

## We are the Champions!



Last week saw the National Summer Special Olympics games take place at various sporting venues across Leicester. The Games held every 4 years saw over 2,700 athletes with learning disabilities from across the UK competing in over 22 sports. The opening ceremony held at the Walker Stadium attracted a huge crowd that was entertained by local cultural arts groups and the New Beautiful South.

The East Midlands Tennis Team was represented by 8 athletes who all train at West Bridgford Tennis Club. They had a fantastic week competing in singles and doubles events at the Knighton Tennis Centre. Lesley Whitehead, the Tennis Manager at West Bridgford was the Event Director for the tennis competition.

The team of Kathryn Ashcroft, Michael Clarke, Joseph Eccles, Alex Eustace, Leigh Foster, Zara Jurenko, Thomas Styles and Steven Uttley won 7 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze medals and a 4<sup>th</sup> place ribbon between them. Their coaches for the week, Melanie Whitehead and Matthew Whitehead commented, "Our tennis team has had a brilliant Games.

The athletes have had fun and made many new friends over the week. All the months of training leading up to the Games has paid off with the haul of medals they have won. This is an experience they will treasure." Not resting on their laurels, the athletes are now back in training for the National Learning Disability Tournament organized by the Tennis Foundation that will be held in Nottingham in October.