

# BRITISH TUMBLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018



The British Tumbling Championships took place on the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 at the prestigious venue of Arena Birmingham.

Gymnasts have to compete in 2 qualifying events in April and June, they have to gain the correct score or above and also place in the top 16 in the country to advance onto the British Championships.

The West Midlands region had 20 gymnasts who successfully gained qualification to the championships across 3 clubs (*City of Birmingham, Revolution and Sandwell*); which is an increase from 2017 by 3

gymnasts! Gymnasts competed in preliminary round on Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> September in hope of placing in the top 8 to advance to the finals on Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The prelim round also served as a chance to qualify for the World Championships for some gymnasts, with a total score to achieve in order to be considered for the team.

2018 saw an increase in medals won from West Midlands based clubs. The total medal count was 8, compared to 6 in 2017! For the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year, gymnasts from our region also secured 2 gold medals in their respective age groups, which is fantastic!

## Our British Champions!

Bailey Forbes (10yrs) of Revolution, coached by Rob Owen, qualified into Sunday's final in 1<sup>st</sup> place for the 11/12yrs boys category. He won the gold medal to be crowned British Champion – a first time win for Bailey. He performed 5 whips, flick into a full-in pike dismount (double somersault, with a full twist, in the piked shape) scoring a combined total of 92.80, also hitting the world qualification score. Bailey has medalled at the championships for 3 consecutive years now, but never gold!

Bailey: *"It felt perfect to me. I really like the dismount of my routine, and today they all went really well."*

Alicia Field (10yrs) also from Revolution, coached by Rob Owen, qualified into Sunday's final in 1<sup>st</sup> place for the 9/10yrs girls category. She won the gold medal to be crowned British Champion. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year that a West Midlands based gymnast has won this title and 3<sup>rd</sup> time that a gymnast from Revolution has won this age group.

Alicia won by a clear 7.5 points ahead of her opponents, respectively. She was the only aged 9/10yrs female gymnast to successfully perform 3 double somersaults at the championships; it was the final run of 5 whips, flick into a double pike dismount that clinched the title.

Alicia: *"It feels great to be British Champion. It's been lots and fun and I can't wait for next year."*



## More medallists ...

Reigning 9/10yrs British Champion of 2017; Jaeda-Lei Jeffers (11yrs) of Revolution, pictured with coach on the right, qualified into Sunday's final in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 11/12yrs girls category. She secured the silver medal by performing 5 whips, flick into a double straight dismount, scoring a combined score of 92.30 - enough to be considered for the World Championships team. Jaeda has also medalled at the championships for 3 consecutive years now!







Mia Bevan (14yrs) of City of Birmingham and coached by Chris Porter, pictured left, qualified into Sunday's final in top position, successfully gaining the world qualification score.

Mia successfully performed a full twisting whip, into 4 whips, flick with a double straight dismount. She scored a combined total of 91.20 in order to take the silver medal in the 13/14yrs girls category. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year that Mia has won silver at the British Championships, which is fantastic given that Mia only stepped into the realms of elite tumbling just under 2 years ago!

Shakeim Dixon (9yrs) pictured left on the photo to the right is a newcomer to national competitions having only turned 9 this year! To win a silver medal against the best 9/10yrs boys in the country is phenomenal! Shakeim is from the City of Birmingham gymnastics club, coached by Chris Porter. He qualified into Sunday's finals in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and through consistently performing 3 double somersaults over the weekend, clinched the silver medal in the finals! His run of 5 whips, flick into double tuck enabled him to score a combined score of 99.00!

City of Birmingham teammate; Sebastian Deans (10yrs) qualified into the 9/10yrs boys finals in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. His final run of 5 whips, flick into a double tuck dismount scored him an overall score of 93.40 winning the bronze medal!



The final two medals from West Midlands based clubs, were from teammates of the City of Birmingham gymnastics club.

17yr old reigning junior European champion; Jaydon Paddock (pictured on the right of the photo) made the big move into the realms of senior competition this year, on the back of a very successful junior career. Jaydon qualified into Sunday's final in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and had to perform 2 runs of extreme difficulty value in the finals, which enabled him to grab the bronze medal! To win a senior medal at such a young age is amazing! He was thrilled to be featured on the BBC broadcast of the championships, which can be viewed on the BBC iPlayer app or website still!

Jaydon's medal winning passes were:

- Double straight transition, into a triple tuck dismount.
- Full, full straight transition, into a Miller (triple twisting double straight) and STUCK the landing!

Marcus Adams (16yrs) of City of Birmingham, pictured on the left in the above photo, competed in the 15/16yrs boys category, qualifying into Sunday's final in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. He performed a double straight transition, with a full-in pike dismount, which secured the bronze medal, with a combined score of 95.30 – also hitting the world qualification score in order to be considered for the team!

## More competitors from the West Midlands ...

### 9/10yrs Boys

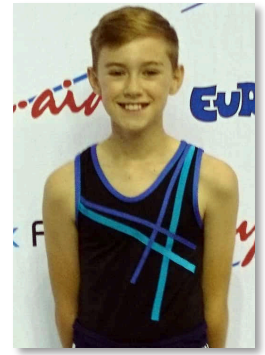
**4<sup>th</sup> Place: Otis Mason** (9yrs) of Revolution Gymnastics Club, qualified into the finals in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. He successfully performed 5 whips, flick into a full twisting straight back with a perfect landing to gain a combined score of 93.00!

### 9/10yrs Girls

**12<sup>th</sup> Place: Macy Ross** (9yrs) of Revolution Gymnastics Club, performed 2 passes of 5 whips, flick into a full twisting straight back and a straight back in the prelims to score a 2 run total of 56.70. This was Macy's first ever British Championships!

### **11/12yrs Boys**

**17<sup>th</sup> Place: Harvey Kinsell** (12yrs) of Sandwell Flyers, coached by Lauren Hayward, qualified to the British Championships for the first time! Harvey, pictured on the right, and his club were thrilled to have a representative at the championships. Harvey performed a full twisting whip, into 3 whips, 2 flicks and a full twisting straight back dismount in the prelims round.



### **11/12yrs Girls**

**7<sup>th</sup> Place: Ruby Reid** (11yrs) of Revolution Gymnastics Club, qualified into the finals in 8<sup>th</sup> place. She was thrilled to have climbed up to 7<sup>th</sup> place in the finals by performing a brand new pass of 5 whips, flick into a double pike dismount! Ruby scored a combined total of 86.30!

### **13/14yrs Boys**

**5<sup>th</sup> Place: Evan Kemp** (13yrs) of City of Birmingham, qualified into the finals in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Evan performed a final pass of 5 whips, flick into a double straight dismount in the finals, which is a new skill for him.

### **13/14yrs Girls**

**6<sup>th</sup> Place: Hope Sutherland** (12yrs) of City of Birmingham, qualified into the finals in 7<sup>th</sup> place. Hope managed to climb up into 6<sup>th</sup> place by performing a solid pass of 5 whips, flick into a double pike dismount. Hope was also battling an injury during the build up and throughout the championships, so it's even more deserving that she is now ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the country given her less than ideal circumstances.

### **15/16yrs Boys**

**7<sup>th</sup> Place: Oliver Dean** (15yrs) of City of Birmingham qualified into the finals in 7<sup>th</sup> place, successfully competing a clean pass of 5 whips, flick, into a double pike dismount.

### **15/16yrs Girls**

**5<sup>th</sup> Place: Amy Campbell** (15yrs) of Revolution, qualified into the finals in 1<sup>st</sup> place, successfully gaining the world qualification score in order to be considered for the team. Amy had planned to perform a brand new pass, which included a double straight transition somersault in the middle of the run, with a double pike dismount. This is of very high difficulty value – unfortunately, it did not go as planned and Amy incurred a “crash” deduction on landing which lowered her placing to 5<sup>th</sup>. Although disappointed, she is happy to have shown the judges and selection panel the new pass she has been training!

**6<sup>th</sup> Place: Ashleigh Owen** (15yrs) of Revolution, qualified into the finals in 5<sup>th</sup> place. After successfully hitting the world qualification score in the preliminary round, Ashleigh was determined to show the judges her new pass; 5 whips, flick into a full-full tuck dismount (double twisting, double back). She aced the run, with so much power that she unfortunately wasn't able to stay on her feet and rolled out the landing. However, she was thrilled to have showcased this new skill and still be ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the country!

### **Senior Women**

**4<sup>th</sup> Place: Megan Surman** (20yrs) of City of Birmingham, qualified into the finals in 4<sup>th</sup> place. Megan is new to the senior competition after winning bronze in 2017 in the 17-21yrs group. Megan performed a 2 pass final of; double straight transition, with a double tuck dismount that unfortunately incurred a “crash” deduction on landing and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> pass showed 5 whips, flick into a lovely full-in, straight dismount!

**A huge well done to all of the gymnasts, clubs and personal coaches from the West Midlands!**

**20 regional representatives, 15 finalists, 5 medallists and 2 British champions!**

*A special mention to Joshua Hunter (21yrs) of Revolution, who sustained an injury to his foot whilst competing his first pass in the preliminary round; he is due to have surgery soon to mend some broken bones. Joshua took the decision to retire from elite tumbling directly after the championships, although he had hoped to finish his career on a much higher note. The West Midlands wishes you a speedy recovery Josh and maybe one day you can step out of retirement to put a close on your career in the way you had hoped ☺*

