



# SOMERSET COUNTY GUY FAWKES CARNIVALS ASSOCIATION

JUDGE'S GUIDANCE NOTES From 2017 - Classes 1 to 6, Group 1,  
Judging Categories: - **Presentation and general effect** and **Musical Appropriateness**

## 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

- 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.
- (Note - For these classes this paragraph is applicable to class 6 only) Judges should note that the County Rule for Juvenile entries is that: In all juvenile classes, entrants must not have had their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday by the 1<sup>st</sup> November in the current carnival year. In effect all entrants in juvenile classes must be under 17 on 1<sup>st</sup> November in the current carnival year

## 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 lineup 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 these entries?

Each entry in classes 1 to 6 are marked under 6 different categories which are - Stillness / Life and movement / Comedy content, Costume & Make Up or mask, Presentation & General Effect, Music Appropriateness, Lighting and Cart Build Up. The groupings of these categories have been changed for 2017

Your categories are: -

- **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.
- **Musical Appropriateness.** – This category should cover several elements; judges should take particular note if the music played is appropriate to the entry, the quality and clarity of the music and its effect. 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, no points cannot be awarded in this category.

## How do I judge an entry when its lights have failed?

An attempt should be made to judge these categories even if there has been a failure, or partial of the entry's lighting

## 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.

## 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.

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*Affiliated Committees:*

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