DPA

Dance Promoters' Association

SUMMER FESTIVAL

50th Anniversary

Including

DPA UNITED KINGDOM CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

21st - 26th July 2026

Reports

Part 5

Bournemouth International Centre,
Purbeck Hall, Exeter Road, Bournemouth,
BH2 5BH

DPA 2026 SUMMER FESTIVAL 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

50th ANNIVERSARY SUMMER FESTIVAL | DPA Dance Promoters' Association®

Wednesday Report

Published August 2026

W07 DNL DPA UK Closed Adult Solo Ballroom Championship

Report by Nicholas Kelly

This was an exceptionally competitive championship, throughout the competition and particularly within the final. Each finalist brought their own qualities, interpretation and approach to the Ballroom disciplines, making for an engaging and challenging final to judge. Congratulations to every competitor who took part, and especially to the six finalists, who should all be proud of reaching such a prestigious UK Closed Championship final.

1st Tamzin Barlow - Tamzin delivered a graceful and elegant performance, underpinned by sound technical ability and a high degree of accuracy throughout the final. Her poise and composure were evident across the Ballroom disciplines, creating a refined and assured overall impression. The next stage of her development will be to achieve greater fullness of movement, supported by improved swing, energy and attack, allowing her to generate more impact and dynamic presence when required. Developing this ability to create greater contrast and drive on demand would add another dimension to an already technically sound and elegant performance. Tamzin was a worthy Champion and ultimately secured this championship title through a performance of quality, control and distinction.

2nd Harriette Phillips - Harriette has made significant improvements, demonstrating a much stronger technical command and greater fluidity of movement throughout the championship. Her Foxtrot was particularly strong, showing an excellent foundation from which to continue developing her Ballroom dancing. At times, she can appear high in her movement, as if she does not fully allow the joints to soften and accept weight when lowering into the floor; developing a greater understanding of how and when to control this lowering action would enhance the quality of her movement and allow greater development of swing. With these refinements, Harriette has the potential to add further depth and movement quality to her performances and become an even stronger challenger to those ahead of her.

3rd Catriona Lawton - At first appearance, Catriona appears to tick all the boxes, with strong positions, good presentation and the necessary technical assets clearly evident. As the performance progresses, however, some of this initial strength begins to break down, resulting in a less connected structure and, at times, challenges with balance and continuity. Strength of position is an important skill and a valuable tool, but the real artistry lies in understanding how and when to use that tool to best effect. Catriona has all of the right assets available to her; the next stage is to develop the understanding and control required to apply them at the appropriate moments, allowing each element to work together and ultimately enhance the performance as a whole. This is a very promising foundation to build on. Well done on a strong performance.



DPA UK Closed Adult Solo Ballroom Championship

(R to L)
1st 183 Tamzin Barlow
2nd 33 Harriette Phillips
3rd 114 Catriona Lawton
4th 77 Imogen Brand
5th 41 Chloe Barlow
6th 203 James Littler

Photo by MJO Photography

DPA 2026 SUMMER FESTIVAL 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

50th ANNIVERSARY SUMMER FESTIVAL

DPA Dance Promoters' Association®

Wednesday Report

Published August 2026

W07 DNL DPA UK Closed Adult Solo Ballroom Championship cont'd...

Report by Nicholas Kelly

4th Imogen Brand - Imogen added considerable energy and personality to the final and was an engaging dancer to watch. She made her presence felt on the floor and demonstrated qualities which should provide a strong foundation for further progression. Her willingness to perform and communicate was particularly pleasing, and with continued attention to the refinement of her technical detail, these qualities can become even more effective within her Ballroom dancing. There is a great deal to build upon, and Imogen should take confidence from the progress she is making at this level.

5th Chloe Barlow - Chloe has shown encouraging improvement recently and danced well throughout this championship, continuing to present her dancing with confidence and care. Her ability to maintain a positive and polished presentation is a clear asset, and the next stage of her development should be focused on improving overall coordination between her structure, position and the movement of the body. Developing a stronger understanding of how these elements work together, and more importantly how to time them in relation to one another, will allow her existing qualities to become more integrated and effective. Chloe is clearly moving in the right direction, and continued commitment to her training will be key to building on this progress.

6th James Littler - James's Quickstep was particularly impressive, with good energy and a consistency that allowed the performance to make a strong impression. There is still work to be done on his overall position and on the timing and coordination of his movement, but he already demonstrates a sound level of technical ability and, importantly, the potential to develop these qualities relatively quickly. With James now embarking on a new Youth partnership with Estella, it will be particularly interesting to follow their journey and see how these developing qualities translate into their dancing together. There is certainly plenty to look forward to as this next chapter begins.

Congratulations to all six finalists on an excellent championship. The quality, individuality and commitment displayed throughout the final made it a privilege to adjudicate, and I look forward to seeing how each dancer continues to develop in the future.





DPA 2026 SUMMER FESTIVAL 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

50th ANNIVERSARY SUMMER FESTIVAL

DPA Dance Promoters' Association®

Wednesday Report

Published August 2026

W11 DNL DPA UK Closed U14 Solo Latin Championship

Report by Nicholas Kelly

This was an exceptionally difficult championship to judge, with the standard of dancing remaining incredibly high from the first round through to the final. The depth of talent within the competition made the decision-making particularly challenging, with each round producing dancers who demonstrated real commitment, individuality and quality. As these young dancers continue to develop and move towards leading the junior field, I would encourage them to be brave enough to develop and celebrate their own individuality. Energy and power can undoubtedly create impact when used effectively, but the true character of Latin American dancing lies equally in musicality, expression, interpretation and the ability to communicate something personal. Trends will naturally influence our dancing, but I would encourage every dancer to find the confidence to be themselves rather than simply reproduce what is currently popular. Listen to the music, react to it, be expressive and shape your dancing within the boundaries that our technique and individual bodies allow. There is no need for everyone to look the same — individuality, when supported by solid technique, is something to be celebrated. Congratulations must go to every competitor who took to the floor, and especially to the six finalists, who should all be extremely proud of reaching such a high-standard championship final.

1st Sevil Safina - Sevil rose to the occasion with a confident and powerful performance, leaving everything on the floor. There was a genuine authenticity to her Latin presentation, coupled with wonderful musical expression and an ability to communicate the character of the dance naturally. At times, however, her musical interpretation can lead her away from complete timing clarity, and developing a greater awareness of rhythmic accuracy will allow her musicality to become an even greater strength. Nevertheless, Sevil was a very worthy Champion and ultimately secured this championship title with a performance that demonstrated both personality and considerable potential.

2nd Lukrecija Zukauskaite - Lukrecija delivered an improved performance today, with a noticeably more grounded approach to her dancing allowing greater control and consistency across all five dances. This provided a stronger foundation from which to develop her movement and performance quality. Care should be taken, particularly in the Cha Cha Cha, not to pursue progression of movement at the expense of control and clarity within the more stationary actions. With this balance continuing to develop, Lukrecija has many positive qualities to build upon and can take considerable confidence from the progress demonstrated here.

DPA UK Closed U14 Solo Latin Championship

Presenter Denise Barley

(R to L)

1st 78 Sevil Safina
2nd 116 Lukrecija Zukauskaite
3rd 141 Emily Iddon
4th 17 Ellie Hunt
5th 9 Coral Brush-Davies
6th 168 Millie Tevfik

Photo by MJO Photography



W11 DNL DPA UK Closed U14 Solo Latin Championship cont'd...

Report by Nicholas Kelly

3rd Emily Iddon - Emily was arguably the most improved dancer in this field, having made significant progress and overtaken many of her fellow competitors since previous championships. The hard work and commitment are clearly translating onto the competition floor, and she should be encouraged to continue listening closely to her teachers — it is evidently working. A continued focus on strengthening the core and centre will help to further develop her posture and, in turn, provide an even stronger foundation for her Latin actions. Emily should be very pleased with the progress she is making and the direction in which her dancing is developing.

4th Ellie Hunt - Ellie was perhaps unlucky to finish fourth, continuing to move from strength to strength as she develops both her individual style and her place within the junior ranks. She always gives everything, with an unmistakable commitment to her performance, and there is no question that she possesses an exceptional level of natural talent. At times, that natural ability can make her dancing appear spontaneous and unpredictable, with moments that feel almost unrehearsed. Whilst this can reveal just how much instinctive talent and potential Ellie possesses, a more carefully rehearsed and consistently presented package would undoubtedly make her an even more formidable competitor. Continuing to strengthen the fundamental aspects of her dancing will provide the platform for that talent to be expressed with greater clarity and control. Ellie is undoubtedly one of the most talented young Ten Dancers in the UK at present, and it will be fascinating to see how that potential develops as she continues to mature within the junior ranks.

5th Coral Brush-Davies - Coral delivered a strong and assured performance in this championship, demonstrating secure technical control alongside consistently powerful, committed execution throughout the final. Her strength and attack are clear performance assets; however, the overall impact would be enhanced by a more developed use of dynamic contrast. Introducing greater variation in weight, texture, and phrasing — particularly incorporating moments of controlled softness and release at musically appropriate points — would heighten the effectiveness of her natural power and add greater sophistication and dimensionality to her performance quality. This increased dynamic range would allow her existing strengths to register with even greater clarity and impact. Congratulations to Coral on reaching this prestigious championship final.

6th Millie Tevfik - Millie continues to show encouraging improvement, with clearer timing and noticeable technical development evident in her performance. The best advice I can offer is to remain firmly on this trajectory and continue working with the same commitment, as sustained progress will undoubtedly bring its rewards. Developing greater technical consistency within each individual dance will now be key to strengthening her overall performance and, in turn, giving her the opportunity to improve her placings at future championships. Millie should take considerable encouragement from the progress she is making and continue to build upon this positive foundation.

Congratulations to all six finalists on an outstanding championship. The standard demonstrated throughout the competition was a credit to every dancer, and it was a privilege to adjudicate such a talented field.



DPA 2026 SUMMER FESTIVAL 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

50th ANNIVERSARY SUMMER FESTIVAL | DPA Dance Promoters' Association®

Wednesday Report

Published August 2026

W13 DNL DPA UK Closed Adult Solo Latin Championship

Report by David Trueman

1st Victoria Franklyn - Today Victoria danced with a level of performance commandment that enabled her to display the excellent skills that have been studied over many years.

2nd Millie Davies-English - This was another superb portayal of quality dancing culminating in a performance of high energy and technical prowess

3rd Amy Vernon - This fine dancer always produces a quality in style and rhythm and with it excellent dance characterisation

4th Felicity Bladon - Here we have a dancer who is clearly getting better on every outing. Today there was an air of great confidence.

5th Tamzin Barlow - Just into the older age group. This super dancer had a very successful time in the junior field and here today she danced with great shape and energy.

6th Madeleine Wright Kerr - Very strong in all areas of dance and with it a delightful touch of musical quality.



DPA UK Closed Adult Solo Latin Championship

Prize Presenter Denise Barley
(R to L)
1st 122 Victoria Franklyn
2nd 37 Millie Davies-English
3rd 60 Amy Vernon
4th 151 Felicity Bladon
5th 183 Tamzin Barlow
6th 83 Madeleine Wright Kerr

Photo by MJO Photography

DPA 2026 SUMMER FESTIVAL 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

50th ANNIVERSARY SUMMER FESTIVAL | DPA Dance Promoters' Association®

Saturday Report

Published August 2026

SA06 DNL DPA UK Closed Senior Latin Championship

Report by Gunnar Gunnarrson

🥇 **1st Alan Valentine & Wendy Greenwood - A deserved winning performance. Alan and Wendy presented a confident and mature approach throughout, combining strong rhythmical awareness with a clear understanding of the character of each dance. Their consistency across the five dances was a major strength and they maintained a convincing competitive presence from beginning to end. Congratulations!**

🥈 **2nd Rhys Lewis & Cassie Hilton - Rhys and Cassie delivered a very positive and engaging performance with a strong sense of enjoyment and connection throughout. They present themselves confidently on the floor and create an inviting quality that makes their dancing very enjoyable to watch.**

🥉 **3rd Dean Thirlwell & Lizzy Clifton - A dynamic and expressive performance showing great contrast with quick changes of speed & energy in all five dances. To reach the next level, Dean & Lizzy could focus on developing greater coordination of legs, body and arms which will enable more clarity in their actions.**

4th Jesse Bailey & Natasha Mistri - A very polished and well-presented couple with excellent attention to grooming and overall appearance. Their dancing is very natural, rhythmical and sophisticated which makes for an enjoyable viewing. Developing more volume and using the body more fully would give their dancing greater impact on the floor.

5th Haydon Warner & Julie Warner - A highly engaging performance with excellent energy throughout. They create a strong presence on the floor and show great commitment and enthusiasm in their dancing. Developing their musical understanding would help them improve significantly.

6th Oskars Lidaka & Claire Howard-Robinson - Oskars and Claire completed a competitive final with a spirited performance. Greater clarity of timing, particularly through feet and legs, would strengthen the overall quality and allow their performance to appear more effortless.

Well done to all finalists!

DPA UK Closed Senior Latin Championship

Presenter Fabio D'Angelo
(R to L)
1st Alan Valentine and Wendy Greenwood
2nd Rhys Lewis and Cassie Hilton
3rd Dean Thirlwell and Lizzy Clifton
4th Jesse Bailey and Natasha Mistri
5th Haydon Warner and Julie Warner
6th Oskars Lidaka and Claire Howard-Robinson
Photo by MJO Photography



DPA 2026 SUMMER FESTIVAL 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

50th ANNIVERSARY SUMMER FESTIVAL | DPA Dance Promoters' Association®

Saturday Report

Published August 2026

SA07 DPA UK Closed Senior 3 Ballroom Championship

Report by Kevin Allcott

1st Dan Baxter and Aileen Carroll-Turner - Aileen has a beautiful appearance on the floor which draws attention to them. They have a good full swing action and movement but sometimes try to hard which makes them loose balance but overall a good win, well done.

2nd Adrian Hibberd and Sharon Alflatt - Danced very well today, one of the best performances I've seen from them for a while. Work on your energy in Quickstep.

3rd Norberton Santangelo and Justine Hollyer - They have a great topline and good musically which was good to see. Work on feet and ankles to get more lightness across the floor.

4th Gary Allen and Jacqueline Montgomery - They are a quality couple with a good smooth action and movement. Foxtrot was very good, keep working on head position's.

5th Nigel Mellors and Deborah Martin - Very experienced couple that made a pleasing impression on this competition. Just work on a stronger base action to create stronger movement.

6th Graham Diles and Helen Diles - Danced with a lot of enthusiasm and feeling. Great Waltz, nice shaping but work on not breaking your body position.



DPA UK Closed Senior 3 Ballroom Championship

Presenter Fabio D'Angelo

(R to L)

1st Dan Baxter and Aileen Carroll-Turner

2nd Adrian Hibberd and Sharon Alflatt

3th Norberton Santangelo and Justine Hollyer

4th Gary Allen and Jacqueline Montgomery

5th Nigel Mellors and Deborah Martin

6th Graham Diles and Helen Diles

Photo by MJO Photography

DPA

Dance Promoters' Association

SUMMER FESTIVAL

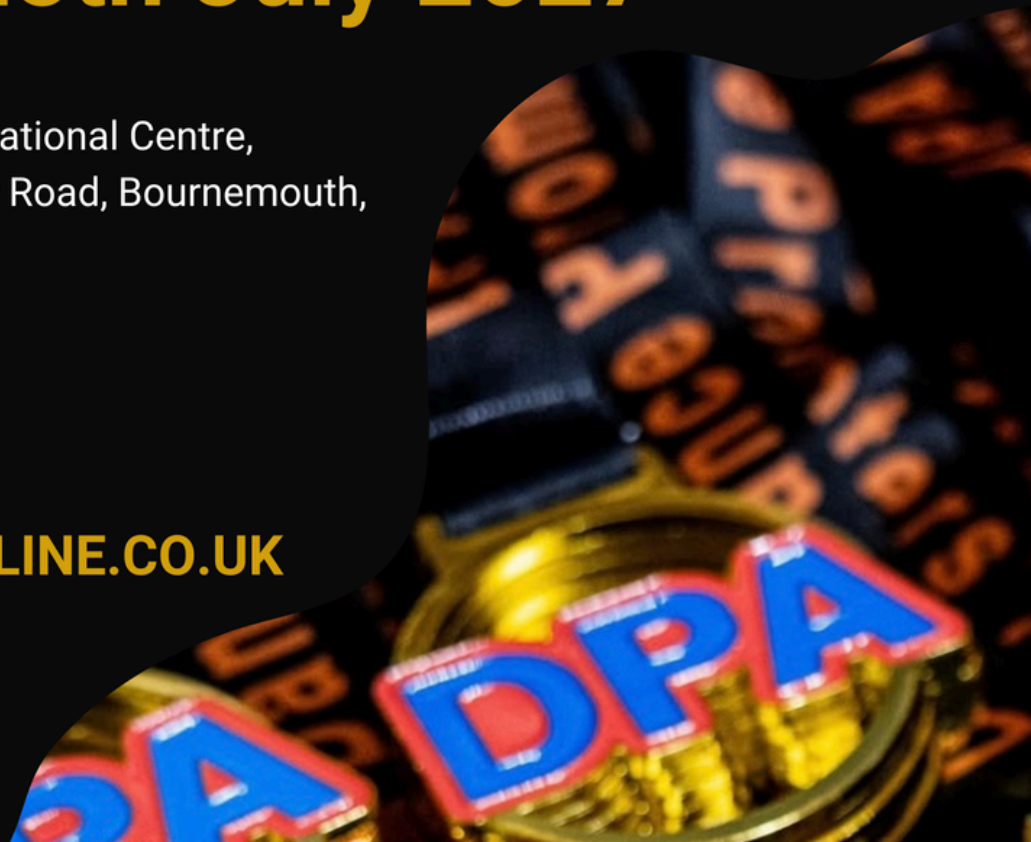
Including

DPA UNITED KINGDOM CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Save the date 2027

20th - 25th July 2027

Bournemouth International Centre,
Purbeck Hall, Exeter Road, Bournemouth,
BH2 5BH



WWW.DPAONLINE.CO.UK