enter all events. The typical competition lasts a whole day; starting around 9-10 am with Ballroom, then progressing to Latin in the afternoon and finishing with team-competitions and presentations.

We aim to attend 2-4 competitions per term, which however depends on participation of members as well as funding for longer trips and availability of driver(s).

## 7. Coaching

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Our head-coaches for the year 2011-2012 are Ryan Wilson & Olesia Kosik. Most matters are discussed with them and their advice is highly regarded, but in fact their power in regards to decisions made by the committee is very limited. Coaches are not eligible to vote at the AGM, as this is a student-only matter. The exception is if a current student is to work as an assistant coach, in which case he/she would be entitled to vote.

Otherwise however, the head-coaches remain relative independence in their coaching/teaching program. It is their responsibility and power to decide what is taught and when, as well as how. These are however only the rules for extreme cases, the committee usually communicates regularly with the coaches and issues are discussed together to be able to conclude well-founded decisions.

It is expected typically for at least one of the coaches to accompany the team to competitions – where possible, travel costs and entry fees will be covered by the society. Although typically it would be appreciated if both head-coaches attend to support our competing couples, it is important to acknowledge that these are active professional dancers, which means they might have commitments hindering attendance, which is perfectly acceptable if it happens rarely.

## 8. Validity of this constitution

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This constitution was amended last on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2011. It shall be the responsibility of the executive committee to ensure the constitution is followed. Any member is welcome to notify the committee's President or Vice President of any faults or shall there be the possibility of breaching the constitution in any way. Also, suggestions for amendments or additions are always welcome and should be formulated within a word-document and sent to the committee via email or handed over in person.

Dated: 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2011 - Bournemouth

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Current President of the Bournemouth University Ballroom and Latin Dance Society, on behalf of the committee)