

Letter from the Judging Organiser to clubs who compete at Gala Events

I have taken a couple of weeks to collect the paperwork and sift through what was obviously a minefield of problems with the provision of officials at the Hull Gala Weekend.

A Gala is meant to be a celebration or a festive occasion, in this case a celebration of our sport or Trampoline and DMT. I could see very little to celebrate and be festive about during this weekend for Sally Slinger and Donna Grist who were responsible for the organisation of officials for the weekend.

On the sheets I received back from Sally and Donna I can see no less than: **24** changes to the original officials list, **10** officials who turned up late and about **7** who didn't show up at all.

When the decision was taken to alter the format of our National competition structure, the provision of officials was clearly going to be a key factor in ensuring the smooth running of the events. The clubs whose nominated officials fail to observe the required commitment seriously jeopardise this, a point which those involved in running the judging side of Gala weekends are finding increasingly frustrating.

With the Gala at Hull we were already short of Computer Operators for which I asked for volunteer helpers and received no volunteers.

I know that we are all in this for the sport and the kids and we are nearly all volunteers and very committed to what we do. However we as clubs all have an obligation to provide officials because if we don't fulfil that obligation then we will all have free weekends because there will be no competitions.

I was appalled at the number of clubs whose officials turned up late and seemed quite unconcerned and blasé about it. I was equally concerned at the number of changes that had to be made to the original panels. It is beginning to seem a pointless exercise spending the hours I do selecting officials if when we arrive at a competition over 30% of them are then substituted. Years ago when we first had the 'Open' competitions officials just turned up and were given jobs to do perhaps we should do that again as I see very little point in selecting panels at the moment.

Several clubs will in due course be receiving warning letters and will be fined for not fulfilling their required obligations. These fines MUST be paid before the next competition or future competition entries will not be accepted.

On a more positive note I would like to publicly thank those clubs who provided officials above and beyond their requirement at the Hull competition. Without them there would have been no competition.

I would also like to publicly commend the following officials for their excellent work at the Gala. **Sally** and **Donna** for being so patient and actually getting the panels up and running despite the problems people caused. **Mark Rowland** (Salto/Levitation) and **Sarah Scott** (Stockport) for their difficulty judging on the senior DMT panel on Sunday and **Mark Roberts** (City of Stoke) for his excellent judging on the Mens/Ladies panel on Saturday.

I do hope we see some improvements at the Cardiff Gala

Mike Phillipson (TTC Judging)