

**England Senior Men's Water Polo
XVI Heliopolis International Water Polo Tournament
Cairo, Egypt
27 September – 01 October 2005
(travel: 26 September – 02 October)**

Team Staff

TEAM MANAGER MARK VINCENTI
COACHES NORMAN LEIGHTON, JEROME READ

Athletes	Club	Athletes	Club
1.MARK BANWELL	CHELTENHAM	8.ADAM SCHOLEFIELD	ROTHERHAM
2.MATTHEW BIRCH	ROTHERHAM	9.PHIL STOCKER	ROTHERHAM
3.SCOTT CARPENTER	LANCASTER	10.ED SCOTT	MANCHESTER
4.ASHLEY KING	ROTHERHAM	11.JOEL THOMAS	CHELTENHAM
5.RICHARD LEIGHTON	ROTHERHAM	12.MICHAEL THOMAS	CHELTENHAM
6.ALEX PARSONAGE	CHELTENHAM	13.THOMAS WALL	HUCKNALL
7.SEAN RYDER	MANCHESTER		

Date first & final team names confirmed with office (office use only):	05 & 27 September 2005
---	------------------------

ASSEMBLY	
Flights	Excellent
Airline/s used:	Egypt Air (Main Party), Air France (Banwell)
Airport/s used:	Heathrow - Cairo
Comments (if any - please keep brief): Mark Banwell travelled separately to Main Party on an Air France flight. He missed his return Air France flight as the pre-ordered taxi collected him late from the hotel and took him to the wrong airport. Thus, I had to buy a ticket for our Egypt Air flight.	

Office Response

KIT & DISTRIBUTION	
	Poor
Comments (if any - please keep brief): No Speedo caps or trunks available so played all our matches in Diana polo caps and a mixture of coloured trunks in various states of disrepair – not a good representation or advert for England Water Polo!	

Office Response

ACCOMMODATION	
Rooms	Good
Location (From pool and other facilities)	Excellent
Meals/Food	Excellent
General Service	Excellent
Accommodation name, address and contact numbers: Hotel Karvin, 11 Mohamed Ebied Street, offn Nozha St, El Saba Emarat Square, Heliopolis, Cairo. Tel: 00202 6906453 Fax: 00202 690 6458. web: www.thekarvinhotel.com	
Comments (if any - please keep brief): Overall hotel was very good (rooms, food and location). If England participates again, we should specifically request this hotel. Other teams were very complimentary about it when compared to the hotels in which they were accommodated – especially the food.	
Hotel 5 minutes coach drive from Heliopolis Sports Club (HSC).	
First breakfast was basic (bread only) but on request was changed to full English. All meals substantial and of high quality.	

Office Response

TRAINING/COMPETITION VENUE	
Location (From pool and other facilities)	Excellent
Facilities	Excellent
Access	Excellent
Support Services	Excellent
Competition Organisation	Excellent
Any local support Services bought in	Excellent
Doping Control	No
Venue name, address and contact numbers: Heliopolis Sporting Club, 17 El-Merghany Street, Heliopolis, Cairo. Tel: 00202 417 0061 Fax:00202 417 6066 Contact; Mr Amr Galal	
Comments (if any - please keep brief): Heliopolis sporting Club – 5 minutes drive from hotel. Coach provided whenever required.	

Office Response

ADMINISTRATION	
Communication With office	Excellent
Information from Organisers	Fair
Comments (if any - please keep brief): In the last 2 weeks before departure, communication with HSC was non-existent and they did not reply to our e-mails. We did not know where we were accommodated until we arrived in Cairo. However, once in-country, communications were excellent.	

Office Response

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

Everything normal and fully westernised.

RESULTS:

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

RESULTS

28 Sep:	England v Wurzburg –	Lost 4-6
28 Sep:	England v Heliopolis –	Lost 5-9
29 Sep:	England v Royal Brussels –	Won 13-10
30 Sep:	England v Ahly –	Won 14-12
30 Sep:	England v Heliopolis Juniors –	Won 13-3
1 Oct:	England v Ahly –	Won 5-4

FINAL PLACINGS:

1st Heliopolis
2nd Wurzburg (Germany)
3rd Caodurovicenza (Italy)
4th Makarska (Croatia)
5th England
6th Ahly (Saudi Arabia)
7th PSV Eindhoven (The Netherlands)
8th Heliopolis Juniors
9th Alqadisiyah (Saudi Arabia)
10th Royal Brussels

Water Polo Coaches Report

Monday morning 26th September I was up early packing bags for the long drive to Heathrow to meet up with a very young England squad, the first trip in two years. This was also my first trip as Senior Coach. A 12 man squad was chosen and assembled at London Heathrow before checking in with Air Egypt for the 4½ hour direct flight to Cairo.

1	Tom Wall	Hucknall	GK
2	Matthew Birch	Rotherham Metro	GK
3	Edward Scott	Bolton School, City of Manchester	GK
4	Alex Parsonage	Cheltenham SWPC	
5	Michael Thomas	Cheltenham SWPC	
6	Joel Thomas	Cheltenham SWPC	
7	Mark Banwell	Cheltenham SWPC	
8	Richard Leighton	Rotherham Metro	Capt
9	Adam Scholefield	Rotherham Metro	
10	Ashley King	Rotherham Metro	
11	Philip Stocker	Rotherham Metro	
12	Sean Ryder	City of Manchester & Hucknall	
13	Scott Carpenter	Sedgefield & City of Lancaster	

The majority assembled were from the 1982 -1987 year groups. This must be one of the youngest National Men's team to compete in a senior tournament. This was due in part to work, contractual obligations and the European Club championships taking place the same weekend!. Lancaster and Bristol travelled to Italy and Croatia.

What an opportunity this was for some young blood from the junior ranks to show their prowess. Mark Banwell was unavailable, or so we thought, because of his contract with Aix les Bains (France). Just as we were boarding Alex Parsonage happened to mention that Banwell was coming home due to a change in circumstances in France. 20 minutes and thirty plus phone calls later we had him booked on the Wednesday flight out of London. He would make our third game! ...not.

It was late or was it early Tuesday morning when Assem our guide and no.1 Egyptian supporter helped us book in to the Karvin Hotel? He was young ex polo player with Heliopolis. Anything and everything was possible with him, we just had to ask!

Training was sorted for that morning, 1½ hours in the noonday sun. This gave us our first look at the 3 pool outdoor complex at the Heliopolis Club, which this year was celebrating 100 years! It transpired that there was also a synchronised swimming competition taking place. There were two teams from England, Trafford and Rushmore, Honvad (Hungary), Heliopolis and Moscow, the eventual winners. They were fantastic!

Anyway, back to the polo, there were 2 leagues of 5 teams this would guarantee 6 games as long as long as we didn't finish last in our group. I must stress at this point that winning at all cost was not the purpose of this tournament. These games were used as the first building block in preparation for forthcoming events, short, mid and long term.

The tournament was played under the 'old' rules, 35 sec etc.

28th September 11.00am

v Wurzburg, Germany lost 4-6 (3-3,0-0,1-2,0-1) [Tournament finalists]

A strong counter attacking team, the Germans were well organised and new each others play. England was well disciplined in defence adapting well between single drop and press. A very pleasing performance, the squad showed structure throughout the game. Especially pleasing were the juniors, with Ed Scott having a particularly confident start in the nets. Our downfall was scoring only once from 8 man ups!

Man Up scored 1 from 8 (12½%)

Man Down Conceded 1 from 2 (50%)

28th September 9.00pm**v Heliopolis lost 5-9 (2-3,1-1,1-1,1-4) [Tournament winners]**

The home team proved too strong for our limited squad who showed great composure, England made significant improvements from the mornings encounter until the final period. Better deliveries into the pit forward was highlighted for one area of improvement. The other, Man Ups, again!!

Man Up scored 2 from 9 (22%)

Man Down conceded 2 from 3 (33%)

29th September 7.00pm**v Royal Brussels won 13-10 (3-1,3-2,3-3,4-4)**

The game was a lot easier than the score suggests. Players were able to change defences to dictate the game.

Man Up scored 3 from 4 (75%)

Man Down conceded 4 from 6 (33%)

30th September 10.00am**v Al Ahly, Saudi Arabia won 14-12 (4-1,5-3,3-5,2-3)**

A very strong physical side, that had excellent shooters and strong pit players.

Man Up scored 3 from 5 (60%)

Man Down conceded 2 from 5 (80%)

30th September 7.00pm**v Heliopolis Jnrs won 13-3 (3-1,2-2,2-0,6-0)**

The score suggested everything. A spirited Heliopolis side capitulated in the second half of the game. The final period was very much a high press and counter attack.

Man Up scored 2 from 2 (100%)

Man Down conceded 0 from 2 (100%)

1st October 4.30pm PLAY OFF 5th-6th place**v Al Ahly, Saudi Arabia won 5-3 (1-1,1-0,1-2,1-0)**

After studying the previous game with Al Ahly, we neutralised their best two players, adapting our defence between a single drop and high press. This was always going to be a low scoring game after the feast from the previous day.

Man Up scored 1 from 7 (14%)

Man Down conceded 0 from 3 (100%)

Summary

A very encouraging start to a senior programme with a very enthusiastic, skilful and youthful squad which came together as individuals and left Egypt with a feeling of team spirit and a great desire to move onto the next phase together.

Norman Leighton**Coach**