



SCOTTISH DISABILITY SPORT

National Boccia Championships 2015

Ravenscraig, North Lanarkshire

21 February 2015

Event Report

National Boccia Championships 2015

Venue: Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility in Motherwell hosted the National Boccia Championships this year. The facility is in an excellent location on the central belt with easy access and ample disabled parking. Although there were no permanent Boccia courts, 9 courts were put down prior to the event. Ravenscraig proved to be an excellent facility and could act as a future venue for both our National and Regional events.

Sponsorship: This event received no external sponsorship support.

Participating Branches: The following branches and areas entered:

Dundee
Fife
Glasgow
Forth Valley
Perth & Kinross
South Lanarkshire
Ayrshire
East of Scotland
West of Scotland
4 x Guest Players

Entries: 30 entries were received for the event. This year following discussion with the Boccia Steering Group and our partners at GB Boccia it was decided to pilot allowing a 'Guest' entry for a maximum of one nominated player from GB Boccia per classification. Furthermore players who were members of Scottish clubs but are resident in another country were eligible to enter but only as a guest. These guest players were ineligible to win a medal or to qualify for selection for the GB Championships as a result of their performance at the Scottish Championships.

Withdrawals: There were 2 withdrawals before the event and none on the day.

National Boccia Championships 2015

Classification: There were 5 classifications for the tournament with entry numbers as follows:

BC1 - 2

BC2 -11

BC3 - 7

BC4 - 9

Juniors - 1

Presentations: Presentations were made by Janice Eaglesham – Chair of the Board of Scottish Disability Sport.

Results: For full results see Appendix A

Administration: Thanks to Norma Buchanan and Claire Morrison for their administration of the entries and the draw.

Referees/ Officials: Darren Thomson acted as chief referee on the day. Darren is qualified as an International Referee and expertly led the team of referees and officials on the day. SDS was also able to utilise some referees who recently attended the Boccia Referees Course in Stirling. This acts a vital link to ensure Scotland maintains a high number of quality and experienced officials.

Team Support: Thanks to staff from Scottish Disability Sport and volunteers who supported the event by laying the Boccia courts amongst other tasks integral to the management of the event.

First Aid: First Aid was provided by St Andrew's Ambulance who provided a comprehensive service. There were no incidents to report.

Summary of Event: The Scottish National Boccia Championships were held on 21st of February at Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility, Motherwell. These championships marked the tournament's second year in its current format and we were proud to welcome an incredibly strong field this year with 30 entrants. SDS is eager to identify players within the BC1 categories to help strengthen the field in this classification in the future.

The BC1 category was comprised of Callum Glasgow, Reegan Stevenson and junior Arryn Widd. Unfortunately there was not the same depth in the Junior category as last year and we were unable to create a separate classification. Callum beat Reegan in a hard fought final to regain the gold medal. Arryn achieved a gold medal in the Junior category.

National Boccia Championships 2015

Continuing his fine form from the World Championships in Beijing where he finished with a bronze medal, Joshua Rowe reclaimed the BC2 title. Joshua was in formidable form exhibiting his talent in dominating at the group stages before easing through the semi and the final despite the sterling efforts of Heather Nicolson and Lucy Rutledge. Heather had an outstanding Championship and finished as runner up after a closely fought final, and indeed led Joshua heading into the final end. Lucy Rutledge – who beat GB player Claire Taggart in the group stages – confirmed her place in the top three, retaining her bronze medal by defeating Lewis McConnell in the playoff. Lewis had an eventful day also snatching defeat in his semi-final from the jaws of victory whilst in a seemingly unassailable position on the final end. Five shots ahead and lying two shots with only his last ball to play he decided to try and increase the score line rather than play it safe. On this occasion fortune did not favour the brave and Lewis knocked the Jack ball through to his opponents five-ball cluster further up the court thus taking the match into a tie-break end. Visibly rattled by this in the deciding end Lewis was unable to take out a touching ball from Heather and his dream at a crack at the BC2 final was over for another year.

The BC3 section saw one familiar set of brothers take it to a tie break in the first game of the day. Scott McCowan narrowly defeating Jamie in their first official match in years, the McCowan brothers have cemented their place within the Scottish competition in recent years with Jamie now playing in the BC3 category following his silver medal position at last year's Championships in the BC4 category. Scott's early success continued to the final defeating Patrick Wilson in a tense final to complete the treble whilst Jamie collected the bronze medal. Patrick and Scott were both competing at the World Boccia Championships in Beijing and their qualification was reflected in their BC3 domestic performance.

Another set of brothers brought home the 1, 2 in the BC4 category completing a fine championships for the Clan McGuire. Stephen gained the upper hand in their group match Before they found themselves vying against each other in the final. Stephen's experience of the big occasion shone through as he defeated Peter 6-1. Kieran Steer finished third showcasing his depth of tactical awareness and talent defeating an equally deserving Jamie Docherty 4-3 in an extremely tight bronze medal match.

Reflection from the World Boccia Championships has seen several Scottish athletes perform well in Beijing and continue this form in to the respective national championships. Looking towards Rio this gives a good indication for the quality of team that GB will have, but

National Boccia Championships 2015

also which Scottish players will potentially be involved. Scottish Boccia has seen a marked increase in world rankings and participation in recent years. This trend continued throughout the competition with an excellent exhibition of strategic play and game management. Rio 2016 is only a year away and the championships provided an excellent viewing point for GB selectors, squad members and hopefuls alike. Throughout the day there was an extremely positive and relaxed atmosphere coupled with frequent cries of celebration.

Distribution List:

SDS Board Members

Branches

GB Boccia – Claire Morrison

Additional Volunteers

RDMs

Scottish Disability Sport National Boccia Championships

Overall Results: 21 February 2015

BC1

Gold – Callum Glasgow (Forth Valley)

Silver – Reegan Stevenson (West of Scotland)

BC2

Gold – Joshua Rowe (Perth & Kinross)

Silver – Heather Nicolson (East of Scotland)

Bronze – Lucy Rutledge (West of Scotland)

BC3

Gold – Scott McCowan (Ayrshire)

Silver – Patrick Wilson (East of Scotland)

Bronze – Jamie McCowan (Ayrshire)

BC4

Gold – Stephen McGuire (South Lanarkshire)

Silver – Peter McGuire (South Lanarkshire)

Bronze – Kieran Steer (Fife)

Junior Section

Gold – Arryn Widd (Forth Valley)