

**Medallist competition 21 st February 2010,Alford Halls Warrington**

The forecast for the weather looked quite good for the event as the previous nights report indicated that the snow for the Midlands would only reach as far North as Cheshire.

How wrong can they be when we looked out of the window at 6.30 on Sunday morning to see at least three inches of snow, and where I live in a valley surrounded by hills, the roads can soon become impassable. Fortunately we managed to get to the motorway safely and proceeded to Warrington in good time.

Jan & Stephen Williams, who as Press Representative, always attend the event unfortunately could not make the event due to bad weather in the South and the threat of even worse weather in the Midlands.

We were concerned that Anne Taylors coach would have difficulties making the journey from Scarborough but she eventually got to the event in a double decker coach with over 70 pupils arriving 45 minutes late. The other schools had managed to get there on time, but even Peter Mounceys school had experienced problems on the relatively short journey from Penwortham.

The event went as smoothly as usual and the atmosphere certainly warmed up as the events got under way, with the noisy support from the schools for their own pupils.

The adjudicator for the day was Darren Park from Newcastle on Tyne who enjoyed himself thoroughly even though it is a difficult job when you are the sole adjudicator. He thought that the atmosphere was terrific and reminded him of how competitions used to be before they got too serious.

After the solo events, the 6 freestyle teams took to the floor and gave everyone an excellent presentation of their routines. We then proceeded to the couples events and then wound up the day with the usual team matches. Eight teams took to the floor consisting of a Teacher and five children. and to the very noisy support from the remaining children and parents resulted in a win for the Anne Taylor School.

The music for the day was provided by Arthur Parr and an excellent job was undertaken by him to the thanks of all the children concerned.

To put on a competition today needs the support of a lot of people who do a thankless task for the love of the Association and for dancing in particular. I would like to extend my personal thank you to Howard & Joanne Cookson, Jack & Sheila Rumford and not forgetting my right hand lady Elaine.

I am sure everybody enjoyed the event especially from the comments from the people attending for the first time, who stated that they cannot wait for next years event.

See you all again in February 2011

Roy Sharpe

Chairman