

Open Morris Sue Dyke Award 2019 – Judge's decision

Judge's overall comments

This years' competition was on the theme 'Morris in our local Community'.

In many ways this is the essence at the root of all Morris traditions and how many modern Morris sides place themselves in context.

We are all part of our local communities and many of us see our involvement in Morris as an extension and celebration of that.

The judging panel for 2019 have faced as difficult a task in reaching a decision as we did in 2018. Although there were only 2 entries this year, and similar in style and approach to the brief, they were both of high quality.

It seems a shame that 1 out of 2 must come second. However as a judging panel we have that difficult decision. That said, both competitors should be proud of their work on the entries for this year and we all enjoyed them both.

Competition results

1st place – Hannah Sophie Mitchell

Runner up – Daisy Juliette Kennedy

Judge's comments on placings

As mentioned this was a tough decision. However in setting the competition brief against the entries the Judges felt over all that Hannah's entry hit slightly closer to the mark, for example:

"I think she also demonstrates an awareness of how Morris contributes to the wider community. When talking about the dance 'Holm in the Dale', I think she shows a deep understanding of how Morris can reach out and connect with people;(as Hannah says in her entry) 'we believe that using this recorded song, one about our community, helps to bring our community to the Morris world. In turn bringing Morris to the community'."

Further comment from the Judge's review:

"Hannah's entry encapsulates the pure joy, the friendships and community spirit that Morris brings to her life. Her film really captures that sense of fun and how important her social community is to her, which I think any of us could relate to"

Hannah therefore was the unanimous choice of the judging panel as the winning entry. However Daisy should not be discouraged by this, a common theme from the Judges' comments was

"Really happy to see entries from two young and enthusiastic dancers who are very much supported and encouraged by their Morris communities"

We would all hope that Hannah and Daisy continue to take as much enjoyment from Morris as they clearly do now and dance for many years to come.

Conclusion

After a bumper crop of entries last year, it was slightly disappointing to only have 2 to consider for the award in 2019.

Although the Judges are aware that competitions like these are not for everyone, the Sue Dyke Award is there to celebrate the involvement of youth in Morris. Also to give it a chance to shine and a voice to tell its own story in its own way.

We hope that when the 2020 Award is launched, those who are eligible think seriously about giving it a go. We want to hear from you!

10th October 2019

Melanie Barber, Mel Biggs, Rosie Butler-Hall, Charlotte Dover, Natalie Reid, Ed Worrall

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