NEWSLETTER

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CITY OF BRISTOL WATER POLO

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NEWSFLASH

Hope you all had a good start to 2019! Welcome to the new look City of Bristol Water Polo Newsletter, where we hope to bring you all things Bristol water polo.

This month saw the start of the **second phase of National League** where our men look to avoid relegation after a difficult first phase and our ladies measured themselves against teams from the top tier after their solid first half of the season.

We are proud to announce that this year, Bristol will be entering a **team in the U17 National Age Group** competition. Starting in late February, our biggest prospects will go against the best opposition in the country.

Another big step in the club's development is the fact that we will have **a team in every single division** of this years Bristol and West Water Polo League, expected to start in March. Three men's team, a ladies and two junior squads will battle it out against the rest of the region.

IN DEPTH

ENGLISH SCHOOLS FACE AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS WITH BRISTOL PRESENCE

At the end of December some of the best players in English School age came together to face the equivalent Australian team. The ladies side was coached by Nick Hume, coach of many squads at City of Bristol. Here is his summary of the event.

"A squad of born '01 girls players were selected to play against the Australian Schools team at Whitgift school. This was the first opportunity for an all '01 team to play together, the players from this team will be the nucleus of the European team in 2020. The girls had nothing to lose and everything to gain as they had not played or trained together previously.

We started off very positively and played competitively keeping the score close for the first half. As the game proceeded the Australians got more into their stride and we were beaten on a number of one to one defensive situations. In the end the Australians proved to strong and moved away from us.

Overall it was a great experience and very beneficial, it would have been great to play more games/training against them. Competition against this calibre opposition is often hard to find so it was gratefully received."

But Nick wasn't the only Bristol member that faced the Australian side! Poppy, Alice W and Ella-Louise played the game, while Lilly-May also faced them representing the South-West. In the men's squad, both Tom M and Joe H were selected to play.

We asked Joe what he thought of the game and he said "it was a completely different game than I am used to with fitness, technique and team chemistry but a great learning experience nevertheless and can't wait for the next game."

From City of Bristol, big congratulations and we wish all involved continued success representing us all!

BRISTOL WATER

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

ELLIOT DERRICK

Despite being somewhat far away from Bristol at the moment, he has no problem fitting in the team during National League weekends. This month the boys needed to get good results and Elliot came through big time, with strong defences, fast counter-attacks and clinical finishing.

Upon hearing the news he said: "National League is always something I focus my training around, so it is great to be recognized for my hard work and focus".

LADIES

POSITIVE BALANCE AT THE END OF DIV 2

Playing in Div. 2 for the first time, our ladies did not seem out of place at all. With the best defence in the league and after 4 wins out of 7 games they secured 4th place and a spot in Champ. 1 where they have the chance to get promoted to the top division.

A HARD WEEK-END, BUT STILL IN IT

A draw against Birmingham, which improves on their first phase result, and two losses against Div. 1 opposition means that the team now sits in 6th position. However, staying in the game in the first half against Hucknall and for 3 quarters against Sheffield should give hope and motivation looking forward to their next games.

CRAIG, EMILY AND LUCY INTERVIEWED BY THE BBC

Ahead of Championship 1, Geoff Twentyman from BBC Radio Bristol interviewed the three members from the team. They spoke about their progress and what it takes to play waterpolo. The full interview is available online (episode from 16/01/19).

MEN

A FIRST PHASE FULL OF FRUSTRATION

A goal difference of just -5 only begins to show how narrow each of the 6 losses suffered in the first phase were. As a result our young side had to reajust their aims for the season and saw themselves in Champ 2, now determined to avoid relegation.

THREE SOLID WINS TO SET THE TONE IN CHAMP 2

In control of all three games against the top three teams from Div. 3, we are now top of the league. With 10 different scorers, the effort was trully collective. Big shout-out to Elliot, which kept making big plays, including 8 goals and earned Man of the Weekend.

A NEWBORN AND A RETURN

January also saw the return to Hengrove of Sean! We're glad he's back. Last and definately not least, congratulations to Chris and Becky on the arrival of their beautiful baby girl!

JUNIORS

A SECOND TEAM IN LOCAL LEAGUE

A second junior team will take part in Local League this year, allowing for the development of more players throughout the year. Younger players will be able to get more game time in this exciting competition. This team will start in the junior second division.

TIME TO GET READY FOR NAGS

NAGs as they are known is the greatest competition for junior players in the country. Coached by Jack T (also a member of the men's team), our U17 will look to replicate at national level their local success.

RESULTS

MEN

BWPL CHAMP 2

12th	**Bristol**	**17**	8	So'ton
12th	**Bristol**	**12**	9	Worthing
13th	**Bristol**	**17**	8	M. Hawks

		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Bristol	3	3	0	0	21	**6**
2	Watford	3	3	0	0	14	**6**
3	Worthing	3	2	0	1	6	**4**

B&W BRISTOL
Premier Division

		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Bristol	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
2	Newport	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
3	Chelten	0	0	0	0	0	**0**

B&W BARBARIANS
Division 1

		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Barbarians	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
2	C. Draig	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
3	Swindon	0	0	0	0	0	**0**

B&W HARLEQUINS
Division 2

		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Harlequins	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
2	Bradford	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
3	Bath Uni	0	0	0	0	0	**0**

LADIES

BWPL CHAMP 1

19th	Birm	6	**6**	**Bristol**
19th	Hucknall	13	**7**	**Bristol**
20th	Sheffield	9	**6**	**Bristol**

		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
5	Leeds S.	2	1	0	1	0	**2**
6	Bristol	3	0	1	2	-9	**1**
7	M. Sussex	3	0	0	3	-7	**0**

B&W BRISTOL
Ladies Division

		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Bristol	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
2	Exeter	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
3	Chelten	0	0	0	0	0	**0**

JUNIORS

B&W BRISTOL
Junior Division 1

		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Bristol	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
2	Devonport	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
3	W. Wand	0	0	0	0	0	**0**

B&W BRISTOL II
Junior Division 2

		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Bristol	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
2	Newport	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
3	C. Draig	0	0	0	0	0	**0**

FEBRUARY 2019

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Mid Sussex @ Sheffield	10 Tyldesley @ Sheffield
11	12	13	14	15	16 Penguin @ Gloucester	17 Croydon @ Gloucester
18	19	20	21	22	23 NAGs U17 @ Bolton or Grantham	24 NAGs U17 @ Bolton or Grantham
25	26	27	28	1	2	3