

Editor: John D Beeton: john@beeton9.wanadoo.co.uk

EDITORIAL

Martin Laws

Dear Reader,

Firstly, please let me start by thanking our editor, **John Beeton** for continuing to keep us all informed of any breaking news within our sport. He manages to obtain current news as and when it happens; and especially with his overseas contacts. We are grateful for his continued support. Please circulate this present edition as widely as possible.

With Christmas just around the corner and even snow falling on our Trampoline world with the World Championships having just taken place in Quebec, Canada. The best present we could have wished for from Santa would obviously have been Olympic places for all our performers at the Beijing Games in 2008. We only actually achieved half of our desires; overall the results were good, picking up Team third in the men's DMT finals & Team Third for the Ladies Tumbling team. We also qualified for World Games in all disciplines we competed in, a major achievement! There was however also some disappointing results, especially with the men being unable to secure the elusive Olympic spot.

However, before the critics start singing, I would say it was probably one of the strongest teams that BG have sent to a senior championships, and the majority performed really well. We were certainly unfortunate in that the other countries stepped up their game also, so we have a lot to look forward to in the coming years.

A small delegation has already traveled to Beijing to check out the venue for the Trampoline event in 2008. I am sure that they will find the venue to be of the highest standard and that they would all love to compete in it during the games this summer! I would wish our ladies success in the coming months looking forward.

For the rest of our team, Trampoline, Tumbling and DMT they have all got to prepare for an early European Championships, in April/May. From what we saw in Quebec, we have all got work to do.

Please keep a look out for information regarding the re-organised **Joint Technical Conference**. This will now take the form of Individual Discipline Conferences. Obviously the format has changed but so too may the venue of the event for each discipline. BG is using the Lillehall dates for a club conference, which is completely different to last year's events.

Trampoline will be holding its own event either in **Gillingham** or **Loughborough** to reach as many clubs as possible with technical news. Again, I can not stress the importance of such an event, as this is an excellent opportunity for everyone to get together, and put ideas to each other.

The new competition structure is going to commence in the New Year, with the Gala Weekends starting for all the Grade 1, 2, DMT and Synchro competitions. The Gala weekends will be an excellent opportunity for everyone to watch each other, and gain inspiration from! This is going to be an exciting year, and I personally look forward to with, even though it will no doubt cause many headaches along the way!

Clive Morgan is fronting the new communications post within the Technical Committee, this is an area that is going to hopefully increase awareness of our membership so that we can ensure that we can all keep up to date with any breaking news, and updates on Judging, Coach education etc.

I would like to finish by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas! Enjoy the break and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year, refreshed and ready for what will prove to be an exciting and action packed 2008.

World Championships 2007

With only one qualifier for the Beijing Olympic Games in the ladies event; and no finalists in the trampoline individual or team event, this was a very disappointing championship for the British trampoline team and their supporters, and certainly one of the worst results in recent years. However, the ladies synchronised pairing of Katherine Driscoll and Claire Wright easily made the finals in 5th position, but erred at the last hurdle; but with the DMT and TUM team's success on the second day of the championships, this raised the spirits somewhat.

Both the ladies TUM team and men's DMT team finished in bronze medal position in their respective finals, both excellent results. **Ed.**

Results were as follows:

Ladies Individual Trampoline (67 entries)

11 Jamie Moore
33 Yasmin Gumbs
60 Katherine Driscoll
62 Claire Wright

Ladies Team (13 teams)

09 Great Britain

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Men's Individual Trampoline (95 entries)

32 Gary Smith
40 James Higgins
48 Mark Alexander
85 Simon Milnes

Men's Team (21 teams)

11 Great Britain

Ladies Synchronised (20 entries)

08 Katherine Driscoll / Claire Wright

Ladies DMT (23 entries)

08 Asha Philip
16 Nicola Pugh
20 Kirsty Ward
21 Asha Bayliss

Ladies DMT Team (05 entries)

04 Great Britain

Men's DMT (40 entries)

08 Michael Scott-Beaulieu
19 Dominic Swaffer
22 Mathew Swaffer
36 Toby Eager

Men's DMT Team (09 entries)

03 Great Britain

Ladies TUM (28 entries)

06 Sarah Turner
10 Zoe Maclean
22 Laura Houson
28 Samantha Palmer

Ladies TUM Team (06 entries)

03 Great Britain

Men's TUM (53 entries)

07 Charlie Burrows
11 Michael Barnes
22 Damien Walters
28 Greg Boosey

Men's TUM Team (13 entries)

04 Great Britain

**World Age Group Competition
Quebec City, Canada
British Results**

The WAGC were held immediately after the World championships in the same venue in Quebec City, with 1300 plus gymnasts from 33 countries competing for the 32 titles available for this competition.

The Great Britain team had a variety of success from the outset with success in both Trampoline and Tumbling events, with **Laura Gallagher** and **Cara Jamieson** finishing in 1st and 2nd places in the Girls 17-18 year old class, closely followed by **Mathew Wright** finishing in 2nd place in the Boys 17-18 year old class. Results from the first day of competition were:

Trampoline Individual

17-18 years Boys (48 entries)

02 Mathew Wright

17-18 years Girls (47 entries)

01 Laura Gallagher
02 Cara Jamieson

Trampoline Synchronised

11-12 years Boys (13 entries)

03 Ryan Stickland / Jason Ryall

Tumbling

13-14 years Boys (26 entries)

04 Shaun Gregory

13-14 years Girls (34 entries)

02 Paige Clark
04 Megan Green

The second day of events culminated in a handful of final places with DMT featuring for the first time at these WAGCs. Two silver medals from the synchro pairings of **Nicole Short / Emma Britton** in the TRA 13-14 Girls event and **Luke Strong / Nathan Bailey** in TRA 13-14 Boys were followed by two bronze medals from **Samantha Rockets** and **Oliver Rowlands** in Tumbling 15-16 Girls and DMT 11-12 Boys respectively. We must not also forget the 6th place of Emma Britton in the Trampoline 13-14 Girls event.

Trampoline Individual

13-14 years Girls (62 entries)

06 Emma Britton

Trampoline Synchronised

13-14 years Girls (28 entries)

02 Nicole Short / Emma Britton

13-14 years Boys (18 entries)

02 Luke Strong / Nathan Bailey

Tumbling

15-16 years Girls (37 entries)

03 Samantha Rocket

Double Mini-trampoline

11-12 years Boys (26 entries)

03 Oliver Rowlands

The third and final day of competition was dominated with the tumblers who had five finalists in the 4 events they had entered, a brilliant result. In the end they had to settle for 1 gold medal from **Zara Mclean**, but excellent results nevertheless. An end to an excellent 2007 WAGCs run by Gymnastics Canada.

Tumbling

11-12 years Girls (36 entries)

06 Demi Watkins

11-12 years Boys (30 entries)

06 Jordan Ramos

17-18 years Girls (16 entries)

01 Zara Mclean

04 Jennifer Dawes

17-18 years Boys (28 entries)

04 Peter Mewes

Qualifiers for Beijing

At the conclusion of the World Championships held recently in Quebec City CAN., the following Federations have qualified their gymnasts for the Beijing Olympic Games:

Ladies	Country	Men	Country
01	RUS	01	CHN
02	CHN	02	CHN
03	RUS	03	RUS
04	CHN	04	GER
05	CAN	05	JPN
06	GER	06	JPN
07	BLR	07	RUS
08	CAN	08	ITA
09	GBR	09	UKR
10	JPN	10	CAN
11	UZB	11	DEN
12	POR	12	BLR
13	UKR	13	FRA
14	GEO	14	POR
15	USA	15	*AUS
16	tri partite	16	tri-partite
Reserve	CZE	Reserve	USA
Reserve	NED	Reserve	BRA

*Ben Wilden – Oceania

WANTED

British Gymnastics is due to host the annual **Great Britain v Germany Youth Match** in **Sep / Oct 2009** and we are seeking a Home Nation / Division / Club to host the event which will be held over a weekend (Fri – Sun) with the match being held on the Saturday. Date to be decided upon.

The teams comprise 8 x U18 (4 male / 4 female) and 8 x U15 (4 male / 4 female) gymnasts.

A substantial amount of funding is available to assist in the hosting of the event but potential OCs will be expected to obtain local sponsorship to assist with various aspects of the event e.g. hall hire / transport / medals / hall decoration / closing dinner / disco etc.

A full list of requirements can be obtained by contacting myself in the first instance. **Ed.**

2009 WORLD GAMES KAOHSIUNG, CHINESE TAIPEI QUALIFIERS

With their undoubted success in the recent World Championships in Quebec City CAN., Great Britain has been informed of the number of qualifiers that have been allocated for the above event which will be held during the month of July 2009.

Trampoline Synchronised has 24 places (12 pairs men + 12 pairs ladies) whilst Tumbling and Double-mini Trampoline have 20 places each (10 men + 10 ladies).

Great Britain Qualifying Placing

5th place: Ladies Trampoline Synchronised

3rd place: Men's Tumbling

4th place: Ladies Tumbling + 2nd Reserve

3rd place: Ladies DMT

5th place: Men's DMT

WORLD RANKING LIST

1st January 2008

British Gymnasts continue to feature in the most recent version of the FIG World Ranking List, with the Tumblers making further inroads at the top of their Ranking List in particular.

Trampoline Men Individual

27th Gary Smith 12.35 points

Trampoline Women Individual

07th Claire Wright 106.14 points

30th Jamie Moore 5.81 points

Trampoline Men Synchronised

13th Simon Milne / Mark Alexander 57.63 points

39th Michael Freeman / Andrew Freeman 8.40 points

59th Gary Smith / Gary Short 2.74 points

Trampoline Women Synchronised

08th Jamie Moore / Claire Wright 82.43 points

23rd Katherine Driscoll / Claire Wright 14.00 points

53rd Katherine Driscoll / Palmer 1.92 points

56th Stacey Dann / Lauren Allen 1.47 points

Tumbling Men

07th Damien Walters 94.00 points

11th Charlie Burrows 62.08 points

13th Michael Barnes 47.95 points

Tumbling Women

03rd Samantha Palmer 183.23 points

07th Zoe Maclean 77.39 points

08th Sarah Turner 62.30 points

17th Laura Houson 26.32 points

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SELECTION POLICY

European Championships: Double Mini Trampoline 28th April – 3rd May, 2008 Odense, Denmark

Format of Competition: European Championships (Individual and Team)

Eligibility: British Citizen

British Gymnastics' member in good standing

Senior age criteria: minimum 17 in the year of competition

Junior: 13 – 17 in the year of competition*

Signed up to the current BG Gymnast Agreement

*Subject to not having participated in any open category (senior/adult) of World Championships, Continental Championships, and World Cup Series.

All eligibility is subject to the rules of FIG and UEG and any changes these bodies may introduce subsequent to the publication of this policy.

Performance Targets:

Senior: Team (Men): Team Final

Team (Women): Team Final

Individual (Men): Individual Medallist

Individual (Women): Individual Final

Youth: Team (Boys): Team Final

Team (Girls): Team Final

Individual (Boys): Individual Medallist

Individual (Girls): Individual Medallist

Selection Events:

1. Sun 10th February 2008 (Eastleigh) (2 preliminary passes and 2 final passes)
2. Sat/Sun 1st / 2nd March 2008 (Bournemouth) (2 preliminary passes and 2 final passes)
3. Sat/Sun 29th / 30th March 2008 (Hull) (2 preliminary passes and 2 final passes)

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Gymnasts that meet the selection criteria shown in the Selection Matrix will be placed in rank order according to the DMT National Ranking scheme (see below) and the top three ranked gymnasts in each category will be automatically selected. The fourth and reserve places in each category may be allocated using a wild card nomination by the National Squad Coach with approval from the National Technical Committee. If no nominations are received, the place will be allocated to the next ranked gymnast who meets the selection criteria. If insufficient gymnasts meet the criteria set out below, the National Squad Coach may, with the approval from the National Technical Committee, select Gymnasts who have achieved the higher of the qualification scores in at least one of the selection compet-

-itions.

Minimum Scores achievable at any selection event from Preliminaries and Finals

Senior Ladies At least 63.5 **and** 65.0 at the same event

Senior Men At least 68.5 **and** 70.0 at the same event

Junior Girls At least 61.5 **and** 63.0 at the same event

Junior Boys At least 62.5 **and** 64.0 at the same event

National Ranking Scheme

At the end of each selection event/competition, gymnasts are ranked according to their preliminary, final, and overall scores. For each ranking gymnasts are awarded 8 points for 1st place decreasing to 1 point for 8th place (see matrix below). Gymnasts outside the top 8 and those who score zero do not receive any points. On completion of the final selection event each eligible gymnast should have received 9 sets of ranking points. For each category the two highest scoring points are summed generating a total score. Gymnasts are ranked accordingly with the maximum achievable score being 48.

Position after Preliminaries

Points Awarded

1st 8 points, 2nd 7 points, 3rd 6 points, 4th 5 points, 5th 4 points, 6th 3 points, 7th 2 points, 8th 1 point

Position after Finals (assuming scores zeroed after prelims)

Points Awarded

1st 8 points, 2nd 7 points, 3rd 6 points, 4th 5 points, 5th 4 points, 6th 3 points, 7th 2 points, 8th 1 point

Overall Position

Points Awarded

1st 8 points, 2nd 7 points, 3rd 6 points, 4th 5 points, 5th 4 points, 6th 3 points, 7th 2 points, 8th 1 point

ILLNESS OR INJURY

A gymnast who becomes ill or injured prior to / during one of the selection events must provide written authentication of that illness or injury by British Gymnastics approved medical personnel in order to be considered for wildcard selection.

REMOVAL

A gymnast may be removed from the 2008 European Championship Squad or from any stage of the selection process in the event that injury or illness would inhibit performance at that event. Verification of injury or illness will be made by British Gymnastics approved medical personnel. All procedures in respect of confidentiality will be in accordance with the British Gymnastics 'Gymnast Agreement', signed by the gymnast.

A gymnast or coach may be removed from the 2008 European Championship Squad in the event of non-compliance in training, a breach of responsibility to the team, a violation of the 'Gymnast Agreement', or rules of membership.

The removal of a coach or gymnast will be in compliance with British Gymnastics procedures and any decision will be subject to review through the British Gymnastics Appeals Process.

RESERVES

The selection of reserves to replace a gymnast or coach who has been removed from the 2008 European Championship Squad will be at the discretion of the National Squad Coach and must be justified in writing and approved by the Technical Committee.

TEAM ORGANISATION

It is the current intention that all team members will attend a training camp on the 12/13 April 2008 (venue TBC).

The team coach selections will be made immediately after the team selection by the National Squad Coach and approved by the Director (Technical & Performance), using the following criteria:

- HPC/IPC qualification and in good standing as a professional member
- The number of gymnasts they have on the team
- Their international experience and performance
- Their ability to lead, organise and control under high responsibility and stress situations
- Their attendance at all required meetings, training camps and events

Subject to the selection of full Senior and Youth teams, two coaches will be selected for the 2008 European Championships, one for the Senior team and one for the Junior team. Notwithstanding this selection, the British Gymnastics support staff will contain at least one female and one male member in order to meet British Gymnastics' Child Protection Policy.

British Gymnastics acknowledges the role of the personal coach in competition preparation. However, personal coaches that attend the competition outside of the delegation will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation at their own expense and by their own arrangement.

All gymnasts selected for the 2008 European Championships will be required to sign and comply with BG's Gymnast Agreement.

The British DMT Team for the 2008 Trampoline European Championships will be announced within a week of the last selection competition.

Youth Olympic Games 2010

1. Age

Minimum and maximum Age:

Trampoline 15-17 years

Gymnasts who have participated at FIG Senior Competitions or Multisports Games (including Continental Championships and World Cup events), may not participate at the Youth Olympic Games.

2. Medal Events

Trampoline

Individual Men 1

Individual Women 1

3. Quota – Number of Participants

Trampoline Men 12

Trampoline Women 12

4. Competition Format

Trampoline

Qualification with 12 men and 12 women

2 Exercises each

Final

Top 8 men and top 8 women from Qualification

1 Exercise each

5. Schedule (Number of days) to be proposed to the IOC

Day

-4 Training ART and TRA

-3 Training ART and TRA

-2 ART Men Podium Training

-1 ART Women Podium Training

1 Opening Ceremony

2 ART Men Qualification

3 ART Women Qualification

4 ART Men and Women All-Around Final

5 TRA Podium Training morning

TRA Men and Women Qualification and Finals

6. Qualifications

The Junior Continental Championships or another qualifying event (strictly following the FIG Rules) in the year of the YOG is used to qualify. A quota is given to each Continent. The quota is based on 1 gymnast per country.

TRA Men + Women: Europe 5, Asia 2, Africa 1, America 3, Oceania 1 = 12 Inc. Host Country

7. Young Officials (Judges)

The FIG will request the IOC to accept an age of 35. Except for members of the Superior Jury and the Jury of Appeal.

The FIG invites, 1 year prior to the Youth Olympic Games, its federations to send max. 2 judges, max 34 years old, to participate in a special Intercontinental Judges Course for young judges. This 4-5 days course, under the direction of the respective TC's, will end with an examination as at the normal Intercontinental Judges Course. The judges will receive brevet as per the standard judges' rules.

The best judges of this special course will be chosen to judge at the Youth Olympic Games.

Another 2 days course will be made at the Youth Olympic Games.

“Good Luck Beijing Tournament” Olympic Test Event

32 gymnasts (16 man + 16 women) based on the results of the recent World Championships held in **Quebec City CAN** were invited to **Beijing** to participate in this test event, which was held in the magnificent Olympic National Indoor Arena, venue for the 2008 Olympic Games Gymnastic competitions in both ART and TRA, approximately 4 kilometres from the official hotel for the event **Yuanchenxin International Hotel**. *see also article on Page 8.

Equipment was provided by **Eurotramp**.

The drawing of lots for the starting order of both competitions was held on 29 Nov by the FIG TR TC.

The women's final on 2 Dec was held immediately after the award ceremony for **Men's Vault** in Artistic Gymnastics, whilst the men's final on 3 Dec was held immediately after the men's award ceremony for **Men's High Bar** in Artistic Gymnastics. Certainly a great deal different from our schedule for both the Sydney and Athens Games, but interesting nevertheless.

Jamie Moore who managed to gain the only Olympic Qualifier for Great Britain was our entry for the event. Other officials present were **Tracy Whittaker-Smith**, Coach and **Peter Heames**, Judge.

Results

Trampoline Women

- 01 Olena MOVCHAN UKR
- 02 Rosannagh MACLENNAN CAN
- 03 Wenna HE CHN
- 06 Jamie MOORE GBR

Trampoline Men

- 01 Shuai YE CHN
- 02 Yasuhiro UHEYAMA JPN
- 03 Dmitry USHAKOV RUS

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007

Jack Kelly

How will the 2007 Worlds be viewed from a British perspective? Will it be that the women finished in 11th, 33rd, 60th and 62nd places while the men could only place 32nd, 40th, 48th and 85th? Arguably the worst results ever achieved by a British Trampoline team! Regrettably this is probably where the focus of attention will lie but the statistics mask a number of areas of genuine progress and it is essential that these are acknowledged while making no attempt to excuse the poor outcomes.

The best performance came from **Jaime Moore** in just narrowly

missing the final and securing the Olympic qualifying place for the British women. Her set routine was of the usual high quality and easily within the top echelon. Her voluntary featured a difficulty more than a whole mark above her previous performance at a major championship. Once the form and control have improved she will become genuinely competitive at the top level

Both **Gary Smith** and **Mark Alexander** produced their best ever international performances but the fact that this placed them in 32nd and 40th positions reveals the truth that the standard of execution among the Worlds top men has taken a quantum leap. Not only did we see the progress made by the Chinese, Japanese and Russians but more nations are beginning to pack the places just below the finals. **James Higgins** however showed that he can put himself into contention with this chasing pack and but for an expensive final deduction after his voluntary, he would have placed in the top twenty. **Simon Milnes**, from whom much was expected was inexplicably unable to complete his voluntary after a reasonable set and with his demise so finished any chance of the men making the team final.

Jaime Moore's club mate, **Yasmin Gumbs** performed like a veteran in her first ever senior championship and her 33rd place augurs well for the future. This should have been the supporting performance in what was expected to be a medal winning team result for the women. Unfortunately a catastrophic misjudgement by **Claire Wright** early in her voluntary put paid to a decent team score. **Kat Driscoll** making a welcome return to the senior team, impressed with a high and stylish set only to hit the side mats when well through her voluntary thereby blowing any chance of recovery for the women's team.

Hopes were raised when Claire and Kat performed well to reach the synchro final in 5th place and looked set for a medal challenging final performance. They did indeed start the final as if determined to fulfil their potential but Kat overthrew her 6th skill and could not recover control, condemning the pair to 8th place.

While the men's World standard is clearly progressing there is less evidence of this in the women's events and following some serious rethinking there should be no reason why the British women cannot recover and be up with the best at next year's European Championships.

Trampoline 2008 Olympic Selection Policy

Following the World Championships in Quebec and consistent with British Gymnastics' Olympic Selection Policy, we can confirm that the pre requisite scores for automatic consideration for selection to Team GB (as referred to in Paragraph 3.3 of the Policy) will be 61.80 for women and 69.00 for men, for 2-round qualifying scores.



Pre-school Coaching Course

Cathy Page

In the foreseeable future we will be preparing a preschool module for those coaching preschool children.

If any of you have an expert on this within your club I would like to hear from them as to:

- a) what they would like to have in the module
- b) things they do which they think are important with preschool children.

If you know of any club who are not represented by the circulation please pass it on.

Coach Education

Cathy Page

1. UKCC Training - all tutors are going to have to attend the tutor training for UKCC courses. From August 2008 all Assistant coach courses will be run under UKCC conditions. Only those who have undergone the training will be allowed to tutor them. There will also be a training day for assessing as well. The training days are being rolled out over the next year as follows: March 15/16 London; April 5/6 South and South West; April 19/20 South East and East; April 26/27 North and York's; June 7/8 East and West Midlands; July 19/20 NW and N Ireland; Wales and Scotland have their own training days. Only 6 tutors (all disciplines) from each region will be attending. Nominations have to be forwarded by Regions for those who are going to carry out the most courses. The Level 2 will be rolled out in 2009 and most probably Level 3 in 2010. Level 4 may not come on stream before 2011 and Level 5 is not contemplated at present.

It is planned (not yet approved) that Level 1 will only be accessible to 16 years plus; it will be a 21 hour course and the cost will be about £240 which will deter many of our current customers. Some of that amount is planned to go back into the regions to be put into mentoring the candidates; there will be a limit of 12 per tutor but it is envisaged that larger courses will be held with two tutors.

In place for the 14/15 year olds will be a variation on the helper's award – this is in the early stages of planning.

2. IPC – after discussion and feedback and more discussion and feedback the following looks like being the procedure for obtaining IPC:

Those who wish to be considered should **a)** have had two or more gymnasts in the national squad set up **b)** give two presentations – one practical, one theory – one should be presented on an HPC course and the other to at least 3 assessors

- other IPC coaches, someone from exam board, national coaches etc. **c)** should have attended a National Judge course **d)** apply through Technical Director / Coach Ed committee **e)** should have held HPC for at least three years.

There will be no course put persons applying would be encouraged to go on courses to broaden their knowledge.

3. Coaching License – this scheme has been put on hold indefinitely due to the UKCC license which is projected for 2016!

Cup of Flanders

Amy Walmsley

It is the intention of British Gymnastics to send the DMT team selected for the 2008 European Championships to the Cup of Flanders being hosted by the Belgian Gymnastics Federation in Ghent.

Because of the dates of the events the team will be travelling from the Cup of Flanders (April 25 - 26, 2008) directly to the European Championships (April 28 – May 3, Odense, DEN).

The selection policy for the 2008 European Championships can be found on the BG website (Performance and Technical, Downloads, DMT) along with the invitation for the Cup of Flanders (News, Trampoline Gymnastics, Competition Invites).

News from Scotland

The new Scottish Competition Organiser is **Ron Brooks**. Ron can be contacted at: ronanbrooks@blueyonder.co.uk

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Articles for this edition due on 1 Feb 08 should reach the editor by **24 Jan 08** at the very latest. We are particularly looking at articles for your club, including fund raising events that have been held recently.

Trampoline Technical Conference

Loughborough or **Gillingham** will be the venue for the 2008 Trampoline Technical Conference. Details will appear on the BG webpage in due course. **Ed.**

Season Greetings to you all

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Volunteers trained for gymnastics events at Olympic venue

Some 740 volunteers trained for the two Good Luck Beijing sport events which occurred recently.

According to BOCOG's schedule, the newly-built National Indoor Stadium hosted the 2007 artistic gymnastics international invitational tournament from November 28-December 3, and the 2007 trampoline gymnastics international invitational tournament from November 30 to December 3. The events were established to be a test of how the venue and the management team's are preparation for the next year's Olympic Games.

Attending separate lectures given by venue managers, experienced volunteers and the Olympic champions early in October, the volunteers were briefed on venue operations, competition information, marketing, firefighting, environment, accreditation and other matters related to the events.

Recently, they also underwent a training course to get familiarized with the structure, functions, layout and equipment of the venue and the workplace of different positions.

The volunteers passed separate examinations to prove that they have obtained sufficient knowledge and skills.

The volunteers come from Beijing's famous educational and medical institutions such as China Remin University, the Central Academy of Fine Arts, the Capital Institute of Physical Education, Beijing Second Foreign Language University and Beijing Friendship Hospital.

The 20,000 seat stadium is set to host gymnastics, trampoline and handball events in the 2008 Olympic Games.

BEIJING, November 22) -- Up to 240,000 Chinese residents outside Beijing have registered as volunteers for the Beijing Olympic Games and Paralympic Games as of November 22, 2007, statistics show.

About 500 university students, including 194 foreign students from 54 countries and areas, took part in the mobilization campaign, pledging to become Olympic volunteers at Beijing Language and Culture University.

During the campaign, some volunteers who were outstanding in other volunteer activities, such as the Good Luck Beijing sport events recently held in Beijing, exchanged their experiences with the audiences. Olympic champions **Lou Yun**, the gold medalist in the vault at the 1984 and 1988 Olympics, and **Qian Hong**, the gold medal winner in the women's 200m butterfly at the 1992 Olympics, also attended the meeting to boost volunteerism.

Taken together, the volunteer applicant pool has reached **730,000** according to BOCOG Volunteer Department. About 70,000 Games-time volunteers are needed for the Beijing Olympics and another 30,000 for the Paralympics.

During the Good Luck Beijing sport events, approximately 30,000 volunteers offered their services, and 870 of them have been selected as the first batch of the Games-time volunteers.

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