

NAGs Victory for Newton Abbott

Last Monday saw the culmination of the Swim England Water Polo National Age Groups for 2019. Several Bristol players found their way into the Newton Abbot team for the U19 tournament. They were Joe Hubble, Charlie Tod and Thomas Manley, who all play as part of City of Bristol's National League team.

Having made it through the qualification and Preliminary phases of the tournament, the finals were set for 27th May in Sheffield. Four teams competed, City of Manchester, City of Sheffield, Watford and Newton Abbot. Newton Abbot had qualified by coming second in their group, behind City of Manchester.

It would be fair to say that the West Country boys were seen as the underdogs of the U19 tournament, but Rhys Tamlyn, the squad coach, had other plans and convinced the boys that they could do very well if they played as part of a team. The Boys stepped up.



The Newton Abbot Squad at the Haberdashers Weekend

The day started with a match between City of Sheffield and Newton Abbot, which resulted in a win for Newton Abbot, 8 – 4. The boys played together as a team and produced a fantastic group effort, with no one player standing out, more than Tom Manley, whose work in goal was inspirational. So, the boys were now in the finals, what a turnaround.

The final match was between City of Manchester and Newton Abbot, Manchester having beaten Watford earlier.

The match report by Swim England can be found here:

<https://www.swimming.org/waterpolo/newton-abbot-u19boys-water-polo-gold/>

A very well deserved win for Newton Abbot, 10 – 7, Gold in the Tournament.

Well done to the Newton Abbot squad. This result was totally unexpected by all apart from the Boys and Rhys, who kept their calm and played for their pride and each other, and frankly did us all very proud.

Pictures on the next page

A special mention needs to go to Tom Manley, who, quite rightly in our view, received Best Goalie in the U19 Boys tournament and Most Valuable player. Tom Hunt received the award for the most goals scored in the finals phase.



Tom Hunt, Rhys Tamlyn, Tom Manley



Joe Hubble



Charlie Tod

