



The Sue Dyke Award 2020 Results

Winner: Liam Coomber

Highly Commended Runners Up: Beatrice, Lawrence and Esme Becker

Feedback from the Judges

The Judges' decision was unanimous.

It was a really difficult decision, especially in some respects as there were just two entries and you never want to have to choose one between two, but more so that both entries were very poignant to the times we're living in. However, in the end we opted for Liam as having given the more accomplished performance and venturing to prove that Morris really is a living tradition!

We would also like to award a highly commended second place to Beatrice, Lawrence & Esme Becker, as they made the very important point that the war against plastic must not be lost within the current fight against Covid.

Individual Judges' Comments

"[The Beckers'] entry was on a subject they clearly feel strongly about.

[Liam] showed to me an appreciation of tradition but wanting to push it forward in new ways. That really captures where Morris is at the moment for me. We have a great heritage, but we will all need to push it on in new ways as we come out of the Pandemic with changes in society and our place in it."

Ed Worrall

"I found this quite difficult, as I feel strongly that the climate emergency should remain at the forefront of our minds, despite the immediate threat of Covid 19 and the hardship that comes with it. I really respect the Becker family's passion and their performance is a wonderful example of creativity, enthusiasm and activism! Brilliant!

However, Liam's entry stood out. I think he has shown an impressive level of creativity and drive in writing his Jockey to the Fair Jig. I think his response in taking the traditional Brackley style further to develop a more interesting performance demonstrates an appreciation for tradition"

Natalie Reid

"Whilst I agree the Beckers did a fine job of creating a new dance from scratch about a very important topic, I felt Liam gave the better performance.

I don't want the Beckers to lose faith, though! It's great to see such younguns with opinions and great creative skills in this day and age!"

Mel Biggs

"The Beckers made a real effort to put forward a really important message about climate change, especially loved their plastic binning! It really was fantastic.

Liam did such a brilliant job of taking the tradition, and changing it to suit himself and indeed the times we're going through in 2020 with Covid 19, referencing the zoom jig practices, how awesome in the title lockdown up 2,3 for the figure! He also paid such close attention to the quality of dancing and did such a brilliant job, so I think he would be the worthy first place winner"

Rosie Butler-Hall

"Both entries are great, and fit well with the theme 'Morris in today's climate', and for such young performers are very accomplished and confidently performed. I love the theme of the Beckers' dance, and their film is fab. However, Liam's entry stood out, showing how he's used his time in lockdown, and over zoom, to create a new dance within a traditional style, proving that Morris will survive this pandemic."

Melanie Barber