Dear Reader,

May I start, as always by thanking our Editor, John Beeton, who works so hard to try and keep us all abreast of any news and developments in our sport. Please circulate this newsletter as widely as possible.

One of the things I love about sport is that every day, some one, somewhere will realise a dream, whether it be to pass their first badge, to gain a podium position, or have one of their performers do well in their first major competition. As a coach I have seen numerous performers achieve their dreams, I know all too well the emotions that are felt by all involved. For Claire Wright with her Olympic place selection, one of her long term dreams, I’m sure; she is feeling a whole barrage of emotions, along with her coaches. May I, on behalf of everyone involved in British Trampolining, congratulate Claire and wish her the very best of luck at the Olympic Games to be held in Beijing this summer. I hope that all preparations are going well and that you are looking forward to the event.

However, Claire is not the only one to have had recent success on the international stage. Picture, if you will the picturesque town of Odense, Denmark. A nice, quiet sleepy town, full of pretty lanes and shops, then, invasion! The invasion of the European trampoline fraternity! With over 1000 senior and junior trampolinists, DMTer’s, Tumblers and officials and volunteers, Odense was not quite so quiet!

Denmark played host to the European and European Junior Championships at the end of April. The British Team had its ups and its downs, and not only on their chosen apparatus! Everyone performed well, but some with a few errors, not everyone reached their full potential, yet GB remained high in the medal tables. The Juniors, along gaining a small hoard of medals, showed great promise and gave us all encouragement as to what our future holds! A full report on the Europeans can be found later in this edition.

The competition season is now drawing to a close and the National Finals are only a few weeks away. I am sure that again, there will be many dreams realised at this event, and this year promises to be bigger and better than ever before, with all the National Finals taking place over the weekend. This spectacle of the top Grade 1, Grade 2, DMT and Synchro performers will be a delight for the audience, and a great triumph for the performers should everything go to plan!!

Tickets can be ordered from the NIA. It would be great to see as many people as possible there supporting all our performers. Tickets can be ordered from the NIA. It would be great to see as many people as possible there supporting all our performers. With competitions in mind, the next phase begins in October of the new competition structure. We know there are many opinions about the changes, but please approach things with an open mind. I can still remember when the current system was felt to be too radical and we went from 800 performers nationally to over 12,500 today. Good luck to all those that are taking part in competitions in the new season, enjoy the challenge of learning new skills and routines. It is going to be an exciting time for both competitors and judges, who will now have different routines to watch!!

I would like to end by saying to all of you, relax and enjoy the remaining summer days and nights, so that we are all refreshed for the new season, and can attack it with passion and vigour as we always do.

UEG CHAMPIONSHIP
Odense, Denmark

With such a large contingent representing Great Britain, it could not have been easy for British Gymnastics Staff to make the necessary arrangements for both travel and accommodation to this particular event; and with British Airways overbooking the main party flight out of Heathrow, combined shortly afterwards with accommodation problems in Odense DEN resulting in the 5 judges and two additional support staff having to be accommodated at a separate hotel from the team. As was, the accommodation at the OCC was excellent; and even better – on site.

3 Gold – Youth Girls team TUM, Youth Girls Ind TUM and Youth Girls Ind TRA, 4 Silver – Youth Girls team TRA, Senior Ladies team TUM, Senior Ladies Ind TUM and Youth Girls Ind TRA and 5 Bronze – Youth Girls Team DMT, Senior Ladies Team DMT, Senior Ladies SYN, Youth Boys SYN and Youth Girls Ind DMT along with a number of finalists in the various events proved this to be a most successful European Championships for Team GB.

Notice

Sadly, the visit of the Chinese Federation had to be postponed at the very last minute due to Visa problems for the Chinese. An alternative date for the visit will be issued soon.

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Email: john@beeton9.wanadoo.co.uk
The Fyn Arena and Conference Centre in Odense, Denmark provided one of the best venues experienced by the British Team for some time. The hotel accommodation was a mere hundred meters from the both the training and competition halls. This removed the normal frustrations associated with catching busses to and from the venue. Both gymnasts and coaches responded by adopting a relaxed but focused approach to the whole event and Tracy Whittaker and Nigel Rendell, in charge of the seniors used the training opportunities to good effect while Sarah Sylvester and Jay Scouler with the juniors carried out their training plan agreed at the pre competition training camp.

As far as the seniors were concerned, these championships were an opportunity to erase the memories of the disappointments of the Worlds in October and a chance for the juniors to build on some of the successes in the World Age event. Emma Smith, who had suffered an injury while competing in Quebec, grasped her chance in the most emphatic fashion. She qualified for the Girls final in fifth place but with the second highest Vol score She needed all her 13.1 tariff to see off the challenge of Russia’s Nadezhda Glebova who impressed with superb execution of her 11.2 difficulty routine. There was no doubt even before the scores went up, that Emma had just become European Champion.

Emma was in action earlier as part of a strong British junior team and excellent performances from Emma Britton, Emma Scanlon and Zoe Brookes took them to second place behind Russia in the team event. The girls’ team enjoyed even more success when Emma Britton and Zoe Brookes were just piped for gold in the synchro but can be justifiably proud of their silver medal in a very competitive field.

The junior boys all competed well and apart from one synchro mishap, our young men nailed every single routine. Pride of place however went to Luke Strong and Daniel Greaves, who looked like boys competing against men, but reached the final in 6th place and came through in thrilling fashion to take the bronze. The standard of the boys’ individual competition was so high that, despite performing close to their best, none of the British boys reached the final. This was particularly disappointing for Steven Williams who watched his name slowly descend the leader board from second to 9th with each successive flight and he had to be satisfied with being reserve for the final. The boys team suffered similar agonies having tied in 5th place with Germany they lost their finals place on count back! The coaches felt confident that this team could have been serious medal contenders in a straight “shoot out” of voluntaries. Nonetheless Steven, Scott Gregory, Luke Strong and Nick Davies will have gained much from the experience.

The success of the juniors augured well for the senior events and morale was high throughout the training sessions. The new look men’s team was always going to be short of experience but solid performances were expected from Jem Camble, Andrew Freeman, Steve Walsh and James Higgins. The sets were performed steadily enough but James really attracted attention with a stunning performance to hit the second highest execution mark in the competition. What followed in the vols was thoroughly disappointing as first Jem then Steve and finally James failed to complete, leaving Andrew as the only finisher in a creditable 32nd place overall. The men did however make amends in the synchro with James and Steve reaching the final in 6th place only marginally ahead of their teammates Michael and Andrew Freeman who finished 10th. In the final the Northampton boys were “outgunned” on tariff and slipped to seventh but they clearly have a future in this event should they choose to adopt it.

While the men struggled to cope with the standard, the British women were clearly one of the strongest teams on view. It was slightly unsettling for the team to note that the organisers had mistakenly reversed the team jump order. Claire Wright was to jump first instead of last and Yasmin Gumbs last instead of first, with Jaime Moore and Kat Driscoll between. The organisers were prepared to restore the order in which the team had been entered but a team discussion resulted in the ladies opting to leave the order as written. As it turned out, this proved to be very successful as Claire set the team off in fine style with both Jaime and Kat performing beyond anything they had done domestically leaving Yasmin to deliver a sound routine in the knowledge that her team were home and dry. The team entered the final in second place with a realistic chance of taking the gold. A further team discussion resulted in the decision to keep the jump order which had worked so well in the prelims. This had depended on Claire nailing a World Class Vol to set up the rest of the team. Sadly, a mistake halfway through her routine meant that she lost tariff and had to be satisfied with a sub 30.0 score. Despite super efforts from Jaime and Kat, Yas was left needing to score over 35.0 in order to snatch the bronze for the team. This was not to be and the team was left wondering if a reversal of the jump order might have resulted in a medal rather than the disappointing 4th place.

The excellent individual performances in the prelims which did so much to raise medal hopes for the team, resulted in both Claire and Jaime reaching the final with Kat in 10th and Yasmin 18th. In the final both girls jumped well but Claire once again experienced the disappointment of finishing outside the medals in 4th this time by a mere 0.1 and Jaime taking 7th spot.

The Ladies finally netted a medal when Claire Wright and Kat Driscoll followed an excellent synchro performance in the prelims with a desynch score of 9.3 in the final to take the bronze behind Chernova and Karavaeva of Russia.
Japanese Training Camp, Osaka

Five members of British Gymnastics set out for Osaka, JPN at the beginning of May where they were to participate in a training camp which had been set up at the conclusion of the 2008 World Championships. Whereas it was originally intended to take a larger men’s group, only James Higgins and Steven Walsh were finally selected. The Support staff included myself as Head of Delegation, Tracy Whitaker-Smith, Coach and Rebecca Edington the Analyst.

The team was accommodated close to both the airport and training / competition hall, with two training sessions held each day, with a day of rest prior to the start of the World Cup event which was being held the week after arrival.

Training was carried out together with members of both the Japanese national team, as well as AUS and UZB team members.

Steven Walsh has agreed to produce an article for this edition of Trampoline News based on his experience of the training camp - suffice to say that the camp was an undoubted success for both James and Steven as well as for the Support Staff.

WORLD CUP, OSAKA JPN

Martin Laws joined the team already in situ in Osaka for this world cup as the BG judge.

There was a disappointing entry for this event with only twelve nations participating, perhaps mainly due to the cost of participation, but more likely due to the congested international programme at this time of year.

It goes without saying that the event was professionally put together by the host federation and nothing was too much trouble for them. The volunteers were extremely friendly and all that was asked for, provided.

James Higgins and Steven Walsh performed admirably as the results will show and without doubt the training camp the week prior had helped tremendously after recent results. Steven finished in 15th place, his highest World Cup placing yet and their synchronised result (qualifying for finals in 4th place) was really encouraging, giving them their first ever World Ranking points.

British Men Results

Men Individual (32 entries)
15th James Higgins
27th Steven Walsh

Men Synchronised (10 entries)
08th James Higgins / Steven Walsh

WORLD CUP, PUBLIER FRANCE

Great Britain produced their strongest team for this the third world cup of the present series, with various degrees of success, some quite encouraging.

This event was combined with an ACRO World Cup which proved to be a successful venture. Hopefully, we will have further combined events in the future.

Results

Women Individual
03 Claire Wright
11 Katherine Driscoll
15 Jamie Moore
17 Yasmin Gumbs

Women Synchronised
02 Claire Wright / Katherine Driscoll
05 Jamie Moore / Katherine Driscoll (5th after prelims)

Men Individual
16 James Higgins
26 Steven Walsh
27 Luke Rendell

Men Synchronised
05 James Higgins / Steven Walsh
06 Andrew Freeman / Michael Freeman (6th after prelims)

Ciudad de Albacete

Double-Mini Trampoline

25 – 29 June 2008

Team Selection Announcement

British Gymnastics is pleased to announce the Double-Mini Trampoline team that will represent Great Britain at the 2008 Ciudad de Albacete that will take place in Albacete ESP later in the month.

Ladies
Kirsty Ward – Hitchin Salto (Lorraine George)
Louise Pennell – Jumpers (Nick Earle)
Nicola Pugh – Stockport (Sarah Scott)
Charlie Walmsley – High Flyers (Jon Webb)

Men
Mathew Swaffer – Jumpers (Nick Earle)
Jason Plowman – Jumpers (Nick Earle)
Dominic Swaffer – Jumpers (Nick Earle)
Officials
John Beeton – Head of Delegation
Nick Earle – Coach
Bill Leach – Judge

Congratulations to the gymnasts and their personal coaches and clubs, and to the officials on their selection.

On behalf of British Gymnastics, best wishes for a successful competition.

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Great Britain Team Selection for World Cups in Arosa SUI and Albacete ESP

The final two world cups in the present series take place during the current month in the towns of Arosa, Switzerland and Albacete, Spain.

Great Britain has named the following team members for each of these events as follows:

**Arosa 18-22 June**
HOD: Martin Laws
Coaches: Jack Kelly, Tracy Whittaker-Smith
Judge: Elizabeth Scales
Physio: TBC
Gymnasts: James Higgins, Steven Walsh (IND+SYN) Luke Rendell (IND) Andrew Freeman, Michael Freeman (SYN), Claire Wright, Katherine Driscoll (IND+SYN) Jamie Moore, Amanda Parker (IND)

**Albacete 25-29 June**
HOD: John Beeton
Coaches: Jack Kelly, Sarah Silvester
Judge: Claire Thompson
Physio:
Gymnasts: James Higgins, Steven Walsh (IND+SYN) Andrew Freeman, Michael Freeman (SYN) Yasmin Gumbs, Amanda Parker, Stacey Dann (IND)

British Gymnastics wishes all members of both teams the very best of luck in their endeavours.

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The FIG to Move to Lausanne

The Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) has formally and with great satisfaction taken note of the decision taken by the City of Lausanne’s Local Council, which at its ordinary meeting of May 6, 2008 accepted the sale of the Rue de la Gare 12 property and adjoining parcel of land.

In January of this year, the FIG decided to transfer its head office to the Olympic capital, pursuing the purchase of both properties. The Council's affirmative decision paves the way for the Federation's move to Lausanne in the very near future.

The oldest of international sport federations (1881), the FIG counts 128 national affiliated federations and employs 19 individuals as part of its Swiss staff, responsible for managing the Federation's 7 disciplines.

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Olympic Draw for Trampoline Competition - Page 7

The Japanese Experience

Steven Walsh

For the entire furore surrounding the rise of the Chinese as the dominant nation in Men’s trampoline in recent years, you could be forgiven for missing the superiority of their main competitors. For those who have missed it, the Japanese are hot on their coat-tails.

Results from the 2007 World Championships will show a China one-two as they gained their first world champion in Ye Shuai, but Japan followed up their impressive showing at the 2005 championships, where they took second and third in the Men’s event, with a third-fourth this time round.

With this in mind, Myself, team-mate James Higgins, coach Tracy Whittaker-Smith, analyst Rebecca Edginton and Head of Delegation John Beeton headed to Osaka shortly after the European Championships for a training camp with the Japanese prior to the World Cup in Osaka, later joined for the competition by judge Martin Laws.

Having been fortunate enough to train with the Chinese 2012 team last year, the different way in which the Japanese go about getting to the top of the rankings is quite apparent. While the Chinese style of training is quite militant, the Japanese are a lot more relaxed and eager to enjoy the ride as well as gain the results. That is not to say they don’t work hard and put the work in, it’s more a reflection on the differences in culture between the two.

Training along side Masaki Ito, Manabu Yamaguchi, Tetsuya Sotomura and former World Cup champion Yasuhiro Ueyama in Japan was both insightful and entertaining. Australia’s Scott Brown and Ben Wilden joined us for the camp also, and in total it made for a great training environment as well as a welcome change of scenery following a tough process of European trials followed by the Europeans itself in...
in Denmark.

The eight of us went out for dinner in Osaka prior to the start of the World Cup, and I can honestly say for such a successful bunch, you won’t meet many nicer, more humble people on the international circuit.

The World Cup itself was simply sensational.

Japan is a proud nation and they organised and operated the competition like their reputation depended on it - it was an unrivalled success. A near sell-out crowd for prelims and a full house for finals day made for one of the most special events I’m likely to compete at.

The Himawari (Sunflower) dome in Osaka was a stunning arena to compete in, as close to a stadium you get in a sport like ours, and it really was a pleasure to train and compete in that arena every day.

When we arrived for the competition on Saturday morning, there was already a hefty queue at the doors just to get inside – at this stage it was still three hours before the event started!

If you were a competitor you were treated like royalty, people wanted photo’s with you, wanted an autograph, or simply wanted to shake your hand. It was surreal to say the least. I kept wondering why the Japanese team stayed in the training hall all day. I soon found out as I went outside to get some air, and was practically mobbed! After watching in amusement for a while, John had to come and rescue me. I may have still been there now if not.

The World Cup was a success for me and James; though it is what we can implement for future training and competitions learned while in Japan that will stick with us most. As well as the memories of what was a quite amazing 12 days.

TRAMPOLINE WORLD CUP

EVIAN, FRANCE

Jack Kelly

Following the rather patchy performances at the World and European Championships, it was very satisfying to see the British team deliver a “full house” of routines. The team of five men and four women went “clean” on a total of 25 separate occasions much to the delight of team coaches Jack Kelly and Nigel Rendell. The outstanding British gymnast however was Claire Wright experiencing her first competitive outing since gaining selection as Britain’s Olympian in Beijing.

Claire enjoyed her best competition since winning the bronze medal at the 2007 World Cup Final, not only taking third place in a world class individual final, but excelling with Kat Driscoll in the synchro to take the silver behind the Russian pair of Karavaeva and Chernenkova. Kat had another good competition in her own right, finishing in eleventh place but perhaps paying the penalty for using the trifis in her compulsory exercise. Although competently performed, it prevented the rest of the routine scoring marks that would gain her access to the final of this calibre.

The men’s team had the most to prove following a disastrous European Championship and they certainly “refloated the boat.” James Higgins was top British man with a steady 17th place but once again showing he has the potential to develop into a World Class performer. His set work is already worthy of a finals place but he and his coach Tracy Whittaker are sensibly capping his difficulty in favour of stability. Indeed James had the lowest difficulty out of the top 25 gymnasts indicating that there is much more to come. James also combined with Northampton club mate Steve Walsh to reach yet another synchro final, relying on their good form and de-synch marks to see off some more established pairings. Once again the GB tariff was at least one whole mark behind the other finalists yet secured fifth place, promising much for the future. The FIG ruling which allows only one synchro pair per nation in the final, worked against a fine performance from Andrew and Michael Freeman who finished one place behind their team mates. The Kingston TC twins were only 0.7 behind and could have reached the final in their own right.

Steve Walsh and Luke Rendell, competing in his first senior international, had a rare battle in the individual event with both giving mature, consistent performances. Steve finished twenty-sixth, just 0.1 ahead of Luke in twenty-seventh; that margin being the difference between their tariffs. Luke’s composure was remarkable following a stressful warm up period but the experience will have proved highly valuable.

The second women’s synchro pairing of Jaime Moore and Yasmin Gumbs suffered the same fate as the Freeman twins. They finished the prelims in fifth place which would have merited an appearance in the final, but this was denied due to the higher placing of Wright and Driscoll. Jaime put in her usual strong compulsory performance in the individual but made a slight mistake in the voluntary which resulted in her losing tariff, although did her utmost to retain form and control. The result was an uncharacteristic 15th place. Yasmin continued to establish herself as a consistent international performer with two solid routines to finish only two places behind Jaime.

Overall this improved team performance will have lifted confidence and boosted team spirit for the remaining 2008 World Cup events.

FIG NEWS

The Youth Olympic Games (YOG), recently introduced by the IOC, will be added to the list of official FIG competitions in the Technical Regulations. The Executive approved the new YOG regulations.

Criteria for qualification to the Olympic Games are under revision. Concrete proposals will be submitted to Council members for approval.
To be eligible the performer must be:

- A British Citizen
- A British Gymnastics’ member in good standing

**TRAMPOLINE WORLD CLASS PODIUM SQUAD**

Eligibility for selection onto the 2008/9 Trampoline World Class Podium Squad for women is set at 2 scores of 64.0 or more in senior competition up to and including the British National Championships, at least 1 of which must be achieved internationally.

Eligibility for selection onto the 2008/9 Trampoline World Class Podium Squad for men is set at 2 scores of 67.0 or more in senior competition up to and including the British National Championships, at least 1 of which must be achieved internationally.

**TRAMPOLINE WORLD CLASS DEVELOPMENT SQUAD**

To be eligible for selection onto the 2008/9 World Class Development Squad Performers must be aged between aged 14-23 years.

They may be selected according to one of two methods:

**Method 1. Selection for ‘Established Talent’:**

Performers who have achieved scores in competition that marks them as already internationally competitive.

These Performers will be eligible based on the competition scores published for the 2007/8 World Class Development Squad:

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<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Competition Senior Competition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>U19M 60.5 U19F 58.0 U23M 63.0 U23F 60.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>U19M 60.0 U19F 64.0 U23M 61.0</td>
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1 Age limits indicate birthday during 2008, i.e. year of birth between 1985 and 1994. Note that minimum age of competition at the Olympic Games is 18.

2 Scores are 2-round qualification scores achieved twice during 2008, at least once in international competition or at the British National Championships

**Method 2. Selection for Emerging Talent:**

Performers who have the characteristics necessary for future international success, but may not yet have fully emerged in competition.

These Performers will be eligible through a process of application and audition.

Performers who have competed in Grade 1 competition during 2008 and have demonstrated a form score of at least 7.4 in their set routine and completed a voluntary routine with a minimum difficulty as shown below, may apply:

Minimum completed difficulty in voluntary routine

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A short list of applicants will then be invited to audition sessions at Loughborough on 20/21 September (both days) where they will be assessed as follows:

**Technical Characteristics:**
- Jumping height
- Accuracy
- Basic technical skills
- Movement adaptability

**Physical Characteristics:**
- Jumping power
- Shoulder / hip / ankle flexibility
- Core stability
- Muscular endurance
- Musculoskeletal / medical exam

**Interview:**
- Commitment, coach ability, training set up, etc.

**Details:**
Full details of these assessments will be included with the invitation to audition. Assessment of Technical Characteristics will be focused on skill delivery rather than judging criteria.

Attendance at the auditions will be partly subsidised.

Applications may be prepared by the Performer and Coach, and must be submitted by the Performer, with the coach’s signature, to reach British Gymnastics by Friday 18 Jul 2008.

The Programme will focus on technical, physical and competitive performance development through Squad training, medical and conditioning services, appropriate competition, financial grants, support for individual Performers and their coaches, and exposure to World Class practice. Successful participation will require a significant commitment from the Performer to the Squad and in their home training.

An induction camp for those selected is provisionally scheduled for 27-31 October 2008.
Those invited:
Matt Buckley (14)
Zachary Sheridan (11)
Jason Ryall (12)
Jordan George (14)
Daniel Fawcett (12)

Girls
Chloe Liddle (10)
Megan Pettit (12)
Lucy Alcock (12)
Natasha Short (12)
Pamela Clark (12)

Emma Britton was also invited but was unable to attend.

The squad was held at Rossmore Leisure Centre, Poole (26 - 28 May) where Olga Trampoline Club’s head coach, Sharon Wood, organised the facilities and food, our thanks to her for a great job.

The squad was chosen using set scores to identify performers, then these were ranked and looked at by myself at the Galas to make a decision as to who it was felt would benefit for attending. This squad was not a British Squad but part of British Gymnastics talent identification and development. The aim was to introduce younger performers to what being with a squad entails, living together, training with both performers and coaches that are not known to them, learning to support others in the squad that are your competitors on the national circuit, having input from different coaches and giving the opportunity to less experienced personal coaches to work with more experienced ones.

The programme was planned to give performers and coaches an insight into what would be needed to make the top along with technical input on the technical priorities. The days started with a run on the beach at 7.30 lead by Brian Liddle (Chloe’s Dad) who is an ex professional footballer assisted by June Short (Natasha’s Mum) and Robert Clark (Pamela’s Dad). The warm-up, in the morning along with strength and condition was lead by Luke Rendell (a qualified fitness instructor and international trampolinist) and in the afternoon by Louise Finney (Lucy Alcock’s coach and Lecturer in sports science).

The coaching groups (3) were lead by John Beer, Bill Leach and Brian Camp with all the personal coaches assisting.

The team spirit, support and co-operation was exemplary, creating not only a hard working atmosphere but one that all the performers involved enjoyed and learnt a lot from.

An activity was organised each evening, Monday a presentation was given by Claire Wright followed by over 45 minutes of questions from the group. This was followed by a presentation to the coaches by Claire’s coach Nigel Rendell on Claire’s training and how she is preparing for the Olympic Games.

On the Tuesday a quiz night was held and I have got to say a very noisy evening as all performers, coaches and parents were so competitive.

This was one of the most enjoyable squads I have attended for many years.

It is hoped to hold more of the same type of squads during the year with an under 19 squad planned for July.

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**FIG Trampoline Gymnastics Development Program**

**Eligibility Criteria for Federations to receive two Trampolines.**

The purpose of this program is to develop Trampoline Gymnastics in those FIG affiliated Member Federations, who have never participated in Trampoline World Championships in order to raise the number of participating federations in FIG Trampoline events.

The FIG, together with its partner Eurotramp, offers two Trampolines free of charge (ex Eurotramp factory in Weilheim GER) to the FIG affiliated Federations who fulfil the following criteria:

- Not participated in Trampoline World Championships in the past.
- Organised a Trampoline Academy course in their country and participated successfully in this course with at least 6 coaches
  Or
- Participated successfully in a Trampoline Academy course in another country with at least two coaches and organised a special introductory course for coaches wishing to teach Trampolining in their own country with the successful participation of at least 6 coaches under the leadership of an FIG recognised and nominated Trampoline course leader.

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