

Irish Dance with CLRG – March 2007

Irish dancer has completed its survey and these are the results! If you would like to read the questions set please see the bottom of this document

Who responded

62% of all responses were from dancers categorising themselves as being Open dancers 2/3rds of these Open dancers regularly compete at the Majors. The rest of the responses were from the other Grades, and some TCRG

Lessons

Across the board the average cost of classes seems to be between £4.00 & £5.00 per hour, although 11% said they pay £6.00 or more per hour.

The majority of your classes (70%) seem to last for 2 hours approximately

About a ¼ of dancers have a total of 4 hours of lessons per week, with another 51% doing at least 6 hours, and 17% doing 10 or more.

As you might expect this varies a little for Open dancers with at least 50% of them doing 8 hours or more per week, and nearly half of those doing more than 10 hours.

Class fees

40% are asked to pay for their classes on a monthly basis whilst a surprising 28% pay “per class” on arrival. This seems to me to be an inefficient way for any school to run its finances, and could lead to reduction in income for the TCRG.

In the event of pupil absence from classes for any reason ¾ still have to pay for the class. The majority of these will receive no credit against the next class fees due. This is not a surprise as the running costs don't change just because less dancers turn up.

However, 26% don't have to pay if they miss a class, which I would guess is likely to be from the group who “pay per class” which is a similar percentage. This means of course that the hall hire etc. is being paid by the TC themselves when it isn't covered by unpaid fees as potentially a class could be several short after a sickness outbreak.

38.6% of you are not asked to pay annual “registration fees” whilst 62.4% of you are. Surprisingly, just over a 1/3rd of those who do pay a fee are given no explanation as to what it actually covers.

Feis

35.5% of dancers go to 1 or less per month (in the Open group, its even less) but 42% of you go to 1 or more per month + majors. In the Open group this rises to 59%

Although we complain about feis costs it seems that 57% spend less than £30 per month on feis entries etc. This figure only increases to £40 for the Opens.

When talking about travel & accommodation 54% said they spend less than £1000 per year, with over 61% spending less than £1500. However 21% admit to spending over £2000. For the Open group, not surprisingly, the costs are higher with 55% spending over £1500 per year, and 31% spending over £2000.

Dresses

Of course the biggest single outlay is the dress with 42.5% of dancers buying a dress annually of which nearly 9 out of 10 buy. For the Open group 64% get a replacement dress each year with $\frac{3}{4}$ of them buying a new one.

Overall 80% of dancers buy their dress NEW with 90% of Open dresses bought NEW

27% of dresses cost less than £500, with another 17% up to 750. The largest group, at 34.65%, spend over £1000, with just under half of these costing over £1250.

Surprising 1 in 5 do not re-sell the old dress to offset the cost, preferring to keep it.

For the Open group 44.3% spend more than £1000 with just under half going over £1250. Again 1 in 6 still retain the old dress.

When it comes to dresses 62% say they are too expensive, with 36.4% stating there is too much pressure put upon you to use the right dressmaker.

28% say they'd like to see more traditional designs and less glitz, whilst the Open group who regularly attend majors feel that there should be more Glitz!

Rules

Reassuringly the vast majority (85%) feel their TCRG are fully conversant with the rules, although 27.19% feel their TCRG do not convey them very well, and a little under 8% say their TCRG actually seems to restrict access.

90% feel that the rules should be freely available, with 69.3% saying that this should be without a fee. Encouragingly 100% of the TCRG that completed the survey also agreed with this ideal.

93.9% agree that there should be a formalised complaint procedure, with 74.44% agreeing that this protects both TCRG and the dancers. Again our TCRG response was in 100% agreement

Adjudication

When it comes to controversial adjudication decisions 33.33% feel that CLRG should investigate & advise all TCRG of the results, whilst 44.74% feel that the findings should be made Public.

Rather surprising then that whilst a similar number (30.26%) felt that the offending ADCRG should be punished with TCRG being advised, the number of you wanting public disclosure of the punishment was only 22.37%. This suggests that you are not out on a witch hunt or looking for a public hanging but rather just need to know that CLRG are actually doing something to try to keep things honest.

In fact 24.56% believe that if nothing is proven then the ADCRG should be given the benefit of the doubt, and receive no condemnation or punishment, whether private or public.

However, in the event of guilt 27.19% favour the ADCRG being publicly banned from judging for at least 6 months, whilst 26.75% favour their being made to re-sit the ADCRG exam before being released from a ban.

Disclosure

86.4% believe that CLRG (which includes the Regional councils) should make public details of all matters discussed at its meetings, including its minutes.

However, 49% are only looking for this where the discussion is directly relevant to the dancers.

Time to change

Despite the various areas of complaint that are regularly discussed CLRG can take heart that less than 17.5% are considering, or have considered, moving to another organisation (this includes 1/3rd of the TCRG responses) The good news is that only a 1/3rd of these are definite that they will be doing so.

However, CLRG cannot afford to be complacent as 77.63% believe that things must change, and this rises to over 80% amongst the Open dancers, and 2/3rds of our TCRG responses.

[See below for the actual survey questions](#)

What grade is your dancer competing in? (note that US grades vary slightly)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------|------|
| Novice/Beginner | Primary | Intermediate | Open |
| Open regularly competing in Championships | | Open regularly recalling in championships | |
| Open regularly competing at the Majors | | Open regularly recalling at the Majors | |
| I am a TCRG/ADCRG, not a parent | | | |

How much do you pay per hour for your childs classes?

| | | | | | |
|-------|----|----|----|----|--------------|
| £2.50 | £3 | £4 | £5 | £6 | More than £6 |
|-------|----|----|----|----|--------------|

How long are your lessons usually?

| | | | | |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| 1 hour | 2 hours | 3 hours | 4 hours | more than 4 hours |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|

How many hours lessons per week do you have?

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------|---------|----------|
| 1 hour | 2 hours | 3 hours | 4 hours | 5 hours |
| 6 hours | 7 hours | 8 hours | 9 hours | 10 hours |
| 11 - 15 hours | over 15 hours | | | |

How do you have to pay your fees?

| | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|---------|----------|-------------|--------|
| per class | weekly | monthly | annually | half termly | termly |
|-----------|--------|---------|----------|-------------|--------|

If you child could not attend a class for any reason do you still have to pay your fees, or are you credited for the next lesson?

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Still pay, no credit given | Still pay, credit given | Don't pay |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|

Does your childs teacher charge an annual registration fee, and what does it cover?

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| No fee | Fee charged but not told what it covers |
| Fee charged to cover TCRG registration and Insurance | Fee charged to cover TCRG registration only |
| Fee charged to cover TCRG registration & additional fee for Insurance | |

How often do you attend Feis/Oireachtas on average

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Feis less than once per month | Feis Once per month |
| Feis Twice per month | Feis less than once per month + Majors (where possible) |
| Feis once per month + Majors (where possible) | Feis Twice per month + Majors (where possible) |

How much do you spend on dancers & parents feis entry fees per month on average (including Majors)

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| GB£10 (US\$18 or 15Euro) | GB£20 (US\$36 or 30Euro) | GB£30 (US\$54 or 45Euro) | GB£40 (US\$72 or 60Euro) |
| GB£50 (US\$90 or 75Euro) | GB£60 (US\$108 or 90Euro) | GB£60-75 (US\$108-135 or 90-112Euro) | |
| GB£75-100 (US\$135-180 or 112-150Euro) | | over GB£100 (US\$180 or 150Euro) | |

Estimate your annual travel & accommodation costs for competitions

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| less than £500 (US\$900 or 750 Euro) | £500 - £1000 (US\$1800 or 1500 Euro) |
| £1000 - £1500 (US\$2700 or 2250 Euro) | £1500 - £2000 (US\$3600 or 3000 Euro) |
| £2000 - £3000 (US\$5400 or 4500 Euro) | over £3000 (US\$5400 or 4500 Euro) |

About the costume. How often do you replace it and do you buy new or pre-loved?

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Every six months - New | Every six months - Pre-loved | At least Annually - New |
| At least Annually - Pre-loved | At least every 18 months - New | At least every 18 months Pre-loved |
| Less Often - New | Less Often - Pre-loved | |

How much do you usually spend on the new costume, and do you sell the previous one to subsidise the cost?

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| up to £500 and sell previous | up to £500 and keep previous | £500-750 and sell previous |
| £500-750 and keep previous | £750-1000 and sell previous | £750-1000 and keep previous |
| £1000-1250 and sell previous | £1000-1250 and keep previous | over £1250 and sell previous |
| over £1250 and keep previous | | |

How do you feel about costumes in general? (you may select more than one answer if you wish)

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| They are too expensive | They are a fair price considering that they are one-off designs and hand made to measure |
| They should be more traditional and not so glitzy | |
| I like the constant changing of modern styles and the glitzy fabrics used | |
| Too much pressure is put on dancers to use the "right" dressmaker | |

Do you feel that your own TCRG are fully conversant with all of the CLRG rules and codes of conduct, and do they relay these to you when appropriate?

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Yes they are, and they convey them well | Yes they are but they do not pass on as much as I would like |
| Yes they are but severely restrict access to the information | No they do not appear to be fully conversant |

Do you think CLRG should make its rules and codes of conduct etc. freely available to Dancers and parents, even if it were to mean that it had to charge each dancer a personal membership fee?

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| No it doesn't need to as TCRG are able to access the information | |
| Yes it should but not with a fee | Yes it should and I would be happy to pay a fee |
| Do you believe that there should be a proper means to make a complaint or appeal direct to CLRG over any situations that may arise | |
| No the informal system in place is okay | Yes the informal system keeps complaints hidden |
| Yes a formal system would protect both TCRG and dancers from false accusations being made | |
| We have all seen strange results at Major competitions wherein one ADCRG offers scores totally out of line with the rest of the panel, to the extent that everyone queries the reasons. hat should be done about this? (you can tick more than one answer) | |
| CLRG should just carry on as now | |
| CLRG should investigate and advise TCRG of their findings | |
| CLRG should investigate and make a public announcement of their findings | |
| ADCRG should be privately censured if found guilty of inappropriate behaviour | |
| ADCRG should be censured and TCRG advised if found guilty of inappropriate behaviour | |
| ADCRG should be publicly censured if found guilty of inappropriate behaviour | |
| ADCRG should be given the benefit of the doubt if nothing proved | |
| ADCRG should be penalised by temporary public 6 months ban from judging | |
| ADCRG should be banned and have to retake their AD exam before judging again | |
| Do you feel that CLRG should be generally more open and accountable and make publicly available its decisions and deliberations (eg minutes of meetings) | |
| No it is not necessary as TCRG are advised | |
| Yes it should reveal info that directly impacts on dancers (eg transfer bans/strange results at Majors) | |
| Yes it should publicise everything, as ultimately all decisions affect dancers | |
| There are many aspects of dancing within CLRG that are causing complaints, would you consider leaving? | |
| Yes, we are definitely giving up or joining another organisation | |
| Yes, we are considering, or have considered, giving up or joining another organisation | |
| No, we love dancing with CLRG and want nothing to change | |
| No, we love dancing with CLRG but would still like to see some thing improve to make it even better | |