

April 6 Update

We started with another early breakfast and then headed to the Etihad Training Complex where Manchester City trains and plays their home games. What an amazing place, truly inspirational. The training grounds, which opened in early 2015, cost almost \$300 Million – it consists of a small stadium (7,000 spectators) that the women play in, an indoor facility, office and training space and oh yeah, 16 full sided fields. Its start of the art. After the tour, everyone had a chance to visit their team store and spend more of their parent's money. 😊

Afterwards, both teams had a few hours to kill so we made a quick 10-minute drive to Old Trafford, Manchester United home stadium. We didn't have time for the full tour, but the players had plenty of time to roam the grounds and visit their team store.

After Old Trafford the groups split up – the girls headed down to Crewe Academy for their final game of the trip. The girls brought lots of energy and ended the trip with a couple of strong individual and team performances. Logan Barber, the captain of the 2001 girls summed up the week great "As both a leader and a teammate, this has been an amazing opportunity. This trip introduced us to different cultures and styles of play as well as teaching us that expanding out of our comfort zone is beneficial to our development as both player and as a person. As a team, we have made memories of a lifetime and I highly recommend this trip to all upcoming players."

The boys went back to the hotel and relaxed for a while before heading to Cefn, Wales for their final game. Their game was played at a great venue called the rock – the field was literally built into the existing rock formation. The pictures don't do it justice. The competition was very tough once again and this time was physical. Our boys didn't back down to the older and more expertise team and the coaching staff came away thrilled with the outcomes. After the game, John Fisher the captain of the 2001 Boys had the following to say "This trip has given me a very unique experience than what I'm used to back home. Ranging from the language "slang, the food, the different types of things in the hotel and different types of football. Playing again the first team at Cefn Druids was an experience not many people can have. This trip will be something that many will never for that I'm appreciative of the opportunity.

April 7 Update

After a long week, it was nice to finally sleep in – breakfast was moved back to 9:30 which was widely appealed by the players and staff. After breakfast most of the players headed to Morrisons for a game Adrian Called "Grocery Store Sweeps" – it was a game on English TV where you get a list of English food and you have to search the grocery store for those items. It was hilarious to see the kids struggle find food.

Around lunchtime, we headed to the Stoke and Tottenham game. What another fantastic opportunity for the players to see the best players in the world. We scored some fantastic seats almost at field level. The girls liked when Harry Kane come over in pregame. 😊 Unfortunately for the home team, Tottenham came away with the 2-1 win.

After the game, we headed back to the hotel for dinner and then Adrian addressed the team one final time. He along with some of the coaching staff talked about how this week will replicate what it will be like a college soccer player and the night ended with a group picture where every player grabbed something they had bought during their time in England. What a great week.

If you want to see some of the pictures from the last two days, click on the link below:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/kyyouthsoccer/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10156258707041119

https://www.facebook.com/kyyouthsoccer/?hc_ref=ARRZHsXRSIIojX4D4G5yN1LnyOY2SUhfKR2CeIZC0U1oYnXhyjlladgTt53Kx8rM