

Hythe Aqua Water Polo reports



Mixed U/16 Saturday 5th November

The Hythe Aqua under 16's played in the Kent U16's tournament at Swanley, which was a massive step up for most of the team, with 6 players playing either one or two age groups up due to only 2 senior players Hudson Lindsey and Izaak Guck being available on the night.

In the first game against a mixed Faversham and Monsoon team it required the Hythe players to learn quickly to mark goal side in defence and how to attack to find space quickly. Sadly, Izaak missed an early penalty, but Oliver Newman scored a great goal in the second half.

In the second game the team faced a strong defence against Beckenham Brems with quick turn around on attack. The team showed endeavour and great teamwork, marking goal side with Amy Holehouse and Alice Lea trying to find space. Aleks Milikic made some great saves in goal, which was fantastic to see for his first competition at this level.

In the final game, the team remained positive trying to mark their player, but unfortunately the strength of speed of Beckenham A team meant that often Hythe were unable to switch from attack to defence quick enough leaving Izaak isolated with 2 or 3 attackers to defend against. Hudson showed great strength in goal.

The coaches felt that the team learnt some valuable lessons and all 8 players remained positive against very strong opposition, which will set them in good stead in future games.

Well done to Amy and Alice for achieving selection for Kent u 16's squad.

Team: Benjamin Duncan, Izaak Guck, Hudson Lindsey, Aleks Milikic, Oliver Newman, Amy Holehouse, Alice Lea,

Mixed U/16 Sunday 6th November 2022

The U16's were able to represent Hythe Aqua in the London League Division 3 at Whitgift School, Croydon. The team selected included James, Izaak, Hudson, Stanley, Daniel E, Amy,

Oliver E, Sebastian Reid, Eve and Aleks, with more of the senior squad available for the 3 matches.

In the first game against old rivals Beckenham Breams, the team showed great unity, ability to communicate and place themselves in great positions both in attack and defence. James was able to control the ball from the back with great passes up field and Izaak was able to convert 5 goals. 10 seconds before the first half buzzer he converted a shot from the halfway line. The defence was strong with the ability to turn, and mark numbered players, allowing James to protect the goal and make some great saves. It led to a great win and boosted the confidence of the team.

In the second game, Amy and Hudson managed the wings extremely well, giving James great options for clearing his line. Izaak was able to draw a penalty in the second half, for which the opposition was requested to leave the pool, but with confusion the player continued, and the penalty was not upheld. Stanley and Daniel showed great skills in strength of swimming back to defend and open space for Izaak to get 2 more goals. Although it was a draw, Alice, Oliver, Aleks, and Sebastian as some of the younger players getting pool time demonstrated that they had learnt lessons from the previous tournament the night before.

In the final game Lewisham marked Izaak with 2 players, which meant their number 6 was able to attack at speed and his shots were impeccable. Aleks was able to step in as goalie to free James to play with strength and speed in the pool and pleasingly he was rewarded with a great goal. The team showed great determination and demonstrated a better understanding of defensive play, and although we conceded a loss it generated a great platform for future training sessions. It will also allow the team to develop some more skills to ensure that they come back stronger at the next meet.

Boys U/19 Sunday 13th November 2022

Hythe Aqua U 19's with 3 U 16's joined forces to provide a training match for a mixed U16 & U19's Faversham team who are all at school together and have started training for a National English Schools water polo competition.

Harris was able to offer all his skills in goal, communicating offering great vision for the team. The U19's boys included Will Fuller, Will Carter, Rico, Mathew, Harry, Callum, Connor, Reece and Izaak, Daniel and Hudson.

The game was played in 4 quarters, with the first 2 quarters played without subs and the final 2 games with rolling subs. Each player knew instantly who they were marking and showed excellent skills in maintaining the ball, turning around on attack and finding clear space. Daniel, Izaak and Hudson slotted into the team well, listened and took on their own marked players with great skill. Leading to all getting great goals.

The team won 30-1, but acknowledgement must be given to whole team who looked for the pass, looked for space and marked well. Plus, Harris's amazing goalie skills.

Thanks, must be given to Helen and the Faversham ref for their time, Nikki for team managing and the parents for making sure all were able to play on a Sunday evening.