

Gordon Finch
Gymnastics Coach at
The British School of the Netherlands

Gordon Finch first brought his gymnastics teams to compete in what we now know as the ISGA 5 Piece Championships in March 1986, when it was hosted at Port Regis School, Shaftesbury, Dorset. In 2017, after 32 years of bringing his teams over to the UK to compete very successfully in the independent schools' championships, Gordon decided to hand over the baton to others at BSN, at the end of the ISGA 5 Piece Championships held at Tormead School. Congratulated and honoured by his Headmistress, Mrs Karren van Zoest, who was at the Presentation, and ISGA Chairman, June Walden, Gordon was given a rousing send off.

Gordon hosted this competition twice at BSN in The Hague, in 1994 and 2002. It was known then as the GISGA Championships. Gymnasts and coaches alike were excited to compete abroad and some schools took an extra day or two to go sightseeing in the Netherlands: windmills, clogs, flower auction, canals, Delft pottery and much more being the order of the day.

Along with The British School of Brussels, of Belgium, Gordon has brought an international flavour to our competitions since the mid 1980's. One or two other British schools have joined us for a year, but only BSN and BSB have competed every year since being invited.

For many years his wife, who is also a teacher, accompanied the BSN teams to the UK and it wasn't long before their two daughters were old enough to get in on the act, competing in a total of 24 championships and collecting a huge number of medals between them. Both girls have followed in their parent's footsteps and are now PE teachers. The elder daughter and her husband are teaching PE abroad, whilst her sister teaches PE at a school in London and up until recently coached their gymnastics teams at ISGA competitions.

The family donated the 'Finch Plate,' which is awarded to nominated gymnasts who have had to overcome extraordinary difficulties to enable them to take part.

Gordon continues to teach at BSN and we wish him and his family all the very best for the future.