

**South East Region
Water Polo
Inter-Regional Under 14 Girls Tournament
Walsall, December 1st and 2nd 2018**

Public Event Report

Firstly, thanks to the families who supported us throughout, and to Helen Bullock for her hard work managing us up to, and throughout the competition, and having Amy Styles assisting with coaching made a lot of the individual player development and feedback a lot more immediate and relevant.

South East Team

Ismey Hawley GK
Lucy Bullock C
Audrey Tala
Ruby Rosser
Jess Thomson
Hebe Poole
Kathryn Gracie-Langrick
Lillie Standen
Kira Byford
Bella Power
Ella Boyle
Allegra Cuomo
Lily Ross

Coach Ewan Partridge
Assistant Coach Amy Styles
TM Helen Bullock

Match format

League stage 2x7 minutes
Classification 4x5 minutes

Saturday

South East 8 v NW Lightening 6

This was an ideally weighted match to start the competition. We were able to cycle all our less experienced players through the pool once or twice, whilst keeping control. Inevitably this leads to some level of learning curve or lack of join up, which took the NW score closer to ours in the last part.

Goals.

Audrey 3, Lucy 3, Ruby, Bella
Majors Ruby, Hebe, Lily.
SE 13 v Midlands 2

South East 13 East Midlands 2

This was another great opportunity to get all our players in to the action once again. The opposition played very deep when we were in possession and paid the price, with nearly all of Lucy's nine goals coming from outside five metres, or wide.

Goals.

Lucy 9, Ruby 3, Bella

Majors

Lucy

South East 3 v South West 3

The SWR coach has turned last year's young team in to a solid unit, with more experienced players in the water than we were able to match this time out, the ever cyclical nature of regional and county WP.

We knew this would be a tough call, and they limited us to a goal or two less than perhaps we were due. With a few seconds left, we had restricted them to two goals, but they grabbed one very late to make it 3-3.

Goals

Audrey 3

South East 3 v North East 6

First thing on Sunday morning, we faced a similar challenge against NE, albeit a different shape, slightly stronger. We got a couple of questionable decisions against us, that cost us, and we missed a couple of chances, enough to tilt it decisively in their favour.

Goals

Lucy 2, Ruby 1

Majors, Lucy

South East 7 v East 5

This was our only classification game, played in relatively unpressurised conditions, for 5th place. Our priority in this was, as earlier, to get as much match play for the squad as possible, and we managed to do so, whilst still winning the match without stretching too far.

Goals.

Audrey 4, Lucy 3.

Majors

Lucy

In Conclusion

It was a very exciting tightly fought competition, the most even I have seen in the U14s, I only saw similar once before in the U16s some years back. In overall terms it was a great advertisement for water polo. Lucy Bullock was both SER and tournament MVP, richly deserved, and a great inspiration to ours, and other, aspiring players. As a team, we made the most of what we are, and on a different day and

time, with a different draw, we would have got amongst the medals, it was that close. It is bizarre that we played five matches, lost only one, yet finished fifth, as a result of the competition rules, which are adopted from FINA. The irony being that neither we - or our closest opponent - put out our strongest teams against the weaker teams, because we need to develop our younger players in those games. Another long debate for evenings in hotel bars.

Well done to all the team.

Ewan Partridge