

April 2 Update

We started the morning as a group with your typical English style breakfast – eggs, bacon, sausage and beans with toast. Adrian even got a few of the kids to try the beans on his toast, his personal favorite. Not so sure it was the kids favorite. So far the food has been good yet a little more bland that we are used to in the states but nothing a little salt and pepper can't rectify.

After breakfast, the team walked over with a training session run by our coaches. The kids worked hard and got to experience their first taste of a spring English day – a steady rain and temperatures hovering in the upper 30's. Brrrr. Needless to say, the coaches and players were happy to get into the warm and dry changing room.

We then headed back to the hotel room to clean up before heading to Trafford Centre to grab lunch. Trafford Centre is the largest indoor mall in Manchester and had tons of eating options. Most of the players found some unique food to England and stayed away from the McDonalds and Five Guys. 😊

We then loaded up the buses and made the hour drive to Crewe for the Crewe Alexander vs Port Vale for midday match. Talk about intense. It was very clear before the match that these clubs truly hate each other and several times during the game a large police contingent had to separate the groups. The atmosphere was electric for 2 straight hours – the stadium was small with unbelievable character. It was mostly sold out and the announced crowd of just under 7,000.

Then game was a back and forth affair with the home team scoring the equalizer in extra time. The stadium exploded with yelling and screaming – the fans spilled on to the field even with through some police presence.

We then headed back to our hotel for dinner of Hamburgers and Hot Dogs.

Tomorrow will bring the first set of games – the boys will play Shrewsbury Town FC tomorrow morning at 11:00am and the girls take on Manchester United. The players are ready to get after it.

A second set of pictures has been loaded today at the link.

https://www.facebook.com/pg/kyyouthsoccer/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10156246921616119