

Annual Water Polo Report 2020

DEVELOPMENT

Development sessions for boys and girls have again been held at the Aquatic Centre and at the new **NW Satellite Training Centre** in Speke which provide 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, Emily Pyper and Katie Hesketh.

These development squad players have played in local competitions such as the L&D Ladies Championship



and the **Minipolo winners festival** in Manchester

SENIOR WOMEN

British Water Polo League - Last season the women's A team were second in the **Super 5s** League after it was cut short due to covid-19. The 2nd team will play in **Division 2** next season and the Water Beattles will need to play in the pre-season qualification tournament in order to play in **Division 3** next year.

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 Championship** was not held this year.

INTERNATIONALS

GB Senior Women – We currently have five players in the squad; Katie Hesketh, Lauren Tasker, Milly Wordley, Molly Boniface-Ashton and Emily Pyper but the international competition programme is very limited at the moment and we need to keep looking for additional ways ourselves to provide the right type of international experience for those players who reach this level of performance.

GB Junior (2002) Women

Katie Bowater and Lucy Mills were selected to represent Great Britain in u17 European Championships in Volos in Greece. Several other players were also part of the training squad, Annie Holt, Becky Scott Davies and Emily Ireland.



GB Youth 2003 Women

Rachel Tibke and Kelsey Evans (**vice captain**) were selected to play in Brno in the Czech Republic for England in the EU Nations Tournament but it is not clear when the competition will now be held.



G.B. Academy (2004/05) Girls

Lucy White, Roisin O'Connor, Holly Rooney, Charlie Bett, Izzy Robb, Holly Toone and Eva Howarth were invited to trials and **Holly, Eva and Izzy** were selected to play in the **U19 North Sea Cup** against Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

JUNIOR WOMEN

The **Academy (2005)** girl's team competed in their ASA Age Group Championships in November 2019 in Sunderland and finished as **runners-up** to London Otter, only losing out on penalties in the final.



This was the only ASA competition to take place in 2020.

REGIONAL SQUADS



Kelsey Evans (**captain**), Rachel Tibke, Izzy Robb, Holly Toone, Holly Rooney, Charlie Bett, Roisin O'Connor and Eva Howarth were selected to play for the Swim North West Thunder u18 team in the **national inter-regional championships** in Manchester at the end of January. The team were runners up to the overall winners Ireland, which meant they were the **top English region**, beating the North East, South East and South West who were the other regions in Division One.

In Division Two we had another seven players playing for the North West Lightning team against Scotland, Wales, East, London, East Midlands and West Midlands.

Liverpool has over **20 female players** in the various Northwest age-group teams that competed in this year's Inter-Regional Tournaments which also included representative teams from Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

These competitions act as a trial for England Talent selection and training. We also had several boys in the regional training squads, with **George Winckles** being selected for his age-group.



Hannah Pyper (**captain**), Lily Ireland, Abi Slater and Isabella Smithson, were selected to play for the Swim North West u14 team in the national inter-regional championships in Walsall at the beginning of December. The team finished **third overall**.

MEN & BOYS

The men's and boys teams did not get to play any competitive matches due to the coronavirus but together with some of the girls they have managed to train in the docks through the summer. The pool finally reopened for training at the end of September and matches are expected to resume early in 2021.

