



ENGLISH GYMNASTICS

REPORT

39th Leverkusen Cup, Germany : 10th-12th October 2014

The England teams for this prestigious event were as follows:

Team A

Lisa Mason	Heathrow
Katy Bramley	Notts
Jessica Coombs	Notts

Team B

Polina Polyakova	Pipers Vale
Lucy Brett	The Academy
Jade Stedford	City of Liverpool

Coaches: Barry McLaughlin & Andy Wood MBE

Judge: Debbie Morgan

The delegation flew into Dusseldorf (wheeze) on Friday 10th October. Transfer was via two hire cars to Leverkusen, where the exceptional German organisation saw the teams and staff, booked into their hotel around Friday lunchtime.

The first podium session on Friday afternoon went very well, with Lisa Mason showing all her experience in leading the teams. Dinner, followed by a technical briefing, meant a well earned rest for the teams.

Saturday's podium session went well, once again Lisa Mason stepped up, with a revamped Bar routine on a difficult set of BANFER Bars.

The International placed England both A & B starting on Vault. Full twisting straight Yurchenko's from Lisa Mason and Jade Stedford (replacing the injured Georgina Harris) put both teams off to a great start. Bars saw too many unforced errors from the A team, and unfortunately at the end of a super routine, Jade twisted her knee on landing, which put her out for the rest of the competition.

Beam saw Lisa Mason showing experience and determination with a difficulty packed routine, including flic to full twisting tuck back and everything stuck. Gold medal on Beam for team England. The B team, with only Lucy Brett and Polina Polyakova left to compete, were stable on Beam and Floor and, with losing Jade after two pieces, did exceptionally well to finish 3rd overall, maintaining England's record of consistent top three finishes in this event

over many years. The Coaches performed their duty for England with passion and pride, and Debbie Morgan represented England on the judging front with her usual superb professionalism.

Lisa Mason was an example to all in gymnastics. In her second come-back year, her experience of Olympic, World and Commonwealth Games shone through, and she was a leader and motivator for both teams.

A sightseeing tour, from our superb German hosts, around the Bayer Leverkusen football stadium, then onto the sights of Koln, eventually resulted in a transfer back to the airport and all arriving safely (eventually) in Stansted after an excellent Leverkusen Cup. The 2015 Leverkusen Cup will be the 40th year and England will be back looking for a top three finish again.

Barry McLaughlin
England Team Coach