

## **Mini League Sports Hall Season 2022/23**

### **AGM Report**

The Mini League Sportshall season started with the U11's only Octathlon event where Rushcliffe fielded 8 athletes. Jake Whiteside finished just outside the top 3, placing 4<sup>th</sup> in the boy's competition with Zach Ward also inside the top 10 in 9<sup>th</sup>. In the girl's event Nancy Knowles led the way for Rushcliffe placing 5<sup>th</sup> with Faith Johnson just behind her in 6<sup>th</sup>.

In November the first of 4 full team fixtures began, and our athlete numbers were very low with just 7 registered to compete across all 3 age groups. Following illness and injury this was reduced even further to just 4 on the day. Those that were there performed admirably but the lack of athlete numbers left us way off the pace.

A strong recruitment drive in December saw numbers swell and we took 14 athletes to that fixture (double our November numbers). This equated to more scoring opportunities and we finished a respectable 4<sup>th</sup> on the day with the U13 boys winning their age group and the U11 girls finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>.

More importantly, a new crop of U11's and U13's had emerged who would become regulars at sportshall events and go on to form a core team for the remainder of the season.

January saw this upward trajectory continue with 16 athletes making the trip to Mansfield and critically we had representation in every category (U11 to U15 boys & girls). This made a huge difference and we again scored very strongly with both the U11 boys and U13 boys finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in their age group on the day.

We fielded a massive 19 athletes for the final fixture in February and were one of the most represented clubs, which considering our lowly beginnings in November was an absolute triumph. Our increased numbers had a positive impact and we finished with a very healthy points total finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> overall on the day with the U11 girls winning their age group.

In the final standings, our U13 boys finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, the U11 boys were 3<sup>rd</sup> and in a very closely contested age group, the U11 girls were 4<sup>th</sup> but were only 8 points behind winners Retford.

After such a well contested season it was really satisfying to see some of our top athletes get the recognition they deserve by way of County selection for the regional finals in Grantham. At the time of writing that event is still to happen, but we have an amazing NINE athletes selected and earning their green Notts vests, many for the first time and I am sure for some it won't be the last.

In the U11 girls we have Nancy Knowles, Faith Johnson and Eva Jones whilst Jakle Whiteside represents the U11 boys. The U13 boys are Tarun Balamarugan, Edward Hamilton and Isaac Wright with Esme Amoabil also making the U13 girls team. Nina McEachran in the U15 girls completes the line-up. Dylan Kearnes (U11) and George Mousley (U13) were also selected but are unfortunately unable to attend.

Sportshall ends the season in a strong position with a regular core of talented athletes which we can hopefully build on in 2023/24.

Finally, after 7 years with the team, Harvey will be stepping down as Sportshall Manager this season. Rachel will take over the reins and we are currently looking for a 2<sup>nd</sup> person to help her.

**Harvey Sugden & Rachel Wright**

**Sportshall Team Managers**