



Lothian Open Boccia Championships 2017

This year, [EN]GAGE Sports Centre at Edinburgh Napier University played host to the Lothian Open Boccia Championships and welcomed over 50 players from around Scotland to compete over three sections. Players travelled from the West of Scotland, Dundee, Dumfries & Galloway and Forth Valley, helping the strong Lothian contingent contribute to an excellent day of competitive boccia.

There was fierce competition throughout the day in class A (players with physical disability) with experienced players in all four of the groups. It was Fiona Muirhead (Individual), Neil McMurdo (Borders), Ross Munro (West of Scotland Boccia) and Callum Glasgow (Right on Target) who shone through and qualified for the semi finals. With a place in the final awaiting the winner the semis got off to a nervy start, however it was Ross Munro and Callum Glasgow who eventually showed their class, beating Muirhead and McMurdo respectively.

In a thrilling final, it was defending champion Ross Munro who came out victorious, beating Glasgow 8 – 1. A great day for Glasgow nonetheless, improving on his 4th place finish last year. In the bronze medal play off, Fiona Muirhead ran away with it with a convincing 9-0 win.

The Class B section (for players with a learning disability) provided similar action and was closely contested, with some impressive boccia being played throughout both the male and female side of the draw.

In the male section, Dundee players were well represented in the semi final stage, with Andrew Keddie and Cameron Miller joining Darren Rooney (RoT) and Christian Mason (D&G) after qualifying from three competitive groups. It was Rooney and Keddie who defeated Mason and Miller respectively, to qualify for the final stage of the competition. After four ends the score was 4 -4 but in the end it was the Right on Target player Darren Rooney who claimed victory after a tense and exciting tie break. Cameron Miller went on to win the bronze medal, narrowly beating Mason 5 – 3 in the playoff match.

Once again, the semi final stage in the female section was dominated by Lothian players as three from the four were local to the competition. The dominance continued late in to the competition as Robertson (LSO) and Lavin (LSO) comfortably won their respective matches and progressed to the final. Philippa Robertson once again proved victorious in the female section with a close 3 – 2 win and keeps the title in the Lothian region with Jodie Lavin taking silver, an improvement on last year's bronze. Sarah Bichard and Kim Burnett faced off in the bronze medal match, with Bichard dominating 9-1 to bring home a medal for Dundee.

The junior section saw some excellent competition as the country's under18s pitted their skills against their peers from around Scotland. It was Right on Target's Fraser Johnstone who took advantage of this year's group winner format, his consistent display enough to take the title. With several players in last year's junior section moving up to the senior ranks, there was a close battle for runner up. Sarah Ellis played excellently however, and finished deserved recipient of the silver medal.

A full list of first, second and third placed players can be found below –

Class A – Players with a Physical Disability

Gold: Ross Munro (West of Scotland Boccia)

Silver: Callum Glasgow (Right on Tartget Boccia Club)

Bronze: Fiona Muirhead (Individual)

Class B – Players with a Learning Disability (Male)

Gold: Darren Rooney (Right on Target Boccia Club)

Silver: Andrew Keddie (Dundee)

Bronze: Cameron Millar (Dundee)

Class B – Players with a Learning Disability (Female)

Gold: Philippa Robertson (LSO)

Silver: Jodie Lavin (LSO)

Bronze: Sarah Bichard (Dundee)

Class D – Junior Players under the age of 18 (all disability groups)

Gold: Fraser Johnstone (Right on Target Boccia Club)

Silver: Sarah Ellis (Dundee)

I would like to thank all players and coaches for travelling to the competition and making it a success. I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to all individuals who assisted with refereeing / time keeping / results table - the competition could not run without your much needed and appreciated support.

If you are interested to hear more about the boccia opportunities in the Lothian region – get in touch on 0131 475 2364 or admin@lothiandisabilitysport.co.uk.