

The Wag

PAWS 2 DANCE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2 DECEMBER 2007



THE WORLD OF DEMOS



Kathie & Helen, dancing to "Lonely Bull" at the NWBB.

- Demo articles inside.

BEST WISHES to everyone for a happy and healthy new year and much enjoyment in the ring. **SPECIAL WISHES** for speedy recoveries from surgery to Glenda, Bonnie, and Pat.

MAIL VOTE RESULT:

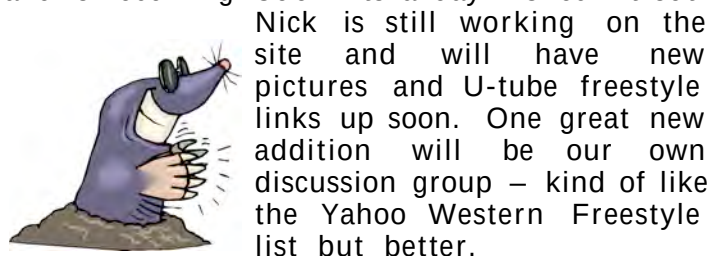
For the creation of a new Division
Novice X with a qualifying score of 6

- In Favor: 19
- Opposed: 0
- Abstained: 1

KUDOS

- to Carolyn and Pat, who together with Sharon, Corinne and family, hosted the Boot Scootin' Boogie and a WCFO event within a month! And survived! And for raising \$500 for Old Dog Haven.

- to Nick Walsh for revamping our Paws 2 Dance web page, which has now surpassed WCFO for the search term "Canine Musical" and is receiving 300 hits a day. Check it out.



Nick is still working on the site and will have new pictures and U-tube freestyle links up soon. One great new addition will be our own discussion group – kind of like the Yahoo Western Freestyle list but better.

- to Joan Strick for restructuring and updating our title tracking system.

- to all Paws 2 Dance members performing at the WCFO national and showing everyone that freestyle is alive and well in our corner of the world.

- to Ray, who, even though he wasn't at the WCFO Nationals, was the most talked about choreographer there.

DATES:

Seattle Kennel Club Demo: March 8 & 9

Paws 2 Dance Fun Match: March 22

Vancouver Pet Expo (at the Trade X)
March 29th.

Paws 2 Dance "Prancing Paws" at the
McKayBuilding, Cloverdale: April 26.

Petpalooza, Auburn: May 31

Hurricane Ridge Kennel Club, Sequim:
July 26 & 27

Boot Scootin' Boogie: Arlington, Sept. 7

K-9 Carnival, Federal Way, Sept. 13

PAWS 2 DANCE BIOS

GAIL WALSH

Gail has been on the Paws 2 Dance Executive in one position or another since the inception of the club. Her passion for the sport is contagious and her routines have always been a pleasure to watch and an inspiration for the rest of us. Here is what Gail has to say about her self.

I was born in BC, many moons ago. I got my first full time job working as a window dresser at Eaton's in New Westminster. (It is now Army and Navy.) A year later I left Eaton's for a job as a window dresser at Jermaines in Vancouver. On my first day of the job, I proceeded to undress the three female window mannequins. I soon realized I had an audience. Sitting on the sidewalk were six drooling men enjoying the free show. Oh, the joy of a big city.

After Jermaines I worked at Sears (Simpson Sears) doing windows until I started my family in 1969. This Burnaby Sears was the only one in BC at the time. Boy am I old!!!

I captured my first mate in 1966 and proceeded to populate the world with four wonderful boys. As much as I loved my boys I really wanted a little girl as well. Since we did not want to end up raising a boy's baseball team, we decided to adopt a 22 month old baby girl from Korea.

During these years, in the evenings I decorated windows for Ella's in Langley. I also designed and put together several floats for the Langley Day's Parade.

In 1982, I opened my own craft store in Coquitlam. The hours were long and I also gave craft lessons in the evenings. Having five children as well, made this difficult so I sold it three years later. I then got a job as assistant manager of Ricki's clothing store in Willowbrook Mall, and later became manager. At the same time, I also volunteered in a Langley school. I was later hired as a teacher assistant and worked in an

elementary school during the day and after school worked in a daycare till 6:30. At the same time, for two years, I went to college in the evenings to get my Early Childhood Education Degree. It was a busy time.

After my husband and I separated in 1992, I decided to try dating. It had been a long time so I wasn't sure how to go about it. My girlfriend and I decided to try single dances. This can be an experience! At one dance I got left standing in the middle of the dance floor when the fellow I was dancing with found out I had five kids.

I met Nick at a later dance in 1994. When I told him how many kids I had, and he didn't run, I knew I had a keeper. We got married the next year. I have come to realize I had made a good choice. We now have three grandchildren and I love every minute.



I have had pet dogs all my life. But it wasn't until we got Tundra, our Kuvasz, that I started doing any type of dog training. I phoned Ray and signed up for a private obedience lesson. I thought this would help us fit into his obedience class easier. I didn't learn a thing at the private lesson. This could have something to do

with the fact that when we got to the training hall I realized that I didn't have the key to get Tundra out of the back of my truck. It was at home with my husband who was an hour away. So obviously the lesson didn't happen. What a way to make an impression with your new trainer. Ray immediately knew what he was in for.

After watching Ray in an MCSI freestyle competition in Cloverdale, I knew I had to try it. When Ray started freestyle lessons in 1999, I jumped right in. Tundra and my two Australian Shepherds never really enjoyed freestyle. That is why Pepsi is such a joy to have as a dance partner. I feel blessed to have found him. I plan to keep dancing into my 90's. Oh what the heck, I think I will shoot for 100.

HEATHER SOMERS

An original member of Wee Paws for Applause, Heather has competed with her dogs in eight different canine sports and has charmed audiences with her freestyle routines.

I was born in London, England. I have an older brother who was very ill with Asthma and Eczema as a child (he had to be bandaged from head to foot every night before bed). Luckily, Mom was a nurse so could look after him. The Red Cross thought that he would be healthier in the Canadian climate so they offered to pay the boat fare for Mom and him but not for me. As Mom and Dad had split up, this took an enormous amount of courage and hardship, but the 3 of us came to Canada when I was 12.



We landed in Nova Scotia and the next few years traveled from there to BC and back again trying to find the best climate for him. Due to his health and allergies I couldn't have a dog but have always had a love for them. The going away present when we left England from a friend was a Doggy Sticker Book.

I met my husband of 42 years in Dauphin, Manitoba while taking a Business Course. I ended up with a job in Esterhazy, Sask. being secretary to the Manager of The Royal Bank. After Louis and I got married, we moved to Powell River where our first son 'Colin' was born, a year later we ended up in Thompson, Manitoba (I had lived there previously and Mom and my Step Dad lived there) where our second son 'Ian' was born. After a couple more moves we ended up in Campbell River and decided it was important that the boys did all there schooling in one place and we've now been here for 30+ years.

Once I was out on my own I was able to have a dog (a Border Collie stray that ended up on the doorstep and a cute little cross that was awesome) but didn't get a chance to really get into the training until we settled here.

I started with a Blue Merle Sheltie and have titled 3 Shelties, a Cairn, a Whippet, a Gordon Setter, a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, 4 Silkies and now my Border Terrier in an accumulation of 8 different dog sports with a few Obedience Trial Champions and Tracking Dog Excellent dogs thrown in. I am proud of the fact that I put both those titles on a Cairn and a Silky, considering I've been told many times that you can't train Terriers!!!! Obviously these were not all my own dogs. I was lucky in having good friends who would loan me a dog to train during a down time. I also looked after a Boston Terrier for 9mths and had him trained to CD level.

I got into Freestyle with my Silkies about 8 years ago when I was asked to join some friends who were going to do a team routine with 'toy' breed dogs. That was the start of Wee Paws for Applause, There were 6 ladies in the beginning but due to other commitments that whittled down to 4 and we are still active. I guess I'd have to say the Highlight of my Freestyle was winning High Technical, High Artistic, Best Music suited to dog, and High Toy Dog at the WCFO 'Whirl' held in Portland in 2004. This was from the Sassy Senior class as 'Pasha' was 12 yrs. Old at the time.

I am certainly not a dancer, but I love training my dogs and find that Freestyle is the most fun of all.

When I'm not playing with the dogs (I presently am down to 2, Pasha (my last homebred Silky who is 15) and Harta (3yr.old Border Terrier) or doing the myriad of things connected to the doggy world, I'm rubber stamping, or doing whatever craft catches my interest and reading.



PAT MOORE

Pat is a mover and shaker. Together with Emerald City friends, she has hosted numerous freestyle events including competitions, demonstrations, and clinics.

I was born and raised in Napa, CA. I got my first registered dog, a poodle of course, in 1974. I kind of fell into a dog training class because the teacher said a toy poodle could never do it (Rikki was a really small, very spoiled toy poodle). Well telling me I couldn't meant of course I had to. Rikki got her CDX before her knees broke down. Being my first registered dog I had no clue how to research and ask questions about health. I learned quick.

I was involved with showing gordons setters in obedience, conformation and the field with my best friend Kevyn Hind. Gordons were her love (Aberlon Gordons) and I kind of fell into it with her. But in 1984 I fell in love and got my first English cocker. Ch. Aberdeen's Adventure, CD. Rowdy was a wonderful friend who taught me about sharing the joy of competing. But I lost him to auto-immune disease at just 6 yrs old. It just about broke my heart. I then got my second English

Cocker, Nathan (Ch Dunelm Distant Drummer CD, CGC). Nathan was 8 months old (1990) when I decided to move to WA. I transferred from my federal job in Napa to Bremerton. After I got here I had to work hard to find all the dog people and dog clubs. I had Nathan 12 wonderful years. When I finally bought my own place in Port Ludlow in 1995 I also went back to my first love, poodles, and got a silver toy girl I named Tracy. Tracy was my Devyn's mother.

When Devyn was about 3 yrs old, and had his CD, CGC, and was a regular resthome visiting dog, I saw a clip of Mary Ray dancing at Crufts. I was just transfixed. I couldn't believe my eyes, and I knew I wanted to do that. I did a search on "dog dancing" and was floored by the information out there. I saw a listing of dog show results for Paws 2 Dance. I e-mailed Ray and he said there was somebody here close in Sequim, and that's how I met Carolyn Money.

I danced many routines with my wonderful

silver toyboy Devyn but he had to retire in 2003 with an injury, and is now the resident couch potato. I now dance with my little white toy poo boy Jack (Capt Jack Sparrow, LOLOL). We just got our beginning title with WCFO and plan to come get our P2D title in 2008 (I better get busy and get that passport).

I guess you could say that Carolyn and I meeting was the start of Emerald City K-9 Freestyle Dancers. Traveling up to train with Ray and having no shows down close to us, I said "you know we should start a club down here and have a show." People who know me would have groaned at me saying that, because I am a grunt. I get an idea and will break my back to get it done. Carolyn and I pretty much put on the first couple of shows on our own, but Corinne Lawson quickly came on board and we were like the Three Musketeers. We fund raised, and did demos, and planned big. We found out how much insurance costs, and music licenses. And how much it costs to rent buildings and bring in judges. But who could have imagined 7 years ago that we would just be ending the year we had in 2007. A Paws 2 Dance show, a wonderful seminar with Michele Pouillet and

Ray Underwood, a WCFO show, and then the WCFO National Specialty, along with tons of demos, and several small local seminars. We have over 30 members in our club (I have lost track). We have been able to send about \$500 to our charity of the year Old Dog Haven, and we have supported several other worthy canine disaster causes. I am very proud to have been in on the beginning of our group.

Next year we are stepping way out, and actually bringing Richard Curtis from England for a seminar. 7 yrs ago if someone had told me we would be doing that I would have laughed myself sick. I am very proud to have been in on the beginning of ECK9FD. I have met wonderful friends over the years, added a significant other who loves the dogs as much as I do, and is happy to come be a timer any time he is needed, LOLLOL

In the last two years I have had both my knees replaced and started training to be a freestyle judge. I guess we'll just have to wait and see where else the trail leads me.



DEMOS

... where the unexpected can challenge even the most experienced of dancers. This year was no exception.

A look back at the Lower Mainland P2D:

Just before Christmas break, Gail and Pepsi performed a special Christmas solo in front of the entire student body at her school – over 1000 screaming, cheering students.

In the spring, Jean and Marilyn provided the entertainment at South Delta Senior's Centre during a birthday luncheon. The tables were decorated with dog-wrap placemats, and each senior was armed with dog biscuits. Talk about distractions for the dogs!

Marilyn was invited to dance on a raised 10' x 10' platform at an SPCA function – and even wound up on television. Her challenge was to look cool in her blues outfit, do a quickly modified routine with Blitzen, and not fall over the edge!

Gail and Lydia took their canine partners to a Swing night at Lydia's school where they took turns doing tricks in time to the live swing orchestra in front of an appreciative crowd.

Then there was the Pet Expo, where everything imaginable went wrong but turned out just fine. This is when Gail was almost late because she was stuck with her costume over her head in the washroom miles away. Then Vickie had to call her back from the floor because she had gone out with her fanny pack still on. Later, Vickie found herself well into her routine before she noticed she was without her scarf – the main prop for the routine. Poor Spirit had to ad-lib two full minutes. This was also where Jean yelled herself hoarse trying to get a little energy from the crowd. They smiled a lot, but didn't make any noise! Ann quickly learned that once a dog starts barking, it stops listening to commands. The team looked pretty sharp – until Marilyn's shoe fell off. Marilyn soldiered on, but it was difficult not to break up laughing. Of course, when Gail's rhinestone stockings hooked together and she had to bunny hop off the floor, we did lose it! The two shows over, just when we thought we could let our guards down and we were changing back stage, the next act lifted up the curtains – and there we were, caught in our underwear. All goof ups aside, several club members joined the performers to man our booth where we sold Vickie's home-made doggie treats and raffle tickets to raise money for our new flooring.

In April we performed at Whistler: Four performances in near-zero temperatures, wind lifting our change tent up and over, a thin layer of indoor-outdoor carpeting over cobblestones that shocked the poor dogs every time they rolled over. Despite all that, we had a blast! The crowd loved the dogs and stopped to have pictures taken with us.



Best of all, we stayed at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler – in \$1000-a-night rooms. Our dogs slept on Chateau Whistler beds! Saturday night, we all took our dogs to Ann and Charlie's room to watch a movie. The six dogs were well-behaved, lounging around quietly as we watched *Blood Diamond*. When Sonic rose to get a drink of water, her tail knocked over

an ice-bucket. I wish we had captured on video the mayhem that ensued. Dogs leapt into their owner's laps, chairs fell over, food went flying. One minute of insanity!



We can't forget dancing on the wet sands of Gary Point at the Richmond Pet Fair just after a rainstorm. All our costumes sported brown footprints.

A farm on Rifle Island seemed to forget they had invited us, had no place for us to perform, and left us to fend for ourselves in finding an electricity source. We managed to find a grassy knoll dotted by manhole covers in the middle of a quilt exhibit. Luckily, we had brought along a long extension cord. The show went on. Afterwards, the dogs had a blast chasing frisbees.



Sharon joined us as we finished the year with the LMDF at the TradeX, and where nothing actually went wrong!

WEE PAWS FOR APPLAUSE IN REVIEW

By Wendy Wallace

Though we originally got together in 2000 to form a drill team, and then went on to learn and compete in freestyle, **the main focus of Wee Paws for Applause has been to put on demos for the public.** Over the years we have performed in a wide variety of venues ranging from nursing homes and schools to fall fairs, mall promotions and town celebrations. Why do we do it? Without a doubt it is sharing that special joy that only our dogs can give that keeps us coming loading up props and dogs for yet another performance.

Originally our group consisted of six women, but there has only been the four of us - Glenda Gentleman, Magi Schofield-Reid, Heather Somers and Wendy Wallace - for the past five years. Certainly having such a small group has its own challenges as we try to juggle microphone duties, set up and remove props and just generally keep the show rolling. And when one person cannot make the performance - as happens when life intervenes - well, you can imagine how the difficulties multiply. We have learned, however, that it is okay to have some "gaps" in the performances and over the years have become more relaxed. Initially each performance was a cause for anxiety and nerves. Magi is our choreographer and we relied heavily on her to cue us through our freestyle routines. The first time we performed without her - and everything went well - was a major milestone, not to mention a huge confidence booster.

Over time our demos have changed in focus. Initially we mainly did group freestyle routines - and we had few of those to choose from - but gradually we expanded our repertoire and moved away from group freestyle routines to more solo routines and added more trick and obedience routines as well. We also use a short agility set up to open the program and introduce the dogs. Several of the dogs - Joni, a Yorkshire terrier, Pasha a silky and Sprite, a Chinese crested, learned to pull carts and now all our programs include cart races, a favourite with everyone.

Our demos have also changed in terms of canine participants. Shortly after we started Glenda's Yorkie, Winky died suddenly leaving a gaping hole in our group

and in Glenda's heart. However, since then Glenda has added not only Joni but also Joni's son Dylan to the group. One of our oldest team members, Heather's Silky terrier, Darla, also left a hole when it came time for her to retire at age 16. Darla's daughter, Pasha - now 15 - still performs with us, and has been joined by Heather's Border terrier, Harta. Magi joined the group with a toy poodle, Cassie, and has since added a coton du tuteur, Diva, while a new poodle waits in the wings.

While performing is always fun it is not without its challenges. Sometimes those who invite us to perform have a different concept of space than we have, such as the time we arrived at a nursing home to find the allotted space was no larger than a living room. Needless to say we had to quickly adjust our routines to suit the space. Now we only do team routines when we know for certain the area will be large enough. Most of our team routines can be done by from one to four people so are easily adapted to the space available.

Other challenges we have encountered have been of the animal variety, such as when a cat suddenly appeared at one seniors' home. The greatest disruption, however, was provoked by a woman and her dog. Our dogs - eight in total - all sit on little folding directors chairs while waiting their turn to perform. You can imagine the commotion when this woman suddenly entered through a door behind them and walked right by the chairs. We have numerous terriers and wanna-be terriers in the group so their response to this stranger was quite vocal!

Outdoor community events have brought their own challenges - stray dogs, sticky fingered little children and crowds around the entrance to the performing area - but the enthusiasm of these audiences more than offsets these challenges.

Of course the greatest challenge is always the dogs themselves. They are all known to bring their own twist to the performances from time to time, which has made us very adept at ad libbing! Sometimes I think the spectators enjoy it the most when the dogs "do their own thing". However, it all adds to the fun and we have definitely given up the idea of ever having a "perfect" performance. As long as we put smiles on the faces of the audience and our dogs have a good

time, then we are happy.

While most performances have been local we have also performed as far away as Gold River, Port Alberni and Victoria. Several seniors' residences in Nanaimo and Courtenay invite us to perform for them on a regular basis. Recently we participated in a telethon, which was televised locally and were each given a DVD of our performance. We have already been invited back for next year's telethon. We also did two short performances as part of the local theatre's anniversary celebrations this fall. These were followed by a demo

at a local day care - what a contrast in settings and in audiences! Both were a lot of fun.

As this year draws to a close we are preparing for some Christmas performances in Courtenay and Campbell River. We are also planning for, and looking forward to, our first performance on the lower mainland next spring as well as another year of more fun and friendship as members of Wee Paws for Applause

LIFE OF A DEMO ORGANIZER

-BY VICKIE PHILLIPS

When our Marilyn Knipp announced she was giving up the position of Demochair I thought this would be a perfect job that would allow me to become more involved in the club and get to know everyone a bit better. So I quickly volunteered for the position and then the fear set in.

After our meeting was over I made a bee line for Marilyn to find out how she does the bookings. Did I need to find the demo's or do they find us? Did she have a contact sheet for the people we'd be dancing for? What questions should I ask them? What did our teams need to do a demo? I didn't even know the proper ring size at this point. Yup there was panic in me, but Marilyn in her usual happy cheerful self said "You'll do fine". Most of it is by email she said, and she

always asks about the surface area. No slippery floors will do. So ready with flooring in mind, I booked our first demo. That was 2 years ago and each demo I book teaches me a little bit more on what to ask about before we go to our next one. There's always something new and unexpected with each demo that I try to include in my checklist for the next one, but you can never be completely prepared for everything.

That first demo was the 1st annual Pet Wellness Fair in Richmond, BC. With my checklist completed after talking to the organizer I thought that was too easy, this'll be a breeze. Oh how naïve I was. I was told there would be power available for our CD player. The Fire Department was to lend us the extension cords. Not so said the Fire Marshall, it's a fire hazard to run that many extension cords from the building 1000 ft away. So we used a tiny battery powered CD player that I think only we could hear and I flipped the CD's for us. It didn't matter though since there was only 10 spectators and I think most of them were people running their booths.

Since then some very unusual but always funny things have cropped up at different events. Here's some of the more memorable ones.

Reading my notes on the previous year's demo for the Crittercare fundraiser I remembered to ask that we not be scheduled in after the horses. We can't proof dogs to all distractions and it seems dogs love to eat and/or roll in horse dodo. They were wonderfully obliging so imagine my horror when I realized they booked us in after the border collie rounding up all the geese. Seems dogs love that dodo just as much. I guess because it smells worse.

Seems dogs love meat too. We danced for the SPCA's silent auction fundraiser at the Coyote Creek golf courses' Clubhouse. The Mayor and Council were present along with

one of the morning news hour gals. Our dance floor was all of 15 X 15. As we were entering one door the carts of roast beef were leaving the other. I still can't believe how well all the dogs did dancing right next to the tables with remnants of beef dinner still on them. There was a few noses twitching though.

Even with the best laid plans there's always something unusual that turns up. Our Annette and Odie once danced with no music at all. Both her CD's quit so always the trooper, she pulled it off sans music and looked incredibly graceful to boot. We've had skipping CD's, dying batteries in the CD players leaving the song with blank spots or slowing down.

CD player's that only we could

hear, even the wrong song for the wrong team.

From slippery wet grass in a very tiny ring to a massive field far from the audience to another massive dirt ring that left our dogs dirty and dusty. Flooring, ring size, and it's location can sometimes be a challenge. The funniest flooring issue was in Whistler on artificial turf that left some dogs refusing to roll over. Seems they were getting electric shocks from



static electricity. It took us until the 3rd show on the second day to realize what was going on.

The audience is always different and sometimes very entertaining. You don't know there's even an audience at some demos they're so quiet. Then at others you can hear laughter, clapping and even a whole side of the ring singing. There might be other dogs, farm animals, exotic creatures, and birds in the audience. One of the best displays of ignoring distractions has to be Bonnie and Kyak and Gail and Pepsi. During Bonnie and Kyaks' routine some children kept grabbing at his tail. He continued to dance and didn't miss a beat. At another demo a Border Collie in the audience ran out to greet Gail and Pepsi. They started the song over again but Pepsi really kept his cool.

For the most part Marilyn was right. It is mostly by email to do the initial organizing. But that often changes once we arrive at the events. Our worst non-event has to be Maple Ridge. It had to be the hottest day of the year. There was no one that seemed to know who we were, where to put us or even interested in figuring it out. When we finally found someone she set us up on a 10x10 ft stage under a tent just as small in the kiddie area. At this point the dogs had been plastered to the large fans next to some goats for well over an hour and we decided to call it a day and never danced. Then there's the changing organizers. You start with one person then at some point they disappear and a new name appears. The organizer can change up to 3 times before an event. It's sometimes challenging just trying to find the person whose name you know but face you don't without adding the extra worry of not even having a name to ask for. All in all booking demo's has been nothing but entertaining. You meet such fun dog minded people at all of the events.

I think the best part of booking our demo's has to be the People that participate. When we've lost teams before a demo for various reasons, those that are left pick up the

slack and sometimes do 2 or even 3 different routines just to fill up our time. They've changed costumes behind trees, swinging curtains, changing tents blowing over in the wind, car doors, and in sheer desperation right out in the open. They drive long distances sometimes and find their way to each event on time and with very little knowledge as to where to park or go to once there. Lydia and Anna-lisa are our fall back when we have no announcer and both have become very adept at filling in with entertaining chit-chat. I try to arrange the dance schedule based on costumes. The more time needed the further apart that person's routines will be when they're doing 2 dances or a team dance, but sometimes that person just makes it in time. Eyelashes on crooked or a fanny pack still around the waste. They still make it. We may not be professional but our attitude is, and it makes my job a whole lot easier. Our dogs too, always give 110% and we ask a tremendous amount from them. They've danced in the wind, heat, rain, snow and frigid air. With noise, other animals, and smells of all kinds, and they still seem to enjoy themselves. Of course sleeping on luxury sheets in \$1000 per night hotel rooms in Whistler or prancing into buildings usually reserved for the human variety seems to keep them content. I really think they feel like stars in the spotlight for a moment or two.

Booking demos has afforded me the opportunity to meet some fantastic people and participating in them affords all of us to go to, and see places we wouldn't normally see with our dogs. Some events have paid us in monetary funds, advertising, free event tables, ferry tickets, gas vouchers, gift baskets, and always a hug and thank you. But that's not why we love to do demo's and why I enjoy booking them so much. It's the seemingly snooty lady next to me at some event that curses the fact that she spent an hour on her make-up only to have it ruined because we brought her to tears watching our teams dance.



Final Bow, TradeX 2007