

INDIA WILKINSON SHARES HER WATER POLO PASSION



- I remember the first water polo training sessions I had, I may not have been able to catch a ball yet, nor perfected my egg beater technique, but still I found myself coming back each week to learn something new. Those very first Friday night sessions seem so long ago now, but I still find myself looking back on those 2 hours a week, where I learnt so many important lessons that I would be lost without today.
- For the past three years, I trained once a month with the GB 2000 girls squad, either down in Northampton or all the way across to Cardiff. In addition to this, I trained and played for Hucknall and Rotherham; sometimes it appeared that we never stopped travelling! But, even after a long weekend away, I would try my best not to miss that early Monday morning training session, no matter how tired I was.
- I have been lucky enough to travel abroad with the GB squad on several occasions, twice to Eger, Hungary and once to Bilbao, Spain. As hard as staying away from home was at 14, the chances that I've had to play against some of the best teams in Europe (and the world) changed the way in which I play back at home. Just this past October, I was selected to represent England in the ESSA competition in Malta, along with a squad of 15 other girls. Beating the Maltese national team 33-2, and the other 2 Italian teams by a hefty goal difference, made all the early mornings and the late nights truly worth it.
- I can honestly say that nothing feels more commendable than when you are holding your national flag in one hand, and a huge trophy in the other. And it was at that moment that I realised that I would have never achieved any of that without the support of Grantham Water Polo Club, who have been there since day one. Looking back at the little girl I was 6 years ago; I would never have dreamed of playing for my country, but now it is something I will never forget.

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Secretary@granthamwaterpolo.org.uk**