

Gibraltar Netball Tour 2009

Staff: Mrs Wood, Mrs Crawford, Miss Goulden & Mrs Brown

On Friday the 23rd October 30 pupils and 4 members of staff travelled from Cardiff to Malaga, then we were met by our guides Jo & Cathy who then accompanied us on our coach ride from Malaga, passing the well known resorts of Torremolinos, Benalmadena and Fuengirola. We travelled past Mabella/Puerto Banus and through San Pedro de Alcantara. Our hotel was set up high up on a golf course with spectacular views of the Mediterranean Sea. Our guides then checked us in to Hotel El Paraiso for two nights.

The Breakfast and supper was a success with the pupils and staff alike, as it was buffet style, which everyone enjoyed, and there was such a variety to choose from.

Day 1 - The pupils and staff were able to relax by the pool on day 1 after a long day travelling, everybody enjoyed the glorious Mediterranean sunshine. In the evening the girls enjoyed the onsite entertainment and disco.

Day 2 – After an early start, the girls played volleyball and had an early morning swim. After their poolside snacks the girls had a lengthy walk to the beach followed by a netball training session on the beach and then a leisurely walk back to our hotel where the girls enjoyed their last few hours by the pool. The girls and staff enjoyed their last night at this hotel and prepared for the 5.30am start the next day.

Day 3 – after an early breakfast 6am, our guide Cathy and the coach driver met the girls and staff. We travelled the next stage of our journey towards La Linea which was just outside Gibraltar (where our matches were taking place). We checked into our hotel Iberostar City Hotel Campo de Gibraltar by 8.30am and then headed off to play in our first tournament. The girls and staff had the unusual experience of walking across the runway of Gibraltar which brought added excitement to the tour.

We were met by Moira Gomez the Gibraltar Netball secretary at Victoria Stadium which was near the runway of Gibraltar Airport. The Stadium was very prestigious and a fantastic experience. We were the first team to arrive and we were presented with the order of play. The girls played British and international teams. The St John's teams looked very smart in their new netball dresses.

Players from St John's College played against:

Storm
Langan College, A, B
Langside A, B
Almunecar
Smooth Criminals
Scorpions
Premier All Stars
Valmar Rebels

Results Tournament Day 1

The R15 (A team) best performance of the tournament was against Langan B with a fantastic result of 14 goals to their 2. Their next best performance was versus Valmar Rebels winning 5 goals to their 2. The toughest match of all was against the team that went on to win the tournament, Langside A (an Irish team).

The R15 B team got over half points in two of their matches V Langside B and against Valmar Rebels.

R14 made a real impression on all teams they came across showing a high skill level, strength and determination. They played 7 games in total and won 4 out of those games. The standard of netball was extremely high, on this particular day R14 played 5 games virtually back to back without a break in between each game. This was a huge challenge that left all the girls feeling proud but fatigued.

The games:

Laglanside C	Lost 7-4
Laglanside B	Lost 8-3
Almuriecar	Won 7-5
All Stars	Won 3-2
Lagon	Won 10-0

Players' player for R14 went to a very deserving Heather Courtney, who led the team throughout the games and shot very well.

Evening of Day 3

After a hard day of travelling and playing netball, the girls enjoyed a packed lunch then we set off with our guides Cathy and Jo. We headed up to the cable car ride to see the 'Rock' of Gibraltar and the stunning panoramic views from the top.

The girls then had the contemplate the Barbary Apes who were very friendly and quite partial to a few members of the St John's College group, especially those who were carrying sweets in their back packs!! The pupils and staff had many laughs and lots of memories to take away from that experience.

In the evening the girls and staff enjoyed a meal at the Ocean Village Marina. Then we headed back over the runway to the hotel.

Day 4

After breakfast we had a game analysis session to discuss options and results from the previous day. We came up with strategies and options to improve our game plans.

The girls were given time to have lunch and shop in Casemates square before heading back to Victoria Stadium for their final Tournament which began at 4 pm and lasted until 7 pm.

Results Tournament Day 2

Players from St John's College played against:

Portsmouth
Norwich
Valmar
Storm

R15 (A) played against Valmar and won 9-3 then managed to get over half points in the game against Norwich, 4-7. They lost against Portsmouth 14 – 4. This was a tough game for our girls but a fantastic experience. R15 (B) lost against Portsmouth also, but their most positive game was against Storm as they managed to gain over half their points.

R14 played their best ever netball on the Monday, proving that they truly get along well and have impressive abilities. The two matches they played had varying results; the first match was a tough game where for the most part it was goal after goal for both teams. However the second game told a different story. Storm had won the previous tournament and both R15 teams had lost against this team, but R14 managed to achieve an outstanding victory.

The games:

Valmar	Lost 6-8
Storm	Won 9-0

Evening of Day 4

After the games and presentations, we headed to Ocean Village Pizza Express where the girls enjoyed our last team supper. Girls and staff headed back over the runway for the last time to the hotel to pack ready for our return to Cardiff.

Day 5 - Final Day

After breakfast we had team presentations

Captains:

R14 (A): Anna Jones

R15 (B): Emily Hill

R15 (A): Elizabeth Skene

R14 (A) Players player of the tour: Eilish Menzies

R15 (B) Players player of the tour: Katherine Prior

R15 (A) Players player of the tour: Elizabeth Skene

Highest on court work rate: Elizabeth Skene

Best Motivator: Kate Guildersleve

Cheeky Monkey Award: Rebekka Forster

Best All-round Player: Amy Williams

Lines Award: Kathryn Prior

Our guide Cathy and our coach driver met us at 11am for our return to Malaga so that we would get to our flight to Cardiff on time!

In Summary...

This was a exceptional netball tour and the squad players from St John's are a credit to our school. Their behavior and attitude towards the tour throughout was outstanding. All squad members played with determination and will to win. Thank you to all the staff, including our tour guides and Leisure World for helping this tour run as smoothly as possible.