

Sportshall National Finals

NEC Birmingham 3rd April 2011

Berkshire U15 Girls, representing the South East Region and competing at the National Sportshall finals for the first time, produced a magnificent series of performances to become **national champions**.

In each of the 4 field events Berkshire had at least one girl in the top 5 - a magnificent tribute to the development of all round athletes by the clubs represented on the county team. Lukesha Morris came 2nd in the vertical jump; Morgan Lake and Amy Holder were 1st and 5th in the shot respectively; Codie Burnett won bronze in the speed bounce and Morgan Lake won the standing long jump.

Whilst these medal winning performances set the standard for the overall victory it was the magnificent performances of the second and third athletes in each of these field events displaying real strength in depth of all round athletic ability that led to overall team victory.

There were new personal best performances throughout the team most notably by both team captain Amy Holder and Morgan Lake in the shot

In the individual track events Morgan Lake and Laura Hindley, both eligible to compete again next year, were 3rd and 6th respectively. In the 2 laps Katie Hannawin, also still young enough to compete next year was the fastest girl winning gold with Lukesha Morris close in 4th.

In the must win team track events the girls were simply magnificent. Laura Hindley and Morgan Lake ran themselves into the ground in winning the gruelling 8 lap Paarlauf race with sensational final laps. In the 4x2 lap relay with arch rival Surry in the adjacent lane our team (Tayla Benson, Codie Burnett, Katie Hannawin and Lukesha Morris) produced a superb example of well drilled baton hand offs combined with sheer determination to produce a winning performance and seal the overall team victory.

The joy and delight of an outstanding team performance was added to when we learnt at the end of the afternoon of an outstanding double by Berkshire as Morgan Lake was rewarded for her efforts throughout the afternoon with 1st place in the All Rounder competition.