



Cheshire County W.P & S.A. Water Polo Tournament

Mini Water Polo Festival 2014

Hosted by Warrington Swimming & Water Polo Club



On Sunday 19th October 2014 Warrington Swimming at Water Polo Club hosted their first Mini Water Polo Festival at Orford Park Leisure Centre in Warrington.

Twelve teams entered the competition from all over the North West with each team being allowed 10 players. It was encouraging to see some school teams entering including Archbishop Blanch, Newton Primary School and Manchester Grammar School.

The 25 metre was divided into two pitches pitch #1 (Orange) hosted group's A and B. In the shallow end pitch #2 (Green) hosted Groups C and D. (see below).

In **round 1** Group A and Group B played alternate matches in pitch 1 while at the same time Group C and Group D play alternate matches in pitch 2. Each team then played 2 group matches and got one game rest between each group match. At the end of 6 matches each group the teams were ranked as 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Group A	
Team 1	BRIDGEFIELD
Team 2	CHESTER
Team 3	WARRINGTON CYCLONES
Group B	
Team 1	TYLDESLEY
Team 2	MANCHESTER GRAMMAR DOLPHINS
Team 3	NEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Group C	
Team 1	LANCASTER
Team 2	LIVERPOOL
Team 3	MANCHESTER GRAMMAR SHARKS
Group D	
Team 1	WARRINGTON WHIRLWINDS
Team 2	STRET福德
Team 3	ARCHBISHOP BLANCH

In **round 2** the next 3 matches in pitch 1 the team finishing in position A3 played the team finishing in position B3. In the other games in this stage, the team finishing in position A2 played the team finishing in position B2 etc. At the same time in pitch 2 the teams in Group C and Group D played three matches C3 v D3 etc. Each match needed to produce an outright winner so penalty shoot outs would be required in the event of a draw at full time.

This made for some exciting conclusions to some round 2 games including **Game 17** Bridgefield v Tyldesley. At half time Tyldesley were leading 2-1 and moved into a 3-1 in the second half. However Bridgefield fought back and at the end of full time it was 3-3. The penalty shootout commenced with the best of three attempts. Bridgefield scored first followed by Tyldesley but then two penalties were missed and Tyldesley scored the final penalty to win by 1 goal.

In the final round 11th and 12th play-off took place on pitch #1 between Newton Primary School against Archbishop Blanch at the same time at the same time on pitch #2 Warrington Cyclones took on Liverpool. Eventually we reached the semi-final with Manchester Grammar Sharks taking on Bridgefield. Bridgefield moved into a commanding lead and at half time were 5-1 up. The second half was closer but Bridgefield won the game and the bronze medal 8-3.

In the final Tyldesley took on Stretford. At half time Tyldesley had built up a slender 2-1 lead. In the second half Stretford quickly pulled one back. In the final 3 minutes 50 seconds no goals were scored and again we were into a



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penalty shootout. Players were taking the penalties from 5 metres but the goals were only 2 metres wide which made scoring a goal quite difficult. In fact out of six penalties only one goal was scored and that was by Stretford who took the gold medal. Both teams had played some excellent water polo and made an excellent finale to the competition.

Olympian Hazel Musgrove and Rotary Club member Eric Russell presented the medal to the teams.

The final classifications were

1	Stretford
2	Tyldesley
3	Bridgefield
4th	Manchester Grammar Sharks
5th	Lancaster
6th	Manchester Grammar Dolphins
7th	Warrington Whirlwinds
8th	Chester
9th	Liverpool
10th	Warrington Cyclones
11th	Archbishop Blanch
12th	Newton Primary School

We believe the event was a success and that was thanks to a large team of parents and young helpers. In total we had six young volunteers involved who took up a number of roles including assistant coach, table official and generally assisting on poolside.

My thanks also to the four referees on the day who did an excellent job I think they all had an enjoyable evening. Finally may I thank all the sponsors including North West Region for supporting this event. We hope to run the vent again next year.

Chris Byrne

Head Water Polo Coach

Warrington Swimming & Water Polo Club



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Orford Park with two pitches



Olympian Hazel Musgrove & President of the Rotary Club Eric Russell about to present the medals.



Winners Stretford (centre), Silver medallist Tydelsey (right) and Bronze medallist Bridgefield (Left)