

The Mulhouse tournament

17. November 2013

A chilly November morning the Zürich underwater hockey team set out to meet at the Hauptbahnhof for a drive to a tournament in Mulhouse, France. Nine players were fitted into a minibus with big "UWH Zürich" stickers along the side. Despite a few weeks practice with fins and snorkel, the stickers made me feel like a pro already and I had a good feeling about my first tournament experience. The bus was warm and cozy and I soon forgot about the cold outside. Thanks to Robin for arranging this fine ride. Philipp (a UWH veteran) went through some theory and basic game-plays on the bus and he made sure that the rookie was better suited for the challenge at hand.

Upon arrival at Mulhouse, three more players joined the team. Even later we received more enforcements, when Martin arrived straight from the airport running with his suitcase making us 13 players in total.

The opponent teams arrived as well and there was a friendly and loose atmosphere with cheek kisses, hugs and a feast of bananas. It quickly turned serious inside however since our team was playing the first game. And the first couple of matches were tough and the other teams played well and in close formation. The team was struggling a bit to find their rhythm due to many substitutions. We had a very close game with the Mulhouse girls and I was lucky enough to get a great pass and make my first tournament goal. This was a super awesome experience! Shortly after I was sent off for two min-

utes for swimming to the puck too early. So much for feeling like a pro. Despite the referee calls going against the Zürich team the game ended as a tie. Given that we were a few players with the first tournament experience the team made a great effort and the savvier players kept the team on track and we had some very good plays. Personally I learned a lot from this tournament in terms of tactics, rules and most of all had a lot of fun.

I originally joined the team to meet some people with different background and try out a new sport. After starting this team I have met a lot of interesting people and the team made me feel very welcome, plus I have a huge appetite for more goals and underwater hockey!

Alexander Hansen Bork



*Back row: Fanny, Sylvania, Brecht
Third row: Alexander, Marie, Philipp, Katherine
Second row: Robin, Martin
Front row: Alex, Zsuzsa, Ivan*