

**Special Olympics represent Hertford & Ware at
Herts School Games Pan Disability Boccia Championships**

2017

This year's championships were once again hosted at Wodson Park Sport Centre in Ware on December 5th.

Hertford & Ware School Sport Partnership fielded a squad with players from Special Olympics East Herts Boccia Club.

The pan disability competition consisted of a league consisting of seven teams. Hertford & Ware's first game was played against Dacorum and proved to be an easy starter to the day, winning 7-0. The confidence from this game spilled into the 2nd match versus North Herts and Hertford & Ware were triumphant with a score of 8-0.

Riding high from this ideal start the squad were brought back to earth with a loss against Welwyn & Hatfield. This strong opponent won the first 3 ends 1-0, 1-0 and 2-0 but Hertford & Ware scored in the 4th end. The final score was 1-4.

Not to be downhearted all the players knuckled down again and they won the fourth match against Watford & Hertsmere 6-0.

The final two matches after lunch required concentration and some clever tactical decisions from the captain.

The game against NE Herts seesawed between the two teams. Hertford & Ware started slowly losing the first end 0-1, but came back with a well fought 2-0 and then 1-0. NE Herts won the fourth end 1-0 but this was not quite good enough and Hertford & Ware squeezed a 3-2 win.

Their final game was an equally nail biting one. Stevenage flew out of the traps, winning the first three ends 1-0, 2-0, 1-0 but the Hertford & Ware squad played the best boccia of their tournament to score 4-0 in the last end and drew the match.

Dan Headley from Boccia England presented the winners medals to the Hertford & Ware players: Harry Herbert (captain), Joshua Barklem, Mia, Zack and Ellie Morey.

The squad has qualified for the East Region competition in February next year.

Coach Rita Leader said: "Congratulations to all the players for such a spirited effort and their desire not to let setbacks affect their overall play. As always the squad played for each other and were very supportive. What a great group of young people to work with."