

Girls U16 Competition

GIRLS FINAL: ENGLAND CENTRAL v ENGLAND NORTH

It was a nervy start from England Central to the final with the defensive unit breaking down under the service pressure from England North. After an ace from North's captain Megan Brocklehurst and a back court hit out from Nicole Parish, England North went into the first technical time out 8 – 5 up. Strong serving from Central's Ailis Hunter brought her team back into the set but North's Amelia Stamp quickly won the serve back with a stinging cross court hit. Their fight then began to fade as Central's Mechell Daniel and Nicole Parish began to find their opposition's floor. A huge block from Jade Butcher on Rebecca Chalk gave Central set point which they converted first time to the delight of their noisy supporters.

The second set was much more one sided with England North trailing from the start. The England Central attackers were too powerful and the Northern girls struggled to come back with a reply. Central Libero Gabriella de Rosa passed perfectly allowing her setter to use all 4 attackers to good effect. After a huge rally Sam Latham-Talbot won the fight at the net, Central lead 21-9. To huge cheers the Central Girls converted their first match point with the whole squad sprinting on the court to celebrate!

WINNERS: ENGLAND CENTRAL: 2 – 0 (25-17, 25-12)

Final standings: 1st = England Central, 2nd = England North, 3rd = England South, 4th = Scotland West, 5th = Northern Ireland, 6th = Scotland East, 7th = Wales



Girls Sportset Super 6 (Top 6 individual performances)

(L-R) Katie Barbour (Scotland West), Gabriella de Rosa (England Central), Megan Cheaney (England South), Mechell Daniel (England Central), Nicole Parish (England Central)

Boys U17 Competition

BOYS FINAL: ENGLAND NORTH v ENGLAND SOUTH

England South had looked unbeatable throughout the group stages although had a very shaky morning losing in straight sets against England Central. For the final however Captain Matt Hunter was back from injury and spirits were high.

In the first set the score was agonisingly tight throughout with England South's Jermaine Miles and England North's captain Sam Shenton trading huge kill attacks. Despite England North saving 2 set points, South substitute Elliot Allison used his height to close the block and put his team ahead 1 – 0.

In the second England South raced ahead early on exposing their opposition's defence; the North squad could only look at their coach Dave Roberts who urged them to focus. England North finally broke through with a clever middle attack from Iain McKellar bringing the score to 12-17. Jermaine Miles, however, was in unforgiving form hammering the ball down in front of his England Junior team mate Shenton. South's Ryan Stout continued to find his hitters and England North simply couldn't keep up. Number 11 Kostadin Stoimenov hit the final winner and the England South celebrations could begin!

WINNERS: ENGLAND SOUTH: 2 – 0 (26-24, 25-16)

Final standings: 1st = England South, 2nd = England North, 3rd = England Central, 4th = Scotland West, 5th = Scotland East, 6th = Northern Ireland, 7th = Wales



Boys Sportset Super 6 (Top 6 individual performances)

(L-R) Sam Shenton (England North), Ryan Stout (England South), Jermaine Miles (England South), Tom Dacey (Wales), Mark Lawson (Scotland West), Toby French (England Central)

What winners had to say....

Nicole Parish (England Central Girls Captain) "This is my third and last year at the UK School Games and the first time we've won! Our families and the England Central Boys have been fantastic support throughout the whole four days. I hope I can keep playing at big events like this; my dream would be to play for the Great Britain Volleyball team in the Olympics!"

Tomasz Morawski (England Central Girls Head Coach) "I'm really happy we won and I hope everyone in the crowd enjoyed the match! Massive congratulations to all my players; all 12 played their part over the weekend and the 7 on court for the final withstood the pressure of the crowds and cameras beautifully. All the squad should be really proud of themselves."

Matt Hunter (England South Boys Captain) "The whole tournament has been such a brilliant experience and the gold medal has made it even better. This is the first time England South Boys have won the tournament and for me personally it's a great finish to my third and last year here. I think it was our team spirit that won us the game, we were just more up for it!"

Neil Masters (England South Boys Head Coach) "What a brilliant all round performance from the whole team! It was great to have Matt back leading on court and for me Ryan Stout has been the outstanding player of the whole tournament. The squad would like to dedicate our win to the memory of Curtis Palmer (brother of Ryan Palmer) who sadly passed away last night. Our best wishes are with the whole family at this difficult time."

Sitting Volleyball at the UK School Games

Before the two finals the volleyball crowds were treated to a Sitting Volleyball demonstration match featuring the GB Men's Sitting Volleyball Squad against an All Star select. GB Vice Captain Anton Raimondo told us "We're here to promote Sitting Volleyball, it's still relatively new in this country and we want to get more young people playing in schools, they are the future of the sport. It's a busy time for us, we're off to Trafalgar Square next week for International Paralympic Day where we are hoping to break a World Record for most consecutive volleys!"

A massive thank you to all the volunteers and officials who worked tirelessly for 4 days to make the 2011 Sainsbury's UK School Games Volleyball competition such a fantastic event! We hope to see you all back at the games in 2012!



VOLLEYBALL: DAILY BULLETIN

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Athletes and Workforce at the 2011 Closing Ceremony.
Photograph courtesy of www.volleyballphotos.co.uk

