

Last weekend we took 33 players to the two day UK U14/U17 Indoor Ultimate Frisbee Championships in Wolverhampton.

In the U14 category our A team pretty comfortably worked their way through the initial rounds and got through to the final against St. Peter's School, Exeter. St. Peter's had beaten us on the first day of competition in the pool stages 8-1 so our team knew they had to lift their game to beat them. Our team performed fantastically well trading points until St. Peter's started to pull away towards the end of the match winning with a final score of 8-5. Our team battled amazingly well against a very good opposition with Hugo Kehoe (8E) picking up the award for MVP (Most Valuable Player) for the final for his stand out performance. U14 A team: Won 7, Lost 2.

Our U14B team lost a few matches on the first day which left them competing at the bottom end of the table however they won every match on the second day and improved massively as a team, picking up the Spoon trophy for being top of the bottom third finishing 12th. U14 B team: Won 5, Draws 2, Lost 2.

The U17 category is always hotly contested. Although we usually know that the St. Peter's, Exeter team are usually untouchable at the top of the division the top ten places are always really competitive. Our team played some great Ultimate especially being a player down on the first day due to injury. The secured a guaranteed top 8 finish relatively comfortably and ended up finishing in 6th which was the goal at the start of the tournament. U17 A team: Won 5, Lost 3.

The surprise package of this division was our B team, ably led by Alfie Al-Moosawi who finished in 8th (out of 23 teams), the highest position our B team has ever finished. I had tried to balance the B and C teams out in picking the teams so there was some local competition between them but the B team seemed to gel better with outstanding performances coming from Jules Dean who really came to the fore in this tournament (to the extent that a Great Britain coach suggested he came to trials!). The highlight of the tournament for me was our A and B teams meeting in the penultimate round to decide who would be competing for 5th and who would be competing for 7th. The A team won this encounter but it was great to see both teams playing with smiles on their faces. U17 B team: Won 5, Lost 2.

Our C team was made up of Year 9 players so all players were two years under the age category and did pick up some good wins against older teams but generally lacked a bit of height against which can be a big disadvantage in an aerial sport and will hopefully have learned a lot for future tournaments. U17 C team: Won 3, Lost 5.

Good luck this weekend to a number of DHSB players who are attending Great Britain U17 and U20 trials in Coventry.

John McConnell