

**Great Britain Diving Team**  
**Barcelona World Championships & Seville Training Camp**  
**Competition Dates 10/07/03 - 21/07/03**  
**Camp Dates 03/07/03 – 09/07/03**  
**Travel Dates 03/03/03 – 21/07/03**

**Team Staff:** Ms M Bennett, Mr S Foley, Mr C Wen, Mr S Gladding, Ms L Fraser, Mr M Brown, Mr W Clark, Mr A Hinchliffe, Mr A Bagiu, Dr L Baxter, Ms H Gain, Mr I Maynard.

**Athletes:** Mr A Ally, Mr M Shipman, Ms J Smith, Mr L Taylor, Ms S Powell, Ms T Gerrard, Mr P Waterfield, Ms M Mearroll, Ms K Smith, Ms T Richardson and Mr B Aidridge.

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <b>Date first &amp; final team names confirmed with office (office use only):</b> | 02 June 2003 |
| <b>Date selection letter sent to team from office (office use only):</b>          | 24 June 2003 |

|   |                  |             |              |      |      |
|---|------------------|-------------|--------------|------|------|
| <b>ASSEMBLY</b>                               |                  |             |              |      |      |
| <b>Flights</b>                                | Excellent        | <b>Good</b> | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| <b>Airline/s used:</b>                        | Iberia           |             |              |      |      |
| <b>Airport/s used:</b>                        | Houston/Heathrow |             |              |      |      |
| <b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b> |                  |             |              |      |      |

**Office Response**

|   |           |             |              |      |      |
|---|-----------|-------------|--------------|------|------|
| <b>KIT &amp; DISTRIBUTION</b>                 |           |             |              |      |      |
|   | Excellent | <b>Good</b> | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| <b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b> |           |             |              |      |      |

**Office Response**

|  |           |             |                     |             |      |
|--|-----------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|------|
| <b>ACCOMMODATION</b>   |           |             |                     |             |      |
| <b>Rooms</b>   | Excellent | <b>Good</b> | Satisfactory        | Fair        | Poor |
| <b>Location (from pool and other facilities)</b>                         | Excellent | Good        | <b>Satisfactory</b> | Fair        | Poor |
| <b>Meals/Food</b>  | Excellent | Good        | <b>Satisfactory</b> | Fair        | Poor |
| <b>General Service</b>   | Excellent | Good        | Satisfactory        | <b>Fair</b> | Poor |
| <b>Accommodation name, address and contact numbers:</b>                  |           |             |                     |             |      |
| Barcelona Expo Hotel, c/Mallorca, 1-23. 08014 Barcelona Tel:34 600 30 20 |           |             |                     |             |      |
| <b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b>                            |           |             |                     |             |      |

**Office Response**

|  |           |             |                     |      |      |
|--|-----------|-------------|---------------------|------|------|
| <b>TRAINING VENUE Seville (Spain) Training Camp</b>  |           |             |                     |      |      |
| <b>Location (from hotel and other facilities)</b>  | Excellent | Good        | <b>Satisfactory</b> | Fair | Poor |
| <b>Facilities</b>  | Excellent | <b>Good</b> | Satisfactory        | Fair | Poor |
| <b>Access</b>  | Excellent | <b>Good</b> | Satisfactory        | Fair | Poor |
| <b>Optional support Services (access to sports science etc)</b>  | Excellent | <b>Good</b> | Satisfactory        | Fair | Poor |
| <b>Venue name, address and contact numbers:</b>  |           |             |                     |      |      |
| Seville Hotel Acor Monteolivivos, Monte Olivete Seville.   |           |             |                     |      |      |
| <b>Comments;</b> It became necessary to move the Team to a second Hotel, when I realized that the Hotel Acor had no Cooking Facilities and Food was Precooked outside and Micro Waved at the Hotel Acor for eating. The first evening the food was unacceptable and Not as requested by the ASA. Move to Occidental Hotel. |           |             |                     |      |      |

**Office Response**

| <b>COMPETITION VENUE (if appropriate)</b>                                      |           |             |              |      |      |
|--|-----------|-------------|--------------|------|------|
| <b>Location (from pool and other facilities)</b>                               | Excellent | <b>Good</b> | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| <b>Facilities</b>  | Excellent | <b>Good</b> | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| <b>Access</b>  | Excellent | <b>Good</b> | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| <b>Support Services</b>  | Excellent | <b>Good</b> | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| <b>Competition Organisation</b>  | Excellent | <b>Good</b> | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| <b>Any local support services bought in</b>                                    | Excellent | <b>Good</b> | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| <b>Doping Control</b>  | Yes / No  |             |              |      |      |
| <b>Venue name, address and contact numbers:</b> Piscina Municipal de Montjuic. |           |             |              |      |      |
| <b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b>                                  |           |             |              |      |      |

**Office Response**

| <b>ADMINISTRATION</b>  |           |             |              |      |      |
|--|-----------|-------------|--------------|------|------|
| <b>Communication with office</b>   | Excellent | <b>Good</b> | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| <b>Information from Organisers</b>   | Excellent | <b>Good</b> | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| <b>Comments;</b> Not able to supply full set Results at the end of Competitions, I was informed that these would be forwarded on to the ASA offices. |           |             |              |      |      |

**Office Response**

**FINAL SUMMARY - any additional comments you would like to make (not obligatory).**  
 It would be helpful for Accreditation purposes, if all current International Divers could supply ASA admin with an up to date Photograph and a Copy of current Passport Information. (Inside Back Page)

**RESULTS**  
**Full set of official results sent to office by team manager (office use only):** Yes / No

**2003 WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**STEVE FOLEY, NPD DIVING**

These World Championships were very different from any previous World Championships as they held the stigma of being an Olympic Qualification event for the 2004 Athens Games. This meant added pressure on all divers as they tried to qualify their Country for the Olympics next year. Whilst only the Top 12 places in the individual events and top 3 places for the Synchronised events were the Olympic Qualification, this really did make the Championships quite cut throat. I merely mention this, as I believe it was the prime reason for some of our divers to falter under pressure and they became too focused on this result, rather than their Performance. Being an Olympic Qualifying Championship meant several Countries coming out of the woodwork in an attempt to qualify. Countries such as North and South Korea, which are hardly ever seen competing on the International circuit yet pose a real threat in some events were a prime example. So the biggest field of divers and Countries ever assembled for a Diving World Championship took to the brilliant Montjuic Pool in sunny Barcelona.

Men's 3 metre springboard:

*GB Representatives* – Antonio Ally and Mark Shipman  
Number of Competitors - 46  
Results - Shipman – 9<sup>th</sup> Ally – 10<sup>th</sup>. (Final)

The toughest part of this event was qualifying for the top 18 and a place in the semi finals, and then diving brilliantly to advance into the top 12 and a place in the finals and Olympic Qualifying for Great Britain. Both Mark and Tony were excellent and their consistency pulled them through right into the top 12, although not without heart failure on the last dive from Shipman but he had enough lead to hold off a fast finishing Brazilians. Shipman qualified for Finals in 12<sup>th</sup> place and Ally in 9<sup>th</sup>.

The finals saw both Shipman and Ally find some top form and Shipman in particular produced some great dives to move into 9<sup>th</sup> place. Ally, who was suffering from cramp during the finals continued to amaze and produce some terrific dives but had to settle for 10<sup>th</sup> place in what was the first time Great Britain had 2 divers at a World Championship ever place in the top 10 in an individual event. Superb stuff!

Men's 3 metre Synchronised:

*GB Representatives* - Mark Shipman and Antonio Ally  
Number of Teams - 20  
Result - 8<sup>th</sup> (Final)

Tony and Mark continued their great form to sneak into the final 8 with a host of teams narrowly behind in what was the highest calibre of 3 metre synchronised men's diving ever seen. The dives just keep getting harder yet they are performed for 9's and 10's at various times. Amazing. Team GB dived pretty well but certainly not up to their best and their entries seemed to let them down. Most teams definitely get into the water cleaner (less splash) than us and this was reflected in the scoring. Plenty of room for improvement but overall a good job, although we will have to be at our best if we are to qualify for the Olympics at February's World FINA Diving Cup where we must finish in the top 7.

Men's 1 metre springboard:

*GB Representatives* - Blake Aldridge and Peter Waterfield  
Number of Competitors - 35  
Results - Aldridge – 18<sup>th</sup> Waterfield – 13<sup>th</sup> (Preliminary)

Although not an Olympic event, there is plenty of prestige associated with a top 10 placing in the World on any board. Waterfield and Aldridge dived very well and both can be considered unlucky not to make it into the semi finals (top 12). Waterfield missed his third dive and this dropped him well back into the field. Peter seemed to be fired up after this and turned in some terrific last few dives to narrowly miss out on a place in the semi finals by 9 points. Blake Aldridge led the way for most of the competition and was well within reach of a place in the top 12 but faltered on his last round dive. This was one of his most difficult and he had been struggling with the dive in training as well but perhaps the moment could bring out his best. No. Good effort all round but certainly a semi final birth gone begging.

#### Men's 10 metre Platform:

|                           |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| <i>GB Representatives</i> | - <i>Peter Waterfield and Leon Taylor</i> |   |
| Number of Competitors     | - 37                                      |   |
| Results                   | - Taylor – 5 <sup>th</sup> (Final)        | Waterfield – 25 <sup>th</sup> (preliminary) |

This event just keeps on surprising with the difficulty of dives being performed and to the highest possible level. The once almighty Chinese were shell shocked at what the world were throwing at them and I think they were stunned at how the gap between the world and China has diminished. A case in point is that the 2000 Olympic and 2001 World Champion was only in 6<sup>th</sup> place following the preliminary event. And who was ahead of him; well Commonwealth Nations that's who. Despatie of Canada, Helm of Australia and Taylor of Great Britain took him apart. Yes, you read it correct, Taylor of Great Britain. The question was could the Commonwealth keep it up for the final. The disappointment of the competition was Peter Waterfield who is clearly one of the World's top 6 divers. Unfortunately things went astray from the start for him and he really struggled to play catch up on the leaders. It is so important to get off to a good start in such a difficult contest where one poor dive could drop you from the top 8 to 30<sup>th</sup> position. This is where Peter was after his first dive and to his credit; he fought back valiantly but to no avail. Needing to perform brilliant dives took its toll and a critical mistake in round 4 saw Peter's chances end. His placing of 25<sup>th</sup> does not do justice to his ability and class. He will rebound I am sure. Leon Taylor was awesome and he has clearly marked his arrival as one of the top platform divers of this era. His final was not as sharp as his preliminary although incredibly consistent and he is definitely a medal chance for Athens with some more polish and stepping up a gear when it matters. In what was the greatest platform diving ever, Leon is right up there with the best of them and his 5<sup>th</sup> placing was the highest placing ever by a British Diver in an individual event. Outstanding performance.

#### Men's 10 metre platform Synchronised:

|                 |   |  |
|-----------------|---|--|
| <i>Team GB</i>  | - <i>Peter Waterfield and Leon Taylor</i> |  |
| Number of Teams | - 16                                      |  |
| Results         | - 4 <sup>th</sup> (Final)                 |  |

What a competition! Team GB were marvellous and were right in the hunt for a medal the whole competition. Forget the preliminaries as Team GB were never not going to qualify for the final. It was medal time and the guys were determined. Alas, so were 3 other teams. Australia completely out gunned everyone and they were simply too good. Team Ukraine, always a danger team, dived above themselves and both of these teams scored more Ten's than Bo Derek! Oh yeah, Team China, the Olympic Champions were also competing but were surprised by the other teams and their unbelievable degree of difficulty dives. For the first time ever, Team China did not have the highest degree of difficulty. This belonged to Australia. China edged out Team GB for the bronze but this was set up in the first 2 rounds where everyone does 2 dives with a set degree of difficulty of 2.0. The perfect score for these 2 dives (if they score perfect 10's) is 120 points. China amassed 118 points and led Team GB by 16 points yet only defeated us by just over 10 points. The message here is we need to improve our simple dives. Brilliant performance by Team GB and there is no doubt with some tidying up and improvement on entries, Team GB is not just a medal chance, but a Gold Medal chance with some luck. Thrilling competition and Team GB also scored a perfect 10 for their 307C (Reverse 3 ½ s/s) to prove to the world (and themselves) how good they are. Excellent diving by all 4 teams.

#### Women's 3 metre springboard:

|                        |   |   |
|------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Representatives</i> | - <i>Jane Smith and Tracey Richardson</i> |   |
| Number of Competitors  | - 43                                      |   |
| Results                | - Smith – 30 <sup>th</sup>                | Richardson – 28 <sup>th</sup> (Preliminary) |

This was undoubtedly one of our most disappointing competitions and certainly one where we expected to do better. I believe that Jane Smith was overly worried about qualifying for the Olympics rather than performing and this was her undoing. She got off to a reasonable start with a solid opening dive but the wheels fell off in round 2 with a disaster on her 107C. (Forward 3 ½ s/s) This meant that she needed to dive superbly on her last 3 dives and there would be no margin for error. This put too much pressure on her and round 4 saw the dream come to an end with a missed 305B (Reverse 2 ½ s/s) shutting the door. Whilst not Jane at her best, this may be the best thing for her and I know she will be back to her top form come February.

Tracey started the competition like she wanted to win it and after 3 rounds of dives, she was well placed in the top 12. Her troublesome dive (405C – Inward 2 ½ s/s) proved to be the pivotal moment in the contest for her and under pressure, she faltered. Had this dive been reasonable, I believe Tracey would have made finals. This dive moved Tracey back into 18<sup>th</sup> place with one dive to go and again, the pressure of needing a good dive got to her and a mistake on entry saw her plummet back down the field to 28<sup>th</sup> place. It is only consistency that was the difference between our girls making the top 12 and bombing out all together. No excuses, we were not good enough under pressure on the day. Work to be done.

#### Women's 3 metre springboard Synchronised:

*Team GB* - Jane Smith and Tandi Gerrard  
Number of Teams - 16  
Result - 5<sup>th</sup> (Final)

Sensational is the first word that comes to mind. One year ago we were struggling to make a team for this event and we decided to take a chance and pair these 2 together. Well, what a formidable pairing they have turned into. Only 6 points from a medal and they have so much room for improvement. The girls broke their personal best in the preliminary event and then shattered it by almost 20 points in the final. Make no mistake about it, these two are definite medal prospects and without question, this was one of Great Britain's best performances at these Championships. Very encouraging.

#### Women's 1 metre springboard:

Representative - Tandi Gerrard.  
*Number of Competitors* - 34  
Result - 14<sup>th</sup> (Preliminary)

Tandi dives really well and with a slice of luck would have qualified for the semi finals (top 12). Tandi finished less than a point from 12<sup>th</sup> and it really came down to one judge's score here or there. Tandi did not miss any dive and was extremely consistent with the only blemish coming on her second round dive where she had a slight knee buckle at take off and this effected her rotation and in hindsight, a place in the semis. Good performance and Tandi has been a real bonus for British Diving since moving from South Africa.

#### Women's 10 metre platform:

*Representatives* - Monique McCarroll and Stacie Powell  
*Number of Competitors* - 38  
Results - McCarroll – 20<sup>th</sup> Powell – 22<sup>nd</sup>. (Preliminary)

Again consistency let us down and it is only the one blemish that is costing British Diving top 10 results in our Women's diving. At this level, we cannot afford to make mistakes and it appears that when we make a mistake, our divers make it disastrously. Monique dived really well for 4 of her 5 rounds and only a dreadful last round dive cost her a place in the semi finals and ultimately a place in the top 12. Her last dive was very costly dropping her from 12<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. Stacie had a bad preparation for these Championships as she had been out injured several weeks leading up to departure. There is no doubt this was her undoing as inconsistent diving was again her problem. Stacie executed 3 great dives, one good dive and one really poor dive. Result, missed top 18 and possibly top 12. The competition is so close that our divers must stay consistent to stay in contention. Disappointing result as we really let go of another final placing and an Olympic qualification spot.

#### Women's 10 metre platform Synchronised:

*Team GB* - Karen Smith and Monique McCarroll  
Number of Teams - 16  
Result - 11<sup>th</sup> (Preliminary)

Both these girls have been battling injuries all year and despite a lack of training together as a team, they had their chances at qualifying for the final. Team GB got away to a solid start but faltered early on in round 3. This made things tough although their next dive was excellent synchronisation and scored 8.5's from the judges. It all came down to the last dive and although a big total score was required, they had degree of difficulty on their side. Was it the pressure, was it lack of training or are we not good enough? Whatever it is, we failed to come through again in tight clinches and finished in 11<sup>th</sup> place. There is no question that there is a medal available here as for the past 3 years; a different team has won the bronze medal. Again, I believe we are good enough in this event but some serious training together needs to take place. London and Scotland geographically is not the way to win medals and relocation is required for us if we wish to qualify for the Olympics in this event.

### SUMMARY:

This was definitely a mixed bag of results for British Diving. When our divers performed to their capabilities, top 10 results were normal. We are that good.

When we struggled, we were terrible and could not even make a top 18 (Semi final).

Our inconsistency was our undoing and when we missed a dive, we missed it for 3's and total score for the dive in the 30-point range. Other Countries missed dives for 6's and in the 50-point range.

British Diving has achieved 3 Olympic Qualifying places for next years Games that is good news, although my target was 5-6. We have plenty of work ahead for us if we are to have a full contingent at the Olympic Games in 2004. It is important for our future that we secure these places as this will determine our ranking as a Nation and inspire the next generation of divers to come.

I feel positive that these results will give us a well-earned kick in the backside as perhaps we were living in the results of 2002 (World Cup and Commonwealth Games) and we simply thought it would happen again without the real work.

There is no doubt the World FINA Diving Cup 2004 will be our biggest ever challenge to date and it is imperative that all coaches, staff and divers commit themselves to 6 months work that they have never before dedicated themselves to.

Great Britain Diving is good enough to win medals or at least make the other Countries have to earn it. The daydreaming is over; the fight is real and its now!

Finally, I would like to thank all the Coaches, Wen Chen in particular with his number of divers, our brilliant Medical Team and Sports Psychologist for their superb assistance and support and a really big thank you to our Team Manager, Martyn Brown, who did a brilliant job under extremely difficult circumstances as only the Spanish can create.

To the divers, you were great and you can be even greater and many thanks to Jeff Cook and Syd Boothroyd and their tremendous support to the team.

### **2003 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS – BARCELONA:**

| Name              | Event             | Result           | No. Of Competitors | Score  |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Tony Ally         | 3 metre s/b       | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 46                 | 633.15 |
| Mark Shipman      | 3 metre s/b       | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 46                 | 649.20 |
| Tony Ally         | 3 metre Synchro   | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 20                 | 301.29 |
| Mark Shipman      |                   |                  |                    |        |
| Peter Waterfield  | 1 metre s/b       | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 35                 | 327.87 |
| Blake Aldridge    | 1 metre s/b       | 18 <sup>th</sup> | 35                 | 317.97 |
| Leon Taylor       | 10 metre platform | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 37                 | 666.21 |
| Peter Waterfield  | 10 metre platform | 25 <sup>th</sup> | 37                 | 360.84 |
| Leon Taylor       | 10 metre Synchro  | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 16                 | 356.94 |
| Peter Waterfield  |                   |                  |                    |        |
| Jane Smith        | 3 metre s/b       | 30 <sup>th</sup> | 43                 | 235.74 |
| Tracey Richardson | 3 metre s/b       | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 43                 | 244.92 |
| Jane Smith        | 3 metre Synchro   | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 17                 | 293.55 |
| Tandi Gerrard     |                   |                  |                    |        |
| Tandi Gerrard     | 1 metre s/b       | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 34                 | 240.27 |
| Monique McCarroll | 10 metre platform | 20 <sup>th</sup> | 38                 | 264.40 |
| Stacie Powell     | 10 metre platform | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 38                 | 261.66 |
| Monique McCarroll | 10 metre Synchro  | 11 <sup>th</sup> | 16                 | 261.72 |
| Karen Smith       |                   |                  |                    |        |

Top 10 =

