

WATER POLO

SOUTH EAST SOLENT U16 GIRLS DIVISION 2 INTER REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WALSALL JULY 6th & 7th 2019

REPORT

This is the 2nd year that SER have had the players numbers to enter a 2nd team in to this competition. This year we were joined by two players from the recently formed Guernsey WPC, preparation was difficult, as they and one other recently arrived player have not had a great deal of team preparation, therefore it was very much learning on the job for team and coaches.

Team

Ismev Hawley GK
Milly Mcalister C
Jess Jonas
Talia Vyse
Maddy Russel
Grace Bennalick
Kathryn Gracie – Langrick
Mia Sukurman
Jess Thomson
Lily Ross
Giulia Villar

Coaches – Bruce Philp, James Ross
TM Nick Gracie - Langrick

On the whole the girls acquitted themselves well despite never having played together before, there was always going to be an issue of cohesion. As with all tournaments of this nature the team improved with every game as their confidence grew and became more aware of what was expected of them.

GAME 1

SE SOLENT VS NORTH WEST LIGHTNING

SE 4 NW 15

GOAL SCORERS Giulia 3 Milly 1

Our first game against a well organised NWL. This was a shakedown game for us as we struggled to get going as a unit.

GAME 2

SE SOLENT VS EAST ANGELS

SE 5 EA 14

GOAL SCORERS Maddy 2 Giulia 2 Milly 1

This game was a lot closer than the score suggests, we made some silly mistakes, poor passing, unnecessary turnovers, defence was much improved.

GAME 3

SE VS WEST MIDLANDS

SE Solent 4 WM 10

GOAL SCORERS Giulia 3 Jess Jonas 1

Again we made the opposition look good. Lack of experience and a bit of tiredness showed. Girls looked more of a unit and were growing in confidence.

GAME 4

SE SOLENT VS EAST MIDLANDS

SE 0 EM11

The less said about this game the better. We were hit by the mythical Sunday morning tournament game syndrome, i.e. we didn't really turn up. There was a long discussion after this game with the girls in order to prep them for the next game against Ireland. Thanks James!

GAME 5

SE SOLENT VS IRELAND

SE 3 IRELAND 15

GOAL SCORERS Mia 1 Giulia 1 Grace 1

This was our best game of the weekend against the eventual tournament winners. Having watched Ireland defeat Scotland earlier 18 – 0, we adjusted our tactics in holding the ball for a bit longer and short passes up the pool, no hopeful long shots to avoid being countered which Ireland were very good at.

This game was a great team effort, the girls got the bit between their teeth and produced some great defence. Notably Grace and Mia who started mixing it up with the opposition in defence and gained huge confidence. The Girls swam their hearts out and gave a good account of themselves. This was the most cohesive game they played and was a pleasure to watch. Some great saves by Ismey.

GAME 6

SE SOLENT VS SCOTLAND

SE 7 SCOTLAND 8

GOAL SCORERS Milly 4 Giulia 2 Jess T 1

This was our most exciting game of the weekend. It was hoped that the Girls would put everything they had learnt together and get a win .Alas it was not to be ! Again some unnecessary turnovers, a misunderstanding of some referee calls, and some poor finishing...however they tried their hardest and were unlucky in the end.

TOP GOAL SCORER GIULIA 8 GOALS

PLAYER OF THE SE SIDE MILLY MCALLISTER

I am reluctant to single out anybody individually as they all tried their hardest...suffice to say Giulia was a welcome addition to the side and the two players from Guernsey acquitted themselves well and grew in confidence as the weekend progressed. Ismeys Goal Keeping improved in leaps and bounds and she made some great saves against Scotland to keep us in the game. Her throw outs have great potential to help us counter.

Milly put in a Captains performance and kept going despite some tough opposition up front.

Jess J, Jess T, Talia, Lily, Mia ,Grace and Maddy all swam like Trojans, always with a smile on their faces ,their heads never dropped and everyone's game improved.

As a whole the girls certainly lacked a lot of awareness in the pool at times and some naivety in terms of refing calls. This is understandable due to their age and not having played as a team before. Our set plays, i.e man ups need work, well as defending in the same situation.

Going Forward.

From a Coaching point of view I feel the girls just need to play more games in order to become more " street wise ".

All the other issues i.e. Restarts, positioning for man up offense and defence,competitiveness/aggression,countering,clock awareness will only come over time as well as having the confidence to score

Big thanks to James for his help and input,as well as to Nick for his organising and efficiency and sense of humour.

The team meal was great with the girls and parents,Nandos was an inspired choice.

Suffice to say I really enjoyed my weekend, the girls were great.

Bruce Philp