

TWIRL *talk*



SEPTEMBER 2026

VOL 6

TWIRL *talk*

Welcome to Twirl Talk Edition 3 for 2026. It's been a busy few months for all things baton in England under United Twirl England. As the summer holidays draw to a close, we hope you have enjoyed the beautiful weather and as you all start to return to full time training we cannot wait to see what you are working towards ready for another fun season ahead for us all.

INTERNATIONAL *recap*

After a fantastic competition in Paris for the IBTF World Freestyle & Rhythmic Twirl Championship and Nations Cup, the Executive Board of UTE are so proud of all our athletes who competed. Each & everyone of you worked incredibly hard to be selected to represent England at this International competition and together with the support of your coaches you gave it your all. Thank you for all the support for our amazing athletes whether you were there in person or supported via the livestream.

★ Nations Cup ★

✦ Senior Team - 7th place

★ World Championships ★

Senior Rhythmic Twirl

✦ Chantelle Halford - 25th place

✦ Georgia Langston - 26th place

✦ Bethany Flynn - 28th place

Junior Rhythmic Twirl

✦ Jessica Edwards - 21st place

Senior Freestyle

✦ Grace Endersby - 30th place

Senior Freestyle Pair

✦ Eliza Letch & Grace Endersby - 12th place



TWIRLING ROUND UP

We all enjoyed the most fabulous 2 days at the K2 for the **UTE Open 2026**. The days were long but the performances from you all, across all the different events were absolutely amazing. Well done to everyone that took part in either individual, duets, pairs, Teams or Groups, your hard work enabled us all to enjoy a very successful competition.



RECREATIONAL GRADES

Why?

UTE are pleased to announce recreational grades. They have been developed to support the formation of solid technique of both body and baton to ensure that our recreational students have the correct technical training and foundation.

What?

There are 7 colour grades comprised of 10 moves (5 body and 5 baton). Moves are logged on a progress card and assessed for sign off. At the completion of each colour there is a corresponding certificate that can be printed, and pin badges can be ordered to create the perfect memento and reward for hard work. See below for an idea of elements within each colour level.

Red - covers basic twirling modes of vertical and horizontal, understanding correct posture and learning basic stretches.

Orange - introduction to twirling such as figure of eight and loops as well as learning to balance.

Yellow - moving on to passes and basic ballet moves such as 1st position and hops.

Green - introduction of arm rolls, and neck wraps skipping and yoga poses such as child's pose.

Blue - building further on rolls bring in elbow rolls and waist wraps and extending the body into gallops and bridges.

Purple - introduction to using the thumb in preparation to learn a full thumb toss, and learning chasse and kicks

Pink - thumb rolls, horizontal butterfly passes and early form of releases. Blending body moves together such as chasse with hop, step into kick and making use of stretching skills to begin working on the split position.

How?

The full guidebook detailing the full information is available on the website for £30 along with the certificates and how to order the pin badges. with purchase there is access to the guidebook as well as lots of additional resources for teaching such as colouring sheets, playlists and lesson plans. There are videos demonstrating correct technique for each move to support learning and teaching.

The recreational grades have launched and are available to all UTE registered coaches. If you would like to sign your UTE club up for these grades or have any questions please contact grades@unitedtwirlengland.org

Team SPOTLIGHT

GEMINI TWIRL TEAM



Gemini Twirl Team are based in Poole, Dorset and were established in 1990. Over the many years we have been running, we have probably had well over 500 athletes registered with the team at some point! I myself joined in 1991 competing for many years, until taking over as coach at the end of 2003. Lorraine "Muffet" Dredge is also one of our main coaches joining the team in 2014 when her daughter started to twirl, having been in Gemini for years prior. We have a great coaching team with other qualified coaches in Gemini, who also support our athlete's development.

We currently have 30 members who travel to us from as far as Plymouth across to London although the majority are local to the Dorset area. Our athletes range from age 3 up to adult age and we pride ourselves on being a fully inclusive team regardless of ability and skill level. We welcome everyone who wants to twirl either recreationally or in a competitive environment. Many of our team have been with us from a very young age!

We train twice weekly on a Tuesday evening (for individuals) and Sunday (for teams) and we aim for everyone to be able to compete in team events if they can.

Over the years, we have been fortunate to have had members of Gemini compete at international level almost every year at European or World Level since 2013. We have gained European and World medalists at NBTA and Finalists and Gold medal winners at IBTF Nations Cup competitions! We think of ourselves as a twirling family in Gemini. Lifelong friendships are made with us! Our sport supports young people and athletes to build not only twirling skills but life skills and experience, that we know they will carry throughout their lives! I can say for certain that the metal stick we love so much has certainly shaped my life!

Next steps for Gemini within UTE this year; we are focusing on the Team Nationals and the WFNBTAs Selections and can't wait to see what our athletes achieve in this competition!

MAJORETTE ROUND UP

The Majorettes are in the final stages of their preparations for the European Championships in Italy at the end of October! 🇮🇹✨

Keep an eye on our social media for updates as we get closer to the big event. Our regional competitions have had a little break over the summer, but we're back and raring to go! 🎉

We're heading into the final few competitions of the season as we build up to the Majorette Nationals in Blackpool this October. 🏆👧

Good luck to all our Majorettes taking part — we can't wait to see you back out there!

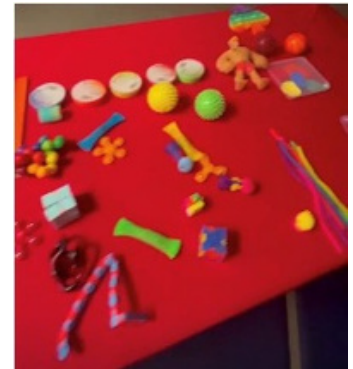
ParaTwirl and Wellbeing

UPDATE

ParaTwirl within UTE continues to go from strength to strength! We now have 30 registered members who now fall under Paratwirl eligibility. The most recent UTE Individual Nationals in May this year saw some very highly contested sections which culminated in new National Titles being awarded!

Regulation Stations

The Individual Nationals also saw the introduction of the Regulation Station which was very warmly welcomed by those athletes who needed extra support to be able calm and regulate through accessing different sensory tools. The dark den and fidgets were very popular! This will be used again at the Team Nationals. If any Areas or indeed individual teams would like to develop their own Regulation Station resource packs, please contact Gemma Milne for more details.



Focus on Wellbeing

Whilst some of the focus has been developing ParaTwirl Sections, it is vital we also remain focused on the Wellbeing aspect of our sport. Up and coming will be a Wellbeing and Mental Health webinar which will explain how to support athletes and students who may need extra support at training and what coaches can do to support.

International Opportunities

Some of you may have watched the recent IBTF Freestyle and World Championships and Nations Cup competition live stream. But did you see the ParaTwirl exhibition?! It was wonderful to see how ParaTwirl opportunities for international inclusion are being developed. We are very excited and hope this will also be offered to some of the England athletes in the future.



Do you have a possible Paratwirl athlete?

UTE prides itself on being fully inclusive and everyone should have the opportunity to twirl. The ParaTwirl sections as stated above are continuing to grow, please see the UTE website for eligibility criteria. The Paratwirl taskforce group is also happy to answer any questions you may have.

Please find more information on the website here:

Any queries please contact Gemma Milne at wellbeing@unitedtwirlengland.org



KEISUKE KOMADA



JULEE STEWART

TWIRLfest
2026



MASSIMO SCOTTI



SHOSHI WATANABE

There is still time to book onto TWIRLfest 2026 with 4 incredible international coaches!

- Keisuke Komada
- Julee Stewart
- Massimo Scotti
- Shoshi Watanabe

We will be offering classes from micro/tiny tots upwards and a variety of lessons with both international and domestic coaches. If you would like to book a place, please contact twirlfest@unitedtwirlengland.org

DATES FOR YOUR *diary*



SEPTEMBER

20th September – Majorette Competition – Barnsley

OCTOBER

8th October – Majorette Competition – Barnsley

11th October – UTE AGM

24th – 25th October – UTE Team National Championships – Norwich

24th – 25th October – WFNBTAs selections – Norwich

27th, 28th, 29th – TwirlFest 2026 – Norwich

28th October – 1st November – IBTF European Majorettes Championships

NOVEMBER

20th-23rd November – Majorette National Championships – Norbreck

DATES FOR 2027

Twirling

16/17 January UTE Selections @TBC

March 24th – 28th – WFNBTAs World Championship, Liganano Sabbiadoro

1st-3rd May – UTE Individual Nationals, K2 Arena

19th-20th June – UTE Open, Essex University

28th June – 4th July, IBTF EuroTwirl, Dublin

31st July – 7th August – IBTF World Technical Championships, Liverpool

Majorettes

18th April – Barnsley UTE NORTH COMPETITION

21-23 May Norbreck Spring Open

27th June – Barnsley UTE NORTH COMPETITION

19th September – Barnsley – UTE NORTH COMPETITION

3rd October – Barnsley – UTE NORTH COMPETITION

26-28 November – Norbreck – Nationals