

## Australian Schools International Water Polo Tour of England, December 2018

**356** English players played against Australia and/or Romania during the 10 days of competition; there were over **50** table officials appointed (who volunteered); there were over **30** referee appointments (who volunteered) to games involving an international team working alongside Maltese referee Stefan Licari and Australian FINA official Fiona Haigh. Regional involvement directly from: North East, North West and London; South East officials and timing equipment; Schools Water Polo League (London); Club involvement included Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Lancaster, Coventry, Otter and Cheltenham. Direct School involvement included Bolton School and Whitgift School; support from British Water Polo League and England Water Polo Com's Chris Dean Andy Rolle. Venues used: Liverpool, Manchester (East Manchester and MAC), Bolton, Matlock, Gloucester, Whitgift School. **58** boys and girls (born 2002 and 2001) gained full International experience from the fixtures against Australia and Romania following their selection for the 4 ESSA England teams.

### Fixtures and Results:

#### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>**

Girls 19:00; Australia v North West representative  
Boys 20:30 Girls: **30-3** Boys **12-7** **Liverpool Aquatic Centre**  
20:00 Romania v Manchester Select **4-9** **Manchester Aquatic Centre**

All Games used a 25m pitch except for the Saturday/Sunday sessions at East Manchester which were 30m:

**Jason Kenny Centre Bolton**

**East Manchester Leisure Centre**

#### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup>**

19:00 England Girls v Australia Girls **3-17**  
20:30 England Boys v Australia Boys **11-9**  
18:30 Lancaster Select v Romania Boys **5-15**

#### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>**

14:00 Australia Girls v Liverpool Select **15-10**  
15:30 England Girls v Manchester Select **5-8**  
17:00 Manchester Select v Australia Boys **6-4**  
18:30 England Boys v Romania Boys **5-14**

#### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>**

08:00 England Girls v Liverpool Select **9-9**  
09:30 Australia Girls v Manchester Select **16-8**  
16:00 Romania Boys v Australia Boys  
17:30 England boys v Manchester Select

#### **Monday 10<sup>th</sup>**

Girls 19:00; Australia v North East Representative  
Boys 20:30 Girls **31-5**; Boys **12-11** **Matlock**

#### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>**

Girls 19:00; Australia v Manchester Select  
Boys 20:30 Girls **11-9**; Boys **8-10** **Manchester Aquatic Centre Diving Pit**

#### **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>**

Girls 19:30; Australia v Cheltenham Select  
Boys 21:00 Girls **16-5**; Boys **19-10** **Gloucester GL1**

#### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>**

Australia v London Schools League Boys and Otter WPC Girls,  
Boys 17:30; London League v Australia **8-20**  
Girls 19:00 Otters Select v Australia **3-18** **Whitgift School**

#### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup>**

Boys 13:30; Australia v London Select  
Girls 15:00 Boys **24-4**; Girls **18-5** **Whitgift School**

#### **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>**

Girls 18:00; England 2001 v Australia  
Boys 19:30 Girls **8-15**; Boys **3-8** **Whitgift School**

Following the UK visit, the Australian teams travelled to the final part of their trip in New Zealand where we wished them well for their three Test Series. I expressed my gratitude to the whole water polo community from the English Schools Swimming Association via the England Water Polo social media platforms (twitter and Facebook). I thanked England Water Polo for their support and media coverage; all the clubs, Regions and International teams involved and to the countless volunteers that made the Australian visit such a huge success. From table officials, to referees, to coaches and team managers it was a monumental team effort across the whole country. Special thanks must go to Bolton School for their hospitality at the very beginning of the trip for hosting a memorable reception, to Whitgift School for sharing their exceptional facility with three superb days of competition and to Mike Jukes for coordinating all the refereeing appointments for the ten days of competition. Finally, my heartfelt thanks to Trevor Pledger, Colin Walsh and Andy McGinty for logistically making the whole event actually happen!

***Neil Green, ESSA Honorary Water Polo Organiser, 18/12/18***