

## **ASA East Region Water Polo Junior inter-county Championships 2010**

### **Suffolk Girls win the Jill Morton Memorial Trophy Herts Boys retain the Andy Morton Trophy**

In a first for East Region, separate championships were held for girls and boys at this year's event at Watford Woodside pool. The region's under-17 teams put on a superb display of top quality water polo in a thrilling evening of competition watched by a gallery full of spectators, including John Toll (ASA East Region President), George Kent (Hertfordshire ASA President) and Andy Morton (East Region past president and former GB water polo manager). We are very grateful to Andy who donated the new Jill Morton Memorial trophy for the Girls Championship in memory of his late wife.

The Boys opened the event with a close match between Beds and Essex. The half-time 2-2 score turned into a 4-2 victory for Essex as Beds failed to add to their tally despite two man-up plays. The Girls teams from the same counties faced each other, and Beds reversed the boys result with a goal in the last minute to win 3-2.

Herts Boys outplayed the young Suffolk squad with a 23-0 defeat that presaged the final outcome of the tournament, then Essex and Suffolk Girls took to the water. The first half was a one-sided affair as Suffolk eased to a 6-0 lead but Essex fought back with 2 goals from Evie Granat and one from Emily Dawson. Suffolk recovered and pressed home their advantage to finish 10-5 winners including 5 from Laura White.

Beds Boys outclassed the brave Suffolk side to win 16-2, though Suffolk's Ollie Norman showed his mettle with two goals and an exclusion. The Beds and Suffolk Girls then faced each other to decide the gold medals in a thrilling match which had the crowd on the edge of their seats. Suffolk nosed ahead 3-2 at the interval thanks to Laura White's hat-trick, but Beds recovered and levelled the score 4-4 by nipping a goal after the last minute bell. The game finished with the teams tied on points and so the goal difference rule was invoked with Suffolk being declared winners. Beds took the silver medals and Essex the bronze.

Andy Morton and John Toll presented the Jill Morton Memorial Trophy and medals while the audience showed their appreciation for the Girls teams' splendid efforts.

The spotlight was now on the last two Boys matches. Herts and Essex had a quiet first half which ended 3-0, then the teams turned up the heat after the interval. The final 10-3 scoreline reflected Herts superiority including four from Ben Kohler, though Essex earned several man-ups and could have added to their tally.

Gallant Suffolk went down 1-13 against Essex, then the stage was set for the championship decider as Beds and Herts lined up. Beds went unrewarded as Herts built a 5-0 first half lead, but the coaches galvanised their players and the second period was a fiery affair with penalties, exclusions and goals galore. Essex were ultimately disappointed with a solitary goal as Herts triumphed 13-1 including five from Jared Baker and three from Ben Kohler.

So the Andy Morton trophy found its way back to the Herts display cabinet and Essex had to be content with the silver medals, while Beds collected the bronze. Andy summed up the event "This was without doubt the best East Region Water Polo Tournament so far at any age level, and I have seen all of them since the Region began. The Hertfordshire boys team were really excellent and all the girls played with so much enthusiasm."

Thanks are due to all the referees, table officials, parents & supporters and of course the players who made this another memorable Championships.

**Match Scores - Girls**

Beds	3	Essex	2
Essex	5	Suffolk	10
Beds	4	Suffolk	4

**Match Scores - Boys**

Beds	2	Essex	4
Herts	23	Suffolk	0
Beds	16	Suffolk	2
Herts	10	Essex	3
Suffolk	1	Essex	13
Beds	1	Herts	13

**Results - Girls**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Suffolk
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Beds
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Essex

**Results - Boys**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Herts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Essex
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Beds
4 <sup>th</sup>	Suffolk

**Top goals - Girls**

Laura White	Suffolk	9
Lucy Granat	Essex	3
Ellie Pettitt	Suffolk	3
Emma Lord	Beds	2
Evie Granat	Essex	2
Emma White	Suffolk	2

**Top goals - Boys**

Ben Kohler	Herts	15
Jared Baker	Herts	12
Sam Lourensz	Beds	8
Nick Albiew	Essex	6
Tom Davis	Essex	5
Hugo Cliff	Herts	5
Ollie Norman	Suffolk	3
Jason Attwood	Beds	3
Joe Jackson	Herts	3

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