

Perth Gymnastics Club stealing the show at Scottish Championships 2012!

The weekend of 18th & 19th February was the Scottish Gymnastics Artistic National Championships for 2012. This was a 2 day event & a chance for Scotland's gymnasts to perform their best routines in order to become Scottish Champion & to compete in apparatus finals to become Scottish Champion on a specific piece of apparatus!

On the women's side 12 year old Perth Gymnastics Club Scottish National Squad gymnast Emily Ford was competing in the youngest age group – Espoir. Saturday 18th was the chance to compete for the overall title & to qualify for apparatus finals. Emily started her competition on Beam - a steady routine gave her a great start with a score of 10.167. Moving on to Floor next and a lovely routine gave her another great score of 11.267. Vault next & performing two different Vaults to qualify for the apparatus finals with a few steps on landing Emily achieved another great score of 12.00. With a clean competition so far Bars was the last piece of the day. An unfortunate fall from going over the top on her upstart cast to handstand gave a score of 8.067 for Bars. Emily's focus & determination were clear to see throughout the competition & with encouragement from coach Isabel Walton Emily took 1st place with an overall score of 41.501 to become Espoir Scottish Champion for 2012. Emily's high scores also meant she had qualified for apparatus finals on all 4 pieces. Sunday 19th was the chance for Emily to compete to try & take the title on all 4 pieces of apparatus to give her a clean sweep of gold medals. Emily started her bid on Floor with a score of 11.500. Beam next with a score of 10.467. Next was Bars and without a fall today, giving her an improved score of 9.133. Last was Vault with a score of 12.166. Producing more great routines Emily managed to become Espoir Scottish Champion for 2012 not only overall but also on Vault, Bars, Beam & Floor placing 1st on each piece of apparatus. What a great result for the 12 year old gymnast - a huge well done!! Emily is also sponsored by Blue Crags Embroidery – Cupar.

On the men's side, also 12 year old Perth Gymnastics Club Scottish National Squad gymnast Ryan McKerchar competed in the under 14 age group. Ryan scored 12.400 on Floor, 3.300 on Pommels, 9.800 on Rings, 12.00 on Vault, 11.00 on Parallel Bars & 10.450 on High Bar giving Ryan an overall score of 58.95 placing 5th position overall. Ryan's scores also meant he had qualified to compete in all the apparatus finals on Sunday 19th. Producing some great routines on the Sunday with an even better High Bar routine gave him a score of 11.00 which placed Ryan in joint 3rd position & he received a bronze medal for High Bar. A great result for Ryan – well done!!

As well as their great success at the Scottish Championships both Emily & Ryan have been selected to represent Scotland in the International Celtic Cup Competition which will be held in Dublin on 14th April. A massive well done to both gymnasts on being selected & we wish the best of luck for your upcoming competitions.

Emily & Ryan both train in Bells Sports Centre – Perth – 3 nights during the week & have to travel to different gyms across the country at the weekend in order to practise their new skills & routines in purpose built gymnastic facilities. We are always looking for sponsors & funding to enable us to buy new equipment & matting for our gymnasts to train on. Perth Gymnastics Club are currently looking for gymnastics coaches also & welcome new members of all ages so for more information please visit our website www.perth-gymnastics-club.co.uk or get in touch with our Head Coach – Isabel Walton on 07908768601. You can also now like us on Facebook & follow us on Twitter.