

## Scottish Water Polo Newsletter November 2019

There are a number of items to communicate on, so the Scottish Water Polo Committee have prepared this “newsletter” for your information.

### Scottish National Leagues

[https://scotwpl.leaguerepublic.com/l/fg/1\\_781149075.html](https://scotwpl.leaguerepublic.com/l/fg/1_781149075.html)

The 2019-20 leagues have started for some on the competitions, I would encourage all teams to make plans for games to be played across the season such that they are all completed by end March 2020.

### Scottish Water Polo Fees

A reminder that all players must pay through their clubs the £35 annual fee, this covers the season 2019-20.

The payment details are:

- RBS
- sort code       83-27-09
- account no.    00292938

Please put as reference Club Name \ Cub Code (as provided in the Inf Guide) and Code 6201 for electronic payments e.g. from Warrender would be “EWBX 6201”; or if by cheque send to Scottish Swimming, Finance Department, Airthrey Castle, Hermitage Road, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA – with covering note to explain reason for payment.

Also provide by e-mail advise that the payment has been made and a list of players that this covers to [scotwpfinance@gmail.com](mailto:scotwpfinance@gmail.com)

### Scottish Cup

Dates for the Scottish Cup will be announced soon and entries will be requested by the end of 2019 (to be confirmed).

Gael Drummond, who in recent years has established the successful format we are now playing to, has indicated she will be stepping down after the 2020 event. If there are any willing volunteers who wish to gain experience in competition \ event management then I would encourage you to get in touch with Gael and to “learn the ropes” by assisting with the 2020 competition - so that we can have a successful 2021 event.

## Referees

I note there are on-going issues with the identification of referees for our SNL games, an on-going issue as a result of us not having a Referees Co-ordinator. All referees as members of Scottish Swimming must be a member of a club, as clubs competing in the SNL competitions I ask that you encourage your referees to support the competitions.

To address this issue for 2020, we have engaged Ali Johnstone to do a piece of work which will

- Establish a list of active referees
- Set in place a development and grading pathway
- Organise and arrange for delivery of referee and delegate training

The aim being that for the second half of this 2019/20 season there will be better identification and allocation of referees. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT ALI AND ASK HIM TO ORGANISE REFEREES FOR MATCHES.

A referees meeting was planned for 17<sup>th</sup> November, however, due to poor notification of attendance this has been postponed. A new date will be advised in the coming days.

## Table Officials

An updated presentation \ club course has been prepared and can be rolled out to clubs, and will also be introduced into the national squad training to grow understanding of available officials, and to aid understanding of the rules and the role the table plays in a game for young athletes.

## LEN Transfers

There has been an increased focus on the transfer of players between countries, this covers ALL players. So, for example someone coming from a European Country to study or live in Great Britain and wanting to play water polo will need to consider their transfer situation.

[http://www2.len.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/15-Waterpolo\\_transfer\\_regulation-1.pdf](http://www2.len.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/15-Waterpolo_transfer_regulation-1.pdf) specifically the TRANSFERS OF NON-CONTRACT PLAYERS is likely to be the focus in Britain.

The publication on the Swim England web-site <https://www.swimming.org/waterpolo/len-international-transfer-process/> is a good summary.

We are working with Scottish Swimming to assess how to operate with this requirement.

## “New Rules”

To confirm that we are playing with the “new rules” (and all the old ones!!) as from 1st August, so all competitions should be operating with them. All sets of rules they sometime need to be adapted to the local circumstances, all parties – teams(players, coaches), Referees, Table Officials - need to understand and agree to any local rules being employed for the match \ competition before the event starts.

## Scoreboards

I understand scoreboards in Stirling, Dundee have been updated to accommodate the requirements of the new rules (30/20 seconds); discussions are going on with RCP.

## National Squads

We have seen a lot of activity in the last six months with our age group squads, driven in no small part to the overall co-ordinating work of Helen Toole as our National Teams Manager, our thanks to Helen for this.

Specifically we have had teams in Barcelona, Belfast, Newport for the restarted North Sea Cup, which was played as a Home Nations.

The immediate measure of a change in performance will be the results achieved at the Inter Region Events for U14, U16, U18 for this 2019/20 season.

Our senior squads are quiet at the moment with much of the senior players focus on the British Water Polo League. The programme for the men's team is under review with the resignations of Coach Ramon Valvona, Assistant Coach Davie Baxter and Team Manager Ian Melville. The women also need to establish a credible programme to go forward.

## Dates

**EU Nations Junior Women (Born 2003 & younger)** - 13th March – 15th March 2020 Brno, Czech Republic, 12 Nations

**GBR U19 (2001+) LEN Qualification event around** - 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> April

**EU Nations Junior Men (Born 2003 & younger)** - 10th April – 12th April 2020 Brno, Czech Republic, 12 Nations

**EU Nations Senior Women** - 8th May – 10th May 2020 Brno, Czech Republic, 12 Nations

**EU Nations Senior Men** - 12th June – 14th June 2020 Brno, Czech Republic, 12 Nations

## West District

In the West District there has been work with University of Strathclyde; 3 of the clubs (Kirkintilloch & Kilsyth, Western, Forth Valley) and Scottish Swimming \ Scottish Water Polo Committee to prepare a Direct Club Investment case and recruit a professional coach. The aim is that this comes to fruition in the coming months.

## Scottish Water Polo Committee

The Scottish water polo committee is in a time of change, with a number of positions vacant this year and others indicating they will be stepping down in the coming months, including myself as Chair. While we have coordinators for all our leagues the post of overall Domestic Co-ordinator has remained unfilled for six months, and as mentioned earlier the Officials Co-ordinator has been vacant for a number of years. Andy Gray has indicated he wishes to step down as our Finance Manager at the end of the financial year (April 2020). I will also be stepping down as Chair after 5 years in the role, the time comes for someone else to take Scottish Water Polo forward with new ideas and



drive. As mentioned above Gael Drummond will step down as Events organiser after the Scottish Cup 2020. We are outstanding a volunteer to take responsibility for Marketing our sport, and also the SWPC would benefit from having some secretariat support.

I would be pleased to discuss the role of Chair, and any of the other roles, with any interested candidates.

#### AGM

The Scottish Water Polo AGM is usually held in November, but due to other commitments it will be delayed into 2020. Holding it in November worked from the previous end of financial year, and in feeding into the SS AGM.

However, with the change in Financial Year, and the Scottish Swimming Annual General Meeting will be held on one of the last two Saturday's in September or one of the first two Saturday's in October each year.

I have asked Scottish Swimming when would best to hold the AGM and they have indicated end May \ June. A date for the AGM will be advised in the near future.

To provide some continuity of the Clubs providing input to the running of Scottish Water Polo, it is proposed to hold a Clubs Committee meeting on Sunday 9th February 10:00-13:00 at University of Stirling, one of the key items will be the identification of potential committee members such that appropriate and willing volunteers can be elected at the AGM a few months later.

I hope you have found this useful, if there are any further questions please get in touch.

Regards,

Alan Anderson

Chair Scottish Water Polo

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