

**Great Britain Water Polo – Junior Women
4 Nations Tournament
Thionville, France
24 – 27 July 2003**

Team Manager: Charlotte Miller
Team Coach: Sue Langston **Assistant Coach:** Sue Webb
Sports Therapist: Chris Kilpatrick

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|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Athletes: | Club: |
| Kate Long | Coventry |
| Charlotte Hanson | Harrogate/Grantham College |
| Felicity Leighton | Rotherham/Sheffield |
| Anne Hagen (c) | Lancaster/Manchester |
| Leah Hagen | Lancaster/Manchester |
| Leanne Jennings | Solihull/Grantham College |
| Victoria Ibbertson | Rotherham/Sheffield |
| Aine Hoy | Manchester |
| Stephanie Holme | Lancaster/Liverpool |
| Sarah Pimblett | Manchester |
| Fiona McCann | Chester/Liverpool |
| Victoria Hawkins | Manchester |
| Kathryn Stead | Sheffield |

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|---|-------------------------|
| Date first & final team names confirmed with office (office use only): | 16 April & 11 July 2003 |
| Date selection letter sent to team from office (office use only): | ? |

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|--|---------------------|------|--------------|------|------|
| ASSEMBLY | | | | | |
| Flights | Excellent | Good | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| Airline/s used: | Lux Air | | | | |
| Airport/s used: | Heathrow/Luxembourg | | | | |
| Comments (if any - please keep brief): Luxembourg airport only 30minutes from the town of Thionville in the East of France. | | | | | |

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| Office Response |
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|------------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|------|-------------|
| ACCOMMODATION | | | | | |
| Rooms | Excellent | Good | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| Location | Excellent | Good | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| Meals/Food | Excellent | Good | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| General Service | Excellent | Good | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |

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| Office Response |
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Accommodation name, address and contact numbers:
Auberge De Jeunesse, 3 Place De La Gare, 57100 Thionville,
T:33.3.82.56.32.14 F: 33.3.82.56.16.06

Comments (if any - please keep brief): Being the last of the 4 nations to arrive, we were left with 2 dorms of eight; meaning that there was no other solution than for female team staff to share a dorm with the athletes. Therapist Chris was provided with a mattress to sleep on the floor in a separate room. When an alternative was repeatedly requested from the organisers, it transpired that no further accommodation was available in the small town – as a wedding party had fully booked the only other local hotel. As this tournament was offered in partial return for the training camp hosted by England, there was no option to reduce or remove payment for the accommodation until an alternative was found.

On the plus side, meals were regular and of a good quality and quantity, and the hostel was only a short bus ride to the pool.

| TRAINING/COMPETITION VENUE | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|--------------|------|------|
| Location | Excellent | Good | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| Facilities | Excellent | Good | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| Access | Excellent | Good | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| Optional support services (access to sports science etc) | Excellent | Good | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| Venue name, address and contact numbers: Centre de Loisirs Natiques, 21 Rue des Pyramides, 57100 Thionville. T: 382 548020 | | | | | |
| Comments (if any - please keep brief): | | | | | |

Office Response

| ADMINISTRATION | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------|
| Communication with office | Excellent | Good | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| Information from Organisers | Excellent | Good | Satisfactory | Fair | Poor |
| Comments (if any - please keep brief): Communication with the office became less effective during the preparation for the World Champs and Yasmeen's absence. | | | | | |

Office Response
Apologies from the office but due to Yasmeen's absence the office were struggling to not only do their own jobs but also juggle the World Champs along with approx 6 other International events during this period.

| USEFUL INFORMATION - anything regarding the competition, location, venue etc that may be of interest to future team manager, ie banks do not open on a Tuesday or females are required to cover heads in public places. |
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| If invited to a tournament in Thionville in future, make sure suitable sleeping arrangements are available before accepting. |

| FINAL SUMMARY - any additional comments you would like to make (not obligatory). |
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| Good warm up for the European Champs in Holland, and an excellent opportunity to offer experience to members of the Youth team while 3 juniors were competing in Barcelona. |

| COSTINGS (For use by Water Polo Team Managers controlling own budgets only) |
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| Total cost for 17 persons for 3 nights, 4 days (including travel and assembly): £2843 |

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

| WATERPOLO |
|---|
| Please see attached coaches report for results and comments |

Coach's Report

This tournament was the final preparation before heading out to the European Youth Championships in Emmen, Holland (30 July – 11 August).

Three of the Junior Women's Team had been competing in the World Championships in Barcelona with the Senior Women's Team and flew back to the UK on the same day we departed for France, this was arranged so that they were able to rest before Emmen. Because of this change in the team we invited eight new 'up-and-coming' players of the Youth Squad (87's) to train with us through out July in order to select three to take to Thionville for tournament experience. The players selected were: Felicity Leighton, Stephanie Holme and Fiona McCann (replacing Hannah Wild, Carol Mohan and Angi Winstanley Smith).

Team for Thionville:

| | | |
|-----|--------------------|----|
| 1. | Kate Long (GK) | 85 |
| 2. | Charlotte Hanson | 85 |
| 3. | Felicity Leighton* | 88 |
| 4. | Anne Hagen (Capt) | 85 |
| 5. | Leah Hagen | 85 |
| 6. | Leanne Jennings | 85 |
| 7. | Vicky Ibbotson | 85 |
| 8. | Aine Hoy | 87 |
| 10. | Stephanie Holme* | 87 |
| 11. | Sarah Pimblett | 87 |
| 12. | Fiona McCann* | 87 |
| 13. | Vicky Hawkins | 85 |
| 15. | Kat Stead (GK) | 86 |

(* New Cap)

24th July:

We arrived at Luxemburg airport without any hold-ups but unfortunately had to wait over an hour for the French who had organised our transport to Thionville, this incorporated with a jammed rush-hour made the total travel time over 12 hours and we were directly dropped off at the pool late for our training session in an extremely tired state. The girls trained to the best of their ability for this 1-hour session.

25th July:

In the morning we trained for 1 hour after a nights sleep and had a more productive session and scrimmaged against France for the final 15mins.

Match 1 v France: Won 3-2 (0-0 ; 0-0 ; 3-1; 0-1)

We new the first game would be a tough battle after close results with the French recently. With a few nerves rattling around, the team had a solid, focused land warm-up and prepared well for the game. The game was extremely closely fought without score in the first two periods, even though we did have opportunities to go ahead, with a penalty and 2 extra-man attacks in our favour. Even though we didn't take advantage of these opportunities the team kept steady through out and broke the equality in the third period with three successive GB goals from Aine Hoy (2) and Vicky Hawkins, France scored one goal at the end of the quarter.

Kate Long made some vital saves in goal in the last two periods, and Sarah Pimblett had an awesome game as Centre Back finishing the game completely exhausted and bruised from her French counter-parts. This win was a real boost to the girls, especially winning the game without our top three players and beating France at home made the win so much sweeter.

Goal scorers: Aine Hoy (2); Vicky Hawkins (1).

Man-up: 1 / 7 (14%)

Man-down: defended 6 / 7 (86%)

26th July:

Match 2 v Holland: Lost 5-12 (1-3 ; 1-3 ; 2-2 ; 1-4)

We knew that we were under-dogs for this game, but after a tough game the night before it was good to have a less pressurised game where the players were able to relax more into the game and try out some tactical play for Emmen. Our biggest ask of the team was to make sure we were dangerous against this team in attack and to take the opportunities we had for high-percentage shots.

The Dutch had some very big strong girls but our incessant pressure against their set attack worked well. Their counter attack proved hardest to defend, where they were quick off the mark with an extremely fast team. They scored a total of seven counter attack goals against us.

The goalkeepers played two periods each and both played well against a good shooting side. All of the players got time to play in this game; we rotated players frequently to keep the team fresh and relatively fatigue-free for the evening game.

Goal scorers: Anne Hagen (3); Aine Hoy, Sarah Pimblett (1).

Man-up: scored 2 / 8 (25%)

Man-down: defended 3 / 4 (75%)

Match 3 v Portugal: Won 6-5 (2-0; 3-4; 1-1; 0-0)

The Portuguese match was one that we knew we should win although we never underestimated the Portuguese, as after watching their first two games, it looked as though they had improved since we last met. Also, again without our top three players we would find things different to the way we played them last.

We played well at the start of the game dominating play and our defence managed to shut them out completely. GB started off the scoring with two good goals in the first period and another at the beginning of the second, but then two unlucky decisions went against us for penalties to get them back in the game at 3-2.

The Portuguese goalkeeper seemed to raise her game after this and made some excellent saves through out the second half of the game; this kept the rest of the game close and it was good to see the girls fight to the end making another GB win.

Goal scorers: Leah Hagen (3); Sarah Pimblett, Aine Hoy, Anne Hagen (1).

Man-up: scored 5 / 9 (55%)

Man-down: defended 5 / 6 (84%)

27th July:

1st/2nd Play-off Match v Holland: Lost 13-3

After finishing second in the table we drew Holland for a second match. This was the most beneficial of draws for us to finish with as, although it was a tough game, we could finish the weekend trying things out and under less pressure. Our aim was to have more shots against the Dutch than our first game and to try to cut down their counter attack goals. The Dutch played a zone defence for the majority of the game and were trying out different types of zone against us, which again was beneficial in our preparation for Emmen. We had 31 shots in total, but even though we only scored three goals we were generally pleased with the improvement of confidence to shoot even though quite a few shots hit the bar. We rotated players to make sure the whole field played once again in a vital experience game – the last before we play in the European Youth Championships.

Goal scorers: Stephanie Holme, Sarah Pimblett, Aine Hoy.

Man-up: scored 1 / 2 (50%)

Man-down: defended 3 / 6 (50%)

Summary

The Team finished in 2nd place and received a trophy.

Anne Hagen was acting Captain in Hannah Wild's absence and she did a great job.

We chose Anne as the GBJ Player of the tournament for her determination, hard work and consistent play; for performing at a high level in both attack and defence; and for leading the team so well throughout the tournament. Anne set a great example to the other players both in and out of the water.

To come away from this tournament in second place to the Dutch with a relatively young team was an excellent result. This has given the girls a boost for the Europeans and for the three we left resting at home an eagerness to get back together with this group and get to the European Youth matches in Emmen next week.

This tournament has highlighted areas of match play that we still need to practice and proves that we still don't get enough high-level match practice where we really learn so much in a short time.

Goal Scorers:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Aine Hoy | 5 |
| Anne Hagen | 4 |
| Leah Hagen | 3 |
| Sarah Pimblett | 3 |
| Vicky Hawkins | 1 |
| Stephanie Holme | 1 |
| | 17 |

Majors For (man-ups):

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Anne Hagen | 10 |
| Vicky Hawkins | 9 |
| Vicky Ibbotson | 2 |
| Leah Hagen | 2 |
| Charlotte Hanson | 2 |
| Leanne Jennings | 1 |
| | 26 |

Majors Against (man-downs):

| | | | |
|------------------|---|-------------------|-----------|
| Charlotte Hanson | 4 | Leah Hagen | 1 |
| Vicky Hawkins | 4 | Fiona McCann | 1 |
| Vicky Ibbotson | 3 | Felicity Leighton | 1 |
| Aine Hoy | 3 | Leanne Jennings | 1 |
| Sarah Pimblett | 3 | Stephanie Holmes | 1 |
| Anne Hagen | 2 | Kat Stead | 1 |
| | | | 22 |

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Sue Webb and Charlotte Miller for their continuous hard work. Also, many thanks to Chris Kilpatrick for his effort and energy to help prepare the team. Chris has stepped in as Team Therapist at such short notice and in extremely sad circumstances for the team after the recent death of Jane Jones.

Sue Langston.
Junior Women's Team Coach.