

SPECIAL OLYMPICS EAST HERTS ARE BRONZE WINNERS



[Ian Leader](#), [Bella Moncur-Byrne](#), [Andre Hagley-King](#), [Harry Herbert](#), [Mitchell Wright](#)
[Mitchell Gosling](#)

The first competition of the new season saw two East Herts teams travel to Sidcup, Kent for an open boccia competition on Sunday 16th October 2016, organised by Bexley Dodgers Boccia Club and Special Olympics.

Twelve teams from Surrey, Bexley, Herne Bay, Thames Gateway, St Albans and Harlow were organised into two pools with each pool subdivided again.

All matches consisted of six ends and Rising Stars got off to a good start against The Seagulls winning the first end 1-0. However the opposition were not to be outdone and scored 2-0 in the second end, with Rising Stars coming back with another 1-0 end followed by 2-0 from Herne Bay. Despite being 4-2 down, Rising Stars

seemed to rally round and won the last two ends 2-0 and 3-0. All three team members played their part with Mitchell Wright and Ian Leader playing key shots. The score stood at 4-4. The final end was a close run thing but the captain Mitchell Gosling took a risk and it paid off. The final score a 7-4 win.

Rising Stars second match followed on swiftly. This was versus Thames Gateway. Another match during which the lead shifted from one team to the other: 2-0 to Rising Stars both points scored by Balls from Mitchell Wright, 0-2, 1-0 (Ian's winning shot), 0-1. Unfortunately this time the Rising Stars were unable to take the initiative and lost the last two ends, with the final score 8-3 to Thames Gateway who proved to be the better team.



'Shooting Stars'
Andre, Bella and Harry

Shooting Stars began their campaign facing Herne Bay Herons. They made a dream start winning the first 2 ends 3-0, 3-0 with a superb first shot from Harry Herbert which landed right in front of the jack ball and effectively blocked the opposition. Herne Bay came back with a 3-0 end but this was dismissed by Shooting Stars who recorded a 3-0 and 1-0 fourth and fifth end, after Captain Bella Moncur-Byrne challenged the opposition by playing a long jack ball. Herons scored a consolation 1-0 final end but Shooting Stars had already won the match 10-4.

Their second match versus Prince Arthur Knights was a closer affair. Shooting Stars won the first three ends

with excellent shots from Andre Hagley-King but dropped the 4th and 5th. They rallied in the last and finished 5-3 winners. Good decisions by captain Bella to play safe with dead balls ensured the win.

Both teams went into the playoffs. Rising Stars were matched against Prince Arthur Knights and again it seemed as if they were equally matched and after the first two end the score was 1-1. In the third end Rising Stars went ahead 2-0 after the last shot of the game from Mitchell Gosling. The team continued the momentum and won the last three ends resulting in a 5-2 win, securing 7th place.

The bronze medal playoff between Shooting Stars and YMCA Thames Gateway proved no challenge at all and Shooting Stars were runaway winners 15-0.

These results bode well for the start of the Boccia England League in the New Year.