

Golden girl Rachel takes tap dancers to the top

By Lauren chadwickn

A CHOREOGRAPHER has won a gold medal in an international tap dance competition.

Dance teacher Rachel Jackson, 40, took German troupe the Penguin Tappers to the International Dance Organisation's world tap dance competition. There the group landed gold for its performance based on a game of chess.

The group held off competition from 17 other countries to take the title. The junior team earned a bronze medal and the second adults' group was awarded silver.

Rachel has been training the group since 2001 and under her guidance the dancers have been awarded a bronze medal in the German championships.



Rachel, who grew up in Mirfield, trained at the Mary Sugden school in Dewsbury as a young girl before joining the Dorothy Stevens School of Performing Arts and Ballet, in Halifax, training with well-known dancers Josephine Corrick, Mary Archbutt and Louise Browne.

At 18, Rachel joined the Lakatos Dance Company and toured Europe and Asia for three years before coming home to teach for Dorothy Stevens.

A year later she moved to Germany to teach dance in Hamburg and then in Gelnhausen, where she now lives.

Rachel said: "Winning gold was an absolutely magical feeling."

Last Updated: 22 January 2010 6:10 PM

Source: Mirfield Reporter Edition

Location: Mirfield