

## 30 UWH Parmacup Tournament

### Parmacup UWH Tournament

6th September 2014

Organized for the 7th consecutive year, the legendary Parmacup ("the biggest & funniest cup in the world!") gathered a record number of 30 teams for its 2014 edition. Underwater Hockey Switzerland was at the very first one, in 2008, and also subsequently in 2009, 2010 and 2012. So this was actually our fifth appearance at the Parmacup, but the first in our new Wahoo swimsuits!

Eager to show off our new swimsuits, we left Zurich on Friday at 3pm for a 6-hour journey. That gave us plenty of time to discuss about strategy for our new 2-3-1 formation, and also to give ourselves Italian nicknames for the occasion once we crossed the Italian border: welcome Robino, Martino,

Philippino, Giuliana, Oli, Ivano, Francesca, Susanna and Chicho! After big traffic jams, we finally arrived in Parma at around 9pm and picked up Philipp at the train station just in time so that we could enjoy big Italian pizzas for dinner and get carbo-loaded for the tournament day.

That day started pretty early in the morning with the pool opening at 7.30am and the schedule was very (too?) sharp due to the huge number of participating teams. About 300 underwater hockey players from all across Europe were gathered around the pool that day! It was particularly nice to see some Wahoo friends again, such as the Frenchies Sara and Julie, our former teammate Favio, our Tenero coach Sergio, the Munich team... Sara and Sergio even assisted us in the water for one game each, while Fanny,



*Krishna, Fanny, Zsuzsa, Robin, Janine, Olivier*

Martin and Robin also played a game with the Mulhouse girls, Mulhouse men and Grenoble teams respectively. This clearly shows how our Wahoo team has grown in influence and it is yet another proof – if one was ever needed – of the great team spirit, passion and solidarity between underwater hockey players!

We played 6 games in total, against West London, Mulhouse 2 and several Italian teams. In the end, we only won one game, ranking 22nd out of 24, but we definitely had some great fun and were very satisfied with how we played generally. All the games were very interesting, quite balanced and tight, with never more than 4 goals difference. This tournament was especially the opportunity for us to try out under real conditions our new 2-3-1 formation and other new tactics like the “Truck” and

the “Shield” taught in Tenero. Overall, we ended up playing more cohesively and together as a team so that was a tremendous success!

After the games, it was time for the prize ceremony, the dinner and the party! We didn't get any trophy but still got rewarded with a big chunk of parmesan cheese instead and, in any case, we definitely won the unofficial trophy for the best ambiance: first to drink, first to eat, first to sing, first to dance and last to leave! Unfortunately, more accurate details about the party are not available, for people's memories might be too blurred. Anyway, whatever happened in Parma stays in Parma. (Did someone mention a trolley on the dance floor?? Wasn't me!)

The next day was surprisingly quieter and after an Italian grocery shopping session, we said goodbye to Parma



*Szuzsa, Philipp, Robin, Krishna, Janine, Ivan, Olivier, Fanny vor angeschriebenem Bus*

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and its “real” summer weather, clear blue sky and hot sun. After 7 long hours (thanks to the huge traffic jam at the Gotthard tunnel), we finally made it back to Zurich, where Warren was waiting for us and welcomed us back at his place with an amazing and delicious homemade dinner : the perfect ending for such a weekend.

Many thanks to all the team members (cf. Italian nicknames), for the great games we played and the fun we had all together, and special thanks to:

- Fanny, our dear invisible – yet incredible – captain who organized the whole weekend!
- Robin, for arranging the transpor-

tation with a minibus with Wahoo stickers!

- Warren, for inviting us over for dinner upon our return; that was incredibly thoughtful and generous of you!

Special thoughts for Sylvania as well, who couldn't make it to the tournament in the end due to injury. Our one victory and all of our three goals are dedicated to you! We wish you a quick recovery and hope to see you back under water soon!

Giuliana, Susanna, Francesca, Oli, Ivano, Robino, Philippino, Chicho & Martino



*Janine, Zsuzsa, Fanny, Olivier, Ivan, Robin, Philipp, Krishna, Martin*