

SUSSEX COUNTY ASA WATER POLO
UNDER 14 INTER COUNTY TOURNAMENT
WHITGIFT SCHOOL, SOUTH CROYDON, 19TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Sussex Squad; -

1. Amelia Cook (G/K)
2. Elsie Graves
3. Leon Wurdarczyk
4. Sammy Smith
5. Aiden McArragher
6. Thomas Greenyer
7. Cassius Humphreys
8. Jamie Miles
9. Lily Dalimore
10. Harvey Tester
11. Ben Loffler

Sussex entered the first inter county event which was for the under 14 age group and this was the first event of this type that had been played for 18 months because of the pandemic.

Having missed a great deal of training throughout the three lockdowns it was always going to be interesting to see how the young boys and girls played in this tournament and the general consensus of the coaches was that the standard of play was probably better than might have been expected. The Sussex squad of 3 girls and 8 boys met in advance of the first game and we discussed several aspects of how we wanted the team to play using simple but effective tactics that worked well. These are the individual match reports; -

Match 1

Sussex 5, Surrey 3.

This was a really exciting opening match when the Sussex team came from behind to record an excellent win.

We made a slow start and soon fell behind but once we started to play the pressing defence, we regularly won possession which led to a number of the goals.

We led for the first time with just over 2 minutes of the match left but the team re-grouped at a time out and we scored again late on to settle any nerves.

Scorers; - Cassius 2, Jamie 1, Leon 1, Elsie 1.

Match 2

Sussex 8, Hampshire 2.

This was a comfortable win against the weakest team in the competition and we were always in control of this match.

We took time to play all of the squad and we probably should have won the game by a greater margin but we contrived to miss on a number of occasions.

Scorers; - Jamie 2, Leon 2, Elsie 2, Cassius 1, Sammy 1.

Match 3

Sussex 5, Middlesex 7.

This was a really exciting finish to the tournament with the Sussex team battling really hard against a strong Middlesex team. Amelia produced a number of excellent saves that kept us in the game but eventually we just came up short in a tough match.

We were always behind in the match but at half time we were only a goal down but the start of the second half proved to be pivotal when we conceded two quick goals that really decided the match. The Sussex youngsters never gave up and put up a really spirited display and the narrow defeat meant that the team finished very worthy runners up.

Our team finished 2nd overall to Middlesex.

This was a good tournament for the Sussex squad and it was nice to see a “proper” event for the first time for many months and we can be very pleased with how the team played.

Alastair Roberts

Sussex ASA Water Polo

The picture is L-R; - Lily, Leon, Elsie, Harvey, Amelia, Thomas, Sammy, Aiden, Ben, Cassius, Jamie.