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# HAVE YOU HEARD . . .

It was a very busy end to the year and finally it is time for a short break before the competitions start again. It is time to look back at the end of seasons and how the teams got on as well as a look at what is to come.

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## Academy Cup

The end of season competition was even bigger this year with Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Rugby League being included as a separate cup to be battled for. The competitions kicked off with a day of Boccia for the Powerchair Academy Cup. The following day the Wheelchair Academy Cup was played for which saw team Fairies take the Trophy. The day was enjoyed by all with the parents even joining in at the end taking on the kids who were crowned the winners of that battle.

The following weekend saw the final competition with a day of Powerchair Football and the same teams from the Boccia trying to win the Cup. In the end it was Team Shorts who won with two other teams coming a very close joint second. The whole competition was a great success.

The event was rounded off with an evening at St James Park which included an auction, raffle and games as well as a disco at the end of the night. The evening seemed to be enjoyed by all and the whole event raised around £3000 for the Sports Academy. A big thank you from all the staff at Percy Hedley to everyone who came along and took part in the event and to the parents/carers for their support throughout the year.

## Powerchair Football

It has been a very busy year for Powerchair Football with even more to look forward to. Northern Thunder won their battle for second place in the National League which saw some great team and individual performances. They also got through to the final of the National Cup competition which saw them take on their rivals Aspire. Unfortunately after a great performance the team just couldn't find the goal they were threatening throughout the game and Aspire took the Cup in a 1-0 game.

Northern Thunder Blues who have a new manager after Allen Harrison stepped down earlier in the year to concentrate on his role in the England setup. The team was taken over by Jamie Harrison and after a shaky start to the League finished in a well deserved third place with some outstanding performances and players who had been in the academy team coming up and fighting some of the best players in the team for position.

As the numbers keep growing in Powerchair Football it was agreed that a new team would be formed and entered into the National League. This team would come back

under the name Percy Hedley Panthers which was the name of the first ever team to form within the Sports Academy. Trials were held and the team was picked and have recently learnt they will be playing in the National League this year in League 1. The coaches for this team are Kathryn Easson a member of staff at the Academy and Carolyn Bean. Everyone is very excited about the chance let other athletes have the chance to play in high standard competitions and hope are high for the new team.

The first National League weekend in the 18th and 19th September in Kettering. All the dates for the coming year can be found on the website and the results for each weekend will also be available on the website.

# Wheelchair Basketball

## Junior Session

Wheelchair Basketball took a short break over the summer and are now back to full training to prepare for the new season. Under 15 had an impressive season finishing in second place in their respective league. The under 19s unfortunately came up against some very strong competition in their league and finished in last place. Both teams are looking forward to the new season and progress can already be seen in training with new players joining the teams and some players moving up into the under 19s. The teams are hoping to enter the Regional Championships this year which are being held in October as well as the usual League which they take part in every year.

## Division 3

This was a new team last year which was set up to give the older players who were not ready to play in the Superleague a chance to play. Every player in the team showed progression last year and the team were happy to finish in 4th place. This year hopes are high for an even better season

with a few new players being brought up from under 19s. The season kicks off on the 26th September with a home game against Cardinals and training has continued throughout the summer to help the team prepare for the new season. The teams head coach this year is Michael Lomax who also plays in the Division 1 team at the Academy. All the results for the games can be found on the GBWBA website and updates will be available through the Sports Academy's website.

## Division 1

It has been a tough year for the team as they were demoted from the Superleague into Division 1. The team has also lost a few players and with a new coach in place

it is hoped that this season will be a better one for the team. Their season kicks off with a weekend away on the 18th and 19th September to take on Owls and Warriors. The progress of the team can be followed by going on the GBWBA website.

The Player Profile will now be included in every newsletter and is to help us get to know the athletes here at the Academy.

## Player Profile

**Name**– Daniel Blake

**Age**– 20

**Sport**– Powerchair Football

**Studying**- Sports Development with Coaching

**Hobbies**– Drinking and Socialising

**Favorite Food**– Curry

**Favorite TV program**– Anything on Cbeebies

## Powerchair Football England Selections

Four players from Northern Thunder have been selected to go further in the Powerchair Football England selections. The four players have been asked to attend a training weekend in which the final team will be

selected. Allen Harrison the head coach and also a member of staff within the Percy Hedley Foundation announced the selection only a few days ago. Faye Stevenson, Edward Common, Harry Boddy and Robert Thompson all went to the first set of England

trials and have all been successful in gaining a place in 12 selected for the training weekends. Everyone at the Academy wishes them luck in the next round and more details of how they get on will be on the website.

### Events coming up-

-First Powerchair Football National League weekend– 18th/19th September

-Wheelchair Basketball D3 Home game– 25th September

- 30th/31st October Wheelchair Basketball Junior Regional Championships 2010.

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