

U16 Girls Water Polo Inter-Regional Championships 2022

25 & 26 June 2022 - Liverpool Aquatic Centre.

Two goals in the space of 21 seconds helped North West Thunder triumph in a thrilling final of the U16s Girls' Inter-Regional Championships. Centre-forward Lucy Davis bagged the brace in the third quarter to set Thunder on their way to a 7-5 victory over Ireland. It was Thunder's sixth straight win of the competition, having secured a 100 per cent record in the group stage before defeating West Midlands 15-10 in the semi-final.

Ireland had also won all five of their games heading into the gold medal match, having topped Group A and then beating South West Sharks 12-4 in their last four tie.

Victorious North West Thunder coach Joanne Mountfield said: "Congratulations to our players on a terrific performance in the final and our supporters for creating a fantastic atmosphere. Our team consisted of players from seven North West Clubs and it is important to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of their club coaches in this success. These tournaments are critical in the development of girls water polo within the Regions, as local league fixtures are still mixed at U16s and it was extremely positive to see seven of the 10 teams being led by female coaches. Our thanks go to the event manager, Richard Barnes, and his dedicated team of volunteers and officials who helped to ensure that the event ran smoothly and provided the best possible experience for the players."

In the bronze medal match, West Midlands took third spot with an 18-10 win over the South West Sharks.

Great success

Another exciting game saw East Angels secure a Division One place for the U18s competition following a penalty shootout victory in the 5th-6th play-off match. Angels goalkeeper Christina English saved two North East Steelers' penalties to seal a 10-9 success.

Nick Hume, the head coach of the National Academy for the U16s age group, said: "The 2007 Inter-regional tournament was a great success. Ten teams, 130 players and 20 plus coaches giving it everything for the sport we all enjoy so much. It was a great opportunity to see all the players in formal competition. It's an excellent indicator of where we are in the players' development and gives us plenty to work on through the National Academy in Millfield over the summer and for the future.

"Congratulations to the North West, Ireland and West Midlands for their results and to all the players who took part. Plus a thank you to all the volunteers, without whom it couldn't have happened."

During the competition, the North West Region ran a Club and Regional Table Officials' Course. There were 10 candidates from seven clubs and five of them completed their practical assessments and the North West Region thanked the national and International table officials for enabling this to take place.

The Tournament

Ireland, West Midlands, South East Anderida, North East Steelers and East Angels competed in Group A.

The Group B games were between North West Thunder, London Sharks, South West, Scotland Saltires and East Midlands.

The top five teams will form Division One for the U18s Girls' Inter-Regional Championships 2024.

Fixtures

West Midlands	9 – 9	North East Steelers	FT
London Sharks	12 – 2	Scotland Saltires	FT

East Angels	6 – 6	South East Anderida	FT
East Midlands	3 – 10	South West	FT
Ireland	7 – 3	West Midlands	FT
North West Thunder	8 – 2	London Sharks	FT
South East Anderida	7 – 9	North East Steelers	FT
South West	14 – 0	Scotland Saltires	FT
East Angels	0 – 5	Ireland	FT
East Midlands	3 – 14	North West Thunder	FT
West Midlands	13 – 7	South East Anderida	FT
London Sharks	2 – 11	South West	FT
Ireland	9 – 0	North East Steelers	FT
North West Thunder	17 – 0	Scotland Saltires	FT
East Angels	3 – 7	West Midlands	FT
East Midlands	2 – 2	London Sharks	FT
Ireland	9 – 1	South East Anderida	FT
North West Thunder	9 – 3	South West	FT
North East Steelers	6 – 3	East Angels	FT
Scotland Saltires	1 – 15	East Midlands	FT

Group A Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Ireland	4	4			26	8
West Midlands	4	2	1	1	6	5
North East Steelers	4	2	1	1	-4	5
East Angels	4		1	3	-12	1
South East Anderida	4		1	3	-16	1

Group B Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
North West Thunder	4	4			40	8
South West	4	3		1	24	6
East Midlands	4	1	1	2	-4	3
London Sharks	4	1	1	2	-5	3
Scotland Saltires	4			4	-55	

Play-Off Stage

5th-8th Play-off

North East Steelers	12 - 8	London Sharks	FT
East Midlands	6 - 12	East Angels	FT

Semi Finals

Ireland	12 - 5	South West Sharks	FT
North West Thunder	15 - 10	West Midlands	FT

9th-10th Play-off

South East Anderida	26 - 7	Scotland Saltires	FT
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5th-6th Play-off

North East Steelers	9 - 10	East Midlands	FT
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7th-8th Play-off

London Sharks 12 - 10 East Midlands FT

Bronze Medal Match

South West Sharks 10 - 18 West Midlands 14:15

Gold Medal Match

Ireland 5 - 7 North West Thunder 14:15

MVP Awards

Overall MVP: Lucy Blenkinship (North West Thunder)

Top goalkeeper: Tilly Armer (North West Thunder)

Top goalscorer: Amélie Perkins (West Midlands)

North West Thunder: Lucy Blenkinship

Ireland: Áine Hennessey

West Midlands: Amélie Perkins

South West: Georgi Hague

East Angels: Sofia Galati

North East Steelers: Millie Richards

London Sharks: Sophie Schonbach

East Midlands: Alice Berrill

South East Anderida: Lily Ross

Scotland Saltires: Lucy McNair

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