

**New Zealand DanceSport Trust
Chairperson's Report
Dancesport New Zealand AGM 14 February, 2016**

Following the resignation of William Joyce as Trustee last February, the remaining trustees have continued their personal financial contributions to the Trust over the past year to enable the Trust's commitments to be met. They are still holding regular Skype meetings to carry on plans for future events.

The Dancesport New Zealand Nationals were re-scheduled to 1 August in Christchurch so as not to clash with other events. It was well supported by dancers from around the country and greatly enjoyed by everyone who attended. It is hoped that this will be the first of more events to be held in Christchurch.

It was expected that the Nationals would be run under the new DanceSport New Zealand grading system and Recreational events held to give a wide range of events for all dancers. However more time was requested by regions to consider the proposed grading changes at the National body February 2015 meeting and the Trust was obliged to continue under the existing level system. A number of novelty events were included however which enabled dancers to enjoy more floor time. These events were based on the Recreational division format as an example of how events can be run under the new rules.

Unfortunately once again the inaugural DanceSport Games were postponed as due to the trustee changes there were insufficient resources to hold both the August event and the Games. The time schedule for applying for funding was also not suitable. We are currently working towards this event in July in Auckland to include Salsa and Street Latin as well as the Ballroom styles but once again this is dependent upon funding grants being available. The Trust does not have sufficient funds available to finance this event without these grants - a sign of the times unfortunately.

I would once again stress if the Trust is to succeed it is extremely important for the regions to work together and support these events and by default the National body, to ensure a more positive future for dancesport. Our athletes should be empowered and encouraged to be more involved in their regional body activities which in turn will assist the National body and the Trust in promoting dance for dancers in New Zealand.

Thank you to my remaining fellow trustees, Jenny Lamb and Irina Kapeli for their continued support and commitment.

Hopefully with the support of DanceSport New Zealand and the regions, 2016 will be a brighter and more successful dancesport year.

Sandra Maxfield

Chairperson