

Bronzes for Xarifa's kids

UNDERWATER HOCKEY

DUKINFIELD-BASED

Xarifa underwater hockey club saw some of its younger members make a splash in this year's Junior National Championships.

The competition, held at the John Charles Sports Centre, Leeds, saw Xarifa's under-12s come away with a bronze medal for their efforts.

Their players were entered into five teams at the event with the under-12s - who also had players from Hale in Liverpool, Greenfield and New Mills - claiming a podium place.

They also joined forces with the Batley club to enter another team at under-12s level, and while they didn't come away with a medal, they gained valuable competition experience.

The under-12s were the youngest players

there with three further age categories - under-14s, under-16s and under-18s.

With underwater hockey a six-a-side game with four substitutes at under-14 level and above, Xarifa's youngest members competed in a five-a-side competition where each team was allowed three replacements.

Xarifa's under-14s and under-16s met with some stiff competition and had many close games but neither squad qualified in any of the medal positions at a tournament with teams from the Orkneys and Plymouth.

However, a combined Northern team at under-18 level - many of whom are Xarifa members - won silver medals in their section as Team South West claimed gold medals in all four age groups.