

Annual Letter from Jackie Squance, Chairman of the Judges, Demonstrators, Speakers and Education Committee

Firstly may I wish you all a happy and safe 2022 from us all on the Surrey Area JDS&E.

As with everyone, 2021 was not that straightforward for us. My wonderful Committee of Sue Slark, Jane Rickard, Claire Bryant, Laura Hawken, Diane Melton, Alison Gillott, Margaret Trepant [ex Officio] and yours truly have all managed to keep things ticking over mostly by zoom.

As with last year Claire, as **Demonstrators** Rep, has been busy mentoring and giving advice to both Clubs and her Demonstrators where necessary. This along with her own Demonstrations both on Zoom and in person has kept her very busy. Claire is a wonderful ambassador for her Demonstrators, taking them all under her wing and being a great force for them all.

Jane as **Education** Rep. along with, Sue and Margaret have all still been overseeing the success of Levels 2, 3 and 4, with most candidates gaining their certificates. It's an achievement that both Students and Tutors should be most proud of considering the difficult conditions under which they have been working.

Judges have had a very lean time of it through 2021 so I, as Judges Rep. have not been so busy. However shows are beginning to start again now. With this in mind we are holding a Judges Refresher Day in February. This promises to be a good day not only to meet up with kindred spirits, but also to shake off some of the dust. I'm pleased to announce that we have a new Surrey Area Judge, Maureen Collin, who took her training and subsequent Tests with Wessex and Jersey. Congratulations to her. We have three candidates awaiting training at the moment here in Surrey. Please contact me if you are interested in joining them. Sadly two of our National Judges have decided to retire namely Anne Blunt and Anna Sparks. We thank them most sincerely for their guidance and the expertise they have afforded NAFAS over the years.

Our few **Speakers** have still been able to delight through the media of Zoom when not in person.

Our **Workshops** have started up again with Graham King taking the lead in December and, due to popularity, again in January as I write.

The AGM saw a few changes to the format of the JDS&E.

Whilst Jane, Claire, Margaret and I have stayed as we were, Sue who had successfully managed Workshops over the years moved over into the Treasurers role with the departure of Laura. We thank Laura for her efficient account keeping and help over the past few years and wish her every happiness in her retirement. Alison had been co-opted onto the Committee earlier in the year and from November has taken over as Workshop Rep.

That just leaves me to mention Diane, our hard working and long suffering Secretary. We really couldn't manage without her.

During 2022 as well as the afore mentioned Judges Refresher Day, we hope to have more workshops for you, including the two Barbara Newell Workshops which precede the Area Show and whose purpose it is to assist members who are not au fait with competitive work; We shall also be putting on a meeting for Club Chairman and their Programme Secretaries regarding bookings. It is hoped, if we can garner enough interest, that Judges Training could be instituted during the year and I'm sure that Claire will have something up her sleeve for Demonstrators.

We shall continue our bi monthly meetings, face to face now, we hope!

With the help of Linda, our Media Officer, we shall keep the Area Lists of Judges, Demonstrators, Speakers and Education up to date for you to view on line. We are all here to help you, so please do contact anyone of us if you feel the need. And so I think that is enough from me. And so on behalf of all the team.....

Jackie Squance - Chairman and Judges Rep., Sue Slark - Vice Chairman and Hon Treasurer, Jane Rickard – Education Rep, Claire Bryant – Demonstrators Rep., Alison Gillott – Workshop Rep., Margaret Trepant – Ex Officio, Diane Melton – Hon. Secretary,.....May we wish you all a Very Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year.

Jackie Squance

Chairman Surrey Area JDS&E.