

Water Polo
Inter Regional Under 16 (Y2004 and Younger) Girls Competition
Division 1
South East Anderida
July 6th & 7th 2019
Blackpool Palatine

Bronze Medal for South East Anderida

Publication Version

This year's competition was split into Division 1 and Division 2, based on results from December 2017's competition, in which South East finished third in bronze medal position. Since then the SER squad has grown sufficiently to place two teams in this competition, South East Anderida in Division 1, and South East Solent in Division 2. Solent's report is dealt with separately.

Interestingly, the top four teams from December 2017's U14s finished in the same order in this year's U16 competition.

Firstly thanks to the parents/families who travelled to Blackpool, in my view they were by far the most supportive and fair minded group of supporters over the two days.

South East Anderida

Maddie Calthrop GK
Lucy-Mai Helliwell C
Lucy Bullock
Caitlin Silk
Grace Byford
Ruby Rosser
Sophie Cook
Fleuve Williams
Audrey Tala
Freya Noon

Coach: Ewan Partridge
TM: Helen Bullock

South East Anderida 8 North West Thunder 11

It is never easy to come into a division of x5 as the last team to play, however, this was only one factor. The opening exchanges in this match were cagey, and it took a couple of minutes for the scoring to start. At 1-2 down this still looked a tight match, then began something of a

collective meltdown on our part, that left us a t 1-7 down at half time. Passes astray, poor movement and thinking all contributed, but it was no one thing. Being the group this is, after a difficult half time talk, we gathered ourselves and came out fighting in the second half, winning it comfortably, but not enough to win, as NWT hung on, with us missing a penalty, and NWT getting the benefit of the doubt on several other similar penalty calls.

Majors: Lucy-Mai, Lucy, Ruby.

Goals: Caitlin 3, Lucy 2, Freya 2, Audrey

South East Anderida 18 South West 6

On paper a comfortable win, however large tracts of this match were marred by one of the referees, which kept SWR close to our scoring for far too long. Some of the majors against us were near farce, however the expedencies these brought about resulted in an excellent performance by Grace as relief centre back, and some ruthless opportunistic finishing from Lucy-Mai, often capitalising on this.

Majors: Caitlin 3, Lucy 2, Grace, Audrey, Ruby, Fleuve.

Goals: Lucy-Mai 7, Lucy 5 Audrey 3, Caitlin, Fleuve, Grace.

South East Anderida 5 North East 15

The pit and driving qualities in the NE team mean that it is never easy to play this team, unless you finish your own chances ruthlessly. On too many occasions we didn't quite get there, our approach play was decent, the chances came, but we had too many near misses that resulted in wing counters that undid us. We gave little away as an organised defence, and I would estimate that most of the difference in the scores was the result of playing and missing versus their counters. The NER coach recognised how good our organised defence had been, and that the difference in the scores did not reflect the intensity of the contest, another measure here being that our support recognised this similarly, as well as recognising the flair of the opposition. As a neutral spectator match it was probably the best of the weekend.

Majors: Grace, Caitlin, Lucy, Ruby, Sophie.

Goals: Lucy 2, Lucy-Mai, Grace, Caitlin.

South East Anderida 8 London 4

London have improved some way from the team we beat 16-5 back in December 2017s U14s, as might be expected with the resources available to them, and with their coaches present this time.

We were by far the better team early on, and the positivity in ideas and creativity from the girls pre match resulted in several outstanding goals. London got back into the game through an erroneously awarded penalty, then threatened for a short spell, however we were too strong as individuals and as a group, as they stubbornly faded.

Caitlin Silk, very much a known threat to the other teams throughout, was superb in this match.

Majors: Caitlin 2, Ruby 2, Lucy, Audrey.

Goals: Caitlin 4, Lucy 3 Freya.

Goal totals: Lucy 12, Caitlin 8, Lucy-Mai 8, Audrey 4, Freya 3, Grace 2, Fleuve.

In conclusion, little has changed since December 2017, except the quality of play. As a region, we continue to punch above our weight, I will dissertate these in a further report. There were some splendid SER performances, not least Maddie, commanding as ever in goal, through thick and thin. Lucy-Mai was voted our MVP by the other regions, well deserved again, and the possessor of a great WP brain. The team is maturing, players are using initiative and responsibility, which is reflected in the goal scoring numbers among players. In a spell of our first match we were poor, after half time we improvised and innovated, with us learning to play to drives and others cover the moves. A significant number of close in goals were scored this way, particularly by Lucy, and these moves were often covered by others.

Once again we have managed to field a second team, whose report will follow. This is in itself a great achievement, we are the only region other than NW to do so, and we should thank Helen Bullock for again managing this process, as well as her core role with Anderida.

Ewan Partridge

8/7/19