

Croydon Water polo team won the Basingstoke Red Cross tournament annual event at U16 level for the first time on Saturday 16th July.

The team of Matt Brooks, Ashley Castle, Josh Capon, Anthony De- Sousa, Kevin Girard, Jack Kavanagh, Ashley Hinds, Joe Magliocco and Tor Wheeler won the first game easily against Basingstoke Bluefins 11-1 then faced much harder competition from Worthing in the second round . Although conceding an early goal, Croydon went on to win 2-1 and secure a place in the final against Christchurch Seagulls.

Croydon played a counter attacking game in the final with Kevin Girard, Joe Magliocco, Tor Wheeler and Josh Capon defending well , stopped Christchurch from playing. Two goals from Matt Brooks secured an early lead and the first half ended 3-1 to Croydon. Pressure from Christchurch mounted in the second half but a magnificent performance from goalie Ashley Hinds kept Croydon in the lead. Hard work from Jack Kavanagh, Anthony De-Sousza and Ashley Castle maintained the momentum with Croydon winning 3-2.

Coach Cliff Brooks said we played as a team with everyone doing the job asked of them we got the tactics just right. Croydon at this level are probably one of the strongest squads in the South East with several of the team representing London Region recently”.