



Memo To: All Judges

From: Colleen Ryan – Head Judge

Date: 16 July 2016

Subject: Judges Workshop Report and Updates

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Fantastic opportunity for all our judges to meet together for our Combined New Zealand Judges Workshop 2016 at the Brentwood, Wellington Saturday 9 July 2016.

The winter bite meant some delays from the far south and the north too. Question? Do we need to select another time of the year more likely to have less weather variables?

Thank you to all 34 judges who attended with apologies from 6. We have some wonderful new upcoming trainee judges and it was great to hear your feedback about how valuable the day was. Being my first official undertaking as Head Judge it was a pleasure to get through the day's agenda and I think we came out with some helpful insights.

Again, a big thank you to all our past Head Judges who have given and shared so much and we have all benefited because of their dedication and passion for our Rock n Roll community.

Uniting Judges and Dancers moreso seems to be a good positive move and is probably more able to occur through the initiation of ourselves as judges. Discussion around this resulted in some good ideas and strategies such as:

- 1) Giving feedback from workshops to the dancers of your individual clubs – perhaps if judges could give an invite to Club members to get together to talk about aspects.
- 2) Feedback from Competitions – however it was felt that best to wait until after sheets have been made available to competitors and judges. This gives time for the dancers to view their marks and allow for both dancers and judges to consider their responses.
- 3) Profile of all judges to be viewable on our website. This would consist of a photo, name and a short description of why they love judging and rock n roll.
- 4) Values for Judges – we develop a Set of Values that we as judges abide by. This was well received and something that could be jointly created by all our judges, and placed on the website. Such a document helps bring openness to our roles.

Anything that can break down a perception or barriers that dancers may have around our judging community has got to be a positive thing.

We looked at the Timing Category and broke down each section to consider more about what each descriptive word and how we apply it. Every word within the guidelines has been carefully selected over the years to express the full capacity of what our dancers are presenting.

Tempo is more than timing alone – being connected to rhythm and emotion and mood. As we listen to various songs/music we can get a sense of what the 'expression' or mood of the music might be such as – smooth and gliding, bouncy, upbeat, hippy, seductive, light and quick, saazy, and so much more!

Our dancers provided an excellent opportunity to apply our skills and for each of us to evaluate our marks and why. I think the strongest reason for having dancers at workshops is to allow for healthy good discussion and an opportunity for self-evaluation and our thought processes behind how we arrive at a mark.

Best Dressed is a category our competitors really enjoy as they put a lot of effort into presenting themselves. It's useful for everyone dancers and judges alike to be more aware of the different traditional styles within our rock n roll era. Sometimes it's about that attention to detail that will help us as judges make our decisions when such a high calibre of dress is parading. The powerpoint presentation can be made available on our website in due course as a basic 'go to reference'.

It was decided upon a set of guidelines in relation to Best Dressed would be helpful as it's a category that is part of competition and logical and helpful to dancers and judges to have some framework around what is traditional for the era.

Please send any submissions you have around styles to me to help format Best Dressed Guidelines.

We acknowledge the retirement of Trish Haswell from Judging after 32 years involvement with rock n roll. Trish has held many positions over her time and she's given a lot of quality to the growth of our rock n roll. We wish Trish all the best and a separate letter of acknowledge together with your signed card will be given to her.

Thank you everyone for your input during the day; your comments and insights are greatly appreciated. Everyone has a voice and I personally was really impressed with the great ideas and discussion that evolved.

Thank you Jan for helping me out during the day – so much appreciated.

Colleen Ryan

