

South Regional U15 Sportshall Final : 4th March 2017

The Berkshire U15 Sportshall Boys teams arrived at Burgess Hill knowing they could make their own little bit history by retaining the U15 boys Regional Champions title for the third consecutive year. A number of the team experienced the National finals last year, finishing third, and were determined to have the opportunity to go better this year. Not to be outdone the girls team was also quietly confident of putting in a strong performance and pushing for the honours. The scene was set for an exciting competition once again. Surrey once again looked to be strong along with Sussex in both competitions.

The boys started well with Harrison Thorne (SJAC) winning the 2 lap race with James Southard (BAC) 3rd and John Oladunjoye (SJAC) 4th =. The boys struggled in the 4 lap race with Feranmi Sanni (SJAC) our top placed athlete coming 5th. The pressure was mounting on the boys for some outstanding performances in the field events. Harrison Thorne (SJAC) won the shot (11.65m) with Joel Cable (BAC) 2nd (11.29m); John Oladunjoye (SJAC) was 2nd (2.59m) and Stuart Bladon (TK) 3rd (2.57m) in the standing long jump and some solid speed bounce performances meant the boys were in a good place going into the final events, the 8 lap Paarlauf and 4x2 lap relay. Knowing the win was on the line Feranmi Sanni (SJAC) and Stuart Bladon (TK) ran a brilliant Paarlauf race, atoning for the 4 laps earlier, to finish 2nd behind Sussex but ahead of Surrey. The 4x2 quartet was strengthened by the inclusion of the 7th man on the team, Luke Turner (BAC), and they ran brilliantly with some very well disciplined hand-offs to win in a super fast time of 1:29.4.



With that win the boys secured overall title of South Regional Champions 2017, a third consecutive U15 boys title..

In the individual all-rounder competition Harrison Thorne (SJAC) was 1st and John Oladunjoye (SJAC) 2nd .

With the boys performing well the girls did not want to disappoint - and they did not. With a team combining experience from competing last year at this level with 4 girls competing at the U15 level for the first time it was going to require a solid team performance to push both Surrey and Sussex. The girls started really strongly in the 2 lap race with Yasmin Grosvenor (BAC) 2nd ; Hope Dandjinou (SJAC) 6th and Olivia Phelps (MAC) 8th . Natasha Bennett (BAC) and Abbie Sillett (BAC) followed this with 8th = in the 4 lap race. Once again it was in the field events and working well as a team that the girls picked up very valuable points. In the vertical jump Yasmin Grosvenor (BAC) was 3rd = (60) and Abbie Sillett (BAC) was 6th = (58). In the standing long jump Chante Williams (BAC) was 6th (2.33m). In the shot the girls really put themselves in contention for the title as they scored maximum points with Hope Dandjinou 1st (10.28m), Yasmin Grosvenor (BAC) 2nd (10.22m) and Chante Williams (BAC) 3rd (9.86m).



This put the girls in a strong position going into the final track events, the Paarlauf and the 4x2 relay. Abbie Jones (MAC) came into the team as the 7th athlete for the Paarlauf and showed great spirit and determination as she combined with Natasha Bennett (BAC) to secure a well fought win. The girls again ran superbly in the 4x2 relay to finish 2nd behind the eventual overall winners from Surrey.

The U15 girl team ended the competition in 2nd place, well ahead of 3rd placed Hampshire.

Yasmin Grosvenor (BAC), having come 2nd in the shot and 2 lap individual race and 3rd in the vertical jump, made it a Berkshire double as she was crowned the U15 girl all rounder athlete and will go on to represent the South Region at the National Finals in Manchester on 22nd April.