

Annual Water Polo Report 2016

DEVELOPMENT

Development sessions for boys and girls have again been held at the new Aquatic Centre and at the new **Regional Training Centre** in Speke. This has provided an important additional development session for the younger players who aspire to get onto the England Talent Pathway.

A Liverpool & District Women's Competition was held again this year, with Liverpool beating Birkenhead, Chester and Warrington. The development squad players have also taken part in a range of other competitions; Manchester & District **mixed** u12, u14 & u16 League, Northern League u18, u16, u14, and **minipolo festivals** in Lancaster, Manchester, Warrington and Liverpool sometimes in collaboration with Bridgefield.

SENIOR WOMEN

British Championship - the Ladies A Team won this year's women's competition for the third time and have therefore qualified to play in the **2016/17 LEN EuroLeague** but unfortunately due to the high cost of entry it will again not be possible to take part. It is hoped that this might change in future years



British Water Polo League

Last season the women's A team **won the Super 5s** at the end of the second phase of competition which qualified them to take part in the British Championship. The 2nd team played in Division 2 and we also had a team in Division 3.



This team continues to provide a **vital stepping stone** into national level water polo for our youngest players by allowing them to play with some of our more established members, who also act as coaches for the team.

INTERNATIONALS

GB Senior Women – There has been no programme for the senior women's team again during 2016 but it is set to resume in 2017. We will need to consider how best to provide the right type of international experience for those players who reach this level of performance to help them gain selection in the future.

GB Junior (97/8) Women

Beth Bolton and goalkeeper Kate Read were selected for the G.B. Junior Team that competed in the **European Junior Women's Championships** in Holland in September.

G.B. Youth (99) Girls

Several u17 girls, were selected from the regional training programmes to attend G.B. training and Ellie Muncaster, Frances Holder, Fleur Kennedy and Sam Murby were all selected to play for England in the North Sea Cup and in addition Hayley Price and Verity McCoy played in the EU Nations Cup in Prague during the summer.

G.B. ACADEMY (2000/01) Girls

Molly Boniface Ashton and Emily Pyper were selected to play for **England** in a tournament in **Malta** and several other players; Abi Sefton, Adele Barnes, Amelia McCoy, Emily Bowater and Jess Kendall were invited to be part of the England Talent training squad.

JUNIOR WOMEN

The Junior (1998) girl's team were runners up in the **ASA National Championship** in April and the Youth (2000) girl's team won the Plate competition.



The Academy (2002) girl's team also competed in their ASA Championships in October and finished 4th overall.

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. The Northwest girls were 2nd and 3rd in the (Youth) 2000 age-group and 1st and 4th in the Junior (1998) age-group. In the Academy (2002) age-group they were 2nd and 4th.

This competition acts as a trial for England Talent selection and training.

MEN & BOYS

The men's team finished the season as runners in 4th place in the **Liverpool & District League**; they also competed in the **Bolton & District League**.

A mixed boys and girls team again took part in several mini polo festivals and we hope that this can be extended to other competitions in the future.

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

