

**Great Britain Junior Men's Water Polo  
Kadets Tournament  
Kosice, Slovakia  
5 – 7 August 2005  
(travel: 4 – 7 August)**

**TEAM MANAGER** Howard Cartwright  
**COACHES** Norman Leighton, Jerome Read

<b>Athletes</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Athletes</b>	<b>Club</b>
1.Zak Sly	Lancaster	8.Andrew Howard	Birkenhead
2.Sean Ryder	Hucknall	9.Alex Murphy	Invicta
3.Callum Bailey	Grantham	10.Adam Legge	Cheltenham
4.Scott Carpenter	Sedgefield & Lancaster	11.Elliot Murphy	Invicta
5.Ben Cartwright	Parogon & Birkenhead	12.Cris Vang	Parogon
6.Lewis Matthews	Parogon & Sheffield	13.Mike Bourne	Solihull
7.Daniel Laxton	Carmarthen & Welsh W.	14.Ben Farrow	Hucknall

<b>Date first &amp; final team names confirmed with office (office use only):</b>	19 July
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<b>ASSEMBLY</b>					
<b>Flights</b>	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
<b>Airline/s used:</b>	Jet2.com				
<b>Airport/s used:</b>	Manchester to Budapest				
<b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b> Good flight times but not particularly cheap.					

**Office Response**  
*Flights booked through low cost internet airline and fare was best available in July on this route when flights booked. Fare would be cheaper if booked further in advance.*

<b>KIT &amp; DISTRIBUTION</b>					
	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
<b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b> Some problems with sizes but Sarah Dunsbee worked very hard to sort. Still no Speedo hats!					

**Office Response**

<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>					
<b>Rooms</b>	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
<b>Location (From pool and other facilities)</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	Good	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 name, address and contact numbers:</b> Hotel Ubytovoa ZSR, Bajsova 14, Stare Mesto, Kosice. Tel: 421 556230080.					
<b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b> Hostel but clean & convenient. Good value.					

**Office Response**

<b>COMPETITION VENUE (if appropriate)</b>					
<b>Location (From pool and other facilities)</b>	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	<b>Fair</b>	Poor
<b>Facilities</b>	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	<b>Fair</b>	Poor
<b>Access</b>	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
<b>Support Services</b>	Excellent	Good	<b>Satisfactory</b>	Fair	Poor
<b>Competition Organisation</b>	Excellent	<b>Good</b>	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
<b>Doping Control</b>	Yes / <i>No</i>				
<b>Venue name, address and contact numbers:</b>					
<b>Comments (if any - please keep brief):</b> Cold & unclean. Not helped by poor weather & outdoors.					

**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>					

**Office Response**

<b>COSTINGS (For use by Water Polo Team Managers controlling own budgets only)</b>
Flights £4292. Accommodation & transport £1795. Float £685. Assembly £865

<b>FINAL SUMMARY - any additional comments you would like to make for the Attention of the GB Water Polo Committee or National Performance Director (This should not be sent as part of the report sent to the ASA)</b>
Excellent quality opposition & an ideal competition after a domestic training camp. Well looked after & respected by a quality water polo nation.

**Coaches Report**  
**Training camp and tournament**  
**MAC & Kosice, Slovakia**

The third cycle of training for the Great Britain Junior Men's squad culminated in putting the training of the past 4 months into practice games against three quality Eastern European teams. Two teams playing at the European Youth waterpolo finals in Sofia, Bulgaria later on this same month and one team that narrowly missed qualification. Fourteen players were selected from the recent training cycle to further develop the strength in depth of this squad for the important future cycles.

1	Ben Farrow	Hucknall	GK
2	Elliott Murphy	Invicta	GK
3	Zak Sly	Lancaster	GK
4	Adam Legge	Cheltenham	
5	Alex Murphy	Invicta	
6	Andy Howard	Birkenhead	
7	Ben Cartwright	Parogon	
8	Callum Bailey	Grantham & Invicta	
9	Chris Vang	Lass, Swedish club side	
10	Daniel Laxton	Carmarthen & Welsh Wanderers	
11	Lewis Matthews	Parogon	
12	Michael Bourne	Grantham & Solihull	
13	Scott Carpenter	Sedgeley & Lancaster	Cap t
14	Sean Ryder	Hucknall	

The invitation to play in Kosice was welcome invitation as it involved playing against a team that consistently makes the top 8 in the European competitions (Slovakia) plus others. The accommodation was very clean in a newly refurbished hostel block. Food was ample and served at the local indoor sports facility whilst extras were bought from the local supermarkets to make up the calories if needed.

The purpose of the four day training camp and competition was to: -

- develop the strength in depth of the existing squad
- further instil a 'training through competition' mentality
- to individually improve their own performances with the aid of individual and role specific video feedback
- to work towards a mindset and practical application of winning individual attacks and individual defences

We arrived in the late afternoon of Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August having been travelling from Manchester for approximately 8 ½ hours following a two day intensive training camp. Immediately the accommodation had been sorted out we made our way to the pool for a 1 ½ hour training session to help to acclimatise to the outdoor pool and the blustery Slovak weather conditions that had come in that morning. The squad trained on two of the three mornings prior to two competition games during the subsequent days.

The draw for the tournament meant our order of play was v Slovakia, v Poland, v Slovenia, then cross over finals. Throughout the tournament the five games played were analysed by video. Both individual feedback on core skills as well as role specific feedback on responsibilities was given as and when the coaches felt this was necessary.

We had a migraine for one player on the first night of arrival but this improved over time. A suspected broken nose to one of the three goalies which was treated with ice and a recovery game. We suffered no other injuries or illnesses on the trip. One player was also diagnosed a few days after our arrival back into the UK with pneumonia, the likelihood is that he was in the early stages on the camp and through the competition however no obvious manifestation of the symptoms were present at the time.

Summary of games:

- v Slovakia**      **0-2, 1-0, 1-2, 0-1, final score 2-5**      **majors: 3 for2**      **against**  
We set our defence out early and took a little time for some of the debutants to put training drills into practice. The team played structurally very well and did not bow to the physically stronger Slovaks. The final result could so easily have been minimised to a one goal loss as we tactically committed to a higher risk attack. Not converting our chance enabled the Slovaks to score on the counter with six seconds to go. In all this was a very positive performance against a team in the final preparation stages for the European Youth tournament later this month.
- v Poland**      **1-2, 2-0, 0-2, 1-4, final score 4-8**      **majors: 9 for3**      **against**  
As in our previous game v Poland in Lodz, Poland at the end of the last cycle the team played well but did not capitalise on their strength at exposing the Polish weaknesses in giving away majors. Needless to say the next mornings training session was focussed on man up play.
- v Slovenia**      **1-4, 3-3, 2-4, 2-1, final score 8-12**      **majors: 8 for5**      **against**  
Although a much better game the fruits of our training in the morning were only just coming through. The squad was beginning to read the opposition better and being able to break down what their defences were. A loss in the result but a fair reflection of the way this team is constantly improving through the games.
- v Slovakia**      **0-4, 0-4, 3-2, 0-3, final score 3-13**      **majors: 8 for**      **3 against**  
(SEMI)      This was a much stronger performance by the Slovaks who made the squad realise what our weaknesses were. For a team that has been training for the last two months as preparation for the European Youth finals this is a better reflection of the gap between the preparatory training to this point. This was the best game that we could have wanted prior to our final game for the 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> playoff.
- v Poland**      **2-0, 1-3, 2-2, 1-0, final score 6-5**      **majors: 5 for**      **6 against**  
(PLAYOFF)      A truly great example of the team building up through a tournament then playing more as a team in their final game. This was a strong GB performance which showed the ability of the team to break down the Polish defence as well as expose and capitalise on their weaknesses. This was a highly praised result by all the other team coaches and it certainly made the journey home that much easier!

Jérôme Read  
Coach