

Annual Water Polo Report 2019

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 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.

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 this year's women's



competition and have therefore qualified to play in the **2019/20 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 this year was held in Prague between the national champions of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ireland, Thailand, Wales, Austria, Finland, Sweden and England. The team won all their group matches but lost in the final to Thailand.

British Water Polo League - Last season the women's A team were fourth in the **Super 5s League**. The 2nd 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 - We currently have **six players** in the squad; **Sophie Gilbert, Katie Hesketh, Lauren Tasker, Milly Wordley, Molly Boniface-Ashton and Kathryn Fowler** but the 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, in order to help more of our players gain senior selection in the future.



GB Youth (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**.

ESSA 2003

Rachel Tibke and Kelsey Evans were selected to play for an English Schools team following the Duke of Cambridge Cup Tournament.



G.B. Academy (2004/05) Girls

Lucy White, Róisín 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 **Junior (2001)** girl's team won bronze in the ASA National



Championship in April and the **Youth (2003)** girl's team were



runners-up in the final tournament in Sheffield.

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

REGIONAL SQUADS

Liverpool had 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.

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 unfortunately will be not be repeated again next year - **due to the problems with the pool**.