

Great Britain Senior Men's Water Polo Competition
Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt
Competition Dates: Tuesday 12 – Saturday 16 September 2006
Travel Dates: Monday 11 & Sunday 17 September 2006

Team Staff

Mark Vincenti – Team Manager
 Norman Leighton – Coach
 Eelco Uri – Coach
 Andy Allen – Referee

Athletes

Callum Bailey, Matthew Birch, Charles Booth, Michael Bourne, Andrew Crawford, Thomas Curwen, Christopher Gilbertson, Robert Parker, Robert Rae, Adam Scholefield, Edward Scott, Andrew Squires, Matthew Thresher

Date first & final team names confirmed with office (office use only):	05 & 11 September 2006
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ASSEMBLY	
Flights	Excellent
Airline/s used:	British Airways
Airport/s used:	Heathrow – Cairo, with connecting flights from Manchester and Newcastle
Comments (if any - please keep brief):	Name changes allowed up to 6 hours before departure.

Office Response
Name change arranged as a favour through Traveleads for a small admin fee and is not standard practice on group bookings by airlines but BA allowed in this case as due to illness.

KIT & DISTRIBUTION	
Speedo GB clothing issued prior to camp.	
Comments (if any – please keep brief):	

Office Response

ACCOMMODATION	
Rooms	Good – all with air conditioning and TVs
Location (from pool and other facilities)	Good - 15 minute drive from pool,
Meals/Food	Quantity good, quality not so good, with 10 players and 3 staff going down with stomach problems. Three players missed sessions or matches. The other 3 teams staying in the hotel also suffered from this problem. Breakfast – Whilst not 'western', was adequate but needed supplemented with the purchase of cereals. Lunch and Dinner – as per comment above. Good quantity, 'iffy' quality.
General Service	Poor – Hotel was dangerous as the 3 small lifts were very slow and often stopped between floors. The lifts did not have internal doors so you could see the walls as you went up and down. The lift doors on each floor only shut intermittently, resulting in gapping holes down from our (6 th) floor to the basement. More importantly, the emergency exit stairs were locked to prevent outside access and could only be opened by someone from reception coming up to our floor to open it. In an emergency, we would have had to break down the door. Despite complaints to the hotel manager and event organisers, and many sincere promises that action would be taken, nothing was done to rectify any of these concerns. Very strongly recommend that British teams do not use this hotel ever again.
Accommodation name, address and contact numbers: Caesar's Palace Hotel, 45 Abdel Aziz Fahmy Street, Heliopolis, Cairo. Tel: +20 26357241/6377715. Fax: +20 2 6357240	
Comments (if any – please keep brief):	No proper medical kit issued. The ASA needs to take responsibility of this problem and issue guidelines to Team Managers as to what First Aid kit to take.

Office Response
Full board accommodation provided free of charge by organisers for team – no choice given.

The Team Managers Manual provides this information

TRAINING VENUES (If appropriate)	
Locations;	Good
Facilities	Excellent
Access	Excellent
Optional support Services (access to sports science etc)	OK
Doping Control	No
Venue name, address and contact numbers: Heliopolis Sporting Club, 17 El Merghany Street, Heliopolis, 11341 Cairo Egypt. Mr Amr Galal 00 202 0101 406 965 or 00 202 4170061	
Comments (if any – please keep brief): Nil	

Office Response

COMPETITION VENUE (if appropriate) As above	
Location (from pool and other facilities)	Good
Facilities	Excellent
Access	Excellent
Support Services	Satisfactory
Competition Organisation	Excellent
Any local support	Ok
Doping Control	No
Venue name, address and contact numbers: As above	
Comments (if any – please keep brief): Transport to local hospital for treatment of eye injury to player -Hospital to 'western' standards	

Office Response

ADMINISTRATION	
Communication with office	Good
Information from Organisers	See comments
Comments (if any - please keep brief): Communication with organisers was difficult from UK prior to arrival – emails often went unanswered but excellent once in-country	

Office Response

<p>RESULTS. GBR v Cegled (Hungary – 2nd Division) Lost 9-11 GBR v Kingdom of Saudia Arabia (KSA) Won 15-6 GBR v Egypt Lost 8-9 GBR v Heliopolis Lost 8-9 GBR v Republic of South Africa (RSA) Lost 11-8 Plus 2 hour training sessions daily, plus friendly matches v KSA and Cegled</p> <p>Final Rankings 1. Heliopolis 2. RSA 3. Egypt 4. Cegled 5. GBR 6. KSA</p>

Water Polo Coaches Report

A squad of thirteen players and International referee Andy Allen, assembled at Heathrow for 17th Annual Heliopolis tournament in Cairo, Egypt. Many familiar names from the junior squad were drafted into this camp due to work commitment and contractual obligations of some of the more senior players. This proved to be an ideal platform for the new influx to meet and play with established squad members and for the new Head Coach, Eelco Uri, to meet and observe the players in action.

1	Andrew Crawford	Bristol	GK
2	Ed Scott	City of Manchester	GK
3	Matthew Birch	Rotherham Metro	GK
4	Robert Parker	Cheltenham WPC	
5	Tom Curwen	Lancaster	
6	Callum Bailey	Grantham, Invicta	
7	Michael Bourne	Solihul, Grantham, C of Manchester	
8	Charles Booth	Bolton School, City of Manchester	
9	Robert Rae	City of Manchester	
10	Adam Scholefield	Rotherham Metro, Morley	
11	Andrew Squires	Lancaster	
12	Matthew Thresher	Bristol	
13	Chris Gilbertson	Sedgefield, Tyldesley	

The pattern of play for seniors and juniors is very similar and this made their integration much more straightforward.

Players enjoyed a 9.30am 'sleep in' before heading off for their first training session to the Heliopolis club, using the chauffeured air-conditioned mini bus. The complex featured two outdoor pools for our three goalies and the ten outfielders. We were given exclusive use of the 50m competition pool. The weather was very kind for all sessions in and out of the water. The first of our daily training sessions lasting 2.5 hours focused on core stability land conditioning and familiarisation of drills and skills in preparation for our first game under floodlight.

12th September 9.45pm

GB 9 v11 Cegled (Hungary) 1-6,2-1,3-2,3-2.

A slow start to this game with poor defending and missed opportunities in attack gave the team such an uphill task to claw back a first quarter deficit. The remaining 3 periods was much more structured, the defending more solid and attack more creative.

Man up	success 0 from 2	0%
Man down	success 3 from 4	75%

13th September 10.45am

GB 15v6 Kingdom Saudia Arabia 2-1,2-1,5-3,6-1

The Saudis were tough to break down initially, but superior fitness in the second half enabled the team to successfully try out a variation of defenses for quick counter-attacking, resulting in a well earned victory.

Man up	success 2 from 6	33%
Man down	success 4 from 6	66%

13th September 9.15pm

GB 8v9 Egypt 2-3,3-1,1-3,2-2

A very tough game, the second of the day and once more, GB paid heavily for unforced errors, trying in vain to regain a well-deserved half time lead.

Man up	success 1 from 6	16%
Man down	success 4 from 4	100%

14th September 7.15pm

GB 8-9 Heliopolis 2-4, 2-1,1-3, 2-2

Another tough test against a very well drilled and athletic side seizing more of the opportunities than GB.

Man up	success 1 from 8	12%
Man down	success 3 from 3	100%

15th September 6.00-8.30pm training game with Kingdom Saudi Arabia

16th September 11.30-1.30pm training game with Cegled (Hungary)

16th September 8.00pm

GB 8v11 South Africa 1-2,2-1,3-5,2-3

Man up	success 0 from 7	0%
Man down	success 2 from 3	66%

A very good first half for GB, who may well have had a 2-goal lead but for two unforced errors. A further depleted squad found it difficult to maintain momentum in the third from a fast counter attacking South African side.

Summary

Overall, this very young squad played to a structured pattern throughout the week and was able to change defenses and read oppositions tactics well. Some naive play and slips in concentration, will only serve to offer valuable lessons and experience to all players young and old.

It was also unfortunate that food poisoning affecting nearly all the players and staff at sometime during the week may have hindered the success or otherwise in our games.

Norman Leighton
Coach