

**Great Britain Junior Mens' Water Polo  
World Championships  
Naples, Italy  
9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> August 2003  
Travel dates 7<sup>th</sup> –17<sup>th</sup> August inc.**

**Team Manager** Norman Leighton  
**Team Coach** Jérôme Read

**Athletes:-**

Matthew Birch    Thomas Curwen    Philip Stocker    Oliver Rogers    Richard Leighton    Ashley King  
Alex Parsonage    Mark Banwell    Brian Hoy    Matthew Bowden    Laurie Thompson  
Adam Scholefield    Andrew McAllister

<b>ASSEMBLY</b>					
<b>Flights</b>	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
<b>Airline/s used:</b>	British Airways				
<b>Airport/s used:</b>	Gatwick				
<b>Comments (if any – please keep brief):</b> No problems experienced					

<i>Office Response</i>
------------------------

<b>ACCOMMODATION</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>	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
<b>Accommodation:</b> Bonapace 80122 - Napoli – Via le M. Cristina, 18. T: 081 681267 or 081 7145221. F:081 7145221. e: bbbonapace@tin.it					
<b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b> Small friendly B&B. very hot & humid, no air conditioning					

<i>Office Response</i>
------------------------

<b>TRAINING VENUE (if appropriate)</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>	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
<b>Venue name, address and contact numbers:</b> Scandone Piscina no contact numbers					
<b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b>					

<i>Office Response</i>
------------------------

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

<i>Office Response</i>
------------------------

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>					
<b>Communication with office</b>	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
<b>Information from Organisers</b>	Excellent	Good	<b>Satisfactory</b>	Fair	Poor
<b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b> Late notice of venues & start date for competition!					

<i>Office Response</i>
------------------------

<b>USEFUL INFORMATION</b>					
Public transport was good to and from both venues					

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

## Water Polo Coaches Report

A squad of 13 players was selected after training camp at RAF Cranwell Sleaford. There was no recognised goalkeeper available for this tour, Matthew Birch was selected after only one competitive game for Rotherham at senior level. He was however earmarked as substitute G/K during the some of the '83 trips!

1	Matthew Birch	Rotherham Metro	GK
2	Alex Parsonage	Cheltenham S&WPC, Warley	LH
3	Richard Leighton	Rotherham Metro	Capt
4	Thomas Curwen	City of Lancaster	
5	Mark Banwell	Cheltenham S&WPC	
6	Ashley King	Rotherham Metro, Sheffield Hallam Uni.	
7	Philip Stocker	Grantham Kings, Loughborough Uni.	
8	Brian Hoy	City of Manchester	
9	Laurie Thompson	Hythe, Invicta	
10	Adam Scholefield	Morley & Rotherham Metro	
11	Oliver Rogers	Paignton, Newton Abbot	
12	Matthew Bowden	Sedgefield, Rotherham Metro	LH
13	Andrew McAllister	Cheltenham S&WPC	

Five members of the team were made up of the squad, which had spent almost three weeks together in Cranwell, Portugal and Istanbul. The others were selected exclusively from the previous '83 squad that last competed in Hagen, Germany, in 2001. The team arrived two days before the start of competition. This did raise concern from other federations who were also booked in two days early, believing that the competition was due to commence on the Friday, not Saturday. However, this did allow more time for training time!

### First International - 9<sup>th</sup> August, 0930hrs

GBR 1 v 15 Croatia (0-4, 0-2, 1-4, 0-5)

As expected the Croatians were very strong, as the result suggests. The team kept their structure and worked very hard to earn a solitary goal.

This first game was used to find out more about individuals under match conditions, looking at preferred positions etc, in preparation for the next fixture, Belgium.

Goal scorer:- Richard Leighton  
 Majors:- Richard Leighton, Andrew McAllister, Philip Stocker  
 Man Ups 2, scored 0 success 0%  
 Man Downs 3, conceded 3 success 0%

### Second International 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1200hrs

GBR 8 v 8 Belgium (1-1, 3-3, 1-0, 3-4)

After reviewing the video of the first period, GB had plenty of opportunities to have built a cushion against our old adversaries, (8-2). Unfortunately 1-1 period score did not reflect our complete dominance. The Belgians had little to offer against a high press from GB. They did however, work through to the very end when, with only 22 seconds left capitalised on a man up situation.

Goal Scorers:- Thomas Curwen 2, Adam Scholefield 2, Brian Hoy 2, Richard Leighton, Matthew Bowden  
 Majors:- Thomas Curwen 2, Richard Leighton 2, Ashley King 2, Brian Hoy, Adam Scholefield  
 Man Ups 7, scored 4 success 57%  
 Man Downs 7, conceded 3 success 57%

### Third International – 12<sup>th</sup> August 1315hrs

GBR 2 v 12 Spain (0-4, 0-4, 2-3, 0-1)

This was another game specifically used to prepare for our next game v Mexico. A brilliant performance in the net by Matthew Birch kept the score level down. Of special note was a penalty save in the 4<sup>th</sup> period!

Goal scorers:- Richard Leighton, Thomas Curwen.  
 Majors:- Oliver Rogers 3, Brian Hoy 2, Ashley King, Thomas Curwen, Adam Scholefield, Andrew McAllister (pen), Alex Parsonage.,  
 Man Ups 3, scored 0, success 0%  
 Man Downs 5, conceded 1, success 80%

#### Fourth International – 13<sup>th</sup> August 1845hrs

GBR 10 v 4 Mexico (3-1, 2-2, 1-0, 4-1)

It was our belief that a win by six goals would secure 3<sup>rd</sup> position at the end of the preliminary rounds. This target was achieved through excellent tactics and a fantastic teamwork. Our elation was short lived, when it was explained the final positions are calculated against results off the group winners, Croatia. GB –14 goals, Belgium –8 goals. This put the Belgian's into third on a better goal difference, 5.

Goal scorers:- Richard Leighton 3, Thomas Curwen 2, Ashley King 2, Oliver Rogers 2, Philip Stocker.  
Majors:- Alex Parsonage, Richard Leighton, Ashley King, Oliver Rogers (pen), Andrew McAllister,  
Man Ups 8, scored 5, success 62½%  
Man Downs 4, conceded 0, success 100%

#### Preliminary Round Placings

Pos.	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
1	Croatia 8pts	Hungary 8pts	Italy 8pts	Serbia 8pts
2	Spain 6pts	Greece 6pts	USA 5pts	Russia 6pts
3	Belgium 3pts	Germany 4pts	Turkey 5pts	Australia 4pts
4	GBR 3pts	N. Zealand 2pts	Japan 2pts	Canada 2pts
5	Mexico 0pts	Argentina 0pts	Brazil 0pts	Egypt 0pts

#### Fifth International – 14<sup>th</sup> August 1900hrs

GBR 2 v 18 Serbia & Montenegro (0-5, 0-5, 1-5, 1-3)

This was our second game against a Serb team who were equally as clinical and well drilled as the '85 team we came up against in Istanbul. To score two goals was indeed an achievement.

Goal scorer:- Alex Parsonage 2.  
Majors:- 0 (nil)  
Man Ups 2, scored 0, success 0%  
Man Downs 0 (nil)

#### Sixth International – 15<sup>th</sup> August 1315hrs

GBR 4 v 16 USA (1-5, 1-3, 0-4, 2-4)

After an excellent early worked goal, the overall strength of the Americans proved too much for our endeavour.

Goal scorers:- Alex Parsonage 2, Thomas Curwen, Ashley King.  
Majors:- Ashley King 2, Alex Parsonage, Thomas Curwen, Mark Banwell.  
Man Ups 1, scored 1, success 100%  
Man Downs 5, conceded 2, success 60%

#### Seventh International – 16<sup>th</sup> August 1045hrs

GBR 8 v 13 New Zealand (2-1, 3-2, 3-5, 1-4)

After an excellent start GB played through the 'wall' and by the end of the fourth period were back into this game. Our fitness was questioned thereafter and it was the stronger team that came through victorious.

Goal scorers:- Thomas Curwen 4, Richard Leighton 2, Ashley King, Philip Stocker.  
Majors:- Ashley King 2, Richard Leighton 2 (pen), Alex Parsonage, Brian Hoy, Mark Banwell, Laurie Thompson, Oliver Rogers.  
Man Ups 1, scored 1, success 100%  
Man Downs 8, conceded 6, success 60%

#### Eighth International – 17<sup>th</sup> August 1130hrs

GBR 8 v 10 Canada (0-1, 3-4, 1-3, 4-2)

This was a very tough game, the Canadians made it quite clear from the start that their best tactic was to 'rough up' the opposition. There was an imbalance in the majors, which certainly did not reflect the way GB played. There was much heart, courage and passion in this final game for the players to be proud of.

Goal scorers:- Thomas Curwen 2, Ashley King 2, Mark Banwell 2, Richard Leighton, Alex Parsonage.  
Majors:- Thomas Curwen 3, Ashley King 3, Alex Parsonage 2, Richard Leighton, Philip Stocker, Adam Scholefield, Mark Banwell.  
Man Ups 5, scored 2, success 40%  
Man Downs 12, conceded 5, success 42%

**Final Placings**

1 <sup>st</sup> Serbia & Montenegro	8-7 aet	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hungary
3 <sup>rd</sup> Italy	10-8	4 <sup>th</sup> Greece
5 <sup>th</sup> Russia	5-4	6 <sup>th</sup> Spain
7 <sup>th</sup> Croatia	10-4	8 <sup>th</sup> Germany
9 <sup>th</sup> Australia	7-5	10 <sup>th</sup> Turkey
11 <sup>th</sup> USA	10-2	12 <sup>th</sup> Belgium
13 <sup>th</sup> New Zealand	5-3	14 <sup>th</sup> Japan
15 <sup>th</sup> Canada	10-8	16 <sup>th</sup> Great Britain
17 <sup>th</sup> Argentina	7-5	18 <sup>th</sup> Egypt
19 <sup>th</sup> Brazil	14-3	20 <sup>th</sup> Mexico

**GB Top Guns**

Thomas Curwen	11
Richard Leighton	9
Ashley King	6
Alex Parsonage	5
Brian Hoy	3
Adam Scholefield	2
Philip Stocker	2
Mark Banwell	2
Oliver Rogers	2
Matthew Bowden	1
Total	43

**Major Kings**

Ashley King	11
Thomas Curwen	7
Richard Leighton	7
Alex Parsonage	6
Oliver Rogers	5
Brian Hoy	4
Andrew McAllister	3
Adam Scholefield	3
Mark Banwell	3
Philip Stocker	2
Laurie Thompson	1

This has been a wonderful opportunity to show our class against the rest of the World. Parents and players all agreed it was a wonderful experience, both grateful and delighted at the opportunity to parade in this once in a lifetime showcase arena.

Norman Leighton,  
Coach