



2004 Athens Olympic Games – NPD Report
14 – 29 August 2004

Coaches: Lindsey Fraser, Wen Chen, Adrian Hinchliffe
Masseur: Derry Suter

Athletes:

Tandi Gerrard	Tracey Richardson	Jane Smith	
Antonio Ally	Mark Shipman	Leon Taylor	Peter Waterfield

The 2004 Athens Olympic Games finally stamped British Diving as one of the World's leading Nations and this was reflected in not only the Silver Medal, but the fact that only 7 Nations were medallists in the Diving tally compared with 8 in Sydney.

Whilst the highlight was naturally the Men's 10m Synchronised event where Leon Taylor and Peter Waterfield won the Silver Medal (and almost the Gold), but the overall performances of the team with personal best performances and results never achieved before were also great highlights.

Women's 3m Synchronised: (straight final, 8 teams)

Jane Smith and Tandi Gerrard were responsible for getting the British Diving Team on track with an outstanding display in the final and were never too far from the bronze medal. Their performance smashed their personal best by some 15 points and their score would have earned the bronze in the past major competitions including Sydney Olympics.

The final result = 4th.

Men's 10m Synchronised: (straight final, 8 teams)

Leon Taylor and Peter Waterfield were simply brilliant and their performance was worthy of the Silver Medal. Going into the last dive, they needed 102 points to snatch the gold from China but in the end their synchronisation was out and they had to settle for silver; the first silver medal in diving for 80 years! Brilliant.

The final result = 2nd.

Men's 3m Synchronised: (straight final, 8 teams)

Mark Shipman and Tony Ally continued the great vein of form from the British Divers and they too raised their level higher than before and passed their personal best by 15 points. Unfortunately the world trend was that teams had higher degree of difficulty dives than us, and the medals were always just going to be out of reach. However, a top class performance to continue our run of top 5 placings.

The final result = 5th.

Women's 3m springboard: (33 competitors)

Jane Smith and Tracey Richardson were Britain's competitors and in the preliminary event, Jane was solid with some great dives whilst Tracey started brilliant but faltered at the end. Tracey went from a certain semi final spot to 28th in her last 2 dives. Only inexperience cost her a top 18 placing. Jane faltered on her second round dive but then came back with her final 3 dives at the best level she has ever competed them. This earned Jane a place in the semi finals and an outside opportunity of a spot in the finals. Jane dived steady in the semi finals but going into the contest, she was some 12 points behind and found the task to difficult to bridge the gap. Basically her 2nd round dive in the preliminaries cost her a place in the finals. Terrific effort but it is an event we are still to produce a finalist.

The final results = Jane 15th and Tracey 28th.

Men's 3m springboard: (33 competitors)

Mark and Tony continued their consistent form and easily qualified for the semi finals. Each diver performed consistent list of dives without really hitting top form. Despite qualifying for the semis, again the difference in points to make the final 12 was too big a task. Tony gave his all and his score was higher than he did 4 years ago in Sydney but this shows how the level of diving has gone up dramatically in 4 years. Mark never got going and although he dived well, he was too far behind to threaten the top 12. However, the first time Britain has had 2 male divers in the semi finals in this event so an excellent achievement.

The final result = Tony 15th and Mark 18th.

Men's 10m Platform: (32 competitors)

Leon and Peter continued their brilliance with good performances in the preliminaries to go through easily into the semi finals. Peter in particular dived very well and was placed in the top 5. Leon struggled a little with his entries but made up for this with a superb showing in the semis. He moved from 11th to 5th going into the finals. Peter dropped away from 5th to 11th but was never too far behind to perhaps challenge for a top 5. The finals saw Leon and Peter start to hit top gear and their performances were of the highest level. Both boys missed some of their dives slightly but they never faltered badly and only the incredible brilliance of the top 4 in the world stopped British Diving from winning another medal. This was the first time ever that Britain had 2 men qualify for an Olympic Platform Final. Great achievement.

The final result = Peter 5th and Leon 6th.

SUMMARY:

Overall the results have been incredible and nearly all these results were planned and realistically thought possible prior to the Games. However, performances don't always match hopes or expectations but this time they did. There is no doubt we could also have done better and the pleasing aspect is that there is room for improvement and this will give hope and faith to the future divers coming through.

Congratulations to all divers and support staff (Derry Suter in particular) and a huge congratulations to the 3 coaches for their belief and hard work; Wen Chen, Lindsey Fraser and Adrian Hinchliffe.

Finally thanks to all of our Sports Science/Medicine staff that for 4 years contributed largely to these results with their treatment, support and hard work. A team effort all round, so let's continue to work together and look to Beijing for more success. It will only get tougher from now on!

Steve Foley
(National Performance Director)

RESULTS

Women's Synchronised 3m Springboard (straight final - 8 entries)

1.	WU Minxia GUO Jingjing	CHN	336.90
2.	ILYINA Vera PAKHALINA Yulia	RUS	330.84
3.	LASHKO Irina NEWBERY Chantelle	AUS	309.30
4.	GERRARD Tandi SMITH Jane	GBR	302.25

Men's Synchronised 10m Platform (straight final - 8 entries)

1.	TIAN Liang YANG Jinghui	CHN	383.88
2.	WATERFIELD Peter TAYLOR Leon	GBR	371.62
3.	HELM Matthew NEWBERY Robert	AUS	366.84

Men's Synchronised 3m Springboard (straight final – 8 entries)

1.	SIRANIDIS Nikolaos BIMIS Thomas	GRE	353.34
2.	WELS Andreas SCHELLENBERG Tobias	GER	350.01
3.	NEWBERY Robert BARNETT Steven	AUS	349.59
5.	ALLY Tony SHIPMAN Mark	GBR	334.98

Men's 3m Springboard (12 entries)

1.	PENG Bo	CHN	787.38
2.	DESPATIE Alexandre	CAN	755.97
3.	SAUTIN Dmitri	RUS	753.27

Semi Finals (18 entries)

15.	ALLY Tony	GBR	617.13
18.	SHIPMAN Mark	GBR	599.98

Women's 3m Springboard (12 entries)

1.	GUO Jingjing	CHN	633.15
2.	WU Minxia	CHN	612.00
3.	OAKHALINA Yulia	RUS	610.62

Semi Finals (18 entries)

15.	SMITH Jane	GBR	483.75
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Preliminaries (33 entries)

28.	RICHARDSON Tracey	GBR	209.34
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Men's 10m Platform (12 entries)

1.	HU Jia	CHN	748.08
2.	HELM Matthew	AUS	730.56
3.	TIAN Liang	CHN	729.66

5.	WATERFIELD Peter	GBR	669.24
6.	TAYLOR Leon	GBR	663.12