

### 1st UWH International Leman Tournament, Annemasse (FR)

16. - 17. June 2018

On the weekend of June 16 - 17 ten players made their way to Annemasse (FR) in high spirits to compete in the first edition of the International Leman Underwater Hockey Tournament. On the way we found an ideal pre-tournament warm-up opportunity, an enormous football table, which already managed to draw first groans and slightly overtaxed wrists from certain players. After our game of table football, we continued our drive towards Annemasse and even got spaces in the free parking lot near the pool. What a great start to the tournament. After a little confusion as to where to enter the pool area and losing Brecht in the search we eventually arrived at the water's edge.

Charles got us in tournament mood with a good team talk and a motivated warm-up routine before we commenced the tournament with a duel against one of the two host teams, Excocet 2.

Our unceasing efforts during the game were rewarded with a satisfying 8-0 win, launching us into the tournament in an unexpectedly successful manner.

One victory firmly in hand, we faced off against Moirans one hour later. We fought hard but couldn't quite keep up with their quick and skilful game. Nevertheless, we managed to score twice, leading to a final score of 2-6. One of their players later on claimed the two goals were down to their trying out new tactics on us. Well, even if that was so, we greatly deserved them for our effort. Not letting ourselves be disappointed by our first loss, we entered the pool brimming with thirst for action two hours



later to battle Grenoble and managed to restore our confidence by winning with seven goals to zero.

There remained one game to be played to conclude the first day of the tournament. Once again, we would be playing the host, this time team number one. And, as against the second team, we finished victorious, claiming twelve goals to our side versus zero to our opponents.

The first day of the tournament concluded in a rather successful manner we then made our way up the winding roads to Bellevaux, a lovely village in the French Alps and our residence and party location in one. (Or in the words of Krishna: "42 Middle of Nowhere Road, Somewhere in the Wilderness, France".) The dress theme of the party was countries and we all dressed up in national attire of varying degree, al-

though we did notice a general lack of creativity and engagement on our behalf when compared to some of the other teams. But the food was great, and the blind test quiz also caused a great deal of amusement.

The next day saw a rather early and slightly groggy start with our first game played at ten o'clock against a team from Sussex (GB) with the romantic name of Póg Mo Thóin (the translation shall be left to the reader). They proved a hard match and despite our greatest efforts and their intoxicated state we did not manage to score, in the end losing the hard fought out game 0-4.

After that we faced an also scary mixed team spontaneously formed by players from various clubs, Les Elus. Despite their not having trained together they presented a formidable opponent and we had a very hard contested game. In





the end we just managed to come up on top with a result of 2-1 in our favour.

Our final encounter of the group stage

was played against Clermont, whom we beat 8-0, thus securing us a place in the upper bracket knockout stage.

There we received a warm welcome by Moirans, who, this time refraining from trying

any untested tactics on us, beat us clearly but at great effort 8-1.

This placed us in the game for 3rd and 4th place against Póg Mo Thóin. Feeling like the score of the previous game against them didn't do our play justice, we were bent on beating them this time. In an exhausting first half we managed to come out with a lead of one goal to zero. Unfortunately for us they man-

aged to score the equalising goal in the second half. The fight for a further goal continued on either side of the pool with

the puck passing from one team to the other in a battle to secure victory. All efforts to no avail, after twenty minutes of game time we were forced into sudden death mode. Pitted five players against five with no substitutions al-



lowed our elected players pushed hard right at the strike and in a great effort of willpower managed, at the hand of Brecht, to score the winning blow, placing us spectacularly in 3rd place in the overall ranking, behind Moirans (1st) and Les Elus (2nd).

Timothy Bradley



## Players:

Brecht  
 Charles  
 Daniel  
 Fanny  
 Janine  
 Krishna  
 Marie  
 Olivier  
 Timothy  
 Zsuzsa

## Results:

