

GOALBALL

Title heads south as North London win final 5-2

THERE WAS a terrific turnout for the Leeds goalball experienced tournament at Armley Sports Centre, with ten teams taking part.

Leeds and District, where goalball has flourished over the last year, were proud to enter three teams, while Moor End entered an experienced team for the first time.

There were also teams from London Sports, North London and two teams each from Rochdale and West Midlands.

Congratulations go to Rochdale B, who had a couple of fine wins against London Sports and West Midlands B. There were also encouraging performances from Leeds B and Leeds C.

In a competitive final, Leeds A faced undefeated winners North London, who made a promising start by scoring an early penalty.

Although Leeds A quickly responded by scoring a penalty of their own, North London went on to take a 5-1 lead before Leeds A scored a consolatory second goal.

There were some strong individual performances on the day, particularly by Michael Haworth, of Rochdale, and Katy Colman, of Leeds.

Thanks go to the officials and all those who helped to make the tournament a success.

Members of the winning teams from the West Midlands in the British Goalball Cup. See report on next page.



Leeds make hay as sun shines

THE scene was set, the sun was shining, and it was a glorious day for the eight goalball teams about to battle it out for the Rochdale development title.

The tournament got off to a start and on time, quite rare an achievement for many goalball tournaments. The first game between Moor End and Bury B was brimming with enthusiasm, and there were some old hands and, pleasingly, some new faces in both teams.

Staffs Uni made a disastrous start and were 'mercied' by Rochdale in the second half. Thankfully, they improved throughout the rest of the tournament.

Leeds had a very strong team, with a German influence, something pleasantly unusual for a development tournament. Loughborough showed great improvement with their play,

and we would like to commend Paul for some excellent goals. Bury A were also a very strong team who showed great improvements throughout the tournament.

Rochdale's Ray showed off his acrobatics after each Rochdale victory, and Rochdale C fought hard, with the difficult act of following their B team's performance.

There were some new faces on the officials' table, which was also great to see. The food was good and everyone seemed to enjoy the day. We even had a golden goal situation after Moor End and Bury A finished 4-4 in the play offs – very exciting.

The teams finished in the following order: Bury B, Rochdale C, Moor End, Bury A, Staffs Uni, Loughborough and runners-up Rochdale B, who were defeated by the very worthy winners, Leeds.

BRITISH GOALBALL CUP

WEST MIDLANDS claimed their fifth consecutive British Goalball Cup when they defeated North London in the final at Warley High School.

Five teams set out to try to break West Midlands' run – Leeds, London, North London, Rochdale, and a West Midlands B team.

The first day's round robin threatened potential elimination for the two teams propping up the league.

Living up to expectations, West Midlands cruised into first place with notable 7-2 and 9-6 wins over second placed London and third placed North London respectively.

Plucky defending and strong nerve under pressure allowed Leeds to wrack up a 12-11 victory over Rochdale in a thrilling confrontation, and to triumph 9-7 against West Midlands B in an equally exciting encounter to capture the last qualifying position for the semi finals.

Day two saw a reinvigorated West Midlands B improve their

Five titles in a row for the mighty Midlands

form to beat Rochdale to fifth position. West Midlands A won the first semi-final convincingly, while London and North London were embroiled in a close game.

London equalised twice before an uncharacteristic loss of discipline, conceding penalties and a 5-2 scoreline. Stolidly they continued their spectacular shooting, scoring twice to set up a grandstand finale, which saw North London cling to their lead, just.

The final was dramatically poised with West Midlands' Barrie Lane, the new Great Britain coach, centering with two experienced international players, Joe Dodson and James Risdon, well organised

in defence and strong with shot.

They faced North London's whirling dervish, Michael Sharkey, the highly-focussed Chris Hodgson, and in-form newcomers Nick Killen and Yahye Siyad.

The final seemed beyond North London by half time, when they trailed 6-0, but hopes of a dramatic comeback were restored at the midpoint of the second half when the score stood at 7-4. Assured defending, though, allowed West Midlands to see out the match and claim their fifth consecutive goalball cup.

We would like to thank the referees and officials for all their hard work.

West Mids regain women's crown

By KAREN LUKE

THE WOMEN'S Goalball Cup was a high-quality tournament, with some old and plenty of new faces.

It was a first-time experience for Yvette, Veronica, Emily and Nicola, which would not have been obvious to anyone watching their play.

Our first day was held in Walsall, and the Rochdale team fought hard in this familiar venue, scoring the first goal in each of their games.

The Worcester-Leeds game was again close, with a draw of one goal each, which obviously would mean an exciting semi-final.

West Midlands came out top in the group, and the scene was set for exciting finals.

The Goalball Cup displayed real progress in women's goalball and the international referees present should have been impressed.

Our change of venue did not lower the standard of play,

which was probably fuelled by the excellent buffet provided by Warley High School.

As promised, a tight semi-final was fought, and Leeds were finally victorious over the determined Worcester team.

West Midlands and Leeds faced one another in the final, and a high standard was displayed by all the players, with West Midlands running out deserving winners, regaining their title without losing a match.

BBS CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2005

July 2005

16	Cricket: Sussex v Birmingham; Metro v Welsh Dragons; Leeds v Eastern Vipers		David Ellingham 01354 656138
16	Goalball: under-19 squad training	Walsall	Barrie Lane 01902 563010
16	Goalball: novice (u-16) tournament	Leeds	Barrie Lane 01902 563010
16	Spurs indoor VI football	Tottenham	Alan Whetherly 020 7354 8666
17	Cricket: London v Welsh Dragons		David Ellingham 01354 656138
17-22	Bowls: Hastings tournament	Hastings	Christine Phillips 01424 772334
23	Cricket: Sussex v London; Eastern Vipers v Warwickshire		David Ellingham 01354 656138
24	Cricket: London v Birmingham; Welsh Dragons v Metro		David Ellingham 01354 656138
24	Fulham VI football	Raynes Park	Alan Whetherly 020 7354 8666
25-31	IBSA youth world championships	Colorado Springs	Head Office 01926 424247
30	Goalball: boys' squad training	Walsall	Barrie Lane 01902 563010
30	Cricket: England training (and 31st); Leeds v Northampton		David Ellingham 01354 656138

August 2005

4-10	Goalball: World youth championships	Colorado Springs	Keith Lound 01909 568216
6	Cricket Cup final	Lord's	David Ellingham 01354 656138
6	Spurs VI indoor football	Tottenham	Alan Whetherly 020 7345 8666
13	Cricket: Metro v Sussex; Birmingham v Welsh Dragons; Eastern Vipers v Leeds		David Ellingham 01354 656138
13	Archery: DSE national championships	Maidenhead	Sandra Nesbitt 0191 456 7912
14	Cricket: Warwickshire v Northampton		David Ellingham 01354 656138
15-19	Sportsconnect summer camp and Arsenal VI soccer school		Alan Whetherly 020 7345 8666
16-17	P/S football: England training	Lilleshall	George Ferguson 0151 4820402
18-21	P/S football: Quad-nations tournament	Manchester	George Ferguson 0151 4820402
21	Cricket: Sussex v Welsh Dragons; Northampton v Eastern Vipers		David Ellingham 01354 656138
22	BBS Board of Trustees meeting	Euston, London	Nikhil Nair 01223 368353
22-26	Sportsconnect summer camp	Hammersmith	Alan Whetherly 020 7345 8666

BBS CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2005

26-29	Bowls: UK outdoor triples championship	Brighthouse	Ron Whitehead 01633 850798
27	Cricket: Metro v London		David Ellingham 01354 656138
September 2005			
3	Cricket Cup final reserve date		David Ellingham 01354 656138
3-9	Bowls: Lowestoft tournament	Lowestoft	Ron Whitehead 01633 850798
9-15	London Sailing Project seven-day cruise	London	Ann Bowers 01489 885098
10	Archery: BBS outdoor championships	Lilleshall	Roger Rees-Evans 01792 812212
10	Cricket: promotion/relegation play-offs		David Ellingham 01354 656138
10	Goalball: GB women's training session	TBA	Keith Lound 01909 568216
12-16	Bowls: UK indoor singles	Poole	David Mears 020 8905 9266
16-18	Sailing weekend	East coast	Carol Boyce 01473 724780
17	BBS National Council	RNIB London	David Mears 020 8905 9266
17	Cricket: promotion relegation play-offs reserve date		David Ellingham 01354 656138
17	Athletics Have-a-Go day	Ashford, Kent	Head Office 01926 424247
24	Goalball: West Midlands tournament	TBA	Barrie Lane 01902 563010
24-Oct 4	Archery: international tournament	Italy	Sandra Nesbitt 0191 456 7912
October 2005			
1	Goalball: under-12s tournament	London	Alan Whetherly 020 7354 8666
7-9	London Sailing Project three-day cruise	London	Ann Bowers 01489 885098
15	Athletics: training weekend and AGM	Solihull	Tim Green 01283 512433
15 & 23	Goalball: European championships	Belgium	Keith Lound 01909 568216
November 2005			
19-20	Goalball: AGM tournament and meeting	TBA	Keith Lound 01909 568216
24	BBS Board of Trustees meeting	RNIB London	Nikhil Nair 01223 368353
26	Tenpin summer doubles league finals	TBA	Gillian Parker 01525 860805
TBA	Football: Junior five-a-side tournament	Birmingham	David Beardsmore 07968 480824

Items in **bold** type are either funded by BBS, organised by a BBS committee, or both