

## **York City Baths Club Water Polo Section.**

The Waterpolo section meets at Archbishop Holgate's School swimming pool every Thursday night at 8.30pm till 9.45pm. We competed in the Wakefield & District League division 1 during 2009 (previously this was called the Yorkshire League until this was disbanded) having gained promotion the previous year.

The highlight of the year was in reaching the Final of the Yorkshire Cup. Unfortunately we lost to a strong Huddersfield team in a hard fought but close game that could have gone either way with the York team simply running out of steam at the end of the game. The most pleasing part of this was the full participation in the team of some of the younger members who have now gained full senior status (Toby Clarkson, Liam Fletcher) and with Nick Boaz and Chris Burns coming back from University to play in their first Senior Cup Final.

In the league we maintained our Division 1 status due to picking up points early on in the season. Although beaten by better teams later in the season we were never outclassed and narrowly missed creating some upsets. Last year I stated that we were short of a permanent goalkeeper but this post has now been taken by Toby Clarkson using his height and arm span to great advantage in making the goals seem a lot smaller for the opposing team.

Eddy Clarkson continued playing for Huddersfield in the leagues U16's division and also attended the Yorkshire region training centre weekly at Sheffield. He should find himself called upon to help the senior team in the coming season.

Next season the 1<sup>st</sup> Division will be a big challenge with 2 teams dropping out leaving 2 very strong Castleford teams (based around their GB International goalkeeper who plays for both teams!), 2 Huddersfield teams and a Sheffield team full of GB junior and senior players.

In the last few years I have reported that the section has suffered from lack of new members joining the squad, and this combined with both the advancing years of the remaining members and several players either retiring or with long term injuries has made fulfilling fixtures more challenging with us relying at times on players returning to York for games or indeed using players from York University to make numbers up. Again this may be a big problem for next season as we will probably lose members again as they move away to University.

We are an open club with members ranging in age from 15 to 63 all who participate fully in the clubs activities. Whilst being a competent swimmer is a must you don't have to be world class to enjoy the game. Although we all enjoy winning the main aim of all of our members is to enjoy themselves whilst keeping fit and having some fun at the same time. If anyone wishes to try it out simply pop along, however its best to contact us first just to make sure we aren't playing away that evening. Likewise if anyone simply wishes to spectate then please come down to watch.

Kevin Clarkson.