

# KENT U14 WATER POLO TOURNAMENT

Saturday 25th September: Hythe put out a mixed team to play Beckenham in the Kent U14 tournament. Well - it was meant to be a tournament but ended up as the "final" between Hythe and Beckenham, as unfortunately the other teams were unable to pull enough players together to participate.

Hythe had a team of 7 with some more experienced players towards the top of the age group, and also some new younger players who were experiencing their first game. Those of you not familiar with Beckenham, should know they have several private schools with own water polo teams, that filter into their squads. They're a good, well drilled water polo team, with lots of subs.

Fortunately for Hythe, Sevenoaks brought along 4 players to support us.

Hythe had a rocky start as the newer plays found their feet (not literally – as this was a deepwater pitch - another thing Hythe players needed to get used to!). We conceded a few well positioned and strong goals from Beckenham, but quickly got into the swing of things and slowed down the goal difference significantly. Izaak Guck pulled off some great goals, and the whole team put up some excellent defending, stopping Beckenham from extending their lead further.



I was incredibly impressed with our debut players Ollie Corcoran and Oliver Newman. Both gave a solid defensive performance, boldly tackling the counter attacks from Beckenham and putting in 100% effort all the time they were in the water. Our goalkeeper Hudson Lindsey put up a tireless

performance, making some great saves and getting the ball up field to help set up goals! Amy Holehouse and Alice Lea both stepped up to the mark and made some great tackles both in defence and midfield to gain possession. Towards the last quarter Hythe started to tire with lack of subs and a younger team. The goal difference expanded a bit more, but the players kept their chins up and continued to do their best throughout.

They should all be incredibly proud of their performances against a strong team like Beckenham.

So, we didn't win...but we did have a great second quarter where we only had a 1 goal gap! It was a great effort and I see a lot of potential in our players if given more match experience like this. Our ultimate goal is for everyone to have fun and improve their water polo skills along the way Well done players and parents for helping make this happen! Thank you to Nikki Guck, Lois Newman, Paul Holehouse and Harris Lindsey for supporting the players poolside. Without volunteers, events like this would not happen.