

U18 Boys Inter-Regional report.

Hopes were high going into the 1st game against the North East Steelers but an injury to key player Josh Barrett during the early warm up was a major setback. East started slowly, but good defence kept the score in check. With a 4-1 deficit going into Q2, a stronger display from the East players with goals spread across the team kept the team in touch at half time. The 2nd half saw a strong performance from both teams, but the inability of East to convert their chances meant the first game was lost 18-10.

With a good break East were confident of a good showing against North West Tigers. After a cagey opening quarter, East sprang to life during Q2 with some fine all round play. Going in at half time 5-2, East opened the scoring in the next quarter to extend the lead. Some questionable refereeing decisions towards the end of Q3 stopped the momentum and East never recovered after that. The Tigers running out 12-8 winners.

Sunday was always going to be hard work with 2 games in a short space of time. First up, London Sharks. The game followed a similar pattern to game against the Steelers. East started slowly and gained momentum taking the lead at half time 5-4. Q3 was again the teams undoing. An inability to convert chances and a tiring defence meant the Sharks ran out eventual winners 17-12.

The final game against South West Sharks was arguably going to be the hardest game and it proved to be so. With the Sharks having a number of England players in their squad it was always going to be challenging. East's defence performed admirably, and though overwhelmed, the team persevered, eventually losing 20-5.

Overall the team gelled well for large periods and were competitive in all but the final game. Had they taken more of the chances on offer, the results would have been different. The quality of water polo during this event was higher than in previous years and the East deserved their place.