

# 2010 IDSF European Youth Standard Championships – Mikolajki, Poland



Early morning Thursday 8th April Chantal and me, our mums and our friend Harriet left Doncaster airport for Warsaw, Poland.

While we were waiting for our transfer from Warsaw to the venue, we had our first sighting of Joanna Leunis and Michael Malitowski in a café inside the airport.

It was a long and bumpy four-hour bus ride from the airport to Mikolajki. Sometimes the roads were so bad it felt like we were driving over giant molehills!

One of the funniest moments of the whole trip was when we stopped at a service station. The door lock jammed and Harriet got stuck in the loo. She started to bang on the door to try and get out. We didn't realise she was trapped until the German dancers from the bus ran out of the toilet laughing. The Polish shop keeper ran out side shouting abuse, finally she realised we were English and didn't have a clue what she was saying so she got a screw-driver and eventually Harriet got out of the toilet!

Mikolajki is in North East Poland – very similar to our Lake District except that the hills aren't as big.

Our hotel and venue, on the opposite side of the lake, was enormous. The food was sooooo nice!

Our rooms and two dance halls were on the 6th floor. It was great to be able to get ready in your room and just walk to the competition.

## We all got great new EADA tracksuits!



We watched other competitions in the dance festival for most of Friday. The standard was so high, in all age groups. We watched Michael and Joanna win the professional Latin championship.

Friday night Chantal discovered her case was crawling with ants! The hotel very quickly moved us to another room after shaking out all her clothes.

Early Saturday afternoon 49 competitors from 27 countries danced the first round of the European Youth Standard Championship in five heats.

We felt we danced our personal best but the other competitors were so amazing, we knew that we wouldn't get through to the next rounds in the evening. We don't know our final position, but it wasn't in the top 36!

The evening started with the opening ceremony. Chantal and me, George and Zoe followed the Union Jack around the floor.

A minute silence was held for the Polish president, his wife and 95 other Polish citizens that were killed in the horrific plane crash early that morning in Russia.

The next rounds in the Youth ballroom were interspersed with an IDSF open Latin competition. Both made for a great evening's entertainment. Russian couples took the first two places in the Ballroom and the first three places in the Latin. They were fantastic!

Because of the tragedy, Michael and Joanna cancelled their last night show as a mark of respect but they danced a wonderful Paso Doble as a tribute to their president.

We posed for some group photos with the England flags. George's mum brought to cheer us on.

Before flying home on Sunday morning the four of us went swimming in the enormous hotel pool while Harriet caught up on some sleep. There was a lazy river, five flumes, wave machine, Jacuzzis, saunas and salt rooms to try out too!

**Thanks to the organisers and EADA, for the whole amazing experience!**

