



MEDAL-WINNERS: Xarifa u12s bronze medal winners 2014: (from left) Daniel Saville, Callum Cooper (captain), Daniel Tromans, Declan McNulty (vice-captain), Benjamin Lythe, Emrys Williams, Mellissa Greenough and Caitlin Matthews.

Picture by Damien McNulty

Underwater hockey players net medals

Everything is going splashingly well at Tameside's only junior underwater hockey club.

The club, Xarifa, entered players into five teams in the 2014 Junior National Championships and the u12s team came back with the bronze.

The Tameside team, based at Dukinfield pool, includes players from as far afield as Hale in Liverpool, Greenfield and New Mills.

A combined u18s northern team, including many players from Xarifa, also took silver medals in the competition.

The children were split into four age categories, u18, u16, u14 and u12s.

The Junior National had teams entered from clubs as far apart as Orkney to Plymouth.

The tournament was held in Leeds'

John Charles Sport Centre, with the international pool split into four playing areas.

Xarifa put together another u12 team with players from Batley club, although they didn't come away with any medals they gained valuable competition experience.

The u12s played in a five-a-side competition, with each team being allowed three substitutes.

UWH, also known as Octopush, is normally a six-a-side game (u14s and above), with four substitutes.

Xarifa's u14s and u16s teams met with some stiff competition and had many very close games, sadly neither team qualified in any of the medal positions.

Team South West were the most successful squad, gaining gold medals in all

four age category.

"TSW have a few junior clubs to select players from," said Phil Thompson, Xarifa coach and treasurer.

"It's no wonder they produce excellent teams."

Xarifa UWH has been at Dukinfield since 2005 and has players from eight years of age all the way up to 18.

It will celebrate its 10th anniversary next year.

Xarifa now has a two-hour pool session allowing more time and space for the different age categories to play a better game on Fridays between 5.30-7.30pm at Dukinfield Swimming Pool. Email: xuw@btinternet.com

Xarifa UWH is affiliated to The British Octopush Association – www.gbuwh.co.uk