

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 11, 2008: This was the longest and the hardest day of the competition, crucial for the final Team ranking and for making one's way through to Sunday's Finals when the 2008 Individual Champions for each discipline will be defined.

With Kelvin Hall filled to capacity, the audience witnessed another competition of a very high standard, with perpetual changes in the current rankings and many memorable routines. The Dynamic exercise of the Belgians, Florence Henrist and Tatjana De Vos (Flamenco), the Balance routine of the current World Champions in the Men's Pairs from Ukraine (Cherbak / Popov); the unorthodox choreography of the Dynamic exercise of the USA's Mixed Pair Kristin Allen and Michael Rodrigues, to name but a few.

A most unusual building of pyramids in the Women's Trios demonstrated the supremacy of defending World Champions Russia 1 (Chystyakova / Stroynova / Loginova) who moved from second into first place after their Balance routine. Some spectacular and very unusual balance elements were also presented by China 1 (Qian / Huang/Cai).

With one last exercise to go (Combines routine), the statistics showed that the biggest changes in the current ranking have occurred in the Men's Pairs where none of the top 8 partnerships from Friday stayed where they were, as Russia 1 (Pilipchuk / Dudchenko) took over the lead from China 1 (H.Yang / H.Chen).

The last routine (Combined), which tests both the balance and the dynamic skills of the performers, gave the final chance to the participating nations to improve their position in the final Team ranking and to every partnership - to make the Individual Finals.

In this conclusive rotation the participants competed in reverse order, depending on their results from the first two routines. It saw predominantly stable executions and fewer changes in the final qualifying positions in all five disciplines.

The more this 11-hour ACRO-Marathon, was approaching the end of the competition, the greater the number of the routines that the audience admired with loud applause.

Bulgaria's Mixed Pair's exercise choreographed to the popular music from the film "Scent of a Woman", the USA's passionate Tango; the British Women's Trio "Capone/Celtic Tiger" and Russia's 2 "Can-Can"; the Chinese Men's Four very original routine in red and the Russian Men's Group daring performance added strongly to confirming the credibility and attractiveness of the sport.

The rock-solid partnerships of Russia made it clear from the very beginning of the Championships that it would be very difficult, almost impossible to move them away from the first place in the Team Ranking.

They won the title with 49 pts, followed, as in Coimbra (POR) in 2006, by Great Britain, 44pts (Silver). For the first time in the history of the World Championships the Bronze medals went to Belgium (40pts). 4. Ukraine, 38pts 5. Bulgaria 33pts. 6. Germany 20pts. ,

Said **Vladimir Gyrgenidze**, the Head Coach of Russia:

“We are, of course, very happy with this victory. We have been provided with excellent conditions for our preparation, a big and beautiful Acrobatic Centre near Moscow and have prepared two teams, who had two training sessions per day. I don't dare predicting the results in the Individual Finals tomorrow because the scoring will start from a clean sheet and every little mistake will count”.

Matei Todorov, British Gymnastics ACRO Technical Director: “The new system that requires us to nominate 3 out of 5 partnerships in advance will count towards the final Team ranking and makes our task quite risky and unpredictable. To add to this, nobody knows what has been the nomination for the other Teams. I am, indeed, very happy with the Silver medals in Glasgow and thankful to all those gymnasts and coaches who contributed to the success – “Speltorne AC” and Neil Griffiths, in the first place.

Sergei Tretiakov, Ukrainian born, Head Coach of Belgium: “At last we did it! It took a lot of hard work over nearly a decade to get to this recognition. I am really pleased and looking forward to tomorrow's Finals”.