

East Herts Wins Silver at Boccia England Nationals



Bella Moncur-Byrne, Andre Hagley-King, Harry Herbert

Three East Herts pupils travelled to Sheffield for the Boccia England Nationals Competition on Friday 25th April 2015. Over 300 teams competed in School Games competitions around the country with the aim of winning a place at the Nationals. The East Herts Team comprised of Bella Moncur-Byrne pupil at Presdales School, Harry Herbert pupil at Pinewood School and Andre Hagley-King pupil at Amwell View School and Specialist Sport College. Twelve pan disability teams competed at the competition all fighting for the honour of being crowned the best schools team in England.

The morning consisted of 3 pool matches against South East, Yorkshire and Central Regions. The East Herts team quickly got into their stride winning 8-3, and 4-1 but lost their last group game 4-2. However after lunch the players found that they had progressed to the semi-finals as the highest scoring runner-up.

Against the East Midlands opponents, the players held their nerve and played with

great composure and maturity to win 5-3, which took them through to the final.

This match saw them up against their nemesis from the pool stages, Central. They proved to be well-drilled opponents with a few more years' experience than the East Herts team, and the final score was 5-2 to Central.

The players were presented with the silver trophy and individual medals by GB's David Smith, 2012 Paralympic silver medallist and currently ranked no 1 in the world.



Presentation made by David Smith Paralympian

To complete a fantastic day, Bella was also awarded **Boccia England's Young Player of the Year 2015**.



Bella Moncur-Bryne – Player of the Year 2015

East Herts Coach, Rita Leader, said: ***“This was a wonderful achievement for a team that has grown up together over the last two to three years. They all bring something different to the game and this balanced approach has proved a winning formula. They were amazed that they had managed to reach the finals but to perform so well was beyond all our hopes. They commit themselves to training every week and this has obviously paid off. Thanks also go to Mitchell Wright (Amwell View) who played in the earlier stages of the competition, but who, unfortunately, was unable to join the team on the day”.***

For more information about the East Herts Boccia club please look at Website: www.specialolympicseastherts.org Our Clubs / Area 2 / Boccia.