

BOCCIA ENGLAND LEAGUE 2016

Two teams representing Special Olympics East Herts played their first competitive match of the season in the Boccia England League on Saturday 25th April 2016 against Hatfield Eagles at The Jim McDonald Centre in Hatfield.

Shooting Stars had their first match against Golden Eagles and after six ends successfully beat their opponents 9 points to 2.

The next match saw SOEH Olympians play Happy Eagles which proved to be a very close match right up to the end. The lead passed from one side to the other right up to the end when the two teams could not be separated, both scoring 5 points each. This resulted in a tie break end which SOEH won by the closest of margins, 1-0.

Shooting Stars then beat Happy Eagles in their second game 8-2, which proved to be a comfortable win like their first game.

SOEH were hoping to match the success of their fellow club players when they played Golden Eagles, and halfway through the game were winning. However they were not able to sustain this and eventually lost by 3 points to 5.

All four games were played with great spirit and the standard was very high, despite some of the final score lines.

Tuesday 3rd May saw Special Olympics East Herts Boccia Club host Special Olympics St Albans at Presdales School in Ware. This fixture has become an annual event in the Boccia England League fixtures diary and has usually been hotly contested.

Shooting Stars played St Albans 1 in the first match. Shooting Stars quickly got into their stride and were run away winners 12-1. All players were at the top of their game.

Match two between SOEH and St Albans 2 proved a much closer affair with SOEH battling their opponents throughout to the 6 end but unfortunately they lost out at the end 4-5.

Shooting Stars were much too strong for their opponents St Albans 2. They won comfortably 15-0 after an excellent, well-focussed match.

Finally SOEH faced St Albans 1. SOEH were still smarting from their close game and subsequent loss and were determined to play at their best. After the lead changing back and forth, SOEH came out on top winning 8-5, a testament to their determination.

The final match of the Boccia England League was between the two Special Olympics East Herts teams on Tuesday 10th May.

Both sets of players were eager to reach the National Finals. Shooting Stars having done so last year, with SOEH having just missed out by losing one match.

SOEH scared their opponents by taking an early lead. It needed a definite change in tactics by Shooting Stars, exploiting their strengths and their opponents' weaknesses, to turn the match around and winning 9-3.

A clean sweep for the Shooting Stars in East 1 division of the Boccia England National League