

AVON YOUNGSTERS PODIUM FINISH AT UK SPORTSHALL FINALS

Despite 2 withdrawals midweek through injuries and a last-minute withdrawal 10 mins before the start, Avon Under 13 Boys pulled off a remarkable result in finishing in 3rd place at the UK Sports Hall Finals at Stoke recently.

The squad all pulled together finishing 2 points shy of 2nd place in what proved to be a controversial final. With 6 individuals on the podium and 2 team relays in the top 3, and 14 of the 16 performances in the top 9 of the 18 athletes in each event it was a very successful campaign.

Captain Conor Chick took Silver in both the 2lap and Triple Jump and then anchored the 4x2 lap Relay to a 3rd place following a slightly fumbled handover earlier in the race. Young Oscar Warren took Bronze in the Speed Bounce with 83 bounces and finished 8th in the 4lap. A remarkable run by Sam Ball in the 6lap saw another bronze medal in 1. 16. 1secs. Kameron Bragg took Bronze in the Shot(9m66) jus ahead of Archie Paton in 7th. The other bronze medal came from Calvin Barbosa Goa in the Long Jump with 2m45. However, a jump of 2m62 was controversially chalked off some time after the jump by officials unsure of its validity.

The 4x1lap Relay team triumphantly took Gold after brilliant changeovers with Bence Sandor, handing to Calvin Barbosa-Goa and then Zac Khodji Smith storming along before handing to Charlie Ball for a well-earned win.

Shay Melias and late call up Leighton Bennett took 4th and 5th in the Vertical Jump for good points whilst Archie Paton just missed out on a final slot finishing 7th in the 2 lap race.

One of the performances of the day came from Cypres Hughes who had never run a 6 lap race but agreed to cover the very late withdrawal of Will Pook not only in the 6lap but also in the Triple Jump. His 6m75 gave him 8th in the latter event. However, he surprised everyone by winning his 6lap heat by leading throughout a remarkable effort for a 9th place overall.

Zac Khodji Smith had a great effort in the Speed Bounce with a new pb of 80 bounces to finish 5th.

Mention should also be made of Kurt Jacobs (Oldfield) who won the extra 2 lap race convincingly and recorded a good Vertical jump.

A truly great effort by the boys encouraged all the way with a supportive group of noisy parents and supporters. Thanks to Susan Jones, Hilary Nash and Dave Cook for also supporting in various capacities.

DGT April 3rd 2023.