



National Second Place for Brilliant Water Polo Stars

St. Ambrose College under-13 water polo stars have come a superb second in the English Schools' National Water Polo Championships against the cream of country's top independent schools.



The squad are Zac Moores, Joseph Mortlock, Oliver Mortlock, Oliver Flynn, Matthew Ho, Mele Gazdama, Jack Johnson, Malachai Al-radhi, Leo Jang, Thomas Noble and Joe Kelly.

The secret of their success according to popular skipper Jack Johnson was friendship, "we are just all good mates and communicate well in the water. There are no stars, it's just down to a strong team ethic."

The Hale Barns Catholic grammar school was the only state school in the competition with their achievement coming only four years after opening their stunning 25 metre state of the art pool.

Their journey began with city wide and regional titles before travelling to Northampton Grammar School to take on teams from across the country.

They qualified for the final after round robin games Trinity College London and the hosts Northampton, progressing to a semi final against arch regional rivals Bolton Grammar School. The boys were tied at full time and 4 – 4 in the penalty shoot out when clinical marksman Oliver Mortlock powered home his penalty to the top right.

It was now down to brave keeper Zac Moores who produced the same of the season to deflect a bouncing low shot from the Bolton striker and send Ambrose into the final.

However Alleyns College proved too strong and despite two strikes from winger and sibling Joseph Mortlock, the Londoners deservedly won 5 – 2.

St. Ambrose water Polo Coach Paula Chandler said: "This is the best ever performance from a St. Ambrose water polo team and is credit to the boys' intensive training and sheer love of the game."