

On the dance floor, Barbara Kendall has shown the skill, determination and grit that has won her three Olympic medals, and several world championships titles.



Since this seasons Dancing with the stars aired on 3 March 2009, the nation has tuned in every week to join the hosts Jason Gunn and Candy Lane to see their fave celebrities waltz, tango and salsa their way to the final. From the start there have been favorites, there have been laughs and of course there have been the obvious struggle of overcoming the dreadful 'two left feet'. But over the weeks and with hard practice we as a nation watched some of our finest celebrities let go of their inhibitions (men wearing lipstick and sequins) and become "footloose and fancy free". We went from having eight celebrities all of whom were household names and high achievers in heir chosen field, battle it out in weekly evictions that separated the "groovers" from the losers.

In last weeks final we saw the dance off of the seasons two celebrity favorites; Barbara Kendell and Tamati Coffey.



The final episode resulted in around 1.2 million Kiwis tuning in last Tuesday night to see who took out the Dancing with the Stars crown.

In the end, TV ONE's Breakfast weatherman Tamati Coffey managed to just sneak by Olympic gold medallist Barbara Kendall in one of the closest finals yet.

Tamati says he has never before won a trophy and says he and dance partner Samantha Hitchcock had to work hard to win the competition.

And it was the winning pair's dance, the Paso Doble, that won the hearts of the audience and garnered them a perfect score of 10 out of 10 from all the four judges.

Commenting on the dance, judge Craig Revel-Horwood said he "absolutely hated it & and I shall tell you why. I could not find a single thing wrong with it".

But our dancing duo Barbara and Johnny refused to hang up their dancing shoes and they then followed Tamati's dance with an amazing performance of their own, with judge Brendon Cole saying it had "the most fantastic lifts I think this competition has ever seen".



But unfortunately for her it was the crown of Dancing with the Stars was not meant to be, the host Jason Gunn announced in the end that Tamati and his dancing partner had won the competition. Kendall and Johnny, talking to the press later, said the pair really couldn't have done anything more to take the win from the weatherman.



"We've done everything that we could possibly do to try and climb Mt Tamati but we couldn't do it in the end."

Just how much money the dance moves have earned the respective charities involved in the competition will be revealed in a few weeks.



UpsideDowns Education Trust wishes to thank all their supporters that voted for Barbara and Jonny throughout this seasons Dancing with the stars.

The board, families and children of our trust would like to extend their thanks to Barbara and Jonny for dancing their way through the season, making us proud with every episode. Barbara and Jonny you are both winners to our trust, Thank you!