

EVENT REVIEW

Provided by the Media Group of British Gymnastics.

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21st Acrobatic Gymnastics World Championships

QUALIFICATIONS.

Glasgow (GBR) - FIG Office, October 10, 2008: The first competition day of the World Senior Acrobatic Gymnastics Championships saw the participants in all the five disciplines (Women's Pairs, Men's Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Women's Trios and Men's Four) perform the first out of three qualifying routines.

The good choice of music and the exquisite style of the choreography deserve a special mention as a positive feature in the development of this sport, which contributed to a very entertaining opening day of the Championships.

Women's Pairs- Balance Routine: 1. RUS1 - 2. BLR1 - 3. BEL

12 pairs competed their Balance routines with the Russians Khakimova/ Ploskova, taking the lead with a score of 28.806 after presenting a near perfect exercise.

The defending World Champions from Belarus Yushko / Murashko, whose elegant performance was highlighted by their sleek black and silver catsuits came up at a hairs breath distance (28.801), in second position, before the performance of the Tempo routine on Saturday.

The Belgians Henrist / de Vos finished the day in third position (28.705), after having performed a great two on one straddle on handstand in a routine of very dramatic choreography.

Men's Pair- Tempo Routine: 1. CHN1 - 2. RUS1 - 3. GBR

China's Men's Pair Yang / Chen who competed last of the 11 Men's Pairs took the leader board with a stunning routine, accompanied with impressive drum music (28.360).

The second men's pair from Russia, Pilipchuk / Dudchenko, winners in last year's World Cup Final in Puurs (BEL), impressed the audience with their cut through to one arm combinations and scored 28.170 (second place in the current ranking).

The GBR pair, Fyson / Upcott, from Spelthorne Elite Acrobatics Club, had a few opening wobbles, but stick the difficult moves in their routine and scored 27.951 and are now in third position.

The defending champions from Coimbra (POR) 2006, Cherbak / Popov, Belarus, finished the first routine in 7th position.

Mixed Pair – Balance Routine: 1.RUS1 - 2.RUS2 - 3. BLR1

The Russians Sviridova / Babarykin demonstrated their skill in mixed pairs and the tops' suppleness, in their opening balance of one armed ring handstand, and showed a stunning flag on one arm. The judges awarded them a well deserved 29.115.

Their team-mates Gorbatyuk / Barleben completed a usual Russian-style, clean routine with solid execution, scoring them 28.803.

Belarusian's Bykhavtsov / Zharnasek scored 28.110 for their exercise, which contained some beautiful elements, including a y-scale on long arm, twisted round in to a flag highlighting the top's flexibility.

Apart from Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and South Africa also presented two partnerships in this event.

Women's Groups- Tempo Routine: 1. RUS2 - 2.RUS1 - 3. BEL

Russia dominated again with their second team, Turlacheva / Borzova / Baranovska, scoring highest, 28.651, followed by Russia1 Chistyikova /Stroynova / Loginova- 28.557.

Belgium (Geirnaert / van Hombeeck / Croket) came closest to the leaders, in third, 28.400.

This was the tightest competition so far with a difference of 2.511points between the first and the 13th group (Germany), as opposed to the Men's Pairs (5.710pts between the first and the last team in the current ranking).

Men's Groups- Balance routine / Pyramid: 1. CHN - 2. RUS - 3. RUS

The Chinese men looked confident in their first balance with the top performing a fantastic flag and planche on 3 high, they went on to demonstrate their strength in the discipline by performing an impressive and clean routine, scoring 28.625, taking them top of the balance qualification with three to go.

The Russian Men's Group(1) started the evenings proceedings with their balance routine- they had a matt on the floor for their 4 high pyramid, with the top in planche, but they held it without using the landing matt, and impressive start from the Russians, scoring 28.580.

The second Russian Group (RUS2) looked more shaky than their fellow countrymen in their first balance but still stuck it and went on to perform good middle and top neck skills on top of the their babes, with slide to splits with pike and straddle lever on top to end. They were awarded, 28.502 by the judges.

The British Men, who are current Junior World Champions, also want to replicate to success of the reigning world champions from Bromley Valley in London. They opened their routine with a stack on Bridge, with Sturt, the top performing a perfect planche twice during the difficult combination. Finishing with a crocodile on straddle lever on a 2 man based pyramid, a clean and dramatic routine from the men from Spelthorne Elite Acrobatics, scoring 28.451 with the judges- putting them behind the Russians and Chinese in fourth position.

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