

World Silver for Oxford's Gymnastics Stars!

Three acrobatic gymnasts from the Oxford School of Gymnastics have triumphed in the 2010 World Championships, winning the silver medal for their Country. Fran Groves, Rebecca Evans and Freya Clempson represented Great Britain in this prestigious event held in Poland and beat Countries from all over the world to gain the silver and in the end were only narrowly defeated by Russia. The girls had to perform both their balance and dynamic routines in the qualifying rounds and get in the top 8 out of 27, to qualify for the final. In such a world class field, to reach the top 8 was initially the girls goal of the competition, however after finishing second behind Russia after their dynamic routine and maintaining this position after the balance routine, they started to believe they could medal which was a dream come true. Going into the final, all scores went back to zero and the pressure was immense. A nervous GB trio warmed up, but with a quiet determination to not let all their hard work in qualifications stand for nothing. After a long wait, they performed their routine with style and technical accuracy showing everyone that they really were world class. Final scores – Russia 28.15 GOLD, Great Britain 27.90 SILVER and Belarus 27.65 BRONZE.

It's fair to say that it was a rocky road in preparation for the championships! Fran and Freya who train at the clubs base at Lord Williams's School in Thame, originally qualified to represent their country with another gymnast, Rebecca Brookes, however she was forced to withdraw 6 weeks before the event through injury and Rebecca Evans stepped in to replace her. This was an emotional time for all, especially for the injured Rebecca Brookes who despite her bitter disappointment at not being able to compete, fully supported the girls and travelled to Poland to cheer them on, displaying maturity and kindness well beyond her young years. Her replacement, Rebecca Evans was under a lot of pressure to learn the routines and to reach the standard required for this world event and true to form she put everything and more into the preparation, pushing herself to the absolute limit. This hard work payed off much to the delight and pride of their coaches Emma Parr and Caroline Day, the National Coach and the huge number of supporters who travelled to Wroclaw, Poland, to cheer them on. The girls success was echoed by the overall British team medal tally of 4 gold, 6 silver medals and overall team silver - the best ever result for GB. If only Acrobatics was an Olympic sport!!

For more information about the club, please visit the clubs website at www.oxfordschoolofgymnastics.com