



Youth National Winners

Lancaster were undefeated in reaching the finals, in the Preliminary round they beat Durham, Welsh Wanderers, and Sheffield.

They played with winners of the other three Preliminary rounds.

Lancaster won all their games in the Qualification round against Birmingham, Cheltenham and Manchester. Cheltenham came second and qualified to face Lancaster in the final

The finals were held in Manchester at the Aquatic Centre.

Lancaster was the losing Finalists in 2010 and was determined to go one better this time.

The two teams were introduced to the crowd before the game.

Lancaster started quickly and was a goal up inside the first minute, Cheltenham responded immediately Lancaster adopted a fast counter attacking game to disrupt Cheltenham's more methodical approach.

Lancaster soon gained the upper hand as Noel Howson Scott Sharpe and Sam Routledge scored from quick counter attacks. At this early stage Cheltenham were over awed and unable to respond. Further goals from Captain Ben Walker and Noel Howson gave Lancaster an early advantage. Cheltenham managed two quick goals to stop the Lancaster stampede Cheltenham scored again to reduce the Lancaster goal advantage to two goals. In the last minute of the quarter Noel Howson scored to leave the score at the end of the first quarter **Lancaster 6 Cheltenham 3**

Coach Gary Ellwood was pleased with Lancaster attacking game, but was concerned with ease that Cheltenham had to score.

The second quarter started with sloppy Lancaster marking, Cheltenham took early advantage and scored. Sam Routledge restored Lancaster's three goal lead with a fierce left hand shot. Cheltenham came straight back and scored. Gary Ellwood Lancaster's coach was showing some concern as Lancaster players seemed unable to mark tightly when defending. Noel Howson scored to restore the Lancaster three goal lead. Cheltenham came back and was awarded a penalty as Lancaster still seemed unable to master their defensive duties. Things got no better for Lancaster as Cheltenham reduced Lancaster lead to one goal. In the last minute of the quarter Noel Howson gave Lancaster some breathing space with a fine pit centre forwards goal.

Score at half time Lancaster 9 Cheltenham 7

In the half time break Gary and the rest of the Lancaster coaching team made some strong points to the players. Gary also gave young Dominic Lock his chance in goal.

The 3rd quarter started with the Lancaster players under no illusions that if they did not improve their defending they would lose the game.

The whole team responded positively as James Alker, Noel Howson and Tom Grieve scored to give Lancaster a four goal lead. Cheltenham responded with a fine goal. Lancaster this time however had heeded the words of the coaches and pressed tight on defence. Lancaster went on to score 2 more goals with fine efforts from Luke Saul and Ben Walker.

The quarter finished with Lancaster leading by 14 goals to 8.



The fourth quarter started with a flurry of goals from Scott Sharpe and Sam Routledge, Scott Sharpe scored again as Lancaster started to take control of the game now leading by nine goals. At last Gary Ellwood Lancaster coach could confidently rotate the players. Lancaster continuing to press forward and were rewarded with more goals from Luke Saul and Adam Woods.

In the last seconds of the game Cheltenham scored to leave the **final score Lancaster 19 Cheltenham 9**. A much better second half to the game as Lancaster ran out comfortable winners and the 2011 ASA Youth Men's Champions.

Lancaster's all round team performance won the day. The players can be proud of their effort on the day and the preceding year of hard work.

Credit must also go to the Coaching team of Zak Sly, Gary Ellwood and Ron Winn.

Winning Lancaster team

Kieran Harrison, Ben Walker (2), Luke Saul(2), Noel Howson (5), Scott Sharpe(4), Sam Routledge (3), James Alker(1), Andrew Robinson, Tom Grieve (1), Lewis Peach, Adam Woods(1), Sebastian Reichel, Dominic Lock