



# SOMERSET COUNTY GUY FAWKES CARNIVALS ASSOCIATION

## JUDGING AT CARNIVAL RECOMMENDED JUDGING CATEGORIES AND JUDGE'S GUIDANCE NOTES Classes 1 to 6 (Mounted entries)

### Overview

The purpose of this document is to offer advice and guidance for the judges of our Carnivals. These notes, as well as guiding judges in some of the less obvious aspects of their task, also provide those taking part with a better understanding of how they will be judged.

### Items to note

Judges should note that the County Rule for Juvenile entries is that: In all juvenile classes, entrants must not have had their 17th birthday by the 1st November in the current carnival year. In effect all entrants in juvenile classes must be under 17 on 1st November in the current carnival year. For all walking classes, all personnel shall be a minimum age of 5 on the 1st November in the current carnival year

Classes 1 – 5 should have a minimum of eight personnel on the entry; class 6 should have a minimum of six. All personnel must be fully mounted

Any entries conflicting with either of the above clauses should be marked as normal and the situation reported to the adjudicators on your return.

Entries are permitted to break tableau/stop performing if the procession comes to a halt in excess of 2 minutes, points should not be deducted or the entry judged in these circumstances.

### Where should I judge?

A zone will normally be allocated to you prior to the procession. Judging should not take place in any rest area or other areas as indicated by local judging instructions

Even avoiding these areas, there are miles of route along which judging can take place. Judges are respectfully requested not to congregate in pairs or small groups and to try not to stand in front of the same people all night. The judging will be fairer for all concerned if the judges are spread over a wide area within the zones. In addition, if judges do congregate, and they may well be judging different classes, the perception to the public and competitors alike is that collusion is taking place.

Whenever possible, judges are asked to judge both sides of all entries in their class. It is recognised that the sheer number of entries in some classes may make this impractical. Please do the best you can with the time available.

When judging mounted classes and you wish to preview the entries it is allowable to visit the line up areas. Entries should not be judged here, but a preview helps the judges to form an overall opinion of the standard of entries and can therefore pitch their marks at a practical level on the earlier entries.

### How do I judge mounted entries?

Each entry is marked under different categories, the recommended categories are: -

- 1. Cart build up.** - It is the effectiveness that is most important. Points for effectiveness of the cart build up should, however be tempered to reflect your view on the quality of workmanship and the technical skills demonstrated.
- 2. Presentation and general effect.** – This is your own subjective view and no real guidelines can be given. If an entry creates a greater impression or has a greater effect on you than the other entries, for whatever reason, then that entry is the one to which you should award the greatest points under this heading.
- 3. Musical Appropriateness.** – This category should cover several elements; judges should take particular note if the music played is appropriate to the entry, is it original (i.e. have they put in the effort to find something new?) the quality and clarity of the music and the volume. There is nothing worse than watching a Carnival and having to stand in front of a cart with the volume so high that the speakers are rattling, volume is okay providing the sound is not distorted. You should be judging this category from the spectator's point of view? Is the music appropriate? Is it good to listen to and can you make out what the song is? If there is no music points cannot be awarded in this category.
- 4 a. Stillness (class 1 and 2)** – Points should be awarded for the ability of the personnel on the cart to maintain a position of complete stillness and the difficulty of the pose. A participant, whose eyes clearly move, following someone in the crowd spoils the illusion of the entry as a tableau. Even eye movements should be considered when judging movement, albeit blinking clearly has to be catered for and recognized on grounds of health and safety as a matter of necessity.

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*Affiliated Committees:*

**Bridgwater, Bridgwater Gangs & Features, North Petherton, Highbridge & Burnham on Sea,  
Shepton Mallet, Wells, Glastonbury-Chilwell, Mid Somerset Gangs & Features & Weston Super Mare**

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- 4 b. **Life and movement (classes 3, 4 and 6).** – These entries should be judged not for the amount of movement but for the effectiveness of the movement and the appropriateness to the theme. Rhythm, timing, choreographic impact, energy and action portrayed are all significant elements of movement that must be considered in determining the overall effect of movement of an entry.
- 4 c. **Comedy content (class 5)** – In order to ensure that comic entries actually do provide comedy content, the number of points available to be awarded for this category is increased. This is to encourage more humor in the entries. Since the points awarded are more than the other elements, we would hope to see the spread of points reflect this. To clarify this, we would appreciate judges using the full range of points available to them, as this will encourage entries in this class to give far more importance to the comedy content.
5. **Lighting.** Here again effectiveness is the keyword. It is not the sheer volume of light that should score the highest points but how effectively that light is applied.
- **How do I judge an entry when its lights have failed?** – Lighting failures are difficult and often the saddest aspect of an entry to judge. Whilst you may be sympathetic, as a judge you must remember that, first and foremost, our carnival is advertised as an **illuminated** procession. For this reason, if an entry has a complete lighting failure, then no points can be awarded for lighting. The entry should not be judged on how good it might have been with full lighting. Whilst all points under the lighting category will be lost, other categories will inevitably also suffer. Presentation and general effect cannot be as good without lighting as it would have been with it.
  - **In the case of partial failure of lighting,** the lighting should be judged according to the effectiveness of the remaining lighting. The absence of one light bulb is unlikely to do anything at all to detract from the quality and effect of an entry. It has to be at the discretion of the judge as to the degree of the failure and how it impacts on the competitor's performance. **Entries suffering lighting failure of any degree should always be judged.**
  - **Should I give a club the chance to get their lights back on before I judge them?** – Yes, if time permits. Seek advice from one of the entry's stewards to see if the lights will be back on in the near future. Obviously this may be difficult to tell, you will have to form your own opinion. If you believe there is a reasonable chance, then move along with the entry until its lights return or until you reach the end of your zone. You should not move out of your allocated zone, remember that the first entry with no lights may not be the last.
6. **Costume and make up.** – The effectiveness of the costume is the most important issue along with the appropriateness of the costume to the theme. Strict attention to detail (e.g. accuracy of military costumes) should not adversely effect the pointing for what is, after all, a CARNIVAL procession. Room must be left for artistic interpretation of costumes according to the way the entry wishes to portray its theme.

## **How can I tell whether or not to judge a tractor or a generator?**

The guideline is quite simple, the tractor and/or generator should only be judged if it has clearly been decorated to be part of the entry. Generally speaking the decoration of both/either tractor and generator will enhance the entry. Entries who have gone to this extra effort will expect to benefit accordingly. Clubs are asked to put their numbers at the start and end of that which they wish to be judged, although clearly if lights have failed on a tractor or generator the entry should not be marked down.

## **What should I do if I see an entry deliberately holding up the procession?**

The smooth flow of the procession is critical to the future of our carnival. We therefore seek the assistance of our judges in controlling the flow of entries. If an entry is considered by a judge to be holding back, posing for video cameras perhaps, or creating an "advantageous gap" for judging or effect purposes then the judge should draw the attention of the procession marshals to the offender. If the offence is thought to be serious enough penalties may be imposed on the offender. Penalties could include the deduction of points from each judge's total for any offending entry. This will be subject to the S C G F C A's guidance on the methods of dealing with the imposition of penalties to entrants.