



STEPPING OUT

Marianka Swain hears from a partnership making waves in mainstream competitions

“I had a nightmare the night before the All-England,” reveals Jonathan Morrison, who, with partner Sergio Brillhante, has brought professional-level same-sex dance to mainstream competitions at the British Open at Blackpool (pictured), UK Closed and All-England. “It was like *Strictly Ballroom*: ‘Please leave the floor.’

“But, on the whole, it’s been very positive. Some judges haven’t

marked us, saying they’re not sure how to, but you can judge foot speed, lines and character of the dance. Once they realise we’re not going away, they might take us seriously. And even if we don’t



get the results, other same-sex couples will – we’re paving the way. Our style is very masculine, and we have more freedom as Sergio isn’t in heels like a female follower, but we retain the romance of the dances. We want people to notice the quality first, then that we’re two men.”

The couple plans to compete at the Internationals, British Closed, Grand Ball and Imperials, among others, “as well as the same-sex competitions like the Pink Jukebox Trophy (PJT), Vienna Dance Contest and EuroGames [see below].”

They’ve been delighted by the response from fellow competitors and spectators, “including our students,

who follow us around with embarrassing t-shirts!” ●

BRITISH RESULTS AT THE EUROGAMES 2011

Men’s Ballroom: **B** *Bronze* George Tzoulas and Michael Hall, *5th* John Church and Alexandre Lewalle; **C** *Silver* Bradley and Sören Stauffer-Kruse, *4th* David Jameson and Chip Nazmi

Men’s Latin: **A** *4th* Sergio Brillhante and Jonathan Morrison; **C** *2nd* David Jameson and Chip Nazmi, *5th* Paul and Andrew Lingard-Kay

Men’s Ten-Dance
Gold George Tzoulas and Michael Hall, *Bronze* Paul and Andrew Lingard-Kay, *5th* David Jameson and Chip Nazmi

Senior Men’s Ballroom:

A *4th* George Tzoulas and Michael Hall, *5th* John Church and Alexandre Lewalle

Senior Men’s Latin: A

Silver George Tzoulas and Michael Hall; **B** *Silver* Paul and Andrew Lingard-Kay

Women’s Ballroom: C

4th Susan Davies and Vivienne O’Brien, *6th* Angela Brooks and Penny Johnson; **D** *Silver* Jo Chivers and Marie Cox

Women’s Latin: B

Bronze Roswitha Wetschka and Del Plasse, *5th* Sarah Hughes and Diane Willmott; **C** *6th* Abi Reynolds and Jill Shackleton

Senior Women’s Ballroom:

A *4th* Tori and Yvonne Settle; **B** *4th* Susan Davies and Vivienne O’Brien

Senior Women’s Latin: A

Gold Roswitha Wetschka and Del Plasse, *Bronze* Amanda Greenwood and Mimi Chan, *4th* Tori and Yvonne Settle; **B** *Silver* Sarah Hughes and Diane Willmott, *Bronze* Angela Brooks and Penny Johnson; **C** *Gold* Abi Reynolds and Jill Shackleton, *4th* Cheryl Holman and Joanne Vaughan, *5th* Jo Clare and Imelda Redmond

Showdance Group:

Gold Guyz in Sync

Showdance Couple: Bronze

Bradley and Sören Stauffer-Kruse

Photograph courtesy of Jonathan Morrison