

New Title Holders at National Gym Champs

The Isle of Man Gymnastics Association held the 2011 National Gymnastics Championships at Ellan Vannin Gymnastics Club on Saturday (15th October). A new era beckoned as last years champions gave way to the next crop of rising stars.

In the boys competitions the Under 8 group consisted of just two boys Adam Palmer and Ewan Wellraith who battled it out on all six pieces of apparatus. It was Adam who showed strongest winning gold on five pieces but Ewan took gold on Rings. The overall gold medal and the Title of Under 8 Champion went to Adam Palmer.

In the Under 10 competition it was Callum Kewley who was the star, winning gold on every piece of apparatus which earned him the overall gold medal and the title of Under 10 Champion. His best piece was pommel where he scored 9.6. Joshua Morrison came 2nd overall to win the silver to go with his silver medal on Rings and three bronzes on Vault, P-bars and High bar. Third overall was Glen Quayle who took silver on P-bars and four bronze medals. Aaron Dougherty won silver on Vault and came 4th overall and Connor Esp, who could only compete two apparatus due to injury, won Silver on both Floor and Pommel. A good showing by all the boys.

In the Under 12 competition Nick Harvey was strong favourite but a disaster on Vault put him under pressure. Such was the strength of his performances on the other pieces he took three gold and two silver and made up ground to take the overall gold medal and the title of under 12 champion. Robert Jones also made mistakes but showed resolve to earn silver overall and three silver medals on pommel, P-bars and High bar. Oliver Scott capitalised on others mistakes with clean routines to take bronze medal overall and with gold on both Rings and Vault and bronze on the other four pieces. A spirited display by Cedric Lucas took bronze on both Rings and Vault helping him to finish in fourth place. Jack Usher showed the quality of his floor work by taking the gold medal on Floor and he also won Silver on the Vault.

Daniel Isherwood took the title of under 14 champion as the only competitor but still showing some strong moves such as a top change and under somersault on P-bars helping him to a score of 10.8.

Lawrence Godsell took the title of under 16 champion as the only competitor in that age group but he took part in the over 16 competition taking four silver medals and two bronze to earn second place in the Men's championship. Anand Patel took part in the over 16 competition despite still recovering from a broken arm and demonstrated his grit and quality by taking two gold medals on Floor and Vault along with the bronze overall medal. Last year's champion Alex Hedges could not compete due to work commitments but brother Adam Hedges flew in for the weekend from Norwich, where he is at University, to take part. Calling on his experience, including participating in the Commonwealth Games in Delhi last year, he won four gold medal places and two silver medal places to gain the overall gold medal and the Title of Isle of Man Men's National Champion. Adam is training at Norwich Gym Club during term times whilst at University.

