



## Youth lads Regional Winners

Lancaster qualified as runners up in the Swim North West Youth Water Polo qualification rounds. They came second to Manchester who was unbeaten in their six qualifying games. Lancaster was second only losing to Manchester by one goal.

The qualification competitions were a game of two halves of seven minutes. With the Final was a game of four times seven minute quarters.

The final was held in Liverpool at the Aquatic Centre. The competition had not been competed for since 2007.

Lancaster playing in White hats started the game poorly conceding a goal in the first minute of the quarter. Manchester continued their pressure as the Lancaster defence seemed incapable of resistance. Lancaster attacks were easily dealt with by the more dominant Manchester defence. Manchester's constant pressure was rewarded with three well taken goals. James Alker gave Lancaster a glimmer of hope as he scored Lancaster's first goal six minutes into the quarter. Sloppy defending enabled Manchester to take a three goal lead into the break for the 1st quarter.

### **The score Lancaster 1 Manchester 4**

Lancaster second quarter started better as the Lancaster players buoyed by the arrival of their goalkeeper. Scott Sharpe scored after Manchester had conceded a penalty. Noel Howson reduces the deficit to one goal and the game had a future for the Lancaster players. Manchester responded to show that they were still in charge .James added his second goal to show that Lancaster meant to compete all the way.

### **The quarter finished Lancaster 4 Manchester 5**

Lancaster pleased by their recovery started the third quarter confidently. Noel levelled the scores and Luke Saul used his speed to give Lancaster the lead for the 1st time. Luke repeated his full pitch sprint to increase Lancaster lead. Noel converted a Lancaster man advantage as Manchester seemed to be having difficulty with the Lancaster resurgence. Manchester not to be undeterred responded as they do with a fine seven meter goal.

This regenerated Manchester as they scored two more goals to leave the score at the end of the third quarter **Lancaster 8 Manchester 8**

The fourth quarter started with both teams pushing forward at every opportunity. Lancaster score first with a well worked goal finished off by James. Manchester replied instantly with a fine seven meter shot.

Ben Walker and James were employed as alternatives to Noel as pit centre forward with Scott Sharpe controlling the play. Luke and Beth Richards were keeping the Manchester defence occupied as they maintained their wide position. Manchester had to change their defensive strategy .This released the close marking of Noel in the pit centre forward position. Noel took advantage of the space created and scored to increase Lancaster lead Lancaster now seemed to be controlling the game. Noël scored again



as Lancaster pinned Manchester on the defence. Lancaster still pressing Manchester into defensive duties scored again with a fine shot from Captain Ben Walker to seal victory.

Dominic Lock in goal, Adam Woods, Molly Dixon and Beth Bell played their part in this well earned victory. Great credit should go to them as they supported the team throughout the final

### **Final Score Lancaster 13 Manchester 9**

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

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

Winning Lancaster team: Dominic Lock, Ben Walker (1), Luke Saul (2), Noel Howson (5), Scott Sharpe (1), Molly Dixon, James Alker (4), Bethan Richards, Adam Woods, Beth Bell