

**England 1987 Youth Men's WaterPolo  
Training camp & tournament. Aix Les Bains, France  
14 to 20 July 2003**

Tim Legge (TM ) Mike Yates & Tim Dunsbee (Coaches)

Squad List in coaches report

<b>Date first &amp; final team names confirmed with office (office use only):</b>	08 May & 12 June 2003
<b>Date selection letter sent to team from office (office use only):</b>	23 May 2003

<b>ASSEMBLY</b>						<b>Office Response</b>  <i>EasyJet are a budget airline and therefore do not offer extras such as separate check ins.</i>
<b>Flights</b>	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	
<b>Airline/s used:</b>	Easyjet					
<b>Airport/s used:</b>	East Midlands / Geneva					
<b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b> Queuing with squad of approx 20 to check-in. Would have been better if Easyjet had put on separate check-in.						

<b>KIT &amp; DISTRIBUTION</b>						<b>Office Response</b>
	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	
<b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b> Amount of kit was limited due to budget constraints. Players had kit from previous trips.						

<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>						<b>Office Response</b>
<b>Rooms</b>	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	
<b>Location (from pool and other facilities)</b>	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	
<b>Meals/Food</b>	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	
<b>General Service</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	
<b>Accommodation name, address and contact numbers:</b> Hotel Davat. Le Grand Port. 73100 Aix Les Bains. T: 479 634040. F: 479 543568						
<b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b> Excellent, friendly & helpful						

<b>TRAINING VENUE (If appropriate)</b>						<b>Office Response</b>
<b>Location (from hotel and other facilities)</b>	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	
<b>Access</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	
<b>Venue name, address and contact numbers:</b> Piscine Plage. Aix les Bains						
<b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b> Plenty of water time in an excellent venue						

<b>COMPETITION VENUE (if appropriate)</b>					
<b>Location (from pool and other facilities)</b>	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
<b>Access</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	Good	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> Doctors & paramedics	<b>Excellent</b>	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
<b>Doping Control</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>				
<b>Venue name, address and contact numbers:</b> As training					
<b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b> As above					

**Office Response**

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>					
<b>Communication with office</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
<b>Information from Organisers</b>	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	<b>Fair</b>	Poor
<b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b> Programme of training only sorted on the day and late notification about transport to /from airport.					

**Office Response**

**USEFUL INFORMATION - anything regarding the competition, location, venue etc that may be of interest to future team managers, ie banks do not open on a Tuesday or females are required to cover heads in public places.**

Good dentist at parade of shops near hotel.

**FINAL SUMMARY - any additional comments you would like to make (not obligatory).**

Good venue for quality training & competition

**COSTINGS (For use by Water Polo Team Managers controlling own budgets only)**

Flights ;Hotel & transport ; Assembly & sundries

**RESULTS Included in the coaches report**

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

## Coaches Report on 4 Nations Tournament held in Aix-les-Bains, France July 2003

The competing teams were England, France, Slovakia and Slovenia. A squad of 16 players was selected after trials in March and May following the Youth (17s) Inter District tournament in March. Thirteen of these recently competed in a five nations tournament in Sterling in June. The squad travelled on the Monday and the training programme adopted before the tournament is outlined below:

Tuesday am: 30m pitch in pool– one hour swimming and passing followed by one hour game against French – followed by 30 minutes in the lake pool where the squad worked on areas of weakness identified in game.  
Tuesday pm: 25m pitch in lake– one hour swimming and passing followed by one hour game against French  
Wednesdays and Thursday's programme was very much the same as Tuesday's although approximately 30 minutes was spent practicing man-up and man-down against the French team before a training game.

During this period the games were refereed by Andrew Allen, who had accompanied the team for the training camp and tournament. His support during this period and his comments were much appreciated by coaches and players.

Over the three days of the tournament a light training session was held in the morning when a match was played in the evening. All sixteen players were used over the course of the tournament.

Sam Atherton	Bolton School (GK)
Mackie Campbell	Hammersmith Penguin (GK)
Kieran Birmingham *	Cheltenham (GK)
Scott Carpenter	Sedgefield 75
Ben Cartwright	Parogon
Joe Curwen	Lancaster
Peter Hutchinson	Bolton School & Manchester (Captain)
Sam Johnson	Rotherham Metro
Adam Legge	Cheltenham
Ben Pacey	Rotherham Metro
Robert Rae	Bolton School & Manchester
Joe Rippon	Rotherham Metro
Sean Ryder	Hucknall
Joel Thomas	Cheltenham
Greg Rogers *	Paignton & Newton Abbot
Adam Monico	Bedford Modern School & Bedford

\* = new cap

First International vs. Slovenia Lost 3 - 9

Slovenia is one of the three countries, along with Croatia and Serbia, which was formed from the former Yugoslavia after the internal conflicts a decade ago. This region has a strong tradition in the sport and the opposition proved very strong. After conceding three goals in the first period this was always going to be an uphill battle. However, England performed well particularly in the second and fourth quarters. It was an encouraging result against such a highly rated European side and a lesson in the level water polo is played on the continent.

Period scores: 0-3, 1-1, 0-3 2-2. (England scores first).  
Goal-scorers: S. Carpenter 1, A. Legge 1 and P. Hutchinson 1.  
Man-ups and Man-downs:  
0 man-ups.  
Conceded 1 goal in 4 man-downs (75%)

Second International vs. France Lost 15 - 4

Having played the French team over the three days of the training camp we knew that this was going to be a hard match. This was the best French team of the five different age groups that I have come across in my coaching experience. During June their clubs had prepared the French players for their 'inter district' tournament between the seven districts over four days. A squad was assembled which had trained hard for this tournament; they then had ten days rest before another ten day training camp with the German Junior National team before they competed in the twelve nation 'Mediterranean Games' (which included Hungary, Australia, USA, Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey).

The French team were extremely fit and had good game awareness. They put us under a heavy press and then countered us when we lost possession; this accounted for most of their goals. It was encouraging that we were able to score goals and had a particularly good second period - Slovenia only managed two goals against the French and Slovakia five.

Period scores: 0-5, 4-4, 0-3, 0-3.  
Goal-scorers: R. Rae 2, B. Pacey 1 and S. Ryder 1.  
Man-ups and Man-downs:  
Scored 2 out of 6 man-ups (33%).  
Conceded 1 goal in 2 man-downs (50%)

Third International vs. Slovakia Lost 19 - 6  
This game was played at eight o'clock on the Sunday morning and I think perhaps that the team were still a little stunned after the defeat to the French. We covered counters but then failed to pick up the opposition players inside the defensive four-metre area i.e. that part of the game that really matters and as a result we conceded a lot of soft goals. In addition every rebound or blocked shot seemed to fall to a Slovakian who had the easiest of finished as our goalkeeper was invariably out of place. At the other end the opposite was true, even when a ball bobbled on the line with one of our players advancing towards it the ball was somehow scrambled away. As a result the final score somewhat flattered the Slovakian team. Nine of this team played for one club in the Eastern part of Slovakia. The national team coach who was also their club coach said that it was closer for them to go and play Hungarian club teams than other Slovakian teams; he has visited Hungary fifteen times this year and obviously experienced virtually the highest level of water polo in the world.

Period scores: 1-4, 1-4, 3-6, 1-5.  
Goal-scorers: J. Curwen 3, P. Hutchinson 1, S. Carpenter 1 and S. Ryder 1.  
Man-ups and Man-downs:  
Scored 2 out of 6 man-ups (33%).  
Conceded 3 goals in 7 man-downs (%)

**Over the three internationals the team recorded the following statistics:**

Goal-scorers:  
J. Curwen 3, P. Hutchinson 2, S. Carpenter 2, R. Rae 2, S. Ryder 2, A. Legge 1 and B. Pacey 1.

Total goals scored 13, Goals against 43.

Majors:  
J. Thomas 4, R. Rae 3, S. Johnson 2, P. Hutchinson 2, A. Legge 1 and B. Cartwright 1

Total Majors conceded 13 – conceded 5 goals – overall **38%**

Total Majors awarded 12 – 4 goals scored – overall 33%

This was the first occasion that this England Youth team had participated in Europe. It proved to be a very good lesson of the level that the sport is played there just below the level of the top Nations such as Croatia, Hungary and Serbia. Whilst we were a little out of our depth playing at this level it was important to experience this level of competition before the squad becomes the Great Britain squad in a years time and then begins their programme for their European campaign in 2005.

The following players deserve a mention for their performances: Peter Hutchinson who played centre forward throughout the tournament during which he worked very hard to maintain a position to make himself available to receive the ball, but often never got it! Joel Thomas and Scott Carpenter who worked tirelessly for most of each game and produced many drives from the arc to maintain the momentum of our attack, to Robert Rae whose technique marking the pit was excellent and persevered against some strong and experienced centre forwards and to Mackie Campbell particularly during the second half of the French game where as goalkeeper he made several outstanding saves.

The French team won the tournament with Slovaks second, Slovenia third and England fourth.

M. Yates  
Coach