

## **CALLING ALL CARNIVAL MARSHALS**

As a Marshal, you no doubt receive telephone calls or letters from each Carnival that you volunteer with. Dave Croker and I have given some thought as to how we can reduce the number of letters and telephone calls.

Using the same software as is used by the clubs to enter Carnival, we have devised a scheme to enable marshals to record which carnivals that they wish to help. This involves marshals entering their personal data, qualifications (e.g. Ch8, SIA) followed by which town(s) they wish to help, whether it be a SCGFCA carnival, a South Somerset Federation carnival or an “independent” one such as Midsomer Norton. We have written to both Frome and Castle Cary but have not had a response at the time of writing.

The system allows us to send to each town a list of those wishing to help their carnival together with contact details. If a person does not wish to help a town, their contact details will not be disclosed to that town without permission. If a town is struggling to get marshals then we would email all those who are not going and pass any positive responses on.

We will also create a photo id card that will show which towns that you are marshalling at.

The data given will be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act and will only be used for the purpose of contacting you for your help with Carnival. It will not be divulged to any other organisation or used for any other purposes other than Carnival.

The system will go live on 1<sup>st</sup> July this year, there is no plan to have a closing date as such as this will be ongoing but do please sign up as early as you can to assist all carnivals?

### **Please help as many Carnivals as you can by completing the registration forms!**

## **ONLINE ENTRY FORM**

Yes it is nearly that time again, entries go live on the 1<sup>st</sup> July for the seven county carnivals and Midsomer Norton, one entry form for all eight carnivals. Entries close on the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

The entry form was a great success last year with 96% entering online (Bridgwater).

The town specific entry forms will also be available online for non-competitive entries as last year.

Also available online will be the county rules for entering any carnival, the conditions of entry, prize lists for each carnival and the generic manual entry form, all which can be downloaded and posted back.

## **WHERE CAN I SIGN UP?**

To hopefully make everything streamlined both the above will go live on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, so you can sign up to be a marshal or enter any of the eight carnivals from that date.

As you will have seen from another article in the newsletter the S.C.G.F.C.A. have a new website and Facebook account.

So three options, the links for both of the above will be available in three places:

- 1) The right hand column of the Bridgwater Carnival website homepage [www.bridgwatercarnival.org.uk](http://www.bridgwatercarnival.org.uk)
- 2) The entries page on the county website - [www.somersetcountycarnivals.com](http://www.somersetcountycarnivals.com)
- 3) The county Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/SCGFCA](http://www.facebook.com/SCGFCA)

Any problems with any of the above or if you wish to change something on your entry form, title contact etc. should be directed to Dave Croker [dave@bridgwatercarnival.org.uk](mailto:dave@bridgwatercarnival.org.uk) I can then update your entry for all carnivals.

Many thanks

**Chris Mockridge & Dave Croker**