

## Norwich Water Polo annual report 2016

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016

To those of you who have not experienced water polo, it is a sport that is one of the toughest and most rewarding to play. Many of our players are ex county and regional swimmers who have retired from competitive swimming and returned to play Water polo, to continue in their love of competitive aquatic sport. Water polo allows talented swimmers, who perhaps can not continue in the elite swimming squads, a rewarding and enjoyable sport within the ASA club structure, where otherwise they would be lost to swimming.

Norwich water polo club has seen a VERY healthy year with the growth of our junior squad that now has over 25 new members and a designated one hour training slot per week, the secured funding from SNDC has now been put in place and our new equipment is working well, the new junior and senior goals as well as new hats, balls and scoring equipment are a real bonus.

This junior session has been so successful that we are looking to encourage more players to these sessions, so if your swimming teams have some members who are disenchanted with swim training then we would be pleased to see them at polo, we train on a Sunday night from 6pm to 7pm at the Wymondham leisure centre and take any good swimmers from 8-16 years old.

We also have a thriving senior section to the club with approx. 35 members, this season we are currently positioned in second place behind Clacton in the Eastern water polo summer league with just a couple of games remaining to the end of the season.

We have also progressed through the Eastern region knock out cup, and will be playing Clacton in the final in December.

Our senior sessions run from 6pm-8pm on a Sunday night (1 hour alongside the juniors in the deep end) and 9pm to 10pm on a Wednesday night, both sessions are at the Wymondham Leisure centre and again all good swimmers are welcome to come along and give it a go, so would encourage all coaches to sing the praises of Water polo to any swimmer who may be on the verge of leaving competitive swimming.

We have applied for a £5k grant (we find out in January 2017 if we have been successful) from Aviva, this money would help to expand our training sessions for juniors and to launch a Ladies team/training, Norfolk at present don't have a ladies team so the money we are hoping to raise will go toward coaching, pool time and recruitment. All other counties have ladies teams at present.

The club has fought long and hard to get the right time slots from Wymondham leisure centre after the re-structuring by them, but we now feel in a better position to move forward although we are getting close to needing more pool time.

We have entered the Eastern region winter league this season for the first time and hope to do well again in this league; most games will be played towards Essex with the closest away game being Ipswich.

The polo club is profitable but as we now have a strong following we now need to progress to the next level so new players (boys and girls from 8-16 years old and players above 16 in the senior section) would be welcomed by us.

We have 3 players that play national league polo for us at present, (two of whom play in British Water Polo Division 1) this includes our Captain James Scotney, Keon van Zadelhoff and Alex Tollefson.

I know that most of you are not interested in Polo but if you have read this then I thank you, feel free to come along if interested and find out more.

Nick West.

Norwich Water Polo.

Chairman.