

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Dear Members*

In my first message since becoming President I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the regions which nominated me for this prestigious position. I will endeavour to serve all of our members to the best of my ability and I look forward to the challenges ahead.

Conference was in the beautiful setting of Southport Convention Centre and it was a wonderfully organised event from start to finish. The Executive Council have received very positive and enthusiastic feedback about the weekend and are always interested to hear your comments.

**CONFERENCE 2012 WILL BE HELD IN GLASGOW SO BE SURE TO PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW! 15TH - 17TH JUNE**

It would be lovely to see you there and please be sure to spread the word to some of our members who may not have attended Conference before. We always look forward to meeting and welcoming our members.

In July I had the pleasure of attending the I.D.T.A. Dinner and Dance in Southport, a very pleasant evening meeting up with old friends and making new ones.

The Norbreck Castle Hotel in Blackpool was the venue for the Theatre Dance Council International scholarships which the B.A.T.D. sponsored and the talent on display was outstanding. We are very proud of all of our scholarships entrants.

Congratulations, girls! Congratulations, teachers! We recognise your hard work and dedication.

Our winners:	Andreanne Lefebre	(Canada)	Junior Ballet Winner
	Larissa Gerszke	(Canada)	Senior Ballet Runner Up
	Megan Dawson		Junior Modern Winner
	Georgia Beth Percival		Senior Modern Winner
	Emily Fry	(Canada)	Senior Tap Runner Up

We also had great success in the British Championship Events with many British Champion titles now being held by our wonderfully talented young students.

Many events are planned for the coming months and I would encourage you to attend and support the events in your Region. It is always uplifting to gain new skills, develop ideas and yes! even share your concerns with fellow professionals.

The Sun Shone in Dunoon for the most prestigious event in the Highland Dancing calendar – The Cowal Highland Gathering. Dancers travel from across the globe to compete for the title of World Champion. As always the BATD (who co-sponsored the event) was very well represented. Our teachers have an excellent reputation for producing top class dancers. Many congratulations to all dancers who qualified to compete in the World Championship event.

A special mention for Daniel Carr – runner-up in the Adult World Championship and to Maegan Sweeney – runner-up in the Juvenile World Championship.

Unfortunately, I have to finish my first report on a very sad note. On the 28th August we lost a very much loved member, Mrs Jessie Haggarty MBE. She was our first lady of dance and was a truly dedicated, inspirational and gracious individual. The high regard in which she was held was most apparent at her funeral service in Bonhill Parish Church where a packed church came to pay their last respects. Mrs Haggarty will be very sadly missed by all who knew her.

Kind Regards

*Margaret Smith*

PRESIDENT