

## **UK TOUR 2015**



**SCHOOL / CLUB: EXPRESS SOCCER ACADEMY**

**SPORT: SOCCER**

**DATES: 23<sup>rd</sup> July – 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 2015**

**THEME: SPORTS AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCE.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Kozi Student Travel is a Student Management company focused in providing unique range of enrichment sports programs and opportunities which are an ideal platform for students and youths within the East Africa region through beyond academic programmes including; Sports, Student Exchange, Performing Arts and Cultural activities.

With respect to the UK tour 2015, Kozi Student Travel Ltd was honored to manage Express Soccer Academy and compiled the report outlined below.

## **FINDINGS**

### **Air travel and Ground transfer**

Emirates Airlines allowed efficiency from bookings, check-inns to managing the group accordingly.

A380 - Airbus crowned the experience with comfort, amazing entertainment on ice and smooth flight all way.

Dedicated Couches provided luxury ground transfers for allow efficiency on our local travel while in greater Manchester and London accordingly.



### Accommodation and Meals

The accommodation involved share rooming on full board inclusive packed lunch. The hotel was selected with respect to safety, location and quality service especially with respect to children groups.



### Health and Safety

The boys were open to receive medical attention from standby medical points at the tournament venue.

Insurance also played a huge part as it was to cater for emergency cases accordingly.

### Professional Soccer Trainings

The pro-club experience was conducted to challenge the young athletes to progressively develop their skills, performance and confidence ahead of the tournament and their overall sporting career.

The professional soccer coaching was delivered by UEFA A qualified professionals who delivered in-depth training covering more complex areas of the game including psychology, physical preparation and technical/tactical excellence.

Express Soccer Academy players and coaches learnt the importance of basic soccer skills application, teamwork, professionalism, leadership, attitude, mentality, focus and preparation.

The players had a privileged to tour the Bolton Wanderers Institute of Sport and were introduced to the unparalleled Academic and Soccer Programme which allows student athletes to simultaneously pursue excellence in the future as scholars and footballers

Training was conducted from two professional football clubs which includes;



- Bolton Wanderers FC Coaches
- Manchester City FC Coaches



### Stadium Tours

The tours included a record 6 major stadiums with an amazing experience to provoke the desires of the young soccer players through their pursuit to become future professional athletes.

The Express Soccer Academy group went behind the scenes at the magnificent stadiums to see the stadium through the eyes of football greats themselves.

From the dizzy heights of the Stands, to the atmosphere soaked players' dressing room, every moment seemed to carry the roar of 76,000 fans in your ears - none more so than the ultimate honour of them emerging from the players tunnel and following in the footsteps of so many legendary professional soccer players.

The stadium tours included;



Macron Stadium (Home for Bolton Wanderers FC)



Etihad Stadium - (Home for Current EPL Champions, Manchester City FC)



Old Trafford Stadium (Home for Manchester Utd FC)



Emirates Stadium (Home for the current Charity/Community Shield Champions, FA Cup Champions; Arsenal FC)



Stamford Bridge (Fortress for the current English Premier league Champions and League Cup Champions, FA Youth Cup Champions. UEFA Youth League Champions, FA Women's Cup Champions, FA Women's Super League Champions; Chelsea FC)



Wembley Stadium (Official home for English football with the historic ongoing tradition of the FA Cup Final)

### Excursions and Fun Activities

The tour provided an enriched collage of wonderful experiences extending from cultural experiences in Greater Manchester and London to the adrenaline driven fun activities at Alton Towers.



The adrenaline seekers braced the opportunity and explored extensively the Alton Towers – one of the biggest theme parks in Europe and World



The group was able to catch a glimpse of the amazing landmarks in London despite the challenges with time.

### Bolton Wanderers International Super Cup 2015

Bolton Wanderers International Super Cup is one of the leading international sports (soccer) and Cultural Excursions Programme for mini, junior and youth teams in Great Britain; attracting up to 50+ groups from more than 20 nations all playing at one magnificent location providing a brilliant atmosphere and fantastic week of football amazing excursions, a truly spectacular football event.

The tournament was played in the first class venue- the Lostock Academy Grounds, Official grounds to Bolton Wanderers FC Academy, for a chance for the players to showcase their talents and also learn at professional level structure.

Express Soccer Academy managed to present players for the following categories accordingly;

- Under 9/10
- Under 11/12



The tournament attracted top professional soccer academies from different nations which included;

- Bolton Wanderers Academy (England)
- ACP Academy (Canada)
- Alset Academy (Colombia)
- Paola Hibs (Malta)
- Sandnes Ulf (Norway)
- Gaswood & Seneley FC (England)

## **RESULTS**

### **Under 9/10**

The under 9/10 presented a developing side seeking much more experience, motivation and technical know-how as they find their position in the wonderful game of soccer. Their games were played on round robin format considering home and away fixtures.

The games were tough and the boys fought hard and despite consecutive losses, they worked hard to try matching the skilled counterparts from leading and development academies and soccer schools in Europe. The teams played against included;

- Connaugh Quay FC
- LongFord Park
- Bolton Wanderers FC Community
- Airbus FC
- Bolton Wanderers FC Academy



## Under 11/12

The U11/12 fielded a much experienced team with most players focusing on an advanced level of competition and a chance for selection by professional scouts. The team was drawn in a tough pool and the boys

- Connaugh Quay FC 2 : 3 Express Soccer Academy
- Bolton Wanderers Community 1 : 2 Express Soccer Academy
- Express Soccer Academy 2 : 3 Bolton Wanderers Academy
- Airbus FC 3 : 0 Express Soccer Academy
- Gayhood 1 : 0 Express soccer Academy.

Team work and thirst for glory pushed the boys to display high level football. The pro-club experience played a major contributor to the quality play through acclimatization and adapting to the professional way of play.





## Merits

- Gil Harel was hailed amongst the Top scorers with 13goals.
- Express Soccer academy was awarded Presented in Friendship BWFC International Super Cup 2015.



## **CHALLENGES / OBSERVATIONS**

1. Most parents did not honor the set deadlines on the thus pose to be a challenge with respect to securing bookings accordingly.
2. The level of soccer in the tournament was quite high thus the boys were quite humbled and struggled to perform accordingly especially the U9/10.
3. Miscommunication with respect to parents conduct during matches.
4. We did not secure Travelling Visas for the talented students from challenged backgrounds we had planned to travel with.
5. Same children had challenges with diet requirements, medication/prescriptions, bedwetting and general hygiene.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. The contract agreement should be followed to the letter especially with respect to payment deadlines and terms and conditions. This will facilitate efficiency in bookings and early preparations accordingly.
2. Proposal to have the tournament accommodating both developing and elite players for teams at different categories has been forwarded to the organizers so as to provide a balance with respect to player development, motivation and sound competition in future participation.
3. Parents should be brief on their level of involvement as far as cheering and team support is concerned. We hereby recommend that a pre-match briefing with parents should be done in order to echo the limitations so as to avoid affecting the coach and players negatively (pressure and misguidance). Our apologies are extended to the travelling parents for the miscommunication and focus to build a healthier relationship now and with days to come.
4. Through our CSR Project and shared vision with Express Soccer Academy, we are set to support children from challenged backgrounds. We apologized by the manner which the fundraising process was presented and managed and have so far put measures to manage the travelling requirements and raise funds professionally without laying the burden on parents accordingly.
5. We have come up with a form for upcoming trips where parents are required to indicate their children's dietary requirements, medication/prescriptions, children's challenges in maintaining hygiene and whether the children bed wet or not. This will assist both the event organizers and travelling coaches on how to manage immerging issues with respect to efficient management of the group and particular individuals.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

- Express Soccer Academy players for their commendable maintenance of discipline, fighting spirit on the field and teamwork throughout the entire programme.
- Express Soccer Director/Head Coach Maurice Olum and Coach Karanja for showing their professionalism in managing the kids accordingly.
- The Express Soccer Academy Parents for giving us an opportunity to manage their children Group for the UK Tour 2015.
- For Express Soccer Academy Fraternity for giving us the opportunity to deliver professionally managed programmes to the delight of the entire group.

## **CONCLUSION**

The UK tour 2015 was a success.

COMPILED BY:     Stephen Forster  
                            Kozi Student Travel Ltd.

APPROVED BY:     Maurice Olum  
                            Express Soccer Academy

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## GALLERY















.....*Most Welcome*.....