

CHESHIRE COUNTY WATER POLO & SWIMMING ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
3rd NOVEMBER 2013

WATER POLO REPORT

1 Introduction

The report covers the water polo activities in the County for the period from 1st October 2012 to 30th September 2013. As the majority of water polo competitions are played at the end of the year the report gives the result of the final match of the Academy (14 under) Championship carried over from the end of the 2012 season and covers the Championship results in the 2013 season.

The carryover of matches into the next season has become a regular feature of an extended and overcrowded competition programme. A large increase in the number of external competitions has been seen in the last few years with the introduction of additional ASA Inter Regional Championship for Men and for Women for players at age 16 years and 14 years, the expansion of the Regional Training Centres (RTC) and the expansion of the National Water Polo League into three divisions for the women and four divisions for the men now taking place every weekend from the start of September to the middle of December. The increasing number of competitions is thus reducing the availability of players for the Junior, Youth and Academy matches normally played at the weekend and is increasing the demand on a limited number of players, facilities and officials.

As a result of the school pressures on the junior and youth players it is often difficult for teams to get them available to play until after the summer break which then results in too many competitions at National, Region, County and Local Association level trying to be played in the later part of the year.

2 Completion of the 2012 Season

Due to the congestion of the water polo calendar and the pressure on the available facilities the Academy 14 years and under championship originally scheduled to be played towards the end of 2012 was held over to the early part of the 2013 season as it proved impossible to find a suitable pool at a time when the clubs were available.

The championship final was eventually played on Sunday 3rd February 2013 at Liverpool Aquatic Centre where Warrington defeated City of Chester by a score of 19 goals to 3 thus retaining the Alf Harland Memorial Trophy.

3 Closure

It is with great sadness that the County reports on the closure of the water polo activities at Wallasey Swimming Club during 2013 and the inevitable loss of one of the longest serving water polo members of the County. However all is not lost as a number of the players along with the water polo officials from the club have moved to further support the Birkenhead club.

4 Competitions in 2013

4.1 Fixtures Meeting

The Fixtures Meeting for the 2013 championships was held on Tuesday 5th February 2013 at the Liverpool Aquatic Centre at 7.30 pm. A tournament based format for all the competitions for 2013 was agreed. The entry forms for all the competitions were distributed immediately following the meeting and the entries to all the competitions closed on 1st June 2013.

As a result of the difficulties experienced in recent years with making fixture arrangements for a league based programme, the closure of some pools and the fixture congestion experienced at the end of most seasons it was agreed the competition format should revert back to being a single tournament played on one day.

4.2 Tournament Arrangements

The tournament for the Academy (14 Under), the Youth (16 Under) and the Senior Championship was played at the Europa Pool, Birkenhead on Sunday 29th September 2013 from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm. For the first time since the Youth and the Academy championships were introduced in 2002 the same club has won all three championships in the same year. Many congratulations go to Birkenhead for an outstanding performance. The competition programme and the results produced are as given in the table below

Tournament Programme

Time	Competition	White Hats		Blue Hats	Result
1.00	14 Under	Birkenhead	v	Warrington	4 - 0
1.20	Senior	Warrington	v	Chester	0 - 6
2.00	14 Under	Birkenhead	v	Chester	11 - 2
2.20	Senior	Warrington	v	Birkenhead	2 - 5
3.00	14 Under	Chester	v	Warrington	2 - 8
3.20	Senior	Chester	v	Birkenhead	1 - 2
3.40	16 Under	Warrington	v	Birkenhead	2 - 6

4.3 Senior Men Championship

Congratulations go to Birkenhead on retaining the Championship for a second successive year in a demanding tournament with many close games particularly the match against City of Chester where the result was decided in the last minute of the game. At the end of the competition the President presented the Championship Trophy to Birkenhead along with winners and second place medals to City of Chester

Senior Championship Result 2013

Team	Played	Won	Lost	G For	G Against	G Diff	Points
Birkenhead	2	2	0	12	5	7	4
Chester	2	1	1	7	2	5	2
Warrington	2	0	0	2	11	-9	0



Birkenhead Winners Senior Championship

4.4 Youth 16 Under Championship

The competition was held for players born in 1997 and later. As it was a single final the match was arranged as the last match in the tournament programme.

The final result of the match played between Birkenhead and Warrington was a win for Birkenhead by a score of 6 goals to 2. Congratulations go to Birkenhead for winning the championship for the first time in the 11 years the competition has been held. At the end of the championship the President presented the Dr David Cooke Memorial Trophy along with the winners' medals to Birkenhead and the second place medals to Warrington

16 Under Championship Result 2013

Team	Played	Won	Lost	G For	G Against	G Diff	Points
Birkenhead	1	1	0	6	2	4	2
Warrington	1	0	1	2	6	-4	0



Birkenhead Winners Youth Championship

4.5 Academy 14 Under Championship

The competition is for players born in 1999 and later. Congratulations go to Birkenhead on winning the Championship for the first time year with some close games particularly the match against Warrington where the result was decided in the second period of the game. At the end of the competition the President presented the Alf Harland Memorial Trophy along with winners medals to Birkenhead and second place medals to Warrington

14 Under Championship Results 2013

Team	Played	Won	Lost	G For	G Against	G Diff	Points
Birkenhead	2	2	0	15	2	13	4
Warrington	2	1	1	8	6	2	2
Chester	2	0	2	4	19	15	0

5 County Sub-Region Training Centres

The Sub Region Training Centre set up at Chester in 2010 has been closed and the players moved to the new Region Training Centre that started at the new pool at Huyton in October 2012. The new training centre is based on Cheshire and Merseyside and aimed at players born in 1997/98, 1999/00, supported with a few players born in 1996. The clubs are now hoping to see the benefit of the academy and the youth age water polo training programme. The County championships at youth and academy level continue to support the Region competitive structure but the senior competitions in the Region are currently under review by the Region.



Birkenhead Winners
Academy Championship

5 Water Polo Development Plan

The County Water Polo Development programme is now fully integrated into the North West Region Water Polo Development programme. Priority is being given to helping clubs meet the revised requirements for the water polo Swim 21 modules associated with the development of water polo coaches and officials. A number of clubs in the County have been successful in obtaining Swim 21 accreditation for water polo while a number of others are currently in the process of submitting a water polo Swim21 programme and we wish them every success.

The County and the Region continue to make grants available to clubs when Swim 21 accreditation is achieved and for the successful completion of individuals on coaching courses. Separate accreditations for Water Polo and Swimming are now recognised by the County.

The Development Plan for 2013 – 2014 is currently being implemented with the Discipline Committee undertaking a review of the Development Plan on a quarterly basis and reporting its activities to the Executive Board.

All the clubs are being encouraged to develop links with mini polo. To encourage this particular development the County has recently agreed the introduction of a new County wide teaching and training programme to help mini polo players reach the standard required to enter the Regional Training Centre (RTC), to support recruitment into clubs and to lead to the long term objective of introducing an additional County Championship at 12 years of age and under.

The provision of coaching and officials courses is proving to be very problematic as most clubs indicate they need coaches qualified to a particular level but then the courses are cancelled because of a lack of numbers

6 Conclusion

Although the County has a relatively small water polo base in terms of the number of clubs involved in the game, only four following the closure of Wallasey, the clubs and the Officials from the County are very active in the North West Region Championships and in the local Liverpool and District and Manchester and District Leagues. It is with pleasure the County recognise all their achievements. Virtually all the water polo in the County is still concentrated in the Merseyside area and the County still does not have any teams competing from the Greater Manchester area of the County.

The Water Polo Committee wishes to record its thanks to the Officers, to the Executive Board and the Management Committee of the County Association for their continued help and encouragement. In particular, thanks are recorded to the water polo committee members for their support throughout the year, for their help and organisation of the County Championships and for officiating at the different events. The thanks of the County are also given to the referees at the tournament who were appointed from the clubs in Merseyside. The Committee also thanks the club Officials and Water Polo Secretaries for their valued help and assistance.

For and on behalf of the Water Polo Committee

Dr A Boyle
Secretary
October 2013