

16 UWH Euroclubs 2017 in Saint-Malo

UWH Euroclubs 2017 in Saint-Malo, France

29. - 30. April 2017

We made our merry and varied ways to St Malo, France, in order to play hockey against some strong teams. Sadly we were unable to field a full team of players from Zurich, so Martin called on some of his international contacts to find players willing to do battle for Switzerland. Some flew in from as far afield as Canada (thanks Dave!), others drove, and three (including myself) took the TGV from Zurich via Paris. We arrived in St Malo at various times over the day and those of us who arrived a bit earlier stretched our legs to see a bit of the town. Krishna had already done some

scouting, and located a few essentials (supermarket, patisserie, café). After a short walk around town, we settled down for a strategy meeting in a pub. A few went back to the hotel to rest up after that, while the rest of us found an Italian restaurant to load up on pizza and pasta. Our last few team members arrived during dinner, and were made welcome with more pasta and some bottles of the local cider.

With everybody in town, ten of us went back to our hotel rooms – to the nine beds which we had been told would sleep twelve. Cyril and I were the lucky ones who got to share a bed, with the added bonus of earth-shattering snoring in an alcove of the room which amplified all sound. I, for one, slept soundly.



Strategy meeting in a pub

On the next day we made our way to the pool. Some bought a coffee on the way, then we finally met everyone. We went in and found the area reserved for us, between Italians and Germans. We settled in, checked we had our gear (especially food and drinks!) and checked the schedule. Conveniently, we were playing in the same pool for the whole day – mostly at the same end.

The first game, against ODTU SAS, was very physical. We snatched the initiative by scoring the first goal of the match, which sadly woke up our Turkish opponents. They came back hard, and managed to cut off our later attacks and force their way into our goal five times.

The next match was also physical, and our British opponents from Southport were also more skilled. We held them to seven goals, and came close to scor-

ing several times, including one time the puck was stopped on the lip of the goal itself.

At the other end of the pool, we had to face the men from Pontoise. They were strong and fast, scoring nine goals against us.

We had a long break here, almost three hours, so several of us went out to wander around the town. We went out to the walled town on the coast, scouting out a few places for later.

Our next match was the one in which we came closest to victory, against Scotland. We played well early in the match, having one goal snatched from us by the goal itself – it floated up off the floor of the pool as Alain flicked the puck, and the puck slid under the goal. After that the play was fairly even, moving up and down the pool, and we had another goal



Krishna, Jeremy

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disallowed because of a foul. The result reflected how closely matched we were, with the Scots scoring two to our one. Our final match of the day was against Argonauta, from the Netherlands. We played hard, but some of us were tired and it showed. In the end we lost the match 5-0.

That night we went back to the old town, getting some good photos. While we were waiting for a few slower team members, we went to a pub near the wall and had a drink and a light snack. Once the others had caught up, we moved on. We walked the walls, marvelling at how much the tide moved – a whole concrete swimming pool was gone, now covered by more than a me-

tre of water! We found a nice place for dinner, ate, and went back to our hotel. Cyril kept his distance this time, but the noise in the room was even louder than the night before ...

On the next day we were in a different pool, facing those who had been assigned to the bottom group.

We faced Aquacarca, from Portugal, first, and were frustrated by the end. We felt we were playing better than them, but were unable to score a single goal to their four.

Next we were against Scotland again. Once more they scored twice, but we were unable to find the goal with the puck. There were two occasions we came within a stick-length of the goal,



but were unable to push it through. Our third match was against E.T.T.S., with the same result as we had against Scotland. There were several fouls on each side in this match, which slowed down play.

Next we changed caps to face Sub Cagliari. We were playing cleanly, but became frustrated by the number of times the referees called fouls against us. In the end the result was 3-0 to the Italians.

Our final match was also the final match in our pool. We faced Barramoenda, who had barely missed out on a place in the higher group. They showed their superior power by scoring eleven goals against us, with no reply, to win every match in our group.

A special mention needs to be given to Thomas Griffon, from Rennes. He joined our team at the last minute, when Johanna let us know she was unable to attend, and played centre back for every match, without substitution. A true machine!

The winners of the tournament in the men's division were Southsea (GB) first, followed by Fontenay (FR) and Pontoise (FR). In the women's division were R.O.T. Ladies (GB), Pontoise (FR) second and London Ladies (GB) third.

Jeremy Scrimmes
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Players:

- Silvania Avelar
- Maciej Bernady
- Cyril Cholley
- Thomas Griffon
- Tim Helm
- Alain Le Vieux
- Dave McGaughey
- Krishna Murthy
- Martin Reed
- Antal Schweitzer
- Jeremy Scrimmes
- Guillaume Tizon

Results:

ODTU SAS (TR)	5	–	1	Swiss Mix
Southport (GB)	7	–	0	Swiss Mix
Swiss Mix	0	–	9	Pontoise Men (FR)
Scotland (GB)	2	–	1	Swiss Mix
Swiss Mix	0	–	5	Argonauta (NL)

Aquacarca (PT)	4	–	0	Swiss Mix
Scotland (GB)	2	–	0	Swiss Mix
E.T.T.S. (TR)	2	–	0	Swiss Mix
Swiss Mix	0	–	3	Sub Cagliari (IT)
Swiss Mix	0	–	11	Barramoenda (NL)