

2020-21 Foreman's Report

Firstly a big thanks to all the men for the work they've put into practices over the past year, it's made my first year as foreman much easier, and it shows in the quality of our dancing over the summer. Particular mention goes our new man who have joined since last AGM: Jordie, who has brought this skills to the side.

Practices:

With COVID-19 always looming we kept a low profile over the winter month, but with our glorious leaders allowing us to meet up in groups of more than 6 outside we descended upon the university car park to practice in the great outdoors. The weatherman was kind and we had dry evenings for our entire run. We deviated a little from the usual format for practices (focussing on a single tradition, starting with stepping and building the figures) as initially we focussed only on hankie dances. Introducing changes in the figures to enable stick dances got us back up and running (although we haven't practiced Horsham this season). I've encouraged more people to have a go at calling and dancing number one which will put us in good stead for the future.

Attendance this year was good considering and I was often able to stand out from the dancing more to watch from the sidelines and give objective feedback. As always lines can always be improved.

Repertoire:

Last year saw the reintroduction of the 'Ascott-under-Wychwood' tradition, with two dances: Mrs Casey and Banks of the Dee. Unfortunately COVID called a halt to that and we never picked it up. Feedback from the men indicates that it was considered a fairly tricky tradition with little pay-off so I propose we drop it. We've dance Jockey Brackley quite frequently and it's becoming a firm favourite. It may be worth out while introducing a few more Brackley dances? The repertoire is otherwise been fairly stable.

Ebor Morris 'aide memoire':

At the 2019 AGM it was decided that I, with input from the newer members, would compose a short document outlining our dances. Work began on this during the first lockdown however with everyhting opening up the document is still not completed. I'll aim to have the document finished before the next AGM.

Overall another odd year but a joy to be back dancing.
I'm happy to stand as foreman again.

Stuart Sellens