**UK SCHOOL GAMES 2015**

**Gymnasts**

**Male**

Joe Cemlyn-Jones Falcons Donell Osbourne Earls Joshua Nathan Birmingham Tom Nicolaou Europa Jamie Lewis Woking Harry Caulwell Birmingham

**Coaches**  Luke Folwell and Simon Elliott

**Female**

Laura Beasley Park Wrekin

Sophie Scott Leatherhead

Laura Kaletha Nottingham

Taeja James Birmingham

Megan Parker Birmingham

**Coaches**  Jodie Kime and Adam Folwell

**Team Manager**  Howard Todd

This year the Sainsbury’s School Games were back in Manchester for the second year running.

These games have a great record of developing Olympians and Paralympians of the future. Kristian Thomas, Sam Oldham, Rebecca Tunney and Jenny Pinches have all taken part in previous years.

The base for gymnastics was the Bolton Arena which meant daily travel to and from the games village at the Birley Campus of Manchester Metropolitan University. Unfortunately a late bus departure following training on Thursday, resulted in the team having insufficient time to attend the opening ceremony of the games. This proved to be the only hiccup in what proved to be a very efficiently organised and successful event. The volunteers, officials and various partners do a fantastic job in showcasing this event and providing long lasting memories for all participants. More specifically thanks to Rachel Bayley, Emma Burton, Andrew Aistrup and the whole of the BG Competition presentation team.

The coaches report on the results:

**Male**

**Friday All-around Individuals and Team Competition**

The team competition, (6 compete with 5 to count), was a success with Team England picking up the Gold medal. Captain Tommy Nicolaou led the team to victory with a team score of 317.280. Solid performances from all 6 members of Team England secured places on the individual podium, Jamie Lewis with Gold for a score of 81.233, Joshua Nathan Silver, 79.682 and Donell Osbourne Bronze, 76.432. In addition Harry Caulwell, Joe Cemlyn-Jones and Tom Nicolaou also took places in finals on Saturday 5th September.

**Saturday Individual Apparatus Finals**

In the Individual Apparatus Finals Team England once again had an outstanding competition taking home Gold medals on all apparatus with the exception of Parallel bars. In all 11 of the 18 medals were awarded to members of the England Team.

Floor: 1st Jamie Lewis 14.25; 2nd Tom Nicolaou 14.10 & 3rd Joshua Nathan

Pommels: 1st Jamie Lewis 14.15 & 2nd Joshua Nathan 13.85

Rings: 1st Tom Nicolaou 13.95 & 2nd Harry Caulwell 13.55

Vault: 1st Tom Nicolaou 13.95 & 3rd Harry Caulwell 13.35

High Bar: 1st Joshua Nathan 13.10 & 2nd Jamie Lewis 12.90

**Female**

**Friday All-around Individuals and Team Competition**

The format consisted of 5 team members competing on all four of the apparatus with the highest four scores counting towards the overall total. After a nasty fall from the Beam during the podium training session, Laura Kaletha was deemed fit enough to only take part on the Bars. This left the young and inexperienced England team with a huge task in order to challenge for the gold medal.

Starting on Beam the team carried 3 falls (3 whole marks) towards their final total. The major errors where quickly put behind them as the team showed great composure to hit 8 routines without any major errors on the Floor and Vault. Moving into the final rotation, four clean bar routines would have made the end result a little closer than it was. Unfortunately two more falls during the Bar rotation meant that the Gold medal was out of reach as the team finished with a final score of 199.700 and a Silver medal with Team Wales taking the Gold with 205.100.

All was not lost as in the individual competition, Megan Parker produced an inspired performance to score a personal best total of 51.700 and secure the Silver medal. Two falls from the Bars proved costly for Sophie Scott as she finished 4th with a total of 51.000.

There were numerous apparatus final places shared amongst the Team with Laura Beasley qualifying for the Vault and Bars, Sophie taking her place in the Vault, Floor and Beam finals. Taeja James finished in the top 8 on Floor and Bars with Megan Parker lining up in the Beam, Floor and Bars finals.

**Saturday Individual Apparatus Finals**

Vault:

Sophie was drawn to go first in the final and set an unbeatable target score with two beautifully executed vaults which earned her a Gold medal. Laura Beasley improved her total from the qualifying event finishing a very creditable 5th position just 3 tenths of a mark away from the Bronze medal.

Bars:

Megan started her routine with some real quality work but unfortunately taking a fall from the low bar resulted in her finishing in an agonizing 4th position. Laura B and Taeja finished 6th and 8th respectively.

Beam:

Sophie improved on her qualifying score but it just wasn’t quite enough as she missed out on the Bronze medal by the smallest of margins. Megan had the hard task of stepping up last, a costly fall in her very difficult acro series placed her 8th overall.

Floor:

Megan wasn’t about to let the disappointment of one of her strongest apparatus get to her. Drawn to compete last in the Floor final, Meg stepped her game up with a stunning performance to snatch the Gold medal with Sophie again finishing just outside of the medals by 0.05 in 4th position.