



WEST MIDLANDS OPEN 2026

Organised and presented by KT & Trueman Promotions

The 2026 West Midlands Open was once again a great success drawing many of best dancers. The Solo competitions in particular were quite brilliant to watch. There were so many fabulous performances throughout the day. Read on for some excellent comments

Duncan Trever begins the report with two terrific competitions

NL Juvenile Couples Four Dance Ballroom

1st Zachary Ellender and Macey Smith. A well-matched couple with a very pleasing style to their dancing. Overall posture was good; however, the boy did at times become slightly back weighted. A softer use of the knees would help, and care should be taken with the small footwork errors that appeared occasionally in one or two dances.

2nd Joseph Thorn and Lillie Beard. A strong tango was danced here, giving the dance a good musical interpretation. At times, however, the couple lost each other through the body connection. Try to maintain a better central position. Overall, this was a good performance.

3rd Kingsley Wilsher and Sophie Williams. A nicely danced waltz, and it was clear to see improvements, particularly in the footwork. However, as the dancing progressed, a twist in the topline distorted the overall look of the couple. Correcting this will lead to further improvement.



Action photo of Zachary and Macey

PP Juvenile Solo Four Dance Ballroom

1st Mia Jacyszyn. A very clear winner with an outstanding performance, showing excellent movement in the swing dances, particularly impressive rise and fall in the quickstep. Keep up the great work.

2nd Sophia Bull. A very stylish dancer with a lovely still frame. At times, the head position can drift slightly away from the body line. Nevertheless, this was another strong performance.

3rd Laura Czapczyk. A beautifully danced waltz. Just take care to ensure the feet close neatly, particularly in the natural turns. The tango also caught my eye. Well done.

4th Paula Neimane. I can clearly see improvement in this dancer. Considerable effort has been made to produce a cleaner, more stylish action, especially in the tango. This dance showed noticeably improved sharpness and stillness.

5th Scarlett Allen. This dancer performed very well today and deservedly made the National League final. The slow foxtrot was danced with a lovely musical feel, and there was a noticeable improvement in alignment, allowing the dance to read more clearly.

6th Penelope-June Wilsher. This dancer has begun to make significant improvements, which were clear to see today. Her performances throughout the competition were very strong indeed. The next step is to develop a more controlled, flowing action. Keep up the good work.



Action photo of Mia



WEST MIDLANDS OPEN 2026 Cont'd..

Sadie Wild continues with reports on the Junior couples Ballroom and Juvenile Solo Latin

Junior Couples Ballroom

1st Jack Murphy and Siena Upton, Jack and Siena commanded the floor today and gave an excellent performance throughout. They had a strong connection and produced an incredible topline alongside great coverage of the floor. Well danced.

2nd Aaron Zicman and Eleanor Lawton. This was Aaron and Eleanor's first competition together, having just moved up from Juvenile, but it did not show. They danced very well, showing a lot of promise. These will certainly be a couple to watch in the future. They showed a lot of control throughout.

3rd Wilf Fallon and Evie O'Callaghan Wilf and Evie demonstrated lots of effort today. They had great energy throughout and covered the floor well. Continue working on connection and frame to take your dancing to the next level.



Action photo of Jack and Siena

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21st - 26th July 2026

Bournemouth International Centre,
 Purbeck Hall, Exeter Road, Bournemouth,
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WEST MIDLANDS OPEN

2026 Cont'd...

Juvenile Solo Latin

1st Holly Farr. Holly gave an excellent performance throughout all dances, with Jive being a standout. She had great foot pressure and demonstrated incredible musicality. Very confident and accurately executed dancing.

2nd Mia Jacyszyn. Mia danced with great posture throughout and had strong technique. Cha Cha was her strongest dance, showing off her strong legs and excellent arm styling.

3rd Scarlett Allen. Scarlett had electric energy within her Jive, with great leg action used in her flicks. She showed great control and foot pressure within her Rumba and demonstrated the characteristics of the dances well.

4th Sophia Bull Sophia. was a very charismatic performer and danced with great poise. Her Cha Cha was her strongest dance due to her slick and expressive performance with well-defined leg action.

5th Laura Czapczyk. Laura had great hip action and a strong rhythmic interpretation. She had good body and arm coordination and showed great posture throughout.

6th Penelope-June Wilsher. Penelope was a bubbly, characterful dancer, producing a very energetic performance. She had great arm placement throughout and was a very expressive dancer.



Juvenile Solo Latin Line Up (R to L)



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WEST MIDLANDS OPEN 2026 Cont'd...

Morgan Hemphill reports on the Junior Solo latin

1st Lexi Hughes. A slick and consistent performance with a clear understanding of balance and the creation of speed. I'd like to see a greater use of body weight in connection to the floor to produce more depth of action.

2nd Evie Crofton-Martin. Evie has a good ability to create speed & power and produced a rehearsed performance. At times, it can look a little rushed, meaning less time to produce the action from the feet to the body.

3rd Riona Ni Bhriain. Riona has definitely matured in her dancing & shows good quality. Creating more contrast in speed and keeping the weight grounded will allow more development of her actions.

4th Emily Iddon. Emily danced consistently throughout the event with great clarity of timing, good characterisation and a very positive performance. Be careful at times with posture and maintaining a connected shift of weight.

5th Ellie Hunt. A good performance with nice quality and clarity. I'd like to see further development in strength through leg and foot mechanics to connect to the centre to enhance an already maturing performance.

6th Lilly Gurnhill. A lovely natural feel for Latin dance with a nice presence on the floor. Be careful with timing- I'd like to see more connection with the music to harmonize with your natural movement



Action shot from Lexi Hughes



Junior Solo Latin Line Up (R to L)



WEST MIDLANDS OPEN 2026 Cont'd...

West Midlands Open Junior Latin

Report by Darren Bennett

1st Jack Murphy and Siena Upton. Jack and Siena are really developing into a top UK junior couple. They demonstrated much stronger body dynamics today, which enhances partnering and footwork, resulting in a more mature performance. Well done.

2nd Aaron Zicman and Eleanor Lawton. A new Junior couple who unfortunately since split. Both Aaron and Eleanor are strong performers in Latin and very talented; now they need to take the time to develop their body coordination and action to keep each dance characterised and individual.

3rd Oleg Kovalenko and Skyler Langton. Another promising new Junior couple demonstrating great potential for the future. They feel every beat of music and genuinely enjoy their dancing. Developing more stillness amid movement will help define all that enthusiasm and energy as they advance through Junior. Well done.

4th Wilf Fallon and Evie O'Callaghan. Another young, lively couple with great potential. Increasing awareness of timing and the use of accented beats will improve the choreography, direction, and partnering.



Junior Latin
Line Up
(R to L)

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Venue
Bournemouth International Centre
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WEST MIDLANDS OPEN 2026 Cont'd...

West Midlands Open Juvenile Couples Latin

Report by David Trueman

This was a super competition with some of the young and up and coming couples all dancing at their very best.

1st Joseph Thorn and Lillie Beard lovely action and with excellent technique. They have a wonderful floor presence and clear partnering skills already showing through.

2nd Kingsley Wilsher and Sophie Williams this super young couple always display good rhythm and styling and the control of hip and leg actions is well maintained.

3rd Zachary Ellender and Macey Smith this was another solid performance with all areas of action and technique working in great harmony.

4th Mia Buckley and Indie Williams a really strong partnership with really clear presentation all culminating in such good synchronisation.

5th Georgie Garbett and Heidi Thompson a very young and vibrant couple who clearly enjoyed themselves. They danced a very lively jive.



Action shot from
Juvenile Latin Winners Joseph & Lillie

Photographs for the
WEST MIDLANDS OPEN
kindly supplied by
MJO Photography UK

KT and Trueman Promotions
would like to thank the
Adjudicators who worked
tirelessly throughout
the day:-

Darren Bennett
Vicky Branton
Morgan Hemphill
Alex Ivanets
Duncan Trever
Daniella Trueman
Sadie Wild

