

WATER POLO REPORT

May 2023 – April 2024

Training continued at Whitgift School and Trinity School with junior training time available on **Saturday afternoons 4-7pm** at Whitgift and on **Wednesday evenings** at Trinity at 7.30pm. These times being in addition to our normal Monday evenings for senior matches, **Thursday evenings** for junior and senior training and Sunday afternoons for junior and women's competitions, all at Whitgift. The outstanding performance this year has been our Womens team winning the London League Summer Championships, and the u13 and u12 teams winning their London League divisions, see more later.

The senior men's team played in the national league, **British Water Polo League**, and finished 3rd in phase 1 **division 3**, winning 3, 1 draw and losing 3 of our games. **We progressed to Championship Div 3** for Phase 2 of the competition where we finished 7th. This represents the 20th best team in the Country. We will start next season in Division 3.

The 1st team played in **London League Premier Division** following promotion. Competition is challenging and we finished 6th with 2 wins, and 10 lost games, although most home games we offered stiff resistance.

The **men's squad** played in the **London League Winter Championships**, which is open to Clubs in the South of England and was played between November 2023 and March 2024. Playing on the top Division 1 is a strong competition and we finished in 4th place, one position higher than the previous year, with 4 wins, and 6 lost games. Commitment and player availability was good under excellent leadership from Jonny Cannon. We also played in the **Thameside League** using a team of youth and experience to suit the opposition. We had a very successful season and finished winners 6 wins from 6 games.

The 1st team finished 3rd in **Surrey League division 1**, behind a improving Guildford team and a strong Sutton & Cheam team.

The second team finished in 1st place in the **Surrey Division 2**, winning 4 games and losing 2. We had been newly promoted to Division 2 so this was an outstanding result, showing an improvement in our player depth and improving young players.

Our **women's team** played in Division 1 of the London League (summer) and our team of experienced players and improving young player played very well to win the division on Goal difference ahead of WLPenguin.

The team also played in the **London League Winter Championships** and followed our success in the Summer to finish this competition in 2nd place.

The Junior teams played in the under 16, under 15, under 14, under 13 and under 12 age groups in the London Water Polo League (LWPL).

At boys under 18 age group (2006 and later) we were playing in Division 1 with some strong oppositions and finished an impressive 2nd with good wins over Beckenham and a weakened Penguin team.

At girls under 18 age group (2006 and later) we finished an excellent 2nd behind Penguin.

At mixed under 16 age group (2008 and later) we finished 2nd in Division South and progressed to Division 1 where we had some outstanding games and finished 2nd to Penguin but beating Watford and Beckenham. Our B team finished 2nd in Division 4 but did not show their true potential.

At girls under 16 age group, we finished 3rd. There is better to come from this age group.

At under 15 age group (2009 and later) we competed in Division 2 and finished 2nd. Opposition is strong at this age group. The B team finished 3rd in Division 3.

At under 14 age group (2010 and later) we finished 1st in Division South and progressed to Division 1 to play against some tough competition but had an outstanding play off tournament to finish 2nd. Our B team played in Division 3 and finished 1st with some excellent games during the season and demonstrating a good strength in depth at this age group.

At **under 13 age group (2011 and later)** we have many promising players and playing in Division 1 we had an outstanding season to finish in 1st place, losing only 2 games.

The **under 12 age group (2012 and later)** we have a strong group of players who showed their true potential finishing top of the Division beating strong teams from both Watford and Penguin and losing only 3 times from 18 games.

Our **junior boys** are developing well, and we challenged ourselves by entering the National Age Group Championships at u19 (2006) and u17 (2008) age group in early 2024. This was an amazing experience for the boys and although we found competition very tough, we demonstrated we can compete against the best player/teams in the country. The u19s had a great learning experience and had several players that will be available for 2 more years. The u17 team played 3 games in their group, in Walsall and finished 2nd with wins against Birmingham and Northampton but losing to finalists Manchester. This result suggests we are the 5th or 6th best team in the country.

Pippa Danielson and Juliet Lyons continued to train and play for England at the European junior tournaments.

Several girls and boys represented **London Region** at Under 16 and 14 age group at the Swim England Inter Regional Competitions. Players also represented the **Surrey teams** in the Inter-counties Over 50 and Over 40 Championships, under 16 (mixed and girls) and under 14 mixed teams.

During the year we had several players attending National Talent Centre which trains at Whitgift on Friday evenings.

We received funding from the Jack Petchey organisation from 6 Outstanding Achievement Awards.

Academy teaching takes place on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm at Trinity and on Saturday afternoons at 4.00pm at Whitgift for 8 to 18 year olds with regular attendances of up to 35 young players learning the game and having some fun. These sessions are offered to any **CASC swim squad member at a reduced fee**. Milan Jotic is providing excellent coaching and leadership to our Coaching team, which is growing in qualification and number.

The water polo section now has over 130 playing members, 7 Swim England Qualified Water Polo Coaches, and 9 Assistant Water Polo coaches as well as helpers. We have 5 active or qualified Referees that are helping the sport.

Water polo is offered to all Club members and we are particularly keen to recruit new players from the swim squads. Contact casc_waterpolo@outlook.com
Chris Martin – Croydon Amphibians Water Polo Secretary and Lead Coach.