

## Report on Perth and Rome Seminars

# A Brave New World

Pam Peters

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## Perth – Asia Pacific Skating Symposium

This was a fantastic experience for myself. From the small amount of time I was able to spend watching our skaters and coaches it would appear to have been a valuable experience for them too.

- It was a solid introduction to RollArt as a system and answered quite a few questions
- Several opportunities to practice using RollArt as a Technical Specialist and as a Judge
- Opportunities for discussion with Nicola Genchi (the brain behind the system)
- Observing the linked introduction of concepts between the International Coaches also at the symposium and Nicola.
- Opportunity to sit my International Judges Commission exams

The days were long. And I am still working through the hours of recorded seminar. Susan Brooks has kindly supplied copies of the video she took, and is fine for NZ to use them in education of our judges and coaches.

Would I go again? – in a heart beat. Depending on when, where, what format etc

Maybe next time the committee could look at sending an up and coming judge with a senior judge.

## Rome – Artistic Roller Skating International Seminar

This was an altogether different and yet equally exciting experience. Jetlag notwithstanding – it was a great trip made more enjoyable by having 3 equally enthusiastic travelling companions.

- 120 Judges, 296 Coaches and trainers, from 30 Countries
- Reinforcement of the learnings in Perth, for both coaches and judges
- Opportunity to sit the Free Skating Technical Specialists exam
- Confirmation that the RollArt system official language is English
- Sessions presented in many languages so you had to listen to the translations and really think about what you were being told

## International Judging Examinations

Thank you for this opportunity. I will admit to finding it quite stressful having only a few months to prepare at a time when there is so much change happening.

**International B Commission achieved – Figures, Free Skating, Pairs and Show Skate**

**RollArt Technical Specialist achieved - Freeskating**

Overall I am proud of what I achieved though I am disappointed at not getting my commission for Dance and Precision. The Dance is a weaker area for me, I have never skated couples dance, only briefly taught it, and we were examined on the new rules. Precision was a case of falling into the trap of over confidence and when it came to the crunch I struggled to recall the new rules.

It is unlikely I will be able to sit the Dance and Precision again under the old system. Nicola was quite open that he is totally focused on the new system. However if the opportunity presents itself I am keen to do so.

The RollArt Technical Specialist exam as a whole new experience in stress for many. I was thrilled to have passed, and would like to acknowledge the support of Tony and our Australian friends, Lyn, Seona, Susan and Jodie in Rome. There were some long hours of study put in as a group. In fact everywhere you went during seminar breaks and at the hotel you would see groups of judges studying together.

68 Candidates sat the exams for Free and for Pairs – we sat the written on the Friday night. And then on Saturday morning were told who had passed. 38 of us passed the written and went on to sit the Oral part of the exam that afternoon – calling multiple programs in front of the examining panel knowing that you had to get at least 1 program 100%. The exam was in English for all. 17 of us passed. Myself and Susan Brooks are the successful Oceania candidates.

## RollArt

### Gut Reaction?

I like it! A lot! But I am equally daunted by the job at hand.

It is easy to think of the reasons it's going to be too hard to implement. And many around the world feel that way. But when you look at what is motivating the change at the World Skate level you begin to realize that like Ice Skating – we really don't have a choice.

- ✓ A system that is as objective as possible within an artistic sport
- ✓ A system that is based on rewarding achievement
- ✓ A system that has a single consistent language
- ✓ A system that drives an improvement in skating as a product
- ✓ A result that gives feedback to the athlete about where they scored and where they failed to score
- ✓ A system that is easy for the audience to understand how placings are achieved

### Positives for the system

It clearly rewards achievement of skills. A simple comparison of the list of deductions at the back of the current World Skate manual shows you that the current system is all about penalizing when you do something wrong. RollArt has only 1 or 2 penalties, for a fall, and for missed items.

RollArt is about ticking boxes. Each tick gets a reward. It's that simple.

While listening to the Olympic coverage and looking back at some 1980's ice programs – you can see how it has changed the sport for the better I believe.

## New Attitude and New Roles

The World Skate organization made it clear in Rome that they want all officials to be accountable for the application of their decisions, and to drive a new level of professionalism.

RollArt actively promotes judges and technical specialists to be experts in one or two disciplines. Rather than the current expectation that a judge for example is an expert in all areas. But in doing so it requires them to be very knowledgeable in their chosen area, to stay current in the application of their skills, and to take personal responsibility for their own development.

Looking at what I had to do for the free exam – I know that dance is probably beyond me at an international level. Lyn Cole however has made the opposite choice and did not sit the free exam, and is already planning a study program to become a dance specialist.

Tony is considering his options and I will be interested to see what he decides to do.

Domestically we do not need our technical specialists to come from our pool of judges. But we do need to check their ability and accuracy with a practical exam like what we sat in Rome.

Those wanting to be judges will still need to go through a training program similar to what we do now. But in more depth about the quality and less about the technical.

Our scorers will transition to data operators and administrator's roles – equally as important as what they do now. Their ability to work with the Technical Specialist etc as a team is critical to the successful operation of a big event.

Team work is a big part of the successful operation of the new system. This is not to say that judges sit and chat about each score. But everyone has to know their job and do it well.

Assistant technical specialist can call a review of an item if they think there is any doubt.

Referee and Technical Specialist have to both agree a fall is a fall because it is such a big penalty.

## Key Driving Principle

It is based on the idea of the absolute rather than the relative. The aim being the idea that a program should have a base value that is the same no matter where in the world it is skated.

Currently we see Young skaters getting the same mark for a simpler program than more skilled skaters with a more difficult program. Something that is hard for the general skating community to understand. It is also contrary to IOC requirements for a measurable scoring system.

Under RollArt 7 year old and a 17 year old who do the same program with the same skills to the same quality should get the same score.

## Scalable Application Across the Sport

The focus of World Skate up till recently has been how the system will be applied and run at a major event. The top of the pyramid. But in Perth and again in Rome it was explained that the system is very scalable. It will also be able to be set up to accommodate the needs of the skaters at club levels.

- ✓ You can change the technical requirements to meet your needs as long as they follow the theories that under pin the system. What you can't do is change the values.
- ✓ You can operate with 1 judge, 1 technical specialist, and a data operator on one computer
- ✓ It can be recorded on paper and entered into the system later. But the math is too hard to do manually on the go.

## Introducing it in NZ

There is a belief amongst some that we can continue using the old system here in NZ once the rest of the world moves to the new system.

One of the key reactions from Judges that have been to these seminars is that once you start thinking using the philosophies of the new system, in particular the component score, it will be very hard to go back to the old system.

My personal opinion is we would be doing our skaters a disservice if we cling to the old system. The goals of the new system match the goals we should all be striving for – positive development of our sport. Improved skating skills, improved technical skills, clarity of judging.

The changes made this year go a long way to setting a schedule domestically that will work with RollArt. I've even thought of ways to modify our existing medal test requirements so that it fosters the same skills and programs.

Attached is the first of a set of flyers for the Art Committee to release before the seminar. Both so that attendees are prepared – but also to assist those who can't attend.

## Future Seminars

In Rome they mentioned the next seminar which will be late 2018/early 2019. Will focus a lot more on Dance and Precision. And is likely to be in America. The rumour is California.

## A Request for the future

I know many in our sport are going through major changes in their lives myself included over the last 18 months. However the lack of communication over the arrangements for the Rome Seminar was disconcerting at best and has meant that accommodation has been paid for twice.

There is no point going into a blow by blow dissection of what did, or rather didn't happen – suffice to say, with the exception of some contact with Joan over the bookings Stephen was making, we had no contact with anyone on the artistic committee.

No one asked us what we needed, checked with us about the information World Skate was asking for, or provided us with any confirmation of what we had been registered for.

I don't want to seem ungrateful, because I really really appreciate the opportunities you've given me. But this had the potential to go very wrong, and Italy is a long way to go with no confirmation they were even expecting us. As it was Tony and I nearly didn't get to sit our exams because they didn't have our registration, and some of our accommodation was paid for twice.

Kind regards

Pam