



**2015 WORLD GYMNASTICS
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

GREAT BRITAIN
TEAM MEDIA GUIDE

**British
Gymnastics**
More than a sport



**2015 WORLD GYMNASTICS
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

GLASGOW 23 OCT-01 NOV

The championships

The 2015 World Gymnastics Championships takes place in Glasgow, Scotland, from 23 October – 1 November 2015.

The event will bring together more than 500 gymnasts from over 80 for ten days of exhilarating competition in the stunning Hydro Arena. The most important championship of the Olympic cycle, this is the key event on the journey to the Rio with only the top teams qualifying to the Olympic Games next year.

The qualification rounds for both men and women take on further significance this year, as the top eight teams who qualify for the final will also secure their place for the team competition at the 2016 Olympic Games.

Great Britain will compete with our women's team in subdivision 4 of qualification on Friday October 23rd at with our men's team competing subdivision 1 on Sunday October 25th.

In addition, gymnasts who earn a medal in individual apparatus finals in Glasgow also qualify directly to the Rio Games, provided they come from a country that has not already qualified a team.

Four of Great Britain's Olympic medal winners from London 2012 will compete in the six strong GB men's team. World Championship all-around silver medallist Max Whitlock, triple Olympic medal winner and European pommel champion Louis Smith MBE and European floor champion Kristian Thomas join Scotsman and British champion Daniel Purvis as the boys aim for Olympic places. They are joined by European junior all-around champion Nile Wilson and English all-around champion Brinn Bevan in his first World Championships.

The women's team will be 2008 Olympian Rebecca Downie, the European bars and beam silver medallist competes alongside her younger sister Ellie Downie, 2015 European all-around bronze medallist who makes her World Championships debut. Four time Commonwealth Games champion Claudia Fragapane returns with fond memories to the Hydro Arena, as do her teammates World University champion Kelly Simm and triple Commonwealth medal winner Ruby Harrold. British champion Amy Tinkler, a first year senior like Ellie, also makes her World Championship debut to complete the line-up.

The women's team traveling reserves will be Charlie Fellows and the men's to be confirmed later this week.

The World Gymnastics Championships form part of UK Sport's National Lottery funded #EveryRoadtoRio campaign to support athletes with their preparation and qualification for Rio 2016.

The GB gymnasts

Rebecca Downie

Born: 24 January 1992 (Age 23)

Birthplace: Nottingham

Lives: Nottingham

Club: Notts Gymnastics Academy

Career Highlights: 2014 European bars champion

Becky competed in the Beijing Olympic Games and finished in 12th place in the all-around. She has won multiple British titles and been a key figure in the senior GB team for over a decade. In 2014 Becky took the Commonwealth Games team and bars gold along with the European Championships bars title. This year she won European bars and beam silver medals.

Ellie Downie

Born: 20 July 1999 (Age 16)

Birthplace: Nottingham

Lives: Nottingham

Club: Notts

Career Highlights: 2015 European Championship all-around bronze

Elissa (Ellie) Downie is the younger sister of Olympian and European champion Becky Downie. In 2013 she won Junior European and European Youth Olympic vault gold and in 2014 took four medals at the Youth Olympic Games. Ellie is a very powerful gymnast who excels particularly on the vault. She turned senior in 2015 and took the all-around bronze medal at the British Championships and then the European Championship all-around bronze.

Claudia Fragapane

Born: 24 October 1997 (Age 17 turns 18 during these championships!)

Birthplace: Bristol

Lives: Bristol

Club: Bristol Hawks

Career Highlights: Four time Commonwealth Games champion for Team England.

Claudia is a powerful gymnast and excels on the vault and floor. She captured the attention of the British public in 2014 making history winning four gold medals at the Commonwealth Games for Team England. This year she won silver on floor at the European Championship also placing 6th all-around.

Ruby Harrold

Born: 04 June 1996 (Age 19)

Birthplace: Stevenage

Lives: Bristol

Club: The Academy

Career Highlights: Triple Commonwealth Games medallist

Ruby is known for her complex bar work and strong vaulting. She has represented Great Britain at European and World Championships making numerous finals and winning European team silver in 2014. At the Commonwealth Games she took team gold, all-around silver and bars bronze.

Kelly Simm

Born: 23 April 1995 (Age 20)

Birthplace: Southampton

Lives: Whiteley

Club: Dynamo School of Gymnastics

Career Highlights: 2015 World University Games all-around champion

Kelly is known for her powerful tumbling. In 2014 she was British vault champion and in 2013 and 2015 British Championship vault silver medallist. In 2014 she won team gold with England at the Commonwealth Games and in 2015 represented Team GB at the European Games going on to become World University Games all-around champion.

Amy Tinkler

Born: 27 October 1999 (Age 15 turns 16 during these championships!)

Birthplace: Durham

Lives: Bishop Auckland

Club: South Durham Gym Club

Career Highlights: 2014 Junior European floor and team silver medallist, vault bronze

Amy Tinkler is a first year senior gymnast. She is the 2015 senior English and British all-around champion. Amy is particularly impressive on the floor where she won silver at the 2014 Junior European Championships and gold at the 2015 British Championships. This year in her senior debut she made the European floor final.

Daniel Purvis

Born: 13 November 1990 (Age 24)

Birthplace: Liverpool

Lives: Southport

Club: Southport YMCA Competitive Gymnastics Club

Career Highlights: 2012 Olympic Games team bronze medallist and four time British champion

Dan was the 2010 World and European floor bronze medallist and is four time all-around British champion (2010, 2011, 2012 and 2015). He formed a key part of the 2012 European Championships gold medal and Olympic bronze medal winning teams. In 2014 Dan finished top of the World Cup and rankings and took European floor bronze and Commonwealth Games (Team Scotland) parallel bars gold, team silver and rings bronze.

Louis Smith MBE

Born: 22 April 1989 (Age 26)

Birthplace: Peterborough

Lives: Peterborough

Club: Huntingdon Olympic Gymnastics Club

Career Highlights: Silver on pommel at the 2012 Olympic Games

Louis spearheaded British Gymnastics rise to the top when he won Olympic pommel horse bronze in Beijing 2008. Going on to win pommel bronze along with team bronze in 2012, Louis cemented his superstar status. After taking a break in which he famously won the BBC Strictly Come Dancing series, he returned to GB action in 2015 taking European Championship pommel horse gold.

Kristian Thomas

Born: 14 February 1989 (Age 26)

Birthplace: Wolverhampton

Lives: Wolverhampton

Club: Earls Gymnastics Club

Career Highlights: 2012 Olympic Games team bronze medallist

Kristian rose to prominence in 2008 when he was crowned senior British champion. He followed this up with a superb performance at the 2009 World Championships in London where he came 6th in the all-around. In 2012 he helped the British team to Olympic bronze. Earlier this year Kristian proved his excellence on the floor becoming European champion.

Max Whitlock

Born: 13 January 1993 (Age 22)

Birthplace: Hemel Hempstead

Lives: Hemel Hempstead

Club: South Essex Gymnastics Club

Career Highlights: 2012 Olympic Games team and pommel horse bronze

In 2012 Max formed part of the European Championships gold medal winning team and at the Olympic Games took team and pommel horse bronze medals. In 2013 he then went to another level becoming English and British all-around champion and European all-around silver, floor gold and pommel bronze medal winner. He then went on to take silver on pommel and 4th all around at the World Championships. In 2014 Max again won the British all-around title and then the European pommel gold before taking Commonwealth all-around, floor and team gold and World Championship all-around silver.

Nile Wilson

Born: 17 January 1996 (Age 19)

Lives: Pudsey

Club: Leeds Gymnastics Club

Career Highlights: 2014 Junior European all-around champion

Nile made a name for himself as a top junior winning titles at European and Youth Olympic events. As a senior in 2014 he competed for Team England at the Commonwealth Games winning team and high bar gold, parallel bars silver and all-around bronze. Earlier this year he represented Team GB at the European Games.

Brinn Bevan

Born: 16 June 1997 (Age 18)

Lives: Essex

Club: South Essex GC

Career Highlights: European Games pommel bronze medallist

Brinn was one of Britain's top junior gymnasts and part of the British team that took gold at the 2012 and 2014 Junior European Championships. Stepping up to senior level this year Brinn was crowned English champion going on to represent Team GB at the 2015 European Games winning pommel horse bronze.

The competition schedule

Friday October 23 Women's Qualifications

09.15-22.50 Subdivision 1-6 (GBR subdivision 4)

Saturday October 24 Women's Qualifications

09.15-22.50 Subdivision 7-13

Sunday October 25 Men's Qualifications

9:15 - 23.00 Subdivision 1-4 (GBR subdivision 1)

Monday October 26 Men's Qualifications

09.15-23.00 Subdivision 5-8

Tuesday October 27

18:45 - 21:00 Women's Team Final

Wednesday October 28

17:55 - 21:00 Men's Team Final

Thursday October 29

18:45 - 21:00 Women's All-around Final

Friday October 30

18:10 - 21:00 Men's All-around Final

Saturday October 31 Apparatus Finals Day 1

13:00 - 17:00 Men's Floor, Women's Vault, Pommel Horse, Uneven Bars, Rings

Sunday November 1 Apparatus Finals Day 2

13:30 - 17:00 Men's Vault. Beam, Parallel Bars, Women's Floor, High Bar

The Road to Rio

Following the qualifying round of competition (CI) at the 2015 World Championships, the top eight men's and women's teams will obtain a team berth (five places) for the Olympic Games for their countries. These places are non-nominative.

The apparatus finals medallists (CIII competition) will also qualify to the Olympic Games, but only if their countries have not already qualified a team.

Therefore, at the end of the 2015 World Championships, between 40 and 52 Olympic berths in women's gymnastics and between 40 and 58 berths in men's gymnastics will have been attributed.

The individual gymnasts and the teams that do not qualify directly for the Olympic Games will have a second chance to do so during the Pre-Olympic Test Event in Rio in April.

This second qualification competition is reserved:

- For teams who finished 9th to 16th at the 2015 World Championships
- To 80 individual gymnasts, 40 men and 40 women. Countries that finish 17th-24th in the qualification (CI) competition at the World Championships will have the right to send two individuals to the Test Event. Gymnasts from nations outside the top 24 teams, according to their individual classifications in the same qualifying competition, will have the right to send a single gymnast to the Test Event. Brazil, as the Olympic host country, also has priority if at least one of its competitors has not already qualified.

It should be noted that the gold medallists in individual event finals from the 2015 World Championships and two gymnasts from countries that have already qualified teams to the Olympic Games may take part at the Test Event, though their results will not be taken into account when it comes to Olympic qualification.

Great Britain's record at World Championships

First British participation in Artistic Gymnastics World Championships:

1950 - Basle SUI; GBR represented by one man - Frank Turner

First British participation in Artistic Championships with full Teams:

1966 - Dortmund FRG - 6 men and 6 women

Prior to the World Championships in Glasgow the British World Championships medal tally is

3 Gold, 6 Silver and 5 Bronze medals:

- 1993 Birmingham GBR Neil Thomas Silver Floor
- 1994 Brisbane AUS Neil Thomas Silver Floor
- 2003 Anaheim USA Beth Tweddle Bronze Uneven bars
- 2006 Aarhus DEN Beth Tweddle Gold Uneven bars
- 2007 Stuttgart GER Louis Smith Bronze Pommels
- 2009 London GBR Daniel Keatings Silver All-Around
- 2009 London GBR Beth Tweddle Gold Floor
- 2010 Rotterdam NED Beth Tweddle Gold Uneven bars
- 2010 Rotterdam NED Louis Smith Silver Pommels
- 2010 Rotterdam NED Daniel Purvis Bronze Floor
- 2011 Tokyo JPN Louis Smith Bronze Pommels
- 2013 Antwerp BEL Max Whitlock Silver Pommels
- 2013 Antwerp BEL Kristian Thomas Bronze Vault
- 2014 Nanning CHN Max Whitlock Silver All-Around

Best GB men's World Championships team placing:

2014 Nanning (CHN) 4th place

(Max Whitlock, Nile Wilson, Kristian Thomas, Dan Purvis, Dan Keatings, Courtney Tulloch)

Best GB women's World Championships team placing:

2014 Nanning (CHN) 6th place

(Hannah Whelan, Claudia Fragapane, Becky Downie, Gabby Jupp, Ruby Harrold, Kelly Simm)

GB media contacts

GB Press officer, Tim Peake

e. tim.peake@britishgymnastics.org M. 07825980335

GB Media officer, Olivia Howard

e. olivia.howard@british-gymnastics.org M. 07890527333

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