

## British Gas Women's Water Polo team beat Iraklis Thessaloniki

The British Gas Women's Water Polo team have played their first competitive match since lifting the LEN European B Nations trophy in July 2009. They got a friendly competition in Moscow, off to a good start with a win against Greek club Iraklis Thessaloniki.

The team started the first quarter slowly trying to get back into the rhythm of competitive play. By the end of the quarter GB were 1-4 down, with the only British goal being scored by Victoria Louise Hawkins. After a re-group the British Gas team came out strong converting five out of their seven shots on goal and a strong defense not allowing the opposition to score. By the end of the first half the British Gas team were 6-4 up.

The third quarter saw the team come out with the same winning attitude and strong defense keeping Iraklis Thessaloniki's shots on goal to a minimum. The British Gas team consistently had a higher percentage of attacks on goal and scored another four to the Greek team's three ending the third quarter 11-7 UP.

The final eight minutes saw the teams go goal for goal as each found the back of the net a further two times to end the match 13-9 in Britain's favour.

World Class Programmes Manager, Joanna Wray said of the team's performance: "It was an excellent start to our preparation and we looked like a strong team. We consistently shot on goal throughout the match with seven shots every quarter apart from the first. Defensively we were very strong and although we had five 'man-down's' we defended exceptionally well and the Greek team did not convert any of them."

Head Coach Szilveszter Fekete was also happy with the result but saw room for improvement: "After July this was our first match and at the beginning of the game it looked like we'd missed international game practice. After the first quarter we were good, and by the fourth we were just keeping the result. We want to win every game and we have started to try something new. We did this well but at times slipped to the old style."

The team will now face two Russian first division clubs; Diana St-Petersburg on Thursday and then in their last match on Friday against Rgufk Izailovo Moscow.

This competition marks the start of the team's preparation for the LEN European A Qualification tournament next April.

The British Gas Women's Water Polo Team consists of:

Rosemary Morris

Robyn Nicholls

Fiona McCann

Chloe Wilcox

Victoria Louise Hawkins

Frances Leighton

Rosalind Griffiths

Hannah Wild

Victoria Charlotte Hawkins

Angela Winstanley-Smith

Aine Hoy

Alexandra Rutledge

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