

WATER POLO REPORT

May 2024 – April 2025

Training continued at Whitgift School and Trinity School with junior training time available on **Saturday afternoons 3.30-7pm** 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 **u15 (born 2010) team who finished runners up in the National Age Group Championships** (Nags), a fantastic performance.

Also, the Womens team won the London League Winter Championships Div 1, the u16 team also won their Div 1, and u12 team won Div 2, see more later.

The senior men's team played in the national league, **British Water Polo League**, and finished 6th in phase 1 **division 3**, winning 2, and losing 5 of our games. **We progressed to the National Conference Water Polo League in Championship Div 1** for Phase 2 of the competition where we finished 4th. This represents the 25th best men's team in the Country. We will start next season back in BWPL Division 3.

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

The **men's squad** played in the **London League Winter Championships**, played between November 2024 and March 2025. Playing on the top Division 1 is a strong competition and we finished in 6th place, which is about right for our current abilities, with 3 wins, and 9 lost games. Commitment and player availability was not as good as it should be! 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 3 wins from 4 games.

The 1st team finished 4th in **Surrey League division 1**, although only 2 points behind the winners! A very close division and with better commitment to away games we could easily have finished top!

The second team finished in 1st place again in the **Surrey Division 2**, winning all 8 games. We had good commitment to all games which produced some outstanding results, showing good player depth and improving young players.

Our **women's team** played in Division 1 of the London League (summer) and our team of improving young players supported by the experienced players finished 3rd although we could have done much better.

The team also played in the **London League Winter Championships** and achieved better results when needed and won the Division with 4 wins out of 4.

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 (2007 and later)** we were playing in Division 1 with some strong oppositions and finished an impressive 2nd with good wins over Beckenham and Penguin teams. At **girls under 18 age group (2007 and later)** we finished in 3rd behind Penguin and Beckenham.

At **mixed under 16 age group (2009 and later)** won in Division South and progressed to Division 1 where we had some outstanding games to win the Division. Defeating Penguin, Beckenham and Watford. Our B team finished 2nd in Division 3 showing excellent ability and depth of players.

At **girls under 16 age group**, we finished 2nd, behind Penguin but with good wins over Beckenham There is better to come from this age group.

At **under 15 age group (2010 and later)** we competed in Division 1 and finished 2nd behind an extremely strong Penguin team, but with excellent results against Beckenham and Watford. The B team finished 2nd in Division 2 which was also an excellent performance and shows great strength in depth at this age group. This group finished runners up in the National Age Group Championships also behind Penguin! – see later

At **under 14 age group (2011 and later)** we finished 1st in Division South and progressed to Division 1 to play against some tough competition but had a strong play off tournament to finish 2nd behind Watford, we should have won! Our B team played in Division 3 and finished 2nd with some excellent games during the season and demonstrating a good strength in depth at this age group.

At **under 13 age group (2012 and later)** we have many promising players and playing in Division 1 we were unable to totally fulfil our potential and finished 3rd.

The **under 12 age group (2013 and later)** we do not have any outstanding player and although players have good core skills, they need to grow to reach their full potential, we finished 6th but progressed to Division 2 where we performed much better and finished top of the Division winning all 3 games.

Our **junior teams** are developing well, and our players played in **the National Age Group Championships (Nags)**. The boys played at u15 (2010) in November 2024 and u19 (2007) and u17 (2009) age groups in early 2025. The girls played in the u17 and u19 age groups. The Nags offer an amazing experience for the players and the player can demonstrate we can compete against the best player/teams in the country. The boys u15 team had a good draw and progressed from their group to **the semifinals and then to the Final. We were runners up** to the very strong Penguin team. Our u17 girls against some tough competition, progress from the preliminary round, winning 3 games to the Qualification round. The u17 boys played with Sutton & Cheam and also progressed from the Preliminary round and finish 3rd in the Qualification round group. Our u19 girls played with Otter, and u19 boys with Beckenham.

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 3.30pm at Whitgift for 8 to 18 year olds with regular attendances of up to 45 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.