

U23 UK CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT

Squad members

Ben Foote, James Kerry, Bobby Elston, George Goodwin. Tristan Elliot, Owen Morgan, James Usherwood, Joe Birch, George Witt, Tom Knott, Dan Kenny.

What a great performance from our squad at the UK Championships you did England and our Association proud and it was a pleasure to lead you onto the pulling ground.

Our preparation for a high class competition like the UKs was not ideal as we can only select our squad after the national championships, so it gives us few opportunities to try our pullers out. With abysmal weather this year and cancellations of events we only had one event to try our line up out at Felton Eccles two weeks before the UKs. I am pleased to say that every member of our squad made themselves available.

With such a packed program it was only possible to have three ends of tug of war with Sandhurst and we are grateful for the help from them, Felton and our officials and clubs for allowing us to do so.

It is a shame that no other U23 teams from other countries, other than ourselves, were able to compete at the UKs but none the less after a mix up at the weigh in, which Rosemary Smith (Wales) sorted out for us, we were entered into the nine team competition for the closed 600 kilo Championships - the biggest entry for a good number of years and it was an absolute cracker of a competition for our squad to be involved in. We had a great competition giving everyone good pulls the most memorable ones being against the host nations Wales "A" and "B" and Scotland "B" - real crowd pleasers and a good advert for our sport. I cannot praise our U23 squad enough you are a great credit to England our Association and the youth in our sport.

It just goes to show the quality of our young pullers three ends of tug of war and straight into a Championship event - well done lads.

Although we did not win any medals with the England U23 squad three of our pullers were involved with the 4x4 championship resulting in gold and silver medals. Well done Owen and James with Bedford and James with Holland.

We would like to thank the Welsh Association for their hospitality shown to our squad during the UK Championships and the encouragement, support and problem solving given to our squad from our Association, Clubs and individuals making it such a great weekend for our England U23s development squad.

Dave Knott England U23 Manager/Coach