

HYTHE'S HAT TRICK AT 2018 KENT WATER POLO FESTIVAL

Hythe Aqua Junior Water Polo had a fantastically successful afternoon at the recent Kent Water Polo at Folkestone Sports Centre winning all 3 age groups. With 28 players attending there was great team support from players and their parents in the balcony. The Hythe Aqua team also looked the part in their new t-shirts and hoodies which has been sponsored by LiftComm.

12/U team- James Cavanagh, Arthur Crumley, Izaak Guck, Callum Hughes, Thomas and Joshua Callander, Cleo Steer, Layla Wilkinson and Jack Lennon. This team only started playing in January and 3 of the team for only a month so their performance and overall win was very exciting for them, their parents and us their coaches. They all played their hearts out, working well as a team. Credit must go to goalie Arthur Crumley who made some brilliant saves and to Callum, Cleo, Layla, James and Izaak who all showed their attacking skills and scored goals whilst Jack, Thomas and Joshua displayed good tactical skills in defence. Our first match against Faversham was a 3-3 draw but against Sevenoaks/Bexley we won convincingly 6-2 which meant we won the tournament on goal difference.



14/U team- Harris Lindsay, Rico Newman-Morgan, William Carter, Harry Oakes, Connor Alecks, William Fuller, Laura Harding, Callum Hughes, James Cavanagh. Again, the Hythe players showed excellent team spirit and good fitness levels. Our first match against Sevenoaks/Monson was an impressive win of 8-3 so we were hopeful against Faversham. However, despite having most of the play and many shooting chances, the final score was 1-1. Winning now depended on the last match Faversham v Sevenoaks/Monson and we could only sit and watch. Luckily the result was a draw, so we became Champions. Harris, once again, showed what a great goalie he is whilst Rico Newman-Morgan was our top goal scorer with William F, Harry and William C also scoring. Laura, Connor Callum and James showed great game awareness and made valuable contributions to the team.



16/U team James Croud, William Cavanagh, Tom Broadbridge, Leon Santer, Lucy-Mai Helliwell, Milly McAlister, Libby MacArthur, Ellis Stewart, Emily Lennon, Rico Newman-Morgan, Edward Aylward, Rachel and Laura Harding, Matthew Holman, Harris Lindsay, Laura Harding, Abbie and Harry Oakes. In this competition we fielded 2 teams to ensure everyone got enough game play and experience including some from the 14/U team. The A team was very strong as it included players who are representing SE Region and Kent and even against the normally strong Beckenham team they won easily along with their other 2 matches. They made the most of their goal scoring opportunities and the final scores were 8-1 against Beckenham, 6-0 Sevenoaks/Monson/Faversham and against the B team 9-1. All the team played

exceptionally well with goals coming from William C, James, Tom, Rico, Libby, Lucy-Mai and Millie, Leon and James again showed they can play exceptionally both in goal and outfield whilst Emily and Ellis played in both A and B and made valuable contributions to the team play.

The B team was a younger team with 2 players new to the sport in January but again they showed good game awareness and the final scores of the matches did not really reflect the game play. We were unlucky in some of our goal shooting opportunities but what impressed again was the fantastic team spirit and how we set up our attacking play. Harris in goal played brilliantly and Abbie was a solid defender along with Matthew and Harry whilst Edward, Emily, Rachel, Rico, Laura and Ellis all displayed good attacking skills resulting in 4 goals but many more hit the crossbar.

All in all a very rewarding and enjoyable afternoon for Hythe Aqua Polo.

