

# A Holland Welcome

'The Stars' Line dancers from Groesbeek in Holland held their second annual event in September with a line-up of Dutch choreographers... Daniël Trepāt, Ivonne Verhagen-van Loon, Remco Zwijgers and Sebastiaan Holtland. Alan Birchall and Jacqui were there and one of the couples' good friends, Jan Thee gives us the low down on the event

Our second event kicked off on the Friday evening with an old fashioned Country Line dance Party, Ellie Hendriks was the performing DJ with live act Robbie Masters, a Belgian singer. What Ellie and her club did not know until just before the event was that Alan Birchall and Jacqui had planned the same weekend to visit us in Holland, so it was a big surprise when they showed up. Although they were both tired from their long trip they stayed up until late and of course they could not resist dancing 'Angels' with everyone.

On Saturday the event started at noon with some warm up dances, DJ Jukebox Junkie kept the floor full. Remco Zwijgers started the workshops with 'Haba Haba' a Novice level dance. We were impressed to see that Jacqui had prepared herself for the dance as she already had practiced it at home in her small kitchen. Then Ivonne taught 'Always' her Intermediate level dance to the track 'Together You And I' by Dolly Parton. Next, Daniël Trepāt taught his beautiful dance 'Swan' an Improver night club two step and also 'No Superman' an Improver dance. After Daniël there was a surprise teach from Sebastiaan Holtland who had won 'The Stars' choreography competition. Although Sebastiaan was nervous, he managed to teach us his latest dance

called 'Get Your...Loose Off'

After a break for dinner it was time to change outfits. Everybody and I mean EVERYBODY, was dressed in red which was the theme of the event. As a surprise, Alan taught his new dance 'Late In The Evening' by Paul Simon, though I have to say we also loved the alternative Bon Jovi track. After dancing 'Human-Dancer' and 'Somebody Like You' (of course) everybody knew who Alan Birchall was. We were really impressed with Alan's dancing. He is the only man in the world who can dance 'Human-Dancer' so fantastically...even down on his knees. We hope that Alan and Jacqui enjoyed their stay in Groesbeek and we certainly wish that they will come back next year as officially invited guests. Thanks to Ellie and her Line dance club the event was a great success.

Jacqui and Alan did have a great time in Holland and here is what Jacqui said to Linedancer...

After a brilliant weekend with Ellie Hendriks and 'The Stars' our very good friends Bertie and Jan took us sightseeing. We spent a day visiting Valkenburg with its wonderful sand sculptures, then Nijmegen where we were staying. Not wanting to miss seeing Amsterdam we took a train from



Nijmegen and spent an amazing day there. Yep! The highlight of the visit was Anne Frank's house, an amazing but sad and emotional visit - we felt like we were re-living the life experiences of Anne's family as we toured the house.

We couldn't return home without meeting Jan's dancers known as 'The Mountain Hill Dancers' at his club in Siebengewald, Limburg which is on the German border. We received a lovely warm welcome from both Dutch and German dancers. Jan surprised me by asking me to teach my Beginner dance 'Baby Sister' I was nervous... but I shouldn't have worried! The dancers were great and their English so good I didn't have any problems, in fact I felt like Alan's warm up act. Alan taught 'Late In The Evening' and 'I Didn't Know', everyone was teasing Alan about his Bolton English accent. We also had some fun dancing some of Alan's Classics... 'Whole Lot Of Leavin'... 'Somebody Like You'... and 'Human-Dancer'. Before anyone left we were asked to give a demo of 'Soul Food' to a round of applause.

We would like to thank Peter, Ans and Johan and all the 'Mountain Hill Dancers' for a wonderful evening and we would like to thank Bertie and Jan for their friendship, kindness and hospitality. 'Till next time!

