

Swimming off with the gold medal

Youngsters were certainly went for gold in a recent underwater hockey tournament.

Northern teams were made up from players from Xarifa, Rochdale and Batley clubs, but includes players from Oldham, Liverpool, Manchester and across Tameside.

Xarifa Underwater Hockey club, based in Dukinfield, entered players into the regional tournament which took place on Saturday.

The tournament was held at Newport International Pool, South Wales.

They played against teams from the south, south west and Wales in u12s, u14s and u16s age categories.

The Northerns u14 regional team conceded only one goal in the first Regional Underwater Hockey Tournament of 2015, taking first place in the medal table.

The u16s scooped silver

medals, but were beaten to the top position by a team from the south west.

The u12s played five games in all, lost the first two, though they scored in both. They won games three and four and drew in game five.

This saw them take fourth place overall.

"The kids really put in 100 per cent," said Xarifa coach Damien McNulty, speaking about the Northern u12 team.

"They showed great support in attack and swam back hard to defend - well done all!"

Xarifa junior UWH has been having fun at Dukinfield Pool since January 2005.

Beginners can have a free trial, but they have to prove they can swim four lengths before being allowed to join the club.

Many players have successfully gone on to play for GB squads.



GOING FOR GOLD: There were regional gold medals for the u14s, including Harry Thompson, Jennifer Collier, Daniel Tromans, Declan McNulty, George Lythe, Bradley Thompson, Matthew Adams and Fiona Maynard.

Looking for talent

Hyde Football Club is on the hunt for locally-based talent to join the Academy.

The Tigers will be holding trials next month in a bid to offer youngsters a route into the professional and semi-professional game.

The first trial will be taking place on Saturday, February 21, from 1-4pm at Egerton Youth Club in Knutsford.

A second trial will be held at Ewen Fields on Sunday, March 1, from 9.30am-noon.

Those wishing to register their interest should send their football CV and GCSE results to the following email address: i.worthington@yahoo.com

Whiteside

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