



## **BOYS' TEAM COACH'S REPORT**

Firstly I would like to pass my thanks on to a number of individuals who have made this trip an absolute pleasure to have been on. The tour was also very successful on the field and this has continued to enhance the reputation of School Sport Australia generally but also the Football component specifically.

I am well aware that an enormous amount of time and planning went into this tour for at least twelve months prior to departure and Mr Greg Best (Tour Leader) and Mr Ron Pratt (National Secretary) should be heartily congratulated on all aspects of the tour. I would also like to thank my fellow tour officials, Mr Dave Storey (Manager) for his insightful thoughts and feedback throughout our time away and Mr Dylan Hughes (Sports Trainer) who I feel was largely responsible for the wonderful physical condition of our players over the three week period. Thank you gentlemen, as it was great to enjoy your company and your professionalism.

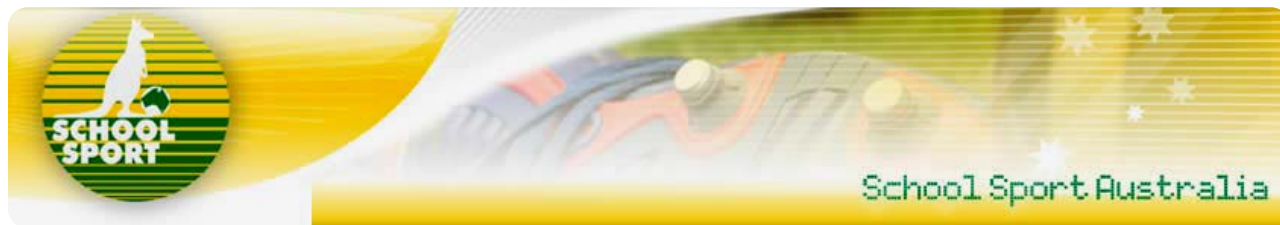
### **Team Selection:**

The Australian Schoolboys Football squad was selected from the National Schoolboys Championships held at Burton Park, Adelaide, South Australia, August 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The selection group consisted of:

- Peter Rickers – Australian Team Coach, Western Australia
- Dave Storey – Australian Team Manager, New South Wales.
- Pat Marando – Selector, New South Wales.
- Mark Wakeling – Selector, Northern Territory.

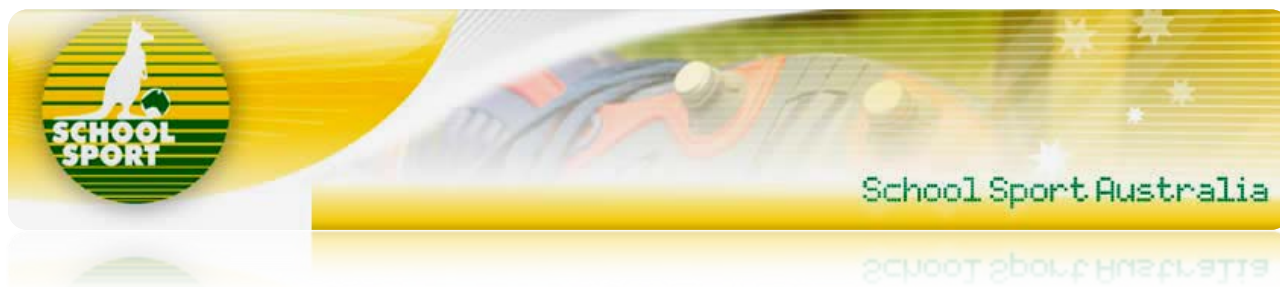
The Australian 18 man squad and the Australian 18 man shadow squad were selected as follows:



	<b>Australian Team</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Shadow Squad</b>	<b>State</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Name</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Luke Turnbull</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Lochlan Reus</b>	<b>Qld</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Andrew Depta</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Stefan Sacilotto</b>	<b>NSW</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Zac Freeburn</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Ryan Meskell</b>	<b>Qld</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Travis Cooper</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>James Millar</b>	<b>Qld</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Kieren Paull</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Scott Witschge</b>	<b>WA</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Guy Knight</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Friday Zico</b>	<b>WA</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Matthew Bilic</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Charles Toweh</b>	<b>WA</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>James Verdin</b>	<b>Qld</b>	<b>Michael Portelli</b>	<b>ACT</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Simon Valastro</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Milan Popovich</b>	<b>ACT</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Izach Clements</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Jordan Miller</b>	<b>Qld</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Ryan Keir</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>Matthew Hume</b>	<b>Vic</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>James Field</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>Blair Govan</b>	<b>WA</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Stepjan Paric</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Thomas Maricic</b>	<b>SA</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Jacob Williams</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>Keegan Sheridan</b>	<b>Qld</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Chernor Bah</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Chris Antoniadis</b>	<b>Vic</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Stevan Ilic</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Bright Appia</b>	<b>NSW</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Daniel Barac</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Roko Strika</b>	<b>ACT</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Ashley Denniss</b>	<b>Qld</b>	<b>Luke Clifford</b>	<b>NSW</b>
			<b>Harley Gepp</b>	<b>SA</b>

A number of players withdrew from the squad selected. They were: Zac Freeburn (NSW), Andrew Depta (NSW), Simon Valastro (NSW), Stepjan Paric (NSW), James Field (ACT), Jacob Williams (ACT), Daniel Barac (ACT).

The players from the shadow squad to replace the withdrawn players were: Scott Witschge (WA), Friday Zico (WA), Ryan Meskell (Qld), Lochie Reus (Qld), James Millar (Qld), Thomas Maricic (SA), Stefan Sacilotto (NSW).



## Australian Schoolboys 2011

No	Name	School
1	Luke Turnbull (V.C.)	Endeavour Sports High School, NSW
2	Thomas Maricic	St Michaels College, SA
3	Izach Clements (V.C.)	Crookwell High School, NSW
4	James Verdin	Chancellor Park State College, Qld
5	Guy Knight	Illawarra Sports High School, NSW
6	Ryan Keir	Daramalan College, ACT
7	Kieren Paull (Capt)	Westfields Sports High School, NSW
8	Travis Cooper	The Kings School, NSW
9	Stevan Ilic	Endeavour Sports High School, NSW
10	Chernor Bah	The Hills Sports High School, NSW
11	Ashley Denniss	Cleveland District High School, Qld
12	Scott Witschge	Darling Range Sports College, WA
13	James Millar	Cleveland District High School, Qld
14	Friday Zico	Melville Senior High School, WA
15	Stefan Sacilotto	Georges River College, NSW
16	Lochlan Reus	Palm Beach Currumbin State High School, Qld
17	Matthew Bilic	St Gregory's College, NSW
18	Ryan Meskell	Palm Beach Currumbin State High School, Qld

### Team Officials :

Mr Peter Rickers	Boys Coach	John Curtin College, W.A.
Mr David Storey	Boys Manager	Terrigal High School, N.S.W.
Mr Dylan Hughes	Boys Trainer	Kogarah High School, N.S.W.



## **Training Camp**

The squad assembled at Macquarie University playing fields for an afternoon training session and introduction. The time was spent on looking at roles and responsibilities relating to a playing formation of 1-4-3-3. We also had a training session at St Columbas College, St Albans on our arrival in England where we worked on our attacking and defending at set pieces.

**GAME 1 : V SYDNEY SUDANESE COMMUNITY FOOTBALL TEAM**

**DATE : SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2012**

**VENUE : MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY PLAYING FIELDS**

**RESULT : AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS 8 – SUDANESE COMMUNITY 1**

It is always difficult to organise practice matches so early into pre season but Dave Storey secured a run out against the Sudanese community who were well into a summer competition. We had had the opportunity for two training sessions at this point where we worked on team shape and positional responsibilities. These issues were put into practice in the match.

The Sudanese Community team were very competitive for the first half an hour or so until a few goals went against them. The Australian team were obviously keen to impress and all the squad were given a good run out in fairly hot and muggy conditions. We worked on the 1-4-3-3 formation and tried various combinations of players.

Our aim was to get through the exercise with no injuries and with all players having had an opportunity to show us what they could do. This aim was achieved.



**GAME 2 : V ST COLUMBAS COLLEGE**

**DATE : WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2012**

**VENUE : ST ALBANS F.C.**

**RESULT : AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS 5 – ST COLUMBAS 1**

The result does not give an indication of how competitive the St Columbas boys were. In fact St Columbas scored first which under the circumstances was not such a bad thing. The Australian boys were enjoying plenty of possession but the home team scored on the break. The coaching staff were very pleased however to see that no players responded poorly and all went about the business of getting back into the game as quickly as possible.

The ground and the way the opposition played was a great introduction to the playing contingent on what to expect for the rest of the tour. St Albans F.C. ground was in good condition for the time of the year and fully enclosed.

After the completion of the game there was the opportunity for the playing and coaching staff to socialise with our opponents as the college put on food and drinks that were very much appreciated by all. The opportunities to mingle and mix are an important part of the touring process and it was noticeable throughout the tour that other associations felt the same way. Playing a school team early after our arrival gave our players an opportunity to acclimatise and get used to conditions. St Columbas for their part thought it a wonderful experience for their own players to play against a representative team. (Not something that happens very often)

**GAME 3 : V WELSH SCHOOLBOYS**

**DATE : FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2012**

**VENUE : PONTLANFRAITH HIGH SCHOOL**

**RESULT : AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS 3 – WELSH SCHOOLBOYS 1**



The Welsh Schools F.A. had just installed the 4G Artificial surface at the school as part of their football in the community project. The International fixture was the very first competitive game played on the ground and was used as the official opening with attendance by the mayor and other dignitaries, the whole occasion being well managed and well presented. The school finished early so all students could watch the match creating a great atmosphere for all players concerned.

It was apparent from the start that the Australian boys were physically taller and stronger than the opposition however the game was very competitive from the kick off and once again the opposition scored first. The Welsh Schoolboys had a number of attacking players who were very comfortable on the ball and keen to dribble and take players on. This caused disruption in our backline as our covering of players became very important. Eventually we wore the opposition down with some very intense pressing and some well taken goals. We played the 1-4-3-3 formation.

**Scorers : Kieren Paull (4m), Travis Cooper (25m)(35m)**

**GAME 4: V WELSH COLLEGES**

**DATE : MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY, 2012**

**VENUE : LLANDARCY, NEATH**

**RESULT : AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS 3 – WELSH COLLEGES 2**

The Welsh College players were an altogether more physical team than the Welsh Schoolboys and the game at times got a little spiteful with a few rash tackles made. It seemed that with the home side aware of the result against the Welsh Schoolboys that they tried to intimidate us from the kick off, the result being a game often punctuated by stoppages for free kicks.

The Australian boys played well early and scored to get value out of our early pressure. We unfortunately conceded late in the first half and went to the break at one each. A poor defensive header put the ball in the middle of the box and the Welsh attacker put the ball away for the Welsh



to go two one up. We had Chernor Bah sent off for retaliation and a few boys were starting to get a bit agitated at the officiating. We decided not to change the formation as Chernor was playing in behind the striker and went with a 1-4-4-1. As is often the way the rest of the squad lifted their game and took the game straight up to the Welsh. The Welsh did not attempt to take any advantage of our one man shortage and seemed happy to keep the score line at 2-1. We made a few changes and then scored two goals whilst a man down to go on and win the game 3-2. Tough game and a very hard way to win a football match but the Aussie spirit in never giving in came to the fore again.

**Scorers : Guy Knight (38m), Travis Cooper (65), Stevan Ilic (72m)**

**GAME 5: V NORTHERN IRELAND**

**DATE : WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2012**

**VENUE : CRUSADERS F.C.**

**RESULT : AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS 1 – NORTHERN IRELAND 1**

This was a high quality game played by two well prepared teams intent on playing football the right way. The Northern Ireland team are the current holders of the Centenary Shield played for by England, Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland Schoolboys. The Northern Ireland team was easily the best team we had played to this point and the Australian team rose to the challenge. The game was well refereed and this added to the spectacle even though the weather was very cold, wet and windy.

We struggled to settle in the first half and eventually conceded a soft goal from a corner. We were lucky not to concede more and didn't due to some last ditch defending by blocking goal bound shots. We had given starts to a number of players who had not started to this point and it tended to unsettle us somewhat. Very good games were played by Izach Clements at centre back and Lochie Reus in the anchoring midfield role. The whole of the back four played well together although Scott



Witschge had a tough day against a good wide left player. Scott did however look better going forward on the overlap.

As we introduced players in the second half the game began to change and we began to have much more of possession. Travis Cooper scored from a header following a free kick. At that point we had a number of opportunities to go on and win the game. We perhaps should have had a penalty when Kieren Paull was fouled in the box, however Kieren didn't go down under the challenge and retained possession. We should have scored anyway from the cross that eventually came in.

In the end 1 – 1 was probably a fair result but we were disappointed we conceded a soft goal early on.

**Scorer : Travis Cooper (68 )**

**GAME 6: V REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

**DATE : FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2012**

**VENUE : OSCAR TRAYNOR CENTRE, DUBLIN**

**RESULT : AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS 3 – REPUBLIC OF IRELAND 2**

This was another extremely competitive match where we certainly played our best football in the second half. Already there was a pattern of Australia finishing games strongly after being outplayed in the early parts of games.

The Republic had many attacking players who like to run with the ball, small diminutive players with quick feet in tight areas. These players, who tended to be very quick over 5 – 10 metres caused us quite a few problems early on. The Irish players would draw a player then pass and move pulling defenders out of position and thus getting in behind our back four. It was one of the very few times on tour when our defenders were outplayed as a unit.





On the positive side we didn't concede too many and seemed to be all the more determined in the second half. The Australian endurance came to the fore and the few half chances we did create we seemed to score each time. Our conversion rate in front of goal was very good. Kieren Paull got us off to a great start with a wonderful drive into the top right hand corner from 20 metres only a minute or two after the restart. This seemed to give us some much needed confidence and we were away.

**Scorers : Stefan Sacilotto (5m), Kieren Paull (48m), Chernor Bah (59m)**

**Ireland: Sean Maguire, Sean Russell.**

#### **GAME 7 : V ENGLAND SCHOOLBOYS**

**DATE : SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2012**

**VENUE : WULFRUNIANS A.F.C., WOLVERHAMPTON**

**RESULT : AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS 0 – ENGLAND SCHOOLBOYS 0**

This was a wonderful occasion for all concerned and the whole event was fantastically well organised by Wulfrunians AFC and the English Schools F.A. The ground was in fantastic condition although had to be watered slightly before kickoff due a little frost from overnight.

The game was a very even encounter and tactically both teams seemed to nullify each other. England and Australia created chances to score but either the goalkeepers were fantastic or the chance was blown by poor technique. Both teams I felt were well organised and structured. Australia had more possession and looked more effective down the flanks whilst the English looked more threatening through the middle.



The game was played at a tremendous pace with a number of counter attacking opportunities for both teams. Any neutral spectator would have found the game a great advertisement for schoolboys' football.

Again both teams showed great athleticism and were committed at all times. The game flowed well and this was assisted by some top class refereeing and produced a fair result for both sides in the end.

**GAME 8 : V ENGLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

**DATE : MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2012**

**VENUE : DOG AND GUN LANE, WHETSTONE, LEICESTERSHIRE.**

**RESULT : AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS 3 – ENGLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS 2**

I have no doubt that the first half of this game was our poorest on tour. We could not keep possession and looked a very tired and ragged team. We didn't look like much of an international team and the prompting from the bench during the first half did not have much of an impact. We were very fortunate not to have conceded more goals by the interval so at least we were still in the game.

To be fair I think it was probably the come down after the highs. We had a good talk at half time about playing simple balls and building momentum by keeping possession. We were a little fatigued and didn't want to be chasing the ball all day.

The second half was just completely the opposite as the boys seemed to switch on and dominate the game the longer it went. We passed well and had the ball for longer periods of time. We overcame the deficit and went on to another famous victory.

**Scorers: Miller (46m), Ilic (51m), Paull (62m)**



**GAME 9 : V BRITISH COLLEGES**

**DATE : TUESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY, 2012**

**VENUE : SOLIHULL MOORS F.C. DAMSON PARK, SOLIHULL.**

**RESULT : AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS 2 - BRITISH COLLEGES 0**

This was the coldest day so far on tour and there was concern about the pitch being frozen, thankfully proceedings got underway and it became a very competitive game. The Schoolboys squad were starting to get a little leg weary and were once again a little slow to start.

The game became a bit of a war of attrition as it was our third game in three days. The opposition pushed and prodded and the game had a few rash challenges as the referee allowed some tackles that previous referees had picked up. Luke Turnbull was solid in goal and the whole back four covered each other well. The first half of the game was very even and there were a few flash points as we approached half time. During the break we spoke at length about personal discipline and not being distracted from the game plan. We spoke about the quality of what we do and keeping our heads.

In the second half we brought on some fresh legs as best we could. Kieren Paull struck a wonderful goal into the bottom left hand corner which showed how bits of quality can turn a game. A short time later a wonderful cross from Travis Cooper was put right on the top of Steven Ilic's head for him to score a great team goal.

At that point the game really opened up and we could have had a couple more as the British Colleges team played three at the back as they searched for a way back into the game. The game finished 2-0 and was due to the Australian boys sticking to the game plan and not being distracted by intimidating tactics.

**Scorers: Paull (55m), Ilic (70m).**



Kieren Paull was voted as player of the tour by his fellow players and the coaching staff.  
Congratulations to Kieren.

**Conclusion:**

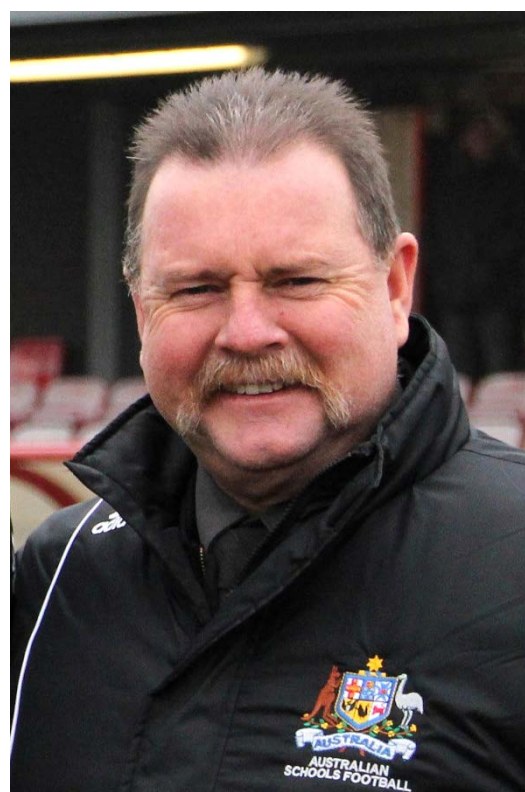
I would like to thank the players for their dedication to their football and the way that they carried themselves throughout the tour. The whole squad has been a pleasure to coach and combined with our wonderful success in the international fixtures resulted in a memorable tour. The Australian Schoolboys have visited the U.K. and the Republic of Ireland on eight previous occasions and this is the first time that the team has gone through an entire tour undefeated. All players and coaching staff should be rightfully proud of their achievements. The tour has served to enhance the reputation of Australian Schoolboy Football and School Sport Australia.

I would like to thank the parents who attended the tour.  
The support that you gave to the players and the coaching staff was great and very much appreciated. It is wonderful to hear cheering and clapping when a long way from home and the boxing kangaroo was eagerly looked for.  
Thank you to you all.

Yours in Football

Peter Rickers

Coach





## **BOYS' TEAM MANAGER'S REPORT**

The organization of this tour was exceptional and for this the team and officials are indebted to Mr Greg Best - the tour leader, Mr Ron Pratt – the School Sport Australia National Secretary for Football and Mr Seb van der Vliet – the tour liaison coordinator.

The hours of planning and organisational detail that took place before the team and officials came together led to this tour being a great success. I enjoyed thoroughly working with Peter Rickers – the boys' coach and Dylan Hughes – the boys' trainer. I thank these two people for their work ethic and professionalism throughout the tour.

I also thank the girls' officials for adding to the success of the tour – Lisa Warrener, Wayne Baseden and Danielle Dunajcik.

Thanks to all concerned and best wishes for 2012.

### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**

The boys' squad assembled at Macquarie University at 2.00 p.m. where everyone was introduced to each other. We then had a two hour training session which was aimed at the boys getting to know each other and Peter working on the formation he wanted to play on tour.

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**

At 10.00 a.m. each member of the squad received their "Australian Shirt" from John Boulton the FFA's High performance Director. The team then began training for approx. two hours, again the squad worked on formations and set plays. After lunch the boys played Blacktown Sudanese team in a trial match. The game was played in good spirits and was an excellent first up game to begin the tour.



### **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

The two teams met at Sydney International Airport at 1.30 p.m. to book in for the trip to London. The flight departed on time at 3.30 p.m.

### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**

The two teams arrived at Heathrow Airport at 5.30 a.m. After going through customs and getting all the gear organised we took a couple of hours where players and officials organised mobile phones and Ipads. The team then boarded the “team coach”, met Mick the coach driver and we were then ready to begin our tour of London at about 10.00 a.m.

We were given a guided tour of London by a guide operator before having a walk to see the ‘changing of the horse guards’, London Bridge, the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey before returning to the coach. We were then taken across London where we stopped for lunch before beginning our journey to St Columbus College at St. Albans.

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**

A dreary morning of about 4 degrees and rain welcomed the boys for a 2 hour training session on St Columbus’s school fields. I believe the boys were a bit concerned if this was the type of weather we were going to get for the next two and a half weeks. After a good session with all boys working hard we had lunch at the school where the boys and management team spent quite a bit of time talking to the four and five year old students having lunch at the same time. What a great story to tell their parents that night – lunch with the touring Australian Schoolboys!

A quiet afternoon was spent walking up to the St. Albans Abbey, via a frozen lake which was quite a feature for some of our lads who weren’t quite game to see if they could walk on water, and the



town of St. Albans. After that the boys watched the girls play St. Columbus College before going home with their billets and prepare for the night game.

The first game on tour was against St Columbus first XI at St. Albans home ground followed by a function at the Clubhouse.

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**

The coach was packed early, the boys were picked up from St. Columbus College and we were on our way to Wales. The trip across the country side gave everyone their first real look at the English and Welsh countryside. It was interesting to see 'hedges' everywhere and villages where the houses are built very much all the same with just about every house a double storey.

The trip took most of the day and we arrived at the Village Hotel in the afternoon in Swansea, where we were to spend the next 5 nights. A quiet meal was held at the local Italian Restaurant to finish of the day before heading to bed to be well rested for the first international.

### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**

Game Day – v Welsh Schools (2.00 p.m. kickoff). The morning of our first international against Welsh Schoolboys was a quiet morning. The trip by coach took about one and a half hours, the highlight being the tight spaces in which the coach driver had to manoeuvre the coach.

The international game coincided with the opening of the new synthetic pitch at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. The result was positive, the boys had a meal with the opposition, we then boarded the coach to travel to Barry Town and watch the girls play.



### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2012**

The start of a football free weekend. The boys had a pool session with trainer Hughes to remove all the soreness. The team then travelled into Cardiff for a tour of “Cardiff Castle”, a walk through the main shopping area of Cardiff, followed by lunch and then off to watch Cardiff City and Portsmouth from the English Championship. Dylan Hughes a Cardiff City fanatic whipped the boys into a frenzy to ensure success for Cardiff City. He got his wish although there were some anxious moments. After the game the team travelled back to Swansea for dinner at an Italian restaurant and a quiet night.

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2012**

The team had a 2 hour training session at a local field followed by a quiet Sunday afternoon. Most of the boys visited the town of Swansea for a couple of hours and generally relaxed as it was to be the last day for a week where there was no travel or game. The team travelled to the west of Swansea near Mumbles for dinner at a different Italian Restaurant.

### **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2012**

Game Day – v Welsh Colleges (7.00 p.m. kickoff). After a quiet day and a day of relaxation, this game was played at Port Talbot Football Field. The game was a tough encounter with the boys managing to get over the opposition in the end. After a late finish, a small snack with the opposition, it was back on the coach and back to Swansea and straight to bed ready for travel the next day.

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**

An early start saw us on the road to Pembroke ready for the trip across to Ireland. We stopped at Pembroke for a couple of hours where we could visit Pembroke Castle, walk around the lovely town and relax. After lunch we boarded the ferry for the 4 hour trip. There was a little swell and some players did get a little sea sickness.





From Rosslare we travelled straight to Belfast, arriving at the Hotel around 11.00 p.m; 4 hours after arriving in Ireland. It did not take much prompting for everyone to hit the sack.

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**

Game Day – v Northern Ireland Schools (2.00 p.m. kickoff). After a late breakfast and a discussion between the team management and a few of the players Dylan took the team for a light jog through Belfast to loosen up and get in the right frame of mind for the game that afternoon. The team manager and tour manager had a lovely stroll around Belfast that showed what a lovely place Belfast is. Returning to the hotel the boys had a quiet 2 hours before boarding the coach for the trip to Crusaders Football Club in Seaview a suburb of Belfast. The game was probably played in the worst conditions of the tour with howling wind and constant driving rain. The ground was a 4G synthetic surface.

After the game the team enjoyed a short trip to the reception for a fantastic hot meal and speeches with the Northern Ireland officials. The team then boarded the bus back to the hotel, a good sleep and ready for the trip to Dublin.

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**

After breakfast the team boarded the coach for the trip to Dublin. After a part of the trip to show us the Irish countryside, the town of Armagh and the fencing around the police station was a reminder of the dark history of the country. After a coffee break on the motorway the team arrived in Dublin to have a leisurely stroll through around and have lunch. Again, what a great city to walk around, the team manager and tour manager visited St Patricks Cathedral where the architecture was something to behold. The team then booked into the Hotel for a two night stay. The team had dinner in the hotel and then rested up ready for the game the next day.



### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**

Game Day – v Republic of Ireland Schools (2.00 p.m. kickoff). After a leisurely breakfast and quiet morning the boys boarded the coach to travel to Oscar Traynor Football Field. The game was played in icy conditions even though the sun appeared to be out. The team worked hard and this was the first game that a few of the boys started to show the effects of travelling and playing. However, the team dug deep to get the desired result. After an excellent hot meal with the Irish team and officials it was back on the coach and return to the hotel for a quiet evening.

### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**

The team had a 6 00 a.m. start for the ferry trip from Dublin to Holyhead. The trip took about 4 hours and the sea was quite calm so it was a pleasant trip back to North Wales, quite a few officials had a quiet nap. After departing Holyhead we made our way through North Wales, past snow capped peaks and into England.

The coach stopped at a lovely place called Chester. We had a magnificent walk around the town for about 2 hours, including lunch and a walk on the wall that surrounds the town and was built by the Romans. The coach was then boarded and we were ready for the 3 hour trip down to Dudley near Birmingham and our last Hotel. We arrived at the Village Hotel around dusk and after a great meal it was a quiet evening and preparation for the big game tomorrow against England Schools.

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**

Game Day – v England Schools (10.30 a.m. kickoff). The boys had an early breakfast, we were then on the coach for the trip to Castlecroft where we played the game at AFC Wulfrunians. It was quite a chilly morning with the thin layer of ice having to be hosed off the pitch with water before the team warm-up, the boys did not need any encouragement to start working to stay warm. This game was undoubtedly the hardest of the tour but the boys hung on well to get a deserved draw.



After the game there was a well accepted hot roast chicken dinner, the boys mixed with the English lads and we had the customary speeches by officials. It was then back on the coach for the well deserved trip back to the hotel in Dudley where the boys had an excellent meal, a swim for those who desired and an early night ready for the game the next day.

### **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**

Game Day – v England Independent Schools (6.30 p.m. kickoff). The boys had a stretching session after breakfast with trainer Hughes, followed by a leisurely morning, a good lunch and rest period before getting on the coach for the trip to Whetstone in Leicestershire, the game was being played at Holmes Park. The night was quite chilly and there was a definite showing in the warm up and the start of the game that the long tour was starting to take its toll. However, the boys still worked hard during the game and came away winners.

The highlight of the game was that it was refereed by Mr Stuart Attwell, a current Premier League referee.

After the match the boys enjoyed a light meal in the club rooms followed by speeches and the late trip back to Dudley and bed.

### **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012**

Game Day – v British Colleges (3.00 p.m. kickoff). It was an early start after breakfast as the girls' team were playing at the same ground as us, and they were kicking off at 11.30 a.m. The trip to Solihull, Berkhamstead took about an hour and a half and the game was played at Solihull Moors FC. Again the ground was basically frozen and the weather reports indicated that the game was going to be played at zero temperature, how true, as it was the coldest day the manager had on the sidelines.



Despite the temperature and the frozen hard ground the boys prevailed, despite the first and only serious injury of the tour. We also had a few boys out injured so the efforts of the boys left playing cannot be under estimated. A great result was ensured after an outstanding second half.

As this turned out to be the teams' last game they can be justifiably proud of what they achieved and going through the tour undefeated.

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2012**

A well deserved rest day. After a quiet morning and a gym session to stretch and loosen up after three hard games the team went into West Bromwich Albion for shopping at the "Nike Factory". After a relaxing afternoon and dinner the team went to see the Premier league game between Aston Villa and Queens Park rangers, which was a great spectacle.

On returning to the Hotel the team had its "tour presentations" which was a good wind down and a bit of fun.

### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2012**

On our last full day in the United Kingdom it was decided to go to Manchester and visit 'Old Trafford'. It was spectacular and very emotional and definitely worth the visit, especially the 'Munich Tunnel'. During the tour of 'Old Trafford' word came through that Forest Green was frozen over so the boys' last game was cancelled.

After completing the tour there was one last visit to a shopping centre and then the drive back to Dudley and the Hotel and a quiet night as we were not going to play our last game.



### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2012**

After packing for the last time and breakfast the two teams departed the hotel in Dudley (two of our squad departed here to travel with their families) and there was a photo taken of the full touring party. The team was now off to London and some time sightseeing in the capital.

The team enjoyed a leisurely 3 hours walking around London, having lunch and sightseeing. The team was held up for a while as we had to wait for one of our members who was lost and in the wrong pick-up area, he was eventually rescued from London city for the trip to Heathrow Airport.

Another four of our team departed for various reasons which left twelve members of the team to travel back to Australia.

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2012**

Not sure many of us remember about this day, as flying East and with time differences we may have had some time on this day in the air above Russia.

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2012**

The team arrived back in Sydney at 7.30 a.m. and after the customary goodbyes everyone departed the airport, some to go home and some to the domestic airport for the flight to their home state.

Dave Storey  
Manager





## **BOYS' TEAM SPORTS TRAINER'S REPORT**

The squads assembled at Macquarie University for training sessions and a practice game. There was one residual injury (Luke Turnbull – adductor strain); and Ashley West sustained an impact injury during a drill. He was treated immediately (RICER) and he took no further part in the training or the trial match the following day. Barring these two issues – there were no more concerns.

### GAME DAY INJURIES

There were no real concerns until late in the tour. Remedial massage and ice baths were administered to combat minor soft tissue injuries.

#### Game 7 V England Schools

Chernoh Bah: sustained a direct injury to his left ankle. Caused a decent abrasion and stressed ligaments resulting in bruising and swelling of the area. Treatment involved RICER (immediately and over the next few days).

#### Game 8 V British Colleges

Lochlan Reus: sustained a serious multiple fracture and dislocation of the left clavicle. I immobilised the area immediately (sling) after calling for a stretcher. The ambulance was called, Lochlan was administered Morphine and taken to hospital. He certainly took no further part.

He was operated on when he returned to Australia. I administered the prescribed pain killers and sleeping tablets for the remainder of the tour.

James Verdin: strained his hamstring in the warm up and did not take part.



## REHABILITATION and CONDITIONING

Once again, we were fortunate enough to have access to the fitness centre facilities at the hotels we were staying at. During the days in between games I conducted strength, conditioning and flexibility sessions in order to keep the squad injury free. We also used the pool for recovery sessions and had ice baths in the hotel rooms. These were combined with thorough warm up and cool down routines.

Training sessions were also conducted when the hectic timetable allowed.

All these factors ensured the ongoing fitness of the athletes and the success of the tour. I would like to thank the rest of the coaching staff for their support and the players for conducting themselves in such a professional manner.

Dylan Hughes

Trainer





## **BOYS' TEAM CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

To be selected as a member of the Australian Schoolboys team for a second time was a massive honour for me, and going off the last tour to China and Japan, it was an opportunity I was really looking forward to. The tour is a wonderful experience for all players and the chance to represent your country is one that I'm sure we will never forget. To be selected as captain was a huge privilege and I felt extremely proud of this achievement.

Going to the UK for the first time was an extremely exciting prospect to me, and I'm sure it was for all the boys as there is such a rich footballing history in that part of the world. Although we only had a short time in Sydney to meet everyone, I feel the team bonded well, and that showed in our impressive results, going undefeated the entire tour. One thing that helped us play so well together is that everyone became such close mates, and we were willing to work for one another. I felt extremely proud of all the boys. To come away with 6 wins and 2 draws from the tour was a fantastic result.

The international fixtures against Wales, Ireland, Northern Ireland and England were a highlight for me as they gave us an opportunity to play against other countries instead of just club matches. It was an opportunity to test ourselves against quality players from different countries in a professional environment. The pitches we played on were in great condition and it was such a buzz when it came to game day.

Off the field, what can I say? There were so many fun times and it would take me too long to mention them all. Some of my best memories will be the nominations and songs on the bus, Turnbull's haircut, the insane trip to watch Cardiff play (yes Dyl!), our trip to Villa Park, and as much as I hate to admit it, the tour of Old Trafford was amazing. Along with that, how could we forget our match of hallway cricket on Australia Day, and Guy's controversial sledging tactics!





I'm sure we have all taken away some memorable moments from our trip to the UK, and I want to thank all the boys and girls for making it such a wonderful and positive experience. I have made friends for life and it was an honour to share this experience with you all.

Lastly, on behalf of all the boys, I want to thank Peter, Dave, Dylan, Ron and Greg for all the hard work they put into the tour and for allowing us to do what we love – play football!



Best of luck to all the boys,

Kieren Paull #7





## **GIRLS' TEAM COACH'S REPORT**

### **Preparation**

A two day camp at Macquarie University in Sydney prior to our departure enabled some familiarisation with each other, and with how we wanted to play. A trial game against Central Coast Mariners academy was also extremely helpful.

### **Game 1 v St Columbas**

Venue: St Columbas College, St Albans

Game: After our original opponents cancelled the game we were lucky to get a game against the boys' team to kick off the tour. Enthusiastic opponents with a lot of vocal support, it was just what we needed to get over the long trip and acclimatise to a Northern Hemisphere winter.

Team: Starting: Anderson, Eastman, Hay, Franke, Walker, Ward, Collingridge, Lawrence, Hoek, McCartney, Soutar

Substitutes: Durack, Pavlicevic, Mayo, Logarzo, Tobin, Wharepouri, Crummer

Score: 3 (Lawrence, Pavlicevic, Crummer pen) – 2

### **Game 2 v Cardiff City**

Venue: Jenner Park, Barry Town FC

Game: After a long day on the road and watching the boys' team play, the girls were keen to show their stuff. A dynamic start put significant pressure on the Cardiff City defence and we were able to capitalise on some loose passes and put early goals away. One of our most impressive performances on tour saw us dominate possession with some great passages of play that could easily have produced more goals.



Team: Starting: Durack, Walker, Hay, Wharepouri, Mayo, Pavlicevic, Collingridge,  
Tobin, Logarzo, Lawrence, Crummer  
Substitutes: Anderson, Franke, Soutar, Ward, Hoek, Eastman  
Unavailable: McCartney (thigh strain)

Score: 5 (Crummer 2, Lawrence, Logarzo, Hoek) – 0

### **Game 3 v Welsh Colleges**

Venue: Llandarcy Academy of Sport

Game: The game was played on reasonably small pitch which made the game quite tight and mistakes were quickly punished. A few poor touches at the back gave them a couple of chances and they were able to get a goal but we generally had control of the game and were able to score some good goals.

Team: Starting: Anderson, Eastman, Wharepouri, Mayo, Franke, Ward, Tobin,  
Lawrence, Logarzo, McCartney, Soutar  
Substitutes: Durack, Walker, Collingridge, Hay, Pavlicevic, Crummer, Hoek

Score: 7 (Logarzo 2, McCartney 2, Ward, Lawrence, Collingridge, Crummer) – 1

### **Game 4 v Northern Ireland U18s**

Venue: Cliftonville FC, Belfast

Game: Probably our most difficult opponent on tour, the Northern Ireland girls had a well organised defence, which we initially struggled to penetrate. Eventually our patience paid off and we were able to get on the scoreboard just before half time. The second half greeted us with heavy rain and strong winds and the game opened up significantly more than in the first half. Our second goal was immediately cancelled out by the Northern Ireland girls who never gave up. The game was not sealed until late after sustained pressure resulted in us having a free player in the box to put the game beyond doubt.



Team: Starting: Durack, Walker, Hay, Wharepouri, Mayo, Pavlicevic, Collingridge,  
Tobin, Hoek, Crummer, Soutar  
Substitutes: Anderson, Franke, Logarzo, Eastman, Crummer, Ward, McCartney

Score: 3 (Soutar, Crummer, McCartney) - 1

### **Game 5 v Ireland U17 Academy**

Venue: AUL Complex, Dublin

Game: Our first taste of freezing conditions against opponents of varying ability saw us having to work hard to stay focussed on the game. In particular, substitutes coming into the game found it difficult. All part of the tour experience, the girls were able to persevere and win the game comfortably.

Team: Starting: Anderson, Walker, Hay, Wharepouri, Franke, Ward, Collingridge,  
Lawrence, Logarzo, McCartney, Soutar  
Substitutes: Durack, Eastman, Mayo, Pavlicevic, Crummer, Tobin, Hoek

Score: 5 (McCartney 2, Logarzo, Hoek, Tobin) - 0

### **Game 6 v Loughborough University**

Venue: Loughborough University

Game: Facing up to slightly older and more physical opponents, we rose to the challenge and used our superior skill to keep possession. Despite letting them back into the game with a lack of concentration on a corner, the result was never really in doubt, and the girls won a lot of respect from spectators and the opposition with their performance.

Team: Starting: Anderson, Eastman, Hay, Wharepouri, Franke, Ward, Lawrence,  
Tobin, Hoek, Crummer, Logarzo  
Substitutes: Durack, Pavlicevic, Walker, Soutar, Mayo, McCartney  
Unavailable: Collingridge (ankle)

Score: 5 (Lawrence 2, Hoek, Soutar, Tobin) - 1



### **Game 7 v British Colleges**

Venue: Solihull Moors FC, Birmingham

Game: The game that we had waited all tour for. With our first experience of hearing the national anthem prior to kick off, the adrenalin was pumping and we started off very enthusiastically. A dominant first half saw several near misses but finally we were able to hit the net just prior to half time. During the second half attrition started to play its part but the substitutes were able to make significant contributions and the game was sealed with two more goals.

Team: Starting: Durack, Walker, Hay, Wharepouri, Pavlicevic, Mayo, Tobin,  
Collingridge, Logarzo, Crummer, Soutar  
Substitutes: Anderson, Eastman, Franke, Ward, Hoek, Lawrence, McCartney

Score: 3 (Logarzo, Pavlicevic, Soutar) - 0

### **Game 8 v Watford FC U18s**

Venue: Ashlyns School, Berkhamsted

Game: A somewhat disappointing end to the tour, with our late arrival causing the game to be shortened. The sub zero temperatures, plus quite a few niggling injuries, made it uncomfortable for most, but the girls showed their professionalism and refused to allow their standards to drop.

Team: Starting: Durack, Eastman, Wharepouri, Mayo, Franke, Ward, Lawrence, Tobin,  
Crummer, McCartney, Hoek  
Substitutes: Anderson, Pavlicevic, Collingridge, Hay, Logarzo, Walker, Soutar

Score: 3 (Crummer 2, Collingridge) – 0



## Summary

It was a very successful tour for a great group of talented girls who did their country proud, not only with their performances, but their behaviour and attitude. It was refreshing to see an Australian team display such skill and class, along with the traditional traits of courage, tenacity and team spirit. Cooperative both on and off the field, they were a pleasure to be involved with and I wish them well with their future footballing endeavours.

Also, a very big thank you to Wayne, Dani and Greg, who were all a big help to both myself and the team throughout the tour.

Lisa Warrener  
Coach





## **GIRLS' TEAM MANAGER'S REPORT**

Sydney: Day 1+2

Both players and officials fly or drive in to Sydney for a chance for the team to get together for a couple of days before we start the tour. Greg Best our Tour Leader has organised a great training venue at Macquarie University and while the interstate officials board up not too far away the girls have been billeted amongst the NSW girls.

I get to meet Lisa Warrener coach of the girls, Danielle the girl's physio and the players at the first training session having stepped literally off the plane. Straight away Lisa strikes me as someone with a bubbly personality while Danielle is much quieter. The player group is really friendly and loud...well some Ann, Tezza & Jessie just spring to mind I don't know why?

A light session after the introductions and a leadership group is being considered.

The next day and we are back again at Macquarie University. Football Australia helped out with the shirt presentations and I get nearly everyone's name right.....sorry Kristi I am still practicing. It was great to see the support and words of encouragement being given from our National body. Not long after this we get to play a game against the Central Coast women's team and this gives me the first insight into the talent we have. Slow to start as you would expect, it didn't take long before the playing group were linking up nicely.

We end the day by talking to the players about preparing for the flight and giving them a bucket of gear, thanks in a large way to Ron Pratt's efforts and Football Australia. Great work Ron.



The usual information is being given, luggage weight, remember your passports, what not to pack....Jess I think this is where you faded out. We spoke briefly about exchanging money and even what mobile phone providers each player had.....well Jenna's anyway.

The leadership group is announced and Lizzie, Anne, Meg and Jessie are selected from both player and coaches input and all well deserved their selection. Lizzie was given the honourable role as captain and proved to be an outstanding spokeswoman and leader however, had I been able to vote AFTER she threw the water down my back things may have gone slightly differently.

#### Sydney Airport: Day 3

Everyone is excited, the boys coach Peter Rickers was beside himself being an ex-Englishman coaching an Australian side and we board the plane for the first leg with no real concerns, except for Jess. One of only two keepers on the team she is nearly thrown in gaol for bringing just about every item you can think of that is banned bar a gun on to the flight. We convince the customs office that she speaks very little English and we get through.

The first leg is a nine hour flight to Hong Kong. Everything is going well, the videos work on the plane some players even got some sleep. After a reasonable layover in Hong Kong we then saddled up for the next 11 hour leg to England itself so another set of movies is on the cards. The players behaved well.

#### England: Day 4

We land in England and straight away the drop in temperature is noticeable. Cold, but pleasant. We transfer onto a coach with a driver that takes on legendary status through the tour to St Albans where we will stay for a couple of nights.

We also meet our missing player Jaline, at the airport. On holiday in Amsterdam, she flew directly to London and while she came across as shy and quiet she soon warmed to the group and displayed a great wit about her.





On the way to the hotel we do a quick and entertaining tour of London which helped introduce everyone to the local sights and sounds and break up the travel. Once we get into St Albans, the boys are being billeted by local lads while the girls stay at the hotel with the officials. A nice hotel, rooms are small and have no fridges which ended up being the trend for the entire trip. The staff were friendly but they had no real recovery facilities to speak of however for two nights this was a fair compromise. Even so, it didn't take long before the girls and officials hit the pillows.

#### St Albans: Day 5

Our first real hit out is planned but just prior to today we get news that the team we were to play in the practice game has withdrawn. After a quick scramble yesterday, Greg is able to set up a game against a St Alban's boy's team and it hits the spot perfectly.

Well matched it allowed our girls a nice run through and Alex strikes first, Kristi scores a cracking free kick goal just before half time and Larissa seals the game with a penalty, we win 3-2 and no real injuries to speak off.

The guys at St Albans have been really helpful and offer to wash the kits for us.

#### Swansea: Day 6

Another travel day and we take off to Swansea by coach. The start of the first insight into Mick's magical mystery tours which became regular routines to both new destinations and to matches.

We get into Swansea and find a fantastic hotel with great facilities and staff support. Every one settles in well and it's the first time the boys and girls are together and they are handling the situation very well.



Swansea: Day 7

Game day. The girls play another lead in game against Cardiff City and Lisa is nervous, she is talking way quicker than her normal rate, Danielle is just giggling at her. We are not sure what age group we are playing and when we find out it's the youth team things start to relax a bit.

The game starts well and we quickly take control and match them in all areas of the park. Larissa scores twice, Alex again and the 'Hook' gets one. However all is overshadowed by the 'Scissor' goal Chloe puts in up and personal with the keeper just after half time. It becomes an instant U-Tube hit and I can't understand why she hasn't been picked up by an EPL club [like Chelsea] with that much flexibility. We win 5-0.

Swansea: Day 8+9

Rest and recovery is the model for these two days and gives players a chance to get their body clocks aligned. A championship game has been organised for us and we set off to watch Cardiff City vs Portsmouth. An entertaining game with a result in the death throes of the game. Learnt a few extra words in Welsh I couldn't find in the Welsh-English translation booklet but had a great time as did the players. Even got to see my 'roomie' Dylan, the boy's physio and an avid Cardiff supporter, crowd surf after Cardiff scored the winning goal moments before the end.

Over this time we visited Cardiff castle and Chris James lapped it up, something to do with seeing something his vintage and collecting more pieces of memorabilia for his scrap book montage. The castle proved an interesting port of call and some even got to put on old medieval uniforms to make you feel at home.

The break also gave the girls their first chance at shopping and they didn't let their gender down. The discounted sport shop was popular and I think this is the first time I actually heard parents groan back in Australia.



Swansea: Day 10

Game Day. Well rested and by now well into the trip the players were up for another game and the Welsh college girls were going to wear the brunt of their enthusiasm. Chloe scores two minutes in and Kim gets two, Meg and Jenna get one, Alex scores for a third game in a row as does Larissa.

Not sure if memory serves me correctly but we had to substitute a player who will remain nameless in this game [but has the initials Jenna C] because she had to visit the little girls' room. She was happy to explain to everyone as she ran crossed legged in the opposite direction to the bench once time was called to the nearest toilet when concerned onlookers noticed her distinct running style.

Ireland: Day 11

Another travel day and a big one at that. A magical mystery coach trip to Fishguard to catch a Ferry to Ireland. We stop at Fishguard for a couple of hours before the ferry is open to take vehicles . While the ferry trip itself was another 4 hours on, the trip over was uneventful and flat.

Larissa and Lisa however didn't have the same experience and both drove the big 'white porcelain bus' and had that green tinge around the gills look to them.....I thought it was nice of them to get into the spirit of the Irish really.

What was meant to be a two hour coach trip to Belfast ended up being 4, something to do with going in the wrong direction. We end up finally in Belfast and straight away symbols and history of the IRA are on walls and buildings as we pass through to the hotel. The hotel is nice and staff friendly.

Belfast Day 12:

We get a quick chance to set out of the hotel in the morning for a run and stretch and make our way down to the docks where the Titanic was built, before preparing for the next game against the Northern Ireland Schools.



This game ended up being one of our tightest. Well drilled and easy to see they had been playing together for a while they matched our girls for the first 20 minutes until the sheer pace and skill of our players overran them. Sooty, Larissa and Kim score one a piece and we win 3-1. A great preparation game for the English.

#### Dublin : Day 13

Once again we are on the road and travel down from Belfast to Dublin. We book into our next hotel and since there is limited space in any restaurants to house 40+ people, we organise a mass pizza dinner for the players. They eat and mingle in the corridors.

#### Dublin: Day 14

The morning of the Republic of Ireland game we walk down about 2kms to a laundromat and the players get a chance to wash some personal gear in real machines since they have been doing their laundry in their rooms most days. We have been lucky so far, either the hotel we have stayed in has organised for the kits to be washed or we have been able to use their facilities.

Once again the Australian girls' skill and fitness level is too strong for the Irish team and with Jaline, Chloe, Natalie each scoring a goal and Kim kicking in for two we go on to win comfortably 5-0. The girls are a little flat though and the pack and travel approach we have had in the last few days is evident in their play, we are looking forward to settling down in one spot again.

#### England: Day 15

Another travel day and we are up again to travel back to England via the ferry. The ferry ride is flat and uneventful again and Lizzie soon learns that there is nothing like having experience when it comes to winning cards as she takes on the officials table and loses badly.

We stop of at local town on the way to Dudley to help break up the trip. Like most English towns it has history everywhere. A wall that was once used to help protect the centre is still able to be walked in parts and displays all the history of medieval architecture and design.



We make it to our last hotel and it's great. A subsidiary of the Swansea group it too has great recovery facilities and friendly staff. We quickly establish a rapport with the staff and they allow us to use their laundry room for our kits.

#### Dudley : Day 16

The next day we prepare to play the Loughborough University girls. Fantastic opportunity, great facility. While we dominated the game they had a forward welcoming committee set up and put on food and drinks for the players after. The girls related well to them and even got a few invites out with the players that night only to find out they were under age and would be happily tied up in bed.

Alex scores twice and Jaline, Sooty, and Natalie all put one in. We win 5-1 and it was good to stretch the legs out.

#### Dudley: Day 17

We have a rest day organised and since the boys are playing late we all decide to go into Birmingham to a huge Shopping centre called the 'Bullring'. The girls indulge again but before we get there we call into a Nike warehouse store where kids do what kids best.....spend their parents' money.

#### Dudley: Day 18

This game was set to be our biggest challenge and I got the feeling from Lisa that the last time we were over and she was involved they rolled us and they felt like it was well deserved. It was different this time however, the squad we had by now had limited injuries and was confident after a string of victories. The players played well and stepped up to the new challenge not allowing the English girls to feel they were in the game at any stage. Chloe, Kristi and Sooty all scored and we walked away 3-0 victors.



#### Dudley: Day 19

The next day we were scheduled to play Watford in a night fixture. It was extremely cold and the girls were still feeling the effects a little from the game prior. When we arrived we felt that something may have been astray as the coach was very apologetic about the state of the facilities. Having no access to change rooms meant the bus was used but we eventually got the game started and Larissa scored quickly. She followed this up with another just before half time. The second half just started when Jenna scored and then not long into the second half the game was called as access to the park was required by another male fixture. In truth the weather was bitterly cold and the players didn't mind that much getting off but it felt a little robbed to finish such a great tour this way.

#### London; Day 20+ 21

The last days in England allowed the players to relax a little and were kept busy. A tour of Manchester United was organised. Lisa was beside herself being a United supporter and she tried several times to find a hidey hole hide in the stadium in the hope she could wait for her beloved player group.

On the day of departure after leaving the hotel the group were given the opportunity to look around London for the last time and take in the sights for those final photo shots. All went well and we boarded the plane. Most players were extremely tired, some slept or tried to sleep the trip home and with about two thirds of the on board computer consoles not functional there wasn't much left to do anyway.

On arriving back to Sydney all went well, parents were met and players said their goodbyes. Peter Rickers and I helped organise the interstate players on to their transfer flights before boarding our own flight back to Perth.



## **Summary**

### **Organisation**

The prior planning and logistical preparation while we were on tour by Greg and Ron was exceptional. There was no problem with food as you would expect in this tour and there was plenty of it. In most games the host team afforded the girls some form of hospitality or formal function in which they were fed and acknowledged, they were even invited and recognised to some functions that were aligned for the boys.

No problem with uniforms and laundering and we had access to recovery sessions and the two sports trainers on tour helped in our limited injury record.

A number of risk management strategies were in place and worked well. The officials often shared responsibilities and worked very cooperatively across the two groups.

There were no behavioural problems at all. All players showed the respect and discipline required to represent their country and Australian School Sport in the various forms they were required to attend and offered hotel and plane staff and patrons the same courtesy. They did themselves and Australian School Sport proud.

### **Matches**

The games were a mixture of artificial surfaces and real turf. In my opinion the artificial turf suited the Australian style of play, it played similar to many surfaces we have here and our players adapted to it quite easily. The real turf pitches were a little heavy and slippery but with no rain or snow on any match days to speak of it meant even these pitches were still reasonable to play on.



For most days the temperature hovered between 5 and -5 and while the majority of games were played during the day the games held at night were extremely cold getting down to -8 degrees at some stages and the players did feel it.

We played a 1-4-3-3 system in all fixtures which equated to the interests and goals of the current National Football Curriculum of Football Australia. All players were rotated extremely well and unless they carried an injury into the game, all players were given time on the field in all fixtures.

### **Staff**

There was fantastic support shown between members of the boys' and girls' teams and while the playing groups got on well so did the officials' group. Ron as National Secretary and Greg as Tour Leader should be congratulated for a well organised trip down to the last detail and a lot of the two teams' success is attributed to this.

Peter was a great colleague then and now and was able to offer advice leading up and into the trip, and is never short of a good yarn. David Storey the boy's manager shared resources early and was always available for advice as a seasoned veteran. Dylan proved to be a great roommate and will always be remembered as a big 'Jeddie' as one of the local Irish boys let him know.

Danielle was great and warmed to the job over the time coming out of her shell a little more every day. In the end she was sounding and acting more like Lisa every day which did start to worry me a little.

Lisa proved to be an absolute bombshell. Astute in her application of skills as coach she balances a winning desire with a high sense of humour which most players related to easily. If she could only get a better line of jokes and stop Kim from encouraging her then I could see us working together again.





#### Memorable Player Profiles:

- Crummer: the blue hair rinse looked fantastic, just as well it was only a couple of days.
- Jenna: For the unspeakable use of a bandaid that we can never speak about again.
- Kim: How she kept laughing at Lisa's jokes and encouraging her, thanks a lot Kim!
- Thia: For the joy she got out of taking a simple throw in.
- Lizzie: For the way she constantly hassled me to be recruited to WA and couldn't win a game of cards if she tried.
- Sooty: For the love of a T-shirt no man, I mean woman could understand and the duet.....it still brings a tear to my eye. That basketball scholarship is still here.
- Natalie: Like a little ninja sneaks up on you around the park, who would now she is a little bombshell on it.
- Bella: Just a great all round personality with talent in every step.
- Jordie: That perfect smile and will to succeed.
- Kristi: For her poor, I mean really poor attempt at blowing out birthday candles, they say the ones you don't blow out equal the number of boyfriends. Mum and Dad should be well scared.
- Ann: How she managed to avoid Kermit even though she deserved it more than anyone on more than one occasion is still beyond me.
- Jess: For those deep and meaningful conversations.
- Tezza: For the kick butt attitude and reminding me to 'chill'.
- The 'Hook': Jaline for that smile that you know hides something mischievous.
- Chloe: The scissor and the way you rallied others to shave legs....would have been impressive if it wasn't mine. I owe you!
- Alex: Rhainna 'Talk that Talk' Lawrence
- Wardy: For having more muscles than me and that is a big ask, must have something to do with the water in Qld.
- Jessie: LOUD , LOUD , LOUD...I pity the QLD boy you trap Jess he will never get a word in.
- Danielle: Meek and mild...I don't think so, you crossed that line WAY too many times.
- Lisa For all the one liners and for her undiagnosed ADHD condition.



My thanks to all of you both players and officials for making it a memorable trip and it has helped reinvigorate my role back here in Perth and I am looking forward to the next challenge that waits.

I am sure to see some names in the paper and on TV soon as Matildas and W-League players and when that time comes I'm going to hit you up for a free ticket.

Here's hoping you get what you dream for, work hard, believe in yourself and make it happen.

Wayne Baseden  
Manager





## **GIRLS' TEAM SPORTS TRAINER'S REPORT**

On the weekend of January 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, the players and officials had our initial meeting at Macquarie University. Over the course of the weekend, we discussed any issues which may be of concern on the tour. There were few major concerns among the team, with only a few girls taping knees, ankles, feet or wrists, or needing treatments which were of a preventative nature.

Kim mentioned that her hip flexor and quad had been sore. Alex and Kristi both had antibiotics with them as Alex was just recovering from tonsillitis and for Kristi to prevent a respiratory infection. Nat required strapping of her knee. Chloe's calves required regular massages and her ITB needed to be released before games. Jessie had tightness in the muscles of her lower back and also required massage. Also, after the training days in Sydney, a few girls were already experiencing the beginnings of blisters, which then required management for the remainder of the tour.

Although she had been cleared to play by her doctor, Jordie was recovering from glandular fever, which we expected to limit her ability to play. She was carefully observed during the training weekend and was rested at times during the sessions. Prior to the game on the Sunday afternoon, Jordie felt light-headed and these symptoms were monitored prior to her being allowed to play. Over the duration of the tour, Jordie's health continued to improve and had limited impact on her contribution to the team.

When we met Jaline at Heathrow, we discovered that the bottom of her foot between her toes had been cut and was painful to walk on, let alone run. This was treated with iodine solution and required heavy padding prior to games. Towards the end of the tour, this had started to heal and was not affecting Jaline's participation.

After the first game vs a St Columbas College team, three of the players were experiencing sore quads. Ann, Rachel and Kim's injuries were treated using RICE, with the girls' quads being bandaged



and iced where possible for the next few days. Prior to the game against Cardiff City, both Kim and Rachel were still complaining of quad soreness. Their quads were strapped and they were put through a more extensive warm-up. Rachel's quad loosened up as it warmed up. Kim was still feeling limited by hers so the decision was made to rest her for this game in order to ensure she did not sustain a serious injury.

Over the course of the tour, many of the girls started to develop muscular issues which needed to be managed. For the most part, these issues did not prevent the girls from taking part in any of the games, however precautionary taping of quads and hamstrings was needed by a number of players for the majority of the tour. A number of the girls experienced soreness in their muscles and needed massage both pre-game and in the days following a match. The most common complaints involved tightness in the calves and also lower back.

Following the game against Northern Ireland, Jaline experienced ankle soreness, as did Ann and Jenna. All three girls had the affected ankle strapped for the remaining games. Jenna's ankle worsened slightly and she was rested during the game against Loughborough University as a precaution. All soft tissue injuries were treated with RICE, where the girls were largely responsible for following this procedure.

As the tour progressed, the demands of the tour combined with the weather, started to take a physical toll on the players, with a number of girls developing cold and flu-like symptoms.

Throughout the tour, we were fortunate to have great facilities at many of the hotels we stayed at. In both Swansea and Dudley, the hotel had a full gymnasium and pool, which enabled the team to take part in water-based recovery sessions following their games. The girls were also able to participate in a combined spin class and a core strengthening session run especially for the team on one of their non-game days. On the occasions where such facilities were not available, we conducted low intensity sessions including walking and light flexibility work, in order to help minimise injuries, which was especially important following the lengthy travel days.



Overall, the players remained free from serious injuries which can be attributed to their maturity in managing any small issues that were beginning to develop, along with the commitment from the coaching staff in ensuring all players were fit and adequately prepared for their matches.

I'd like to thank both the team officials and the players for making the tour such a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Danielle Dunajcik  
Trainer





## **GIRLS' TEAM CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

Having travelled before with National Teams, I can comfortably say on behalf of all of the Australian Schoolgirl representatives, that this tour of the United Kingdom and Ireland was the most successful and enjoyable both on and off the field. This tour encapsulated the importance of continued support for Schools Football in Australia.

For many of the girls, this was their first time overseas, and for everyone the long flights seemed interminable. It was all worth it though, when after almost twenty-four hours of travel, we found ourselves in London! For me, what distinguishes the schoolgirls tours compared to those of the Junior Matildas is the emphasis not only the football, but also on the culture.

Throughout the tour we managed to experience things that many of us will never have the opportunity to do again. Touring cities like London, Cardiff and Dublin were all highlights for me. In particular, I think all of the girls were moved by the differences between Belfast and Dublin and the obvious reminders of a bitter war. For me personally what made these cultural experiences so special was the enthusiastic attitude of all of the girls towards embracing the different lifestyles (especially the different accents) of all the places we visited.

Some of the most fun had on the tour, were the many bus trips between our various destinations. On any given bus trip, you could always count on some great cultural information from Greg, a horrible rendition of some song in karaoke style by various players, and whatever the source, a lot of laughter. I think it's these bus trips that enabled the whole group to bond, making our jobs on the field much easier.

Going into the tour we were very aware of the strength of the European football programs. Never in our wildest dreams could we have imagined completing the tour having won every game. This achievement is something that every girl should be proud of. I honestly believe there is not one



member of our team who was not vital to our success. Every player accepted the responsibility that came with playing for your country and donning the green and gold, and went into every game with the true Australian, 'never say die', spirit.

Unfortunately, our first game was cancelled at the last minute, but thanks to the fantastic hospitality of St Columbas College, we were able to play a game against one of their boys' teams. This was a great opportunity for the girls to get to know each other better on the field, and I must once again thank those boys from St Columbas, for the respect you showed us on and off the field – even in the face of defeat!

We then faced some bitterly cold night games against Cardiff City Ladies and Welsh Colleges. I have to congratulate the girls, who at all times demonstrated a professional attitude despite the cold conditions. With a true Aussie spirit, we won both of these games comfortably. Throughout the rest of the tour we faced many other strong international opponents. For me, the two most notable games were those against Northern Ireland and British Colleges.

The game against Northern Ireland was played at a new, state of the art, artificial stadium. It was definitely our most physically demanding game both in terms of the rainy and cold climate and in respect of the speed and physical presence of the opposition. The girls, professional as always, managed to fight through the foreign conditions to come away with a 3-1 victory. Our second last game was against British Colleges. This was probably the most anticipated game for us, as it promised to be extremely challenging. It was a moving experience for me, being in the change room just before that game as you could feel the focus, nerves and excitement of all the girls around me. As we had done for the whole tour, we went out hard, and came home with a win.

All in all, to captain this team was an incredible honour, but to be honest, my role was made easy due to the nature of all the girls. There were no major issues at any time throughout the tour, a major achievement when you place eighteen teenage girls and eighteen teenage boys in close confinement for three weeks!



A huge thank you to Lisa, Wayno, Dani and Greg. Lisa, you quickly gained the respect of all of the girls with your professional attitude towards games combined with an incredible sense of humour that kept us all on our toes. For me, I have been coached by you a few times now, and you are always there to help anyone further their football career. Wayno, the trip would not have been possible without your organisation and support. You also provided a constant target for teasing which always kept the girls in a good mood. Dani, after three weeks of intense football competition you managed to keep everyone in one piece. At no time were we struggling to field a team, due to the excellent injury management and recovery you provided us with. You were also a great friend to all the girls on tour. Greg, you had to put up with thirty-six teenagers for three weeks, something our parents would deem an insurmountable task. All of the fantastic experiences that I have described would not have been possible without your organisation and support. So on behalf of all the girls, thank you. Thank you also to Ron, for making the tour possible and to the schoolboys and staff for their support.

This tour was something that I am sure will stay with the girls as I am certain it will stay with me. To be able to combine playing international level football with experiencing a different continent as well as spending it with seventeen other girls from all over Australia who are now lifelong friends is an honour which not many people experience.

Lizzie Durack  
Captain







## Match Results

### Boys

### Girls

Game 1	18/1/12	Game 1	18/1/12
<b>Australia 5 def St Columbas 1</b>		<b>Australia 3 def St Columbas 2</b>	
at Clarence Park, St Albans Town FC		at St Columbas College, St Albans	
Scorers:	Verdin (38 pen), Bah (43), Cooper (57) Maricic (70), Paull (80) St Columbas (30)	Scorers:	Lawrence (28), Pavlicevic (42), Crummer (72 pen) St Columbas (47, 62)
Game 2	20/1/12	Game 2	20/1/12
<b>Australia 3 def Welsh Schools 1</b>		<b>Australia 5 def Cardiff City 0</b>	
at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre		at Jenner Park, Barry Town FC	
Scorers:	Paull (4), Cooper (25, 35) Welsh Schools (20)	Scorers:	Crummer (3, 69), Lawrence (19), Logarzo (46), Hoek (66)
Game 3	23/1/12	Game 3	23/1/12
<b>Australia 3 def Welsh Colleges 2</b>		<b>Australia 7 def Welsh Colleges 1</b>	
at Port Talbot Town FC		at Llandarcy Academy of Sport	
Scorers:	Knight (38), Cooper (65), Ilic (72) Welsh Colleges (43 pen, 46)	Scorers:	Logarzo (2), McCartney (11, 86), Ward (28), Lawrence (45), Collingridge (76), Crummer (77) Welsh Colleges (43)
Game 4	25/1/12	Game 4	25/1/12
<b>Australia 1 drew Northern Ireland Schools 1</b>		<b>Australia 3 def Northern Ireland 1</b>	
at Crusaders FC, Belfast		at Cliftonville FC, Belfast	
Scorers:	Cooper (70) Northern Ireland (16)	Scorers:	Soutar (32), Crummer (48), McCartney (76) Northern Ireland (50)
Game 5	27/1/12	Game 5	27/1/12
<b>Australia 3 def Republic of Ireland U18 2</b>		<b>Australia 5 def Rep. Ireland U17 Academy 0</b>	
at Oscar Traynor Centre, Dublin		at AUL Complex, Dublin	
Scorers:	Sacilotto (5), Paull (47), Bah (60) Republic of Ireland (13, 26)	Scorers:	McCartney (17, 88), Logarzo (49), Hoek (55), Tobin (64)



Game 6 29/1/12  
**Australia 0 drew England Schoolboys 0**  
 at AFC Wulfrunians, Wolverhampton

Game 6 29/1/12  
**Australia 5 def Loughborough University 1**  
 at Loughborough University  
 Scorers: Lawrence (9, 45), Hoek (47), Soutar (58),  
 Tobin (66)  
 Loughborough (25)

Game 7 30/1/12  
**Australia 3 def England Independent Schools 2**  
 at Holmes Park, Leicestershire FA, Leicester  
 Scorers: Millar (51), Ilic (56), Paull (62)  
 England ISFA (20 pen, 89)

Game 7 31/1/12  
**Australia 3 def British Colleges 0**  
 at Solihull Moors FC, Birmingham  
 Scorers: Logarzo (19), Pavlicevic (62), Soutar (78)

Game 8 31/1/12  
**Australia 2 def British Colleges 0**  
 at Solihull Moors FC, Birmingham  
 Scorers: Paull (60), Ilic (65)

Game 8 1/2/12  
**Australia 3 def Watford FC 0**  
 at Ashlyns School, Berkhamsted  
 Scorers: Crummer (8, 24), Collingridge (48)

Game 9 2/2/12  
**Australia vs Forest Green Rovers FC**  
 \*\* Cancelled due to frozen pitch

**Summary**

Boys						Girls					
P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
8	6	2	0	20	9	8	8	0	0	34	5

