



STEPPING OUT

In this month's column, **Marianka Swain** reports on the record British results at the 2010 Gay Games

The home team brought back a staggering 23 medals (six gold, seven silver and ten bronze) from the Cologne Gay Games, which attracted a record 9,500 competitors. "The Games are about participation and personal best," explains Jacky Logan, who, with her partner Mary, scooped silver in the Women 45+ 10-dance and bronze in the Women 45+ A Latin. "As they don't distinguish between Professional and Amateur, there were both newcomers to cheer on and stunning top couples to admire."

David Jameson has only been dancing with Chip Nazmi for three and a half months, so was thrilled to win silver in the Men 18+ C Standard and be placed fifth in the Men 18+ B Latin. "I've done a few competitions, but nothing on this scale," he admits. "It was intimidating, but exciting to watch amazing dancers from different countries. The UK team was so supportive, all shouting our number."

Fiona Millikin-Walker, who won bronze in the Mixed 18+ Latin with Georgios Tzoulas and came fifth in the Women 18+ C Latin with Chris Lyons, says

swapping roles was challenging but exhilarating. "It set fire to something in us, and we stood on the podium afterwards, laughing with delight. It's the largest competition I've done as a leader, and the age restrictions meant I was in the tough 18+ category – daunting at 50! You needed a pretty robust attitude to navigate the floor, but the camaraderie among the dancers made it enjoyable."

Heather Gladding, co-choreographer of Guyz in Sync, was delighted with her team's showdance silver medal, as they were up against five German troupes who were on home ground. "Plus, our *Chicago* routine was unconventional, with its solo elements," she adds. "We were honoured to be invited to perform at the Unity Ball on the last night – the boys were really in their zone, with the competition out of the way, able to just enjoy performing." Heather felt that the Games offered a breakthrough for British

competitors: "So many people went up a grade. The results are a tribute to their hard work."

Both David and Fiona would love to do more competitions, with the former observing: "It's a great focus for improving technique, and it's an honour to be part of an event like the Gay Games." Fiona agrees: "It helps you find the courage to go beyond your limits. There's nothing like the thrill of finding yourself upside down in a glorious drop you didn't know you could do." ●

For a full list of the British results, visit www.samesexdancing.blog.co.uk



Katrin Stade and Saskia Dombrowski