



Volleyball fundraiser for Sport Relief dedicated to memory of Russell Vroobel

Sporting Havering Sixth Form College students challenged staff to a volleyball competition to raise funds for Sport Relief.

The event was organised by students George Lock, Eddie Smith and Hayley Piggott as part of their BTEC National Diploma in Sports Development and Fitness – and it proved a great success with the staff eventually coming out winners. The staff team consisted of: Chris Burley, Sophie Lovell, Toni Brown, Mike Barbrook, Ian Budge, Martin Bell and Chris Patient.

Other activities organised for Sport Relief included football and table tennis matches as well as an external college volleyball competition.

The students dedicated the staff v students match to College IT technician Russell Vroobel who was due to play in the event but suddenly and tragically passed away the day before it was held.

Below is a report of the match, written by Eddie Smith:

The day had finally come when we would find out whether the students had the tactics and mental state to defeat the 'Almighty College Staff Team' in volleyball. Through periods of banter between the teams before, during and after the games, it was the College Staff Team that managed to fight off the two student teams to take the win! From beginning to end the College staff team set a high standard, managing to scrape the first win against their opponents by the score of 15-13. This gave them a great deal of confidence into the second game in which they whitewashed the second student team, winning 15-4.

But with the first student team in full force as well they came out with a fighting spirit and were able to pull back with winning distance. It all rested on the last game between the College Staff and Team One - yes it was a rematch. With a number of questionable decisions from the Umpire, Mr Smith, the College Staff managed to edge the game to extend their lead and take the title and triumph with victory over the students! Event Organisers George Lock, Edward Smith and Hayley Piggott were very pleased with the outcome of the event. All money raised was added to the Havering Sixth Form Fund for Sports Relief.

Through times of hard work, stress and sweat there was never a dull moment but among all this, the teams remembered and paid huge respect to Russell Vroobel - a man who was not only a member of the college staff, but also a member of the college community. Russell's passing was such an unexpected bereavement but we are sure that he will stay alive in our minds and in our hearts.