



The City of Liverpool

City of Liverpool Water Polo Annual Report 2013

DEVELOPMENT

Development sessions for boys and girls have been held at the Aquatic Centre and at the new **Regional Training Centre** based at Huyton. Huyton has provided an important additional development session for the younger players without having to travel across to the Manchester RTC every week. Development teams have also take part in a new Central Lancs Women's League and Manchester & District mixed u14 and u16 League alongside junior boys from Bridgefield.

A Liverpool & District Women's Competition was also held again this year with teams from Liverpool and Birkenhead.

SENIOR WOMEN

Europe – At the end of last year the 1st team played in the **2012/13 LEN Champions Cup** in Bordeaux, although they beat Bordeaux they did not qualify for the quarter finals.

British Championship - the Ladies A Team were runners-up in this year's competition and therefore qualified to play in the **2013/14 LEN Euro League**.

The team has just played in Manchester against teams from Greece, Russia, Holland, and Italy, as well as Manchester.

British Water Polo League 2012/3 – The women's A team were 3rd in **Super 5s** competition. The 2nd team played in Championship 1 in the second Phase and was the **overall winner**. As a result they have again played in Division 1 this year.



The strength of the women's squad was again

tested to the full as most of our GB Senior players were not able to play in the League due to their commitments for the national team.

In Division 3 the C team finished 4th but due to other teams withdrawing they are playing in Division 2 this year. This team continues to provide a **vital stepping stone** into national level water polo for our youngest and best players.

INTERNATIONALS

GB Senior Women - Rosie Morris, Hazel Musgrove, Fiona McCann, Kathryn Fowler, Rachel Drabble, Lauren Tasker, Sophie Gilbert and Katie Hesketh are all part of the senior training squad and some played for G.B. in the **World Championships** in Barcelona in the summer. Some of this group continues to train full-time in Manchester at the High Performance Centre but five of our 1st team have been placed with teams abroad and will therefore not be available to play for us this year in domestic competitions.

GB Junior (93/95) Women

Sophie Gilbert, Katie Hesketh, Kate Thompson, Courtney Dean



and Lauren Tasker were selected for the G.B. Team that competed in the **World Junior Championships** in Greece in August, the team came 8th

which is the best place that any GB team has achieved at this level..

G.B. Youth (96/97) Girls

Several of our players were selected from the regional training programmes to attend G.B. training in Cardiff, and all these girls played for the winning **Northwest teams** in the Inter-Regional Championships in Walsall in July. Lauren Tasker and Beth Bolton were finally selected to play for GB in the **European Youth Championships** in Istanbul.



JUNIOR WOMEN



The **Junior (95)** and **Youth (97)** girls' teams both reached their **National Age Group Finals** but lost out to Manchester on both occasions to finish as **runners-up**.

The Academy (99) girls' team won bronze in the **ASA Academy Age Group Championship** in October.

MEN & BOYS

The men **won the L&D KO Championship** in 2012 and were runners up in the **2013 League Championship**. They



have also competed in the Bolton & District League but without the same success.

They also organized a trip to Germany to play in an invitation

tournament and successfully hosted another International Masters Tournament at the Aquatic Centre in February. This will be repeated again next year – already 15 teams have signed up including some from **Ireland, Spain, Germany, Italy and Switzerland**.