

Porty Does Strictly!

It's been and gone. It was an incredible evening of dancing, judging and bad puns from our Strictly presenters Keir Gowan and Mrs Breingan. Was it a year to remember or is it one to cha cha slide under the carpet?

Porty does Strictly is an annual event at the school, in which 14 couples give it their all and dance in front of a crowd full of family, friends, pupils and colleagues - no pressure then! To increase that pressure there are also four judges to impress (it wouldn't quite be Strictly without them). They consist of our very own RE: Portobello leader and English teacher Mr Forrest (head judge); the fantastic Mrs Todd who is a member of office staff and always handy with a camera at a Portobello prom; there's also Mr Saddler depute head teacher and school jester of course; finally we have Mr Bracewell the footy fanatic - not much needs said about Mister Bracewell except that his suit nearly stole the show.

Now to the dancers. There were 14 couples (7 teacher pairs and 7 pairs of senior pupils). The teachers: PC Ferry, Mr Smith, Ms Howie, Mr McLaughlin, Mrs Philp, Mr Matthews, Ms Rose, Mr Roy, Miss Taylor, Mr McKenzie, Mrs Coats, Mr Hayes, Ms Urquhart and Mr Christie. The pupils who took part were: Zoe Urquhart, Jake French, Megan Willis, David Morley, Lucy Tait, Greg Anderson, Bella Baillie, Daniel Haquin, Mairi Campbell, Euan Lennox, Sarah Brady, Douglas Wilson, Lois Forbes and Cameron Johnstone.

Space prevents us from discussing every pair but special mention must go to PC Ferry and Mr Smith for kicking off the proceedings. That performance should be outlawed because they killed it! The young(ish) couple showed tremendous energy through a vast number of steps and twists. Their dance was the jive. The crowd loved it as well as the judges.

Pupils Zoe Urquhart and Jake French hit the audience with the first salsa of the night and it was fantastic too. The pair had strong chemistry. Jake claimed to be the leader but Zoe denied this. This couple performed an excellent routine with plenty of spins: really a lot of spins! Some members of the audience even seemed dizzy just spectating. "I feel all the practising

paid off and our routine worked the way we both wanted. I couldn't have asked for more," said Jake of the routine.

Another teacher pair that received recognition was the outstanding Mr Hayes and Mrs Coats as the pair performed the only paso doble (that's a dance) of the night. The couple performed terrifically. The paso doble is a Latin American dance that involves marching and stomping one's feet a lot, like a matador. This was a part Mr Hayes had down. "Me and Mr Hayes both enjoyed ourselves and were very pleased by our routine," said Mrs Coats.

Our winners Lois Forbes and Cameron Johnstone obviously deserve a mention. The couple showed tremendous amounts of spirit and enthusiasm throughout their dance and the scores reflected this with the couple receiving the only full 40 points of the night. "We put in a lot of work and it certainly paid off. This was an experience me and Lois certainly won't forget," Cameron told Re:Portobello.

The evening was a rollercoaster of excitement, passion and smooth moves. This year certainly made its mark in the legacy of Party Does Strictly and will be one that's remembered for quite some time. Lois and Cameron's victory was just like a movie: the last in the competition to go out, show their moves, get a perfect score and become the champs. Of course it was not just the judges who had an input as the audience voted using their mobiles through the Portobello school website. Lois and Cameron still came out victoriously showing that they were truly deserving of the top spot.

Maybe next year Mrs Williamson will stop telling others to dance and hit the floor herself.

Joshua Rowan and Daniel Craik