Waterpolo report for 2021

The seniors have continued to train throughout 2021 and are now just starting to have some games. There has been a good influx of juniors into the team and this will strengthen the senior team moving forwards.

2021 saw a continued growth in junior waterpolo membership, particularly in our younger section which means that we have enough players to enter the league in all age groups in 2022. We have seen growth particularly in the number of girls wanting to play polo and this has been a positive development. A new league has been formed and whilst we are currently waiting for this to be fully set up, it has included the 16-18 age group for the first time. This has been welcomed and means that we can retain this age group, enabling players to move into the seniors if they want to continue playing waterpolo.

2021 saw a transition in the training for junior waterpolo. We now have three groups, two on a Saturday, junior one and junior two, and one on a Monday night, junior three. This has worked very well with players moving into different groups depending on their ability and development.

As Covid continued to impact, we were unable to play any league matches in 2021, however we were able to manage a friendly for each age group and more are being planned in the next few weeks. With the league almost up and running we are hoping to start league matches within the next few weeks.

The players have continued to receive excellent training at Stretford with Simon Jones remaining our lead coach and Gaz Potts returning to junior coaching and taking on some of the training responsibilities which has been most welcomed. Peter Fookes who was an assistant coach has now stepped down and I want to thank Peter for all his hard work over the years, coaching and supporting our players development.

On the admin side, new parents have now taken over some of the responsibility for arranging fixtures and club admin. Sharon Robinson has taken over club admin,  Maria Eagling has taken over responsibility for arranging u13 and u15 matches and Phil and Alison Jones have taken over responsibility for arranging the u17 matches. As there is a new age category of u19 I will remain involved in arranging matches for this age group.

I am stepping down from the committee at this AGM. It has been an absolute pleasure to work as part of the committee and in junior waterpolo over the last few years and I am very confident that as a club we will continue to go from strength to strength.

Linda Pepper