

KW WATER POLO CLUB



Annual Report 2007-2008

Our 31st season as a club has seen its successes as well as its challenges.

Our membership in numbers remains the same as for our previous season at 80 athletes, however, the larger numbers of athletes in our expanded senior's program means that we actually experienced a drop in our youth, cadet and bantam membership. We recognize that it is essential for the growth and success of this club that we recruit athletes at the bantam level.

An Enrollment Building Working Group which includes Glen Keelan, our former bantam coach and manager of the City of Kitchener League and Learn to Play programs, has been working with this objective in mind. Their pilot project was an organized mini-season which integrated City League players with Club athletes in a well attended practice and play session in April and May. Their work continues and we hope to see some positive results from their efforts.

We welcomed 2 new coaches this season, Monika Blazon and Jake Pottier. Both are former members of KW Water Polo and we are fortunate to have them return to their home club. With the loss of 2 long time coaches this past season we are continuing our search for new coaching staff. We will be looking to Ontario Water Polo and our sister clubs for programs to train our own senior athletes in the roles of coaches and referees.

KW was once again proud to host our 2 annual tournaments, the Cadet Classic and the Bantam Winter Classic. Thank you to all the volunteers, especially the Pottier family, for their efforts. Thank you as well to the families who billeted our guests, the Puma Bantam Team from Mexico City.

Our Inferno teams, both developmental and competitive, participated in invitational and club championship tournaments throughout the province. Many excellent performances were seen and several medals garnered. Our cadet and youth girl's teams were most successful, winning a total of 6 medals, including a provincial silver for the youth and provincial bronze for the cadets.

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- President: Linda Potovszky, 90 Windrush Trail, Kitchener, Ontario, N2P2B2 (519-748-4679)
 - Head Coach: Paul Pottier, 61 Georgian Crescent, Kitchener, Ontario, N2B3N8 (519-578-6763)
 - Treasurer: Peter C. Welsman, 89 Braeside Ave., Waterloo, Ontario, N2J2C7 (519-578-1458)
 - web site: www.kwwaterpolo.com

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At this year's Annual General Meeting we honour Toni Pottier, wife of Head Coach Paul Pottier, as our Volunteer of the Year for her endless efforts on behalf of KW Water Polo. Chaperone, trainer, manager, tournament director, gallery leader and spokesperson for the club she loves are just some of the roles she has taken on for more than a decade.

We will be facing a new challenge with our club in the near future as our main facility for training at Wilfred Laurier University faces its own challenges. The pool has some major structural issues and these will have to be dealt with. Final decisions have not yet been made as to its repair, demolition or reconstruction but we could be faced with looking for alternate facilities as soon as September of this year.

The Cities of Kitchener and Waterloo are well aware of the impact this will have on our club and are working with us to find solutions. We will keep the membership informed of any impact or alterations in our practice schedules as we find them out.

As always, we wish to acknowledge the volunteers of our organization without whom we could not exist. Your continued efforts are always looked for in everything from fundraising, especially our bingo sessions, to team management, board membership and chaperoning to driving our athletes to practices and games.

I wish to acknowledge the support and assistance of our affiliates, the Cities of Kitchener and Waterloo, the KSA (Kitchener Minor Sports Assoc.) and the Kitchener Lion's Club. Thank you to the directors of Ontario Water Polo for their direction and commitment to our club and its athletes.

Lastly, thank you to the athletes, the coaches, especially our Head Coach Paul Pottier, and our parents, for their love of the game and this club.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Potovszky,
President KW Water Polo

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