

CHESHIRE COUNTY WATER POLO and SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Water Polo Report 2016

1 Introduction

The report covers the water polo activities in the County for the period 1st October 2015 to 30th September 2016. As the majority of water polo competitions are played at the end of the year the report gives the result of the Championship matches played after 1st October 2015 and covers the arrangements of the Championships played in the 2016 season

2 Completion of the 2015 Season

Once again the closure of the Europa Pool at Birkenhead due to the movable floor sticking delayed the championships to a date later in the year than was originally considered desirable. Unfortunately this is the only deep water pool in the County where water polo is played on a regular basis and in accordance with the current rules of the game.

Although the carryover of matches into the following season has become a common occurrence in recent years due to an extended and overcrowded programme and an increase in the number of national events it is pleasing to report that the majority of the County Championships for the 2015 season were completed in 2015 and are covered by the water polo report for 2016.

Senior Men's Championship

In 2015 the senior men's championship was entered by two teams only, namely Birkenhead and Warrington. Despite a number of attempts being made to arrange a suitable date for the championship to be held it was not possible to find a date when the two teams and the Europa Pool at Birkenhead were all available and therefore the championship was not played in 2015.

Youth 16 Under Championship

The Championship was played at the Liverpool Aquatic Centre on Sunday 22nd November 2015. The championship was a single match between City of Chester and Warrington. The match was of two periods of ten minutes actual play, with an interval of two minutes between the periods

The result of the match was - **Warrington 16 v City of Chester 1**

The Dr David Cooke Memorial Trophy along with the winners and the runners up medals were presented to the teams at the end of tournament by Dr Alan Boyle

Academy 14 Under Championship

The Championship was played at the Liverpool Aquatic Centre on Sunday 29th November 2015. The championship was a single match between City of Chester and Warrington. The match was of two periods of ten minutes actual play, with an interval of two minutes between the periods

The result of the match was - **Warrington 14 v City of Chester 0**

The Alf Harland Memorial Trophy along with the winners and the runners up medals were presented to the teams at the end of tournament by Dr Alan Boyle

12 Years and Under Mini Polo Tournament

The North West Region again supported the development of mini polo at 12 years and under in 2015 by arranging for four tournaments to be held in the Region. The tournaments were arranged to take place in the County Sport Partnership areas of Greater Manchester, (Manchester Aquatic Centre on 27th June 2015), Merseyside, (Liverpool Aquatic Centre on 26th September 2015), Cheshire County, (Orford Park, Warrington on 18th October 2015) and Lancashire County, (Salt Ayre Sports Centre, Lancaster on 20th December 2015)

On Sunday 18th October 2015 Warrington Swimming and Water Polo Club hosted the Cheshire County Mini Water Polo Festival at Orford Park Leisure Centre. The festival was the third of four to be held in the Region as part of the North West Region development programme for water polo players at 12 years of age and under, players born in 2003 and later.

Seven teams from across the Region entered the competition with each team being restricted to 10 players. It was encouraging to see a number of teams in the competition for the first time supporting this development programme. The teams were divided into two groups with one group of three teams and one group of four teams. Each match consisted of two periods of ten minutes all in play.

Two pitches were laid out across the pool each of 15 m by 10 m. The deep end pitch hosted the matches for group A. The shallow end pitch hosted the matches for group B. At the end of the group matches the teams in each group were ranked from first to third or fourth.

Due to the number of teams in the competition the three teams finishing in positions A3 (Chester), A4 (Merseyside) and B3 (Paragon) played each other to determine the final positions for places five to seven. The matches produced the results given below.

Round 1 Result

Group A				Group B			
M1	ORCA	3-1	Chester	M7	Bridgefield	6-1	Lancaster
M2	Warrington	8-1	Merseyside	M8	Bridgefield	11-0	Paragon
M3	ORCA	6-0	Merseyside	M9	Lancaster	8-0	Paragon
M4	Warrington	2-1	Chester				
M5	Chester	5-1	Merseyside				
M6	ORCA	5-3	Warrington				

Round 1 Group Positions

Group A		Group B	
1	ORCA	1	Bridgefield
2	Warrington	2	Lancaster
3	Chester	3	Paragon
4	Merseyside		

Classification Results

M10	Chester	5-1	Paragon
M11	Paragon	5-4	Merseyside

In the semi-final round of matches the first match was between the team in position A1 and the team finishing in position B2. The second semi-final was between the team finishing in position B1 playing the team finishing in position A2.

Semi Final Results			
M12	ORCA	4-3	Lancaster
M13	Bridgefield	8-1	Warrington

The two losing semi-final teams then played a further match to decide on the third and fourth final positions. The match produced the following result

Third / Forth Place Result			
M14	Lancaster	8-0	Warrington

The two winning semi-final teams then played the final match of the tournament in which Bridgefield proved to be successful

Final Result			
M15	Bridgefield	11-1	ORCA

Tournament Final Positions			
1	Bridgefield	5	Chester
2	ORCA	6	Paragon
3	Lancaster	7	Merseyside
4	Warrington		

The event was a great success and that was thanks to a large team of parents and young helpers. In total the Club had six young volunteers involved who took up a number of roles including assistant coach, table official and generally assisting on poolside. Thanks also go to the coaches involved, to the team of parents who worked hard to make this event a success. The County has received a lot of very positive feedback about the tournament and it will enhance the reputation of the County.

3 2016 Championships

Senior Championship

The Senior Championship tournament final is scheduled to be played at Liverpool Aquatic Centre on Saturday 19th November 2016 commencing at 12 noon

Youth 16 Under Championship

The Youth championship is scheduled to be played at the Liverpool Aquatic Centre, on Saturday, 19th November 2016 as part of a number of other tournaments being held on that day. The entries to the championship have not yet been finalised

Academy 14 Under Championship

The 14 under Championship is scheduled to be played as a tournament at the Europa Pool Birkenhead, on Sunday 13th November 2016.

12 Under Mini Polo Festival

The mini water polo festival for players born in 2004 has been arranged to take place at the Orford Park Jubilee Hub at Warrington on Saturday 22nd October 2016 from 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm. To date seven teams have entered to competition.

4 Conclusion

Although the County has a very small water polo base in terms of the number of clubs involved in the game, only three, the clubs and the Officials from the County are very active in the North West Region Championships and in the local Bolton and District, Liverpool and District and Manchester and District Leagues. It is with pleasure the County recognise all their achievements. 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 Technical Committee wishes to record its thanks to the Officers and to the members of the Executive Committee of the County Association for their continued help and encouragement. In particular, thanks are recorded to the water polo committee members 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 tournaments who were appointed from the clubs in the local area. 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 Technical Committee

Dr A Boyle
October 2016