

BERKSHIRE & SOUTH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ASA

MANAGEMENT BOARD

11 NOVEMBER 2021

REPORT OF THE INTERIM WATER POLO MANAGER

As far as I am aware, the discipline of water polo is only offered in one club in the County - Reading SC (my club), hence my appointment as Interim WP Manager.

Currently, Reading SC's WP section comprises 12 adults (men), with a view to further adult members as the calendar year progresses. The Club trains at Eton College, under an arrangement that has recently been extended to Christmas this year. There are 2 training sessions a week. However, because of the depth of the pool at one end, the Club is unable presently to compete in the London League, because of the League's requirement for a depth of at least 1.8m across the match pool. Nevertheless, friendly matches may be played.

The Club hopes to migrate to the new Eton pool, which will have the requisite deep water, in 2022. Of course, the Club wishes to bring polo back to Reading when the new competition pool is opened at Rivermead. The contract agreed by the Council includes a moveable floor in the pool, to allow for WP, and, indeed, Artistic Swimming.

Exciting news from the Club is that, with support from Eton, there were some very successful taster/starter WP sessions over the summer, attended by 30 juniors. This has led to an 8 week course in October and November, with many committed junior swimmers: the course is now intended to run to Christmas. Most of the participants come from BSB clubs, eg Bracknell & Wokingham, Maidenhead, Tilehurst and Windsor. The Club sees this as the seed corn for a junior section.

Ultimately, the Club has ambitions to provide ladies' polo as well and aspires to be the centre of excellence for WP for this County, in the same way as Basingstoke is in Hampshire.

Roger Penfold
11.11.21