

**New Zealand DanceSport Trust  
Chairperson's Report  
Dancesport New Zealand AGM 14 February, 2015**

The core trustees have continued their personal commitment in meeting the Trust financial obligations over the past year and meet regularly to continue working on plans for future events.

Unfortunately however 2014 has not been as successful for the Trust as we hoped.

Despite making the formal application and with very strong representation on our behalf by the WDSF the decision was made not to include dancesport In the World Masters Games in January 2017. The WDSF had offered a 50% reduction in hosting fees (worth approx \$7,500) but this was not sufficient to make the application viable – an opportunity lost for dancesport.

The inaugural DanceSport Games scheduled for 2014 were postponed until 2015 as the time schedule was too tight and funding was also not available. However it is anticipated that the Games will be held in Auckland in September. These Games will include Salsa and Street Latin as proposed for the 2014 event and it is expected to be held annually. This is the first step to recognizing many styles of dance under the DanceSport New Zealand banner.

In addition the Dancesport NZ Nationals are scheduled for 25 July in Christchurch and although this date has (not surprisingly) also been allocated for two regional events on the Ballroom Dance Council (formerly NZD&DC) calendar, we are determined to hold the event. It has been some time since a DanceSport New Zealand event has been held and it is time to begin the rebuild in New Zealand.

It is hoped that the Nationals will be run under the new grading system and Recreational events will also be held to give a wide range of events for all dancers. Elevation points can be earned by all dancers under the new system. The new system should encourage dancers of all levels, recreational and competitive to join in and have plenty of dancing. This is of course subject to the outcome of this meeting.

I would ask all regions to support the Nationals on 25 July as without your support we will not be able to hold the event. Please advertise the event in your regions and encourage everyone to join us in Christchurch - booking early means cheaper fares. From small beginnings.....

Again I would reiterate that it is important for the regions to work together and support the National body to ensure a more positive future for dancesport. We need to empower our athletes and encourage them to be more involved in their regional body activities which in turn will assist the National body in promoting dance for dancers in New Zealand.

Thank you to my fellow trustees, William Joyce, Jenny Lamb and Irina Kapeli for their support and commitment over the past year which has not been without some challenges.

I look forward to leading the Trust towards what I hope will be a brighter and more successful dancesport year.

**Sandra Maxfield**

**Chairperson**