

England Team at the 2009 Loule Cup, Portugal

In September 2009, the EGA sent a Double Mini Trampoline team to Portugal to compete in the Loule Cup. The team consisted of a total of 20 trampolinists selected across four age groups. The team, coached by Toby Eager and assisted by Andrew Wild, performed fantastically well and after the first day, 11 of the 20 performers reached the finals and 3 of the 4 England teams reached the top 5 and were to compete in a FIG system final on the Sunday.



The Sunday opened with the team finals and the junior girls, senior ladies senior and mens team had their eyes on the prize in this one round shoot out. The junior girls team (Georgia Downing, Levi Burns, Lydia Yates and Sophia Beavan) completed three good passes and posted a very competitive score of 93.5, enough to secure the girls 3rd place. The senior ladies (Chloe Haldon, Coreen John, Hanna Moses and Robyn Osborne) under pressure not least from the junior girls nipping at their heels, showed their worth after performing excellent passes and posting a score of 97.4 securing 2nd place, just 3.4 marks behind the impressive Canadians. The senior men (Alexander Foster, Michael McNabb, Nathan Bailey and William Flaherty) had stiff competition from the Portuguese national team and a strong Canadian outfit and after three strong passes, the men secured 3rd place with a score of 103.3.



From left to right: Andrew Wild, Sophia Beavan, Levi Burns, Georgia Downing, Lydia Yates, Phoebe Williams and Toby Eager

The individual finals started with the junior girls. Of the 5 girls selected to the team, all 5 girls made it to the final, moreover, the girls occupied the top 5 positions going into the final round. Current British Junior champion Lydia Yates and 2008 British Junior Champion Sophia Beavan both made mistakes in their final round and fell away leaving the field open. Georgia Downing and Phoebe Williams took full advantage taking 1st and 2nd place respectively with two get final round passes. Levi Burns completed the quintet taking 4th place after being penalised for repeating a move knocking her off the podium.

The two junior boys, namely Oliver Rowlands and Nathaniel Scott, were charged with following the girls successes and starting from 3rd and 4th respectively, the English team were hopeful of further medals. After securing 3rd place coming into the final, a slip in the final cost Oliver Rowlands a place on the podium and he had to settle for 4th place. Nathaniel, who qualified for the finals in 4th

place, performed two solid final round passes, one of which he had never competed prior to the event, and moved up two places into the silver medal position.



From left to right: Andrew Wild, Oliver Rowlands, Daniel Berridge, Nathaniel Scott, Campbell Clayton and Toby Eager



Of the 6 senior ladies that were selected to represent England, two were successful in reaching the final, namely Robyn Osborne and Charley O'Dell finishing 5th and 8th respectively. Both completed their final round passes cleanly and both managed to improve their positions. Charley moved up from 8th to 5th place and Robyn from 5th to 2nd place fending off the two Canadian and continuing the excellent success of the juniors.

From left to right: Andrew Wild, Chloe Haldon, Robyn Osborne, Hanna Moses, Louise Pennell, Coreen John, Charley O'Dell and Toby Eager

The final chance for England to add to their medal tally was in the senior mens category with Peter Cracknell and Nathan Bailey going for England having qualified for the final in 2nd and 7th place respectively. The pair were in good company with the Portuguese national team out to put on a good show on their home ground. After scoring 70.7 in the preliminary round, Peter was placed 2nd and looking to push on in the final rounds. However, in hunting down a podium finish, Peter fell on his final pass giving him a final position of 8th place. Nathan, coming into the final in 7th place, had much work to do to pull up the rankings. However, after two inspirational final round passes, Nathan moved from 7th place up to 3rd place and thus completed a thoroughly successful event for the English DMT team who collected 8 medals from the 6 categories entered and had representatives on the podium in every event entered.



From left to right: Andrew Wild, Alex Foster, William Flaherty, Peter Cracknell, Nathan Bailey, Michael McNabb and Toby Eager

On behalf of everyone involved in the delegation, I would like to personally thank the EGA for their continued support of England Trampoline, A Starts Leotards for supplying the team kit that looked fantastic, the team coaches whose efforts over the weekend were rewarded in the results and the squad as a whole who gave outstanding performances and made the event an enjoyable one that I would like to return to in the future.