

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' SWIMMING ASSOCIATION



Exiles International
Invitation Water Polo
Tournament, Malta
• Media Pack •

July 17th - 21st, 2015

ESSA WATER POLO

Meet the players and coaches who will be representing England at this summer's tournament in Malta





Alfie Brown



Sam Richards



Remmy Gorton



Rob Gourley



Will Rayson



Peter Nield -
ESSA Team Organiser



Sean King - Coach



Colin Walsh - Team Manager

Additional members of
the travelling party for
ESSA Water Polo

Team coach
Andy McGinty

Appointed referee
Mike Jukes

Players not pictured
Sam Wordley
Joe Hazeldine

The English School Swimming Association (ESSA) senior boys water polo squad will travel to Malta on Thursday, 16th July ahead of the five-day Exiles International Invitation Tournament, which starts on Friday, 17th July. In conjunction with the Aquatic Sports Association of Malta, an ESSA team consisting of 16 players born in 1997 will compete at the National Aquatics Stadium in Sliema against two South African teams, the national champions of Netherlands and a Malta representative side.

COACH'S REPORT

ESSA coach Sean King on his team and the Malta International Tournament



I've been involved with the ESSA team since last October when, along with Bolton School's Andy McGinty, we were asked to coach the squad with this summer's tournament in mind. That was just before the Duke of Cambridge Cup, which was held at Cranwell and we selected the team from that competition.

There were three teams made up of players born in 1997, who were all eligible to play in the Malta International Invitation Tournament, and Craig Figes' 1998 Great Britain squad.

The standard of water polo on show was very good. There were nearly 40 players and we had to narrow it down to 16, which was hard as the talent was so high and we had to make some difficult decisions.

These boys all train hard and they will have to continue doing that to reach the top. Most have spent three or four years training with the England Talent squad or Great Britain, so a lot of them already had good backgrounds.

The 16 we chose have been working intensely for the past few months with their schools, clubs and the England Talent and GB teams. We then all got together at Northampton at the weekend [July 11/12] for a final training camp before we fly out to Malta [July 16].

Once we arrive we'll play a few training games with some local teams in the sea pools, which will be good preparation.

In the tournament [to be held July 17-21] we'll face the Dutch junior champions, two teams from South Africa and a Malta representative side.

They will all be the same age as our

boys and I can imagine the South Africans and the Dutch side will be very strong and physical, and the Maltese will provide tough opposition for us as well.

Every game will be very competitive and it will be a great experience for the players who haven't had the opportunity to play in an international water polo tournament.

The Malta teams always get big crowds, so for them to also experience that

and play in front of a packed stadium will benefit them all.

We will be going into every game to win, but what's most important is that

we want to see progression over the tournament. We want to show this country is competitive as a schools' team.

One of the strengths of our squad is that a few of them have experienced Malta before as they played in the European qualifiers last year, so they know exactly what conditions to expect.

After the tournament, I'd like to see these players play at the highest level and reach the very top. This tournament offers

them the chance to play abroad and it places them in the shop window.

Ultimately, we want them to go on and play for the senior national team. If we have a bigger pool of players who have experienced these environments, then it will mean more competition for places and it can only improve the sport in the long term.

They have the talent and I know some are interested in playing professionally and they definitely have the ability. If they continue to train and work hard, each and every one of them could make it.

The London 2012 Olympics did British water polo the world of good. It proved this country can compete at the very top and there are several players, such as Matt Holland, Ciaran James and Sean Ryder, who are still playing professionally and they are athletes this ESSA team can aspire to.

The international water polo community now knows this country has talented players playing here and with the standard of juniors coming through so high, there is a lot to look forward to for England water polo.

I'd like to see these players reach the very top'



PLAYER BIOS...



Lewis Daly
 Age: 18
 School: Bolton School
 Club: City of Manchester
 Coach: Theo Nouisis
 Goal: To play at an Olympic Games for Great Britain
 Tip: Train hard
 Role model: Ed Scott



Dan Paddon
 Age: 17
 School: Great Baddow High School, Essex
 Club: Chelmsford/Invicta
 Coach: Dean Walker/ Steve Bray
 Goal: Qualify for the Europeans with GB
 Tip: Train/play hard
 Role model: Sean King



Remmy Gorton
 Age: 18
 School: Xaverian Vlth Form College, Greater Manchester
 Club: Manchester
 Coach: Andy McGinty
 Goal: Represent GB
 Tip: Work/train hard
 Role model: Colin Walsh



Peter Pickford
 Age: 18
 School: Watford Grammar School for Boys, Herts
 Club: Watford
 Coach: Edi Brkovic
 Goal: To play water polo at the highest level
 Tip: Fitter, faster, smarter, stronger
 Role model: Matt Holland



Rudi Polster
 Age: 18
 School: Cleeve School
 Club: Cheltenham
 Coach: Martyn Thomas
 Goal: To become a National champion
 Tip: Fitter, faster, smarter, stronger
 Role model: Martyn Thomas/ Dave Taylor



Will Rayson
 Age: 18
 School: All Saints Academy, Cheltenham
 Club: Cheltenham
 Coach: James Ross
 Goal: To captain Cheltenham 1st team
 Tip: Fitter, faster, smarter, stronger
 Role model: Martin Thomas/Dave Taylor



Rob Gourley
 Age: 18
 School: Manchester Grammar School
 Club: Manchester
 Coach: Andy McGinty
 Goal: Play for GB at the Europeans
 Tip: Hard work
 Role model: Colin Walsh



Sam Richards
 Age: 18
 School: Bolton School
 Club: Bolton
 Coach: Andy McGinty
 Goal: Qualify for the Europeans with GB
 Tip: Train harder than anyone else and never give up
 Role model: Steve Cook



Aaron Winstanley
 Age: 18
 School: Bolton School
 Club: City of Manchester
 Coach: Andy McGinty
 Goal: Qualify for the Europeans and play professional water polo
 Tip: Hard work, dedication
 Role model: Colin Walsh



Tom Prayle
 Age: 17
 School: Bolton School
 Club: Manchester
 Coach: Andy McGinty
 Goal: To qualify for the 2016 Europeans with GB
 Tip: Always stay mobile in the water
 Role model: Ed Scott



Joel Leighton
 Age: 17
 School: High Storrs School, Sheffield, Yorks
 Club: City of Sheffield
 Coach: Martin Kelly
 Goal: Play international senior water polo
 Tip: Hard work/dedication
 Role model: Sandro Sukno



Dylan Green
 Age: 18
 School: Oldham College
 Coach: Theo Nouisis
 Goal: Olympics
 Tip: Train hard
 Role model: Ed Scott/Theo Nouisis



Jordan Elliot
 Age: 17
 School: Longslade College, Leics
 Club: Leicester, Coventry, Solihull
 Coach: Ian Elliot
 Goal: To qualify for the Europeans
 Tip: Train hard
 Role model: Peter Biros



Alfie Brown
 Age: 18
 School: Glyn School, Epsom, Surrey
 Club: Croydon
 Coach: Nick Buller/ Chris Martin
 Goal: To qualify for Europeans
 Tip: Stay focused
 Role model: My parents

***Not pictured:**
Joe Hazeldine
 Age: 18
 School: Worthing College, W.Sussex
Sam Wordley
 Age: 18
 School: Exeter College, Devon

CAPTAIN LEWIS DALY

ESSA captain Lewis Daly talks about the Malta tournament and the ESSA team's preparations...



Two years ago I was selected for Team GB to compete at the European qualifiers, which was an amazing experience and it was my first taste of playing in an international tournament. I went to Malta with the City of Manchester team last year for a training camp, but this will be my first tournament with English Schools.

The weekend the ESSA team spent training in Northampton [July 11/12] was the second time we've all been together, with the last time being a few months ago over at RAF Cranwell.

We all know each other from playing at the National Age Groups, so it's been great to all get together and the training has gone really well. You would maybe think teams

that don't meet up much would fall apart, but as we know each other so well, we've got a great understanding and know how each player plays.

That training weekend has given us great confidence and I'm sure we'll do well, progress throughout the tournament and become

an even better team out in Malta. One area we've worked hard on is our tactics, so defensively and in attack we're looking very sound.

As captain, I've definitely got high expectations for this squad. We'll be facing some very strong opposition, but we've all trained incredibly hard for this. We've been in the pool or gym most mornings and been training again late at night.

In terms of the teams we're playing, I think the Malta match will be tricky as games between the two countries are traditionally very competitive. We're expecting both South African sides to be big and physical and we've faced the Dutch before, so we'll know what kind of game to expect and hopefully we can get a good result.

'We've all trained incredibly hard for this'

This tournament will give all the players great international experience and it's something you can't get enough of. We're all really looking forward to getting out there as water polo in Malta is absolutely huge, they've got massive swimming pools and every game attracts

a large and passionate crowd.

As they've suspended their local leagues for this tournament, which is a huge

privilege for us, we're expecting lots of people to come down and watch the games. It will be fantastic playing in front of big crowds and those kind of conditions will only help us. Seeing so many fans will give the whole team a lift, the adrenaline will be pumping and it will be an incredible experience.

There should also be some support for us in the stands as a lot of the parents, friends and family are flying out to Malta, so seeing some England flags in the crowd will definitely spur us all on. As a team, we can't wait to fly out there and get the tournament started.



ON THE ROAD TO MALTA

The ESSA team enjoyed an intensive training camp at Northampton School for Boys ahead of their Malta trip

The English School Swimming Association (ESSA) senior boys water polo squad linked up with the GB team at Northampton School for Boys for an intensive training camp the weekend (July 11/12) before travelling to Malta to compete in the Exiles International Invitation Tournament.

The ESSA team, which will be captained by Bolton School's Lewis Daly, fly out on Thursday 16th July and the prestigious five-day tournament begins on Friday 17th.

In conjunction with the Aquatic Sports Association of Malta, an ESSA team consisting of 16 players born in 1997 will compete at the National Aquatics Stadium in Sliema against two South African teams, the national champions of Netherlands and a Malta representative side.

London 2012 Olympian Sean King will coach the talented youngsters alongside Bolton School's Andy McGinty and Sean says he's anticipating some highly-competitive games.

"We imagine the South African sides to be very strong and physical, while the Dutch team are national champions, so they will also be strong," says Sean.

He continues: "The Malta team will be of a similar standard to ourselves, but we'll be expecting tough games from all the sides and this tournament will provide great competition for us.

"In Northampton we looked at the fitness levels of the team and we introduced a few of the defensive and attacking ideas we'll be looking to use out in Malta.

"This tournament is a fantastic opportunity for the players and it will give them great experience of playing international water polo and will ultimately benefit them and the teams they go on to represent, including the GB team."

While in Malta the players will be based at the Exiles Club in Sliema, who are hosting the event, and a series of warm-up games against Maltese sides have been arranged in the traditional sea pitches as preparation once the team arrives.

With the local National Water Polo Leagues temporarily suspended to allow the tournament to take place, the ESSA team can expect to play in front of bumper Maltese crowds, famous for their loud and passionate support.

All 16 players were selected after



their excellent performances at the 2014 Duke of Cambridge Cup, which was held in October at RAF Cranwell.

This year's Duke of Cambridge Cup for those born in 1998 is scheduled for the weekend of October 10/11 and it's hoped another trip to Malta, possibly for two ESSA teams, will be organised for 2016.

● You can follow the ESSA team in Malta on Twitter @ENGWaterPolo and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/EnglandWaterPolo



TOURNAMENT FIXTURES

Fri	17th July	20.45 hrs	MALTA v SOUTH AFRICA 1
Sat	18th July	15.30 hrs	MALTA v SOUTH AFRICA 2
	18th July	16.45 hrs	SOUTH AFRICA 1 v ENGLISH SCHOOLS
Sun	19th July	09.30 hrs	ENGLISH SCHOOLS v SOUTH AFRICA 2
	19th July	10.45 hrs	MALTA v WIDEX GZC DONK (NL)
Sun	19th July	14.30 hrs	SOUTH AFRICA 1 v SOUTH AFRICA 2
	19th July	15.45 hrs	WIDEX GZC DONK (NL) v ENGLISH SCHOOLS
Mon	20th July	18.30 hrs	SOUTH AFRICA 2 v WIDEX GZC DONK (NL)
Tues	21st July	16.00 hrs	WIDEX GZC DONK (NL) v SOUTH AFRICA 1
		17.15 hrs	ENGLISH SCHOOLS v MALTA



Keep up to date with
England Water Polo at
www.facebook.com/EnglandWaterPolo
on Twitter @ENGwaterpolo
and www.swimming.org/waterpolo

Contact: Chris Dean
England Water Polo Comms Lead
Mobile: +44 790 5556 370
Email: cd@englandwaterpolo.org

Media Pack created by:

