

# Annual Water Polo Report 2018

## DEVELOPMENT

Development sessions for boys and girls have again been held at the new Aquatic Centre and at the new **NW Satellite Training Centre** in Speke. Speke provides an important additional development session for the younger players who aspire to get onto the England Talent Pathway. The coaches are Liverpool senior women players; Alice Byrne and Katie Hesketh.

A Liverpool & District Women's Competition will be held again this year, with teams from Birkenhead, Chester and Warrington. The development squad players have also taken part in a range of other competitions; Manchester & District **mixed** u12; Bolton & District u14, Northern League u14, u16 & senior; and **minipolo festivals** in Lancaster, Manchester, Cheshire and Liverpool.

## SENIOR WOMEN

**British Championship** - the Ladies A Team won bronze in this year's women's competition and have therefore qualified to play in the **2018/19 LEN Euro League** but unfortunately due to the high cost of entry it will again not be possible to take part.



As an alternative the team entered the **EU Nations Club Championship** which was held in Prague between the national champions of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ireland, Serbia, Sweden, Finland and England. The team won all their matches to come away with the trophy.



## British Water Polo League

Last season the women's A team were runners up in the **Super 5s League**. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team played in Division 2 and we also had a team in Division 3.



These teams continue to provide a **vital stepping stone** into national level water polo for our younger players by allowing them to play with some of our more established members, who also act as coaches for the teams. The British League is the **major league competition** for water polo players in the UK.

## INTERNATIONALS

**GB Senior Women** – The GB senior women's team were due to play in the Commonwealth Games Tournament but due to problems with the venue the competition has been cancelled.

We have **six players training with the squad; Sophie Gilbert, Katie Hesketh (captain), Lauren Tasker, Kate Read (GK), Milly Wordley and Kathryn Fowler**

We need to keep looking for ways to provide the right type of experience for those players who reach this level of performance in order to help more players gain senior selection in the future.

## GB Junior (2000) Women

Molly Boniface Ashton, Milly Wordley and Emily Pyper were selected for the G.B. Junior Team that competed in the **European Championships in Madeira**. The team came 9<sup>th</sup> after losing out on goal difference for a top eight place.



Becky Scott-Davies and Emily Ireland were also part of the national training squad.

## G.B. Academy (2002/03) Girls

Several of our young players have been invited to be part of the GB Academy Talent training squad, including **Katie Bowater who captained the team in the EU Youth Tournament in Brno**, Kelsy Evans, Rachel Tibke and

## JUNIOR WOMEN



The Junior (2000) girl's team won bronze in the **ASA National Championship** in April but the Youth (2002) girl's team did not qualify for the final tournament.

The Academy (2004) girl's team also competed in their ASA Championships in October and finished **3rd**.

## REGIONAL SQUADS

Liverpool had over 20 female players in the various Northwest age-group teams that competed in this year Inter-Regional Tournaments which also include representative teams from Ireland, Scotland and Wales. This competition acts as a trial for England Talent selection and training. We also had two boys in the regional squads for the first time; George Winckles and Scott Mitchell.

## MEN & BOYS

The men's team finished the season in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the **Liverpool & District League**; they also competed in the **Bolton & District League**.

The men's section also successfully hosted another **International Masters Tournament** at the Liverpool Aquatic Centre in February. This will be repeated again next year with extra teams taking part – already several teams have signed up including clubs from **Ireland, Germany, and Switzerland**.

