



## Swindon Dolphin ASC

### **Water Polo Secretary's Report to the AGM 2014**

The 2014 Water Polo season concludes on Sunday 16 November, however with one match left to play the team have secured the Bristol & West League division one league title for the first time.

The league season has been a huge success, not only have the team secured the title but they have managed to complete the season undefeated. The only blotch in the league campaign was a six all draw away to the leagues bottom side Bath University.

The most pleasing aspect of the season has to be the number of games the team have managed to win by one or two goals. These tight games have in the past been the ones that they have struggled to kill off, however this season they have been ruthless and taken all the points on offer.

The squad has been largely unchanged from last season. There has been the addition of a junior player – Sam Dalton from Salisbury and a senior Will Allan who has recently taken up the sport but apart from this the squad remains small – this makes the league title win even more impressive.

The development of junior squad players has been aided greatly by travelling with smaller teams. Fraser Durston, Dan Dixon, Jack Plumb and Sam Dalton have all performed admirably all season. They have had a lot of Water time and improved hugely from where they were last season.

The work we have been doing as a team with the junior players and senior players that have not played the sport for long was rewarded with two individual achievements in the year. Firstly Jack Plumb was selected for the South West of England team that competed at Walsall in the Inter Counties tournament. Jack played a large part in helping the team finish in third place overall. Secondly late in the year Fraser Durston was selected to be part of the Bristol Beacon training programme. The Beacon programme is set up to work with the most talented kids in each age group and move them forwards to hopeful District and national selection. In both instances huge numbers of kids took part in trials and Jack and Fraser were one of 13 selected.

The squad as a whole see this as huge reward for the hard work they have all carried out with the juniors. I personally believe the junior lads are really enjoying their personal experiences in Water polo and hope we can continue to develop them to reach the highest level possible both in terms of competition with Swindon Dolphin as well as regional and national team selection.

All of this would of course be made easier if we had more juniors taking part in the sport. At present we only have the four lads, this isn't enough for a junior team therefore all the water time the juniors receive is in senior matches. In close senior matches we struggle to get them all a game. This is sad – it would be great if we could develop the sport not only in the club but in the region. I would be grateful if coaches looked in to promoting the sport with their swimmers as I'm sure there are more than 4 lads in the club that would enjoy it.

Back to playing matters and the team were winners of the Bristol and West Presidents KO cup late in 2013 (after the last AGM). The team defeated Newton Abbot in the final to win this trophy for the first time.

The 2014 defence of this cup was not so successful at the quarter final stage the team drew the 2012 British Champions Bristol Central whose team is full of current and past internationals including the London Olympic 2012 Captain Craig Figes. The team battled hard but were in a word hammered. Still a great experience for the junior players to experience playing against one of the best club sides in the country.

The final playing success was in a number of the team being selected to compete at the Inter Counties South West Senior Tournament for Wiltshire. The team did not play their best Polo on the day however they still managed to finish a very creditable third. Players selected from Swindon Dolphin were Will



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Smith, David Quinlivan, Chris Selby, Andy Strong, Ian Brewer, Michal Trzeciak, Jack Plumb, Fraser Durston and Matt James.

All the team would like to thank Chris Kerslake and the media team for all their support this year. The added publicity has been excellent and really has helped increase the awareness of the sport.

Also could I please add my thanks to any club members that have come along to support the team at our home matches. I'm sure those of you that have come along have enjoyed the experience and would agree it's a good quick physical game.

I would also like to thank the senior members of the squad for assisting with the training sessions and one on one time spent with junior players. Also all the ladies that have helped us out on match days with the table, and also Andy Hicks for his continual drive and commitment to bring juniors in to the club and the sport and finally all the players in the squad without whom we would not have a team to compete.

Finally I would like to express my sincere apologies to the other members of the executive committee for my lack of attendance at this year's meetings. Due to other commitments I have not been able to attend. I appreciate that these meetings are a big part of any role within the club. That being said if anyone can be found with the suitable knowledge or experience to take on the role I would be more than happy to pass on the reins. If not I'm happy to carry on as is.

Thank you for your time.

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### **Swindon Dolphin 2014 Combined League and Cup Stats**

Name	Appearances	Goals Scored	Majors Conceded
A Hicks	10	18	13
D Quinlivan	12	14	14
C Selby	12	18	10
W Allan	2	0	0
W Smith	8	0	0
A Strong	12	14	18
D Dixon	6	1	4
I Brewer	10	14	6
M James	12	30	7
M Lawlor	4	1	4
M Trzeciak	12	22	10
J Plumb	11	3	3
F Durston	6	4	2
S Dalton	3	0	0