

Match Report Junior Water Polo Team Fleetwood vs. Blackpool

Sunday 18th September 2011

Fleetwood took the early action but Blackpool gets the first goal. We were soon back level with a great shot by Harry Prestwich. A lovely long throw from James Lydon to Jack Hirst saw us go into the lead. After a scrabble with the ball Jack Booth just manages to get the ball to the keeper. Still 2-1 to us. Ollie Roe manages a fine save from a long powerful shot. One of the Blackpool players makes a quick exit – something she ate or fear from the Fleetwood team?

In the 2nd ¼ new recruits Amy Butler, Leah Easton & Ollie Hills come on. Blackpool comes at us with a hard shot that bounces off the woodwork. Leah gets stuck in with some fine attacking work. A high shot reaches the back of the net making the score 2 –2. With good defending another Blackpool shot goes too high. Andy Wetherill sets up a nice shot to Jack Hirst but just misses. Blackpool takes advantage and tries for another goal but the ball goes wide. Fleetwood attack again but Harry's shot too is just wide. The game is shaping up to be full of action at either end tiring our younger swimmers and probably the older ones who were swimming for the club earlier in the afternoon.

Amy makes a brave attempt to get the ball - no shallow end today to rest those legs. Ollie R. makes another great save and the ball is passed up via Andy to Jack B. who puts us back in the lead. Harry quickly gets his 2nd goal of the match thanks to good teamwork from the 2 Jacks and the score is 4-2 to us. Blackpool hit the woodwork again but the score is soon 4-3. Just before the break a rapid shot from Blackpool puts the score at 4 –4.

In the 3rd ¼ James replaces Ollie R in goal and Ollie gets his chance to be on the attack for a change. Blackpool must have had some fighting talk at half time and quickly get the score to 4-5. Alex Ward fights off 3 players in a scramble for possession and Harry forces a corner. James makes a good save but Blackpool come again with another goal. Corey Hills sets up the next goal from Jack H. with a great pass. Fleetwood win a penalty as a Blackpool player enters the pool illegally. Jack H comfortably hits the back of the net to level the score at 6-6. Another penalty this time to Blackpool and James makes an amazing save but just can't get his hands around the ball. Fleetwood let Blackpool get another quick goal to put the score at 6-8. Lucy Wetherill has a cracking shot but it's just over the top.

In the final ¼ Blackpool soon score again. The action is heating up and both sides are taking shots but missing until a shot from Jack H. from over half the length of the pool lands in the back of the net. Blackpool have difficulty counting up to 8 and 2 players are removed from the water. Joe Booth sends a shot spinning into the back of the net to put the score at 8-9. Blackpool retaliates with another goal to end the match 8-10.

An excellent effort by all the Fleetwood team – for some this was their first competitive match and I think they will agree it was very different to training.