

BERKSHIRE & SOUTH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ASA

MANAGEMENT BOARD

14 NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE INTERIM WATER POLO MANAGER

Unless I am very much mistaken, there are 2 clubs in the County who offer water polo as a specific aquatic discipline - Reading SC and Wycombe District SC. Reading has a long tradition of water polo, while the discipline has only recently been re-introduced at Wycombe.

Reading

The greatest challenge to water polo at Reading SC is the closure of Central Pool, now scheduled for February 2018: the Club hopes to continue the polo sessions until closure. Other pools have been considered, eg Bradfield College, but, with help from the Swim England Club Development Officer, Rosa Gallop, pool time has now been secured at Minley pool (Gibraltar Barracks), when the latter reopens early in 2018.

Membership has increased this year. There is a new student member as well as another new player, who has just moved to the area from Hungary. There are 3 other potential new members (2 female students, one a GB international) and a returning player.

Reading are in Division 1 of the Summer league again this season. The team also reached the semi finals of the [handicapped] cup tournament.

There is demand from juniors who want to play polo, and the Club's polo players/coaches are keen to try to start a junior polo section at Reading in the future, but without any available/suitable pool time at the time being, this cannot progress.

Wycombe

Water polo is still very much in its "formation" stage at Wycombe.

For the last year, the Club ran a session 9-10pm on Tuesdays but this never took off, due to the timing of it; although this had great pool space. The Club has now decided to run a polo session every other Friday evening 8-9pm within the "development section" of the Club, as more of a "fun" activity. This is a huge success at the moment and the Club is planning hopefully to make this every week by January and designate a permanent 4 lanes to the session.

If this grows, the Club may reinstate the Tuesday evening along with an additional session if water space can be found

I am indebted to Kevin Brooks for the information about Wycombe.

Roger Penfold

09.11.17