South Regional U13 Sportshall Final: 4th March 2017

The Berkshire U13 Sportshall teams arrived at Burgess Hill full of confidence and excited to be competing once again. Their confidence and self-belief proved to be well founded as the afternoon unfolded and some exceptional performances were recorded by both teams.

The girls began the afternoon with a strong 3rd place in the obstacle relay, finishing behind the eventual overall winners Surrey but close behind Hampshire.



This excited everyone and set the team up well for the remaining track events with victory in the 8 Lap Paarlauf (Lauren Watkins BAC; Lucy Chalmers SJAC) and a strong performance in the 4x2 lap relay. Lauren Watkins (BAC) also ran a fantastically well paced individual 6 lap race to finish 3 rd. It was however in the field where the girls really proved the importance of performing and working as a team, for and with each other. Whilst there were no individual winners Lauren Watkins (BAC) was 2 nd = in the speed bounce (83) and Lucy James (BAC) 2 nd in the shot (10.41m). More importantly in all but 2 events the girls finished inside the top 10, thereby amassing a

fantastic points total.



The girls team finished a wonderful 2nd place overall, their best finish since 2009.

The boys team arrived as one of the strongest we have fielded from the county in some years.

Despite a slightly shaky start and 3rd place in the obstacle relay they went on to dominate the track events winning the 4x1 lap and the 8 Lap Paarlauf and coming 2nd in the tightest finish of the afternoon in the 4x2 lap relay. In the individual track events Adam Ulhaq (MAC) was 2nd in the 2 lap race; Luke-Lom Hynes (MAC) 2nd = in the 6 lap race with Trey Bennett (SJAC) making

the final of the 2 lap race and both Elijah Oladunjoye (SJAC) and Sammy Ball (RAC) the final of the 4 lap race. Harry Booker (TK) was 7th in the 6 Lap race. Performances in the field were equally as strong with victories for Harry Booker (TK) in the shot (12.79m) and Akeem Willis (SJAC) in the vertical jump (66); Chris Kennedy (Dedworth MS) was 2nd in the triple jump (7.34m). Oliver Gregory (TK) shot (10.88m) and Trey Bennett (SJAC) speed bounce (83) were third in their events.

The boys team were crowned South Regional Champion scoring 612 points, to Hampshire 507 in second place, and go on to compete at the National Finals in Manchester on 23rd April.