

## **L2 Boccia Finals, Imberhorne School, West Sussex**

In April, eleven teams of eager competitors attended the Level 2 Boccia Finals hosted by Mid Sussex Active. Amongst those present were a range of ages, abilities and experience levels which reflected the incredibly inclusive nature of boccia.

Boccia, pronounced *bot-cha*, is a target sport not dissimilar to bowls as the aim of the game is to get your ball as close as you can to the jack in order to beat your opponent. However, participants can propel their ball towards the jack by throwing, kicking, rolling or using an assistive device, usually a ramp.

The game incorporates attack and defence meaning that participants not only have to try and get closer to the jack but also try and scupper the opportunities of their opponents – a tactic which ignited great pleasure in the competitors at the level 2 event!

To help those new to boccia there was a demonstration prior to the competition beginning. There were also some experienced competitors amongst the teams and some excellent young leaders fresh from finishing their boccia leaders training, all of whom provided tips and help throughout the morning.

The group stages were notable for their examples of steely determination, moments of boccia brilliance and excellent sportsmanship. One pupil from Blackwell Primary School, East Grinstead, remarked after his game, “I might have lost the game but I made two friends!”

His teacher was full of praise for the competition in that it gave a number of her pupils the opportunity to represent the school for the first time. She added that having seen boccia being played she was keen to take it back to school for other pupils to experience.

Another pupil, when asked why she enjoyed boccia, said it helped her to improve her aim and concentration.

After the group stages were completed it was time for St Wilfrids A team and St Pauls B team, winners of Group 1 and Group 2 respectively, to face off in the final. Both teams showed determination and sportsmanship in equal measure with St Wilfrids A eventually taking the championship with a 3-0 victory.

Of the two finalists, it was notable that the majority of competitors were members of the Mid Sussex Active Parastars club, showing that regular training and dedication pays off!

Click [here](#) to find out more about boccia and [here](#) to talk to your School Games Organiser about any future competitions in your area.



*Two competitors anxiously await the judge's decision.*