

Nutters were hot stuff at festival

by Simon Coyle

IT WILL never replace Flamenco dancing, but the Coconutters certainly gained a few more fans with their unique skills during an international dance festival in Spain.

The Bacup-based group showed off their routines in front of packed audiences in the Spanish towns of Pamplona and Eibir as part of the Short Stick Festival.

They were joined by other dance acts from 12 other countries including Spain, Portugal and France.

The Stacksteads Silver Band were also present to provide the music for the Coconutters.

Organisers were thrilled with their contribution to the festival and have even invited them back to perform at a festival in Barcelona next year.

Coconutters secretary Joe Healey said: 'We proved to be very popular.

'We drew big crowds wherever we went and everyone was fascinated by us.

'People wanted to know more about us and our origins. It was also a fascinating sight for them to see a North England brass band.

'It was a really good trip and the nutters and band were first class ambassadors for Rossendale and Bacup.

'It was fantastic and it was nice to get experience from the overseas dancers.'

In Eibir they were also invited to the town hall by the mayor where a presen-



NUTTERS on tour: The Coconutters performing to a large crowd during the Short Stick Festival in Spain last month.

tation was made and in the evening all the teams met in a large marquee for an slap up meal.

The Coconutters have a busy summer schedule ahead and will be taking part

in festivals at Chester, Bakewell, Holmfirth, the Tameside Canal Festival and Blaydon Races at Gateshead.

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