

Annual Water Polo Report 2017

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.

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 u16 & senior; and **minipolo festivals** in Lancaster, Manchester, Cheshire and Liverpool.

SENIOR WOMEN

British Championship - the Ladies A Team won this year's women's competition for the fourth time and have therefore qualified to play in the **2017/18 LEN EuroLeague** 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



Germany, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Serbia, Sweden and England. The team won all their matches to take the trophy.

British Water Polo League

Last season the women's A team **won the Super 5s** for the third year in a row. The 2nd team played in Division 2 and we also had a team in Division



3 which won their league for the first time.

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.

INTERNATIONALS

GB Senior Women – The GB senior women's team entered two competitions this year (**EU Nations and World Student Games**) and we had five players involved. **Katie**



Hesketh (captain), Lauren Tasker, Kate Read (GK), Laura Hesketh and Kathryn Fowler in Taiwan.

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 selection in the future.

GB Youth (2000) Women

Molly Boniface Ashton and Emily Pyper were selected for the G.B. Youth Team that competed in the **European Championships in Serbia**. The team came sixth and has qualified for the **World Championships** next year.



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, Kelsey Evans and Becky Scott-Davies.

JUNIOR WOMEN

The Junior (1999) girl's team were fourth in the **ASA National Championship** in April and the Youth (2001) girl's team were runners up.



The Academy (2003) girl's

team also competed in their ASA Championships in October and finished 3rd 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 1st in the (Youth) 2002 age-group and 2nd in the Junior (2000) age-group.

This competitions act as a trial for England Talent selection and training.

MEN & BOYS

The men's team finished the season in 3rd 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, Italy and Switzerland**.