

SWIM ENGLAND SOUTH EAST REGION WATER POLO

UNDER 16 (2011 & YOUNGER) BOY'S INTER REGIONS

MANCHESTER & BOLTON 27TH & 28TH JUNE 2026

For the last few years, the under 16 inter region competition has been played in two divisions with these being decided by the results from the under 14 event that featured this age group.

As a result, both the Southeast and Scotland were slightly unlucky to be in division two where they were joined by the East Midlands and West Midlands.

It was always assumed that the competition would be played at the end of June or the beginning of July but Swim England were seemingly very slow to confirm this.

Once the date was confirmed we then had to wait to hear where the competition would be played and with relatively short notice, we discovered that we would have to travel to East Manchester on Saturday and then Bolton on Sunday.

This obviously created a number of problems in relation to booking hotels and especially a team meal on the Saturday evening which was not helped by a relatively late finish.

The match schedule would also be very demanding, with matches against the three other teams on Saturday and then a final place game on Sunday morning.

Match 1, Southeast 17, East Midlands 7

A really positive start and this was a match that we dominated throughout with a combination of excellent defending and a strong counter attack.

We made a decent opposition look very average and the final score was fair reflection of how we dominated match.

Match 2, Southeast 10, West Midlands 8

This was a remarkable match and for long periods we were nowhere near the level that we had produced against the East Midlands.

We gave away too many poor goals and we lacked energy in attack struggling to break down the opposition defence. As a result, we were behind for the majority of the game but eventually we found some form in the final quarter to come from behind and secure the win

As a result of the two wins, we knew that we would play Scotland in the final group game and then again on Sunday morning in the match to decide 1st and 2nd place.

Match 3, Southeast 7, Scotland 11.

This was a solid performance against a strong Scotland team that were well organised in both attack and defence.

We played well at times but we particularly struggled to break down a well organised zone defence that Scotland employed to limit the number of chances that we could create for our centre forward. But against a good opposition this was decent display that indicated that we could be competitive in the final match on Sunday.

Match 4, 1st-2nd Play Off, Southeast 13, Scotland 17

A match that we were disappointed to lose but this was actually a really good performance where we pushed Scotland all the way in what was a very exciting encounter.

We led early on but a combination of too many avoidable exclusions, some poor decision making and not taking some of the chances we created, probably cost us the chance of a victory.

That said, all of the squad worked tirelessly and at times we played some very good water polo.

Obviously, we were disappointed to lose but we made Scotland work really hard in what was a tough and very entertaining encounter.

Overall, the second-place finish and the two competitive matches against Scotland were fair reward after a very tough weekend.

The boys were a credit to the region both in and out of the pool and I'm sure that they all will have benefitted from playing in this tournament.

We were very well supported by the friends and family and I would also like to thank James Foot who worked hard in his role as assistant coach.

Southeast region squad; -

1. Reubens Baggaley (G/K)
2. James Pitt
3. Henry Rouse
4. Tritan O'Leary
5. Sam Foot
6. Herbie Graves
7. Oscar Hunt
8. Filip Milikic
9. Spike Hansen
10. Dhruv Karan
11. Cameron McArragher
12. Ethan Lawrence

Cameron was named the Southeast region most valuable player by the opposition coaches.

Alastair Roberts

28th June 2026