

Hertford and Ware School Sport Partnership

Pan Disability Boccia Team : Winners Again!



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

Once again Hertford & Ware School Sport Partnership was invited to field two teams in the Herts School Games U19 Schools Boccia Championships. This was held at Wodson Park Sport Centre in Ware on Tuesday 6th December 2016. These County Championships organised by Boccia England and Lord's Taverners were host to teams from North Herts, North East Herts, Welwyn and Hatfield, Dacorum and Stevenage.

This year the two Hertford & Ware squads consisted of players

representing a number of schools and colleges in the region, including Amwell View School and Sports and Specialist Sports College, Pinewood and Watton-At-Stone Schools.

The **physical disability** competition consisted of 5 teams The Hertford & Ware team playing in lime green t-shirts was a newly assembled team made up of young members, some playing at their first competition. Despite a shaky start their confidence grew as the tournament progressed and they were great ambassadors for their respective schools. They won one match (5-4),

drew one (2-2) and lost two (1-8 and 0-6).

The Physical Disability team: Kym Shepherd, Joshua Mardell (both Amwell View), Ellie and Zack Daniells (c) (Watton-At-Stone School). Certainly ones to watch for the future!

The **pan disability** competition consisted of 6 teams, two pools of three teams. Hertford & Ware won both pool matches but only by the narrowest of margins (5-3, 4-3) As winners of the pool they then faced runners-up of the other pool, Welwyn and Hatfield in the semi-final.

This was a nervy game with both teams feeling the pressure, the opposition fielding a very strong team. Both teams played some remarkable shots and the captains were called upon to rally their players and consider some tactical changes. The teams were so well matched that after the four ends there was nothing to separate them at 4-4. A tie break was needed to decide the overall winners and Hertford & Ware succeeded in winning the final end and therefore the match 5-4.

The final was played between Hertford & Ware and Stevenage. Hertford & Ware started well with wins in the first four ends (2-0, 2-0, 2-0, 1-0) but the players started to feel the pressure and supporters and coach were left biting their nails

as Stevenage won the last two ends (0-1 and 0-2). Fortunately this was not enough and Hertford & Ware remain champions 7-3 for another year, progressing to the next round, the East Region Competition.

The Pan Disability team: Andre Hagley-King (Amwell View), Harry Herbert and Joshua Barklem (Pinewood School) and captain Bella Moncur-Byrne.

Coach, Rita Leader: *"Congratulations to all the players for their efforts and their sportsmanlike behaviour throughout the tournament. Despite the high standard of this year's tournament, the players held their nerve. They played with great maturity and composure to pull it out of the bag when it mattered. The two squads are an interesting mix of experienced and inexperienced players, which bodes well for the future."*