



# Holland Tour 2011

*“Thanks and Congratulations go to Mrs Zoe Adams for organising our first overseas sports tour. The event was a great success and thoroughly rewarding experience for those children involved. Read the tour report below”*



The Year 8 boys and girls football teams went on football tour to Holland for a long weekend in October. The trip started early on the Friday morning with our journey by coach and boat to Den Haag. We arrived at our hostel at



7pm ready for Dinner! That evening the pupils started preparing for their first match, to be played the following morning, eager to discuss tactics and excited about their role in the team.

The following morning the teachers got up early to ensure that the squad ate a balanced and nutritious breakfast, packed full of energy, ready for the big game. After breakfast the squad boarded the coach full of optimism for the battle ahead. We arrived at the venue and were greeted by our Dutch hosts vv SHO. They gave us an extremely warm welcome and we were all excited at the prospect of a fantastic game of football against our hosts.

**Girls team:** Rachelle Perejel, Stephany Naranjo (Captain), Yasmin Salih, Arwa Saeed, Ashleigh Beugre-Joncourt, Supattra Unjit, Lucy Lennon, Jayda David, Cheryl Wamunyima, Rianne Wiles, Ellie Harper, Fatima Abdullah- Jensen, Laura Nicolaou-Jones and Sapphire Clarke.

**Boys team:** Nathaneal Burke, Mohammed Nayebi, Nemanja Stevanovic, Jamie Shawyer, Omid Quimmi, Ricky Lennon, Arba Bela, Dogan Ozcelik, Coran Inboli (Captain), Brandon Barzey, Wasim Nabha, Bilal Kenouche, Bill Moore, and Hirash Khan.



The Year 8 boys football team, current 'West London Schools League Champions' were excited about playing their first game against **vv SH**. Phoenix started well, dominating possession and really turning on the style. Ricky Lennon, playing on the right wing, was orchestrating the play with his pace, causing a lot of problems for the opponents defence. Phoenix went in at

half time with a 2 - 0 lead but knew the Dutch team were capable of scoring, which they did within the first 5 minutes of the second half. This only seemed to improve the confidence of the Phoenix boys who rarely gave the ball away in the second half and eventually ran away to **win the game 5 – 1**. Jamie Shawyer was a shining light in midfield, Mohammed Nayebi starred at right back. All in all a fantastic and comfortable win for the Phoenix boys against a good side.

The girl's games provided some quality football from both teams. Phoenix girls defending solidly, passed well and created some good counter attacks. Unfortunately, despite many clear cut chances in attack, none of the shots went into the back of the opponents net. Football is a “funny old game” and on a different day we could have scored four or five. Vv SHO scored a goal towards the end of the first half, giving them the upper hand at half time.

Phoenix girls, however, started the second half at a high tempo determined to show their opponents that the English can play football. The back four of Stephany Naranjo, Yasmin Salih, Arwa Saeed and Ashleigh Beugre-Joncourt were phenomenal, playing an outstanding offside trap and timing their tackles extremely well. As the second half progressed, our opponents had lengthy spells of possession and it was only a matter of time until they scored their second. Phoenix fought hard late in the game but were unfortunate to be caught on the counter attack whilst pressing the game, desperate to reduce the arrears. This led to a of 3-0 loss, which flattered the home side, after an extremely competitive encounter. If we had worn our shooting boots on the day, it could have been a completely different story.



After the match the Phoenix teams were taken to a **theme park in Belgium**, where they could relax for the rest of the day. It was an excellent team bonding experience for both the boys and the girls. The squad had a fantastic day but were exhausted following their early start to the day.



The next day, Phoenix travelled over to **Rotterdam** to play a new opponent, **VV AGE FC**. On arrival, we were welcomed by the clubs chairman who showed us around and explained the itinerary for the day to the squad members. Both teams then prepared for the game and then went out to warm up. The girls were fortunate to get to play on the men's main pitch which was an amazing playing surface, ideal for a passing style of football.

Full of confidence from their first victory, the boys' team anticipated a good result in their second game against **vv AGE**. The mood on the way to the game was positive with a lot of talk on the team coach about scoring goals, and Phoenix certainly did not disappoint. The opposition rarely got into the Phoenix half of the pitch as we dominated the play and carved out chance after chance. Jamie Shawyer was made captain for the game and pulled all the strings which had the Dutch boys comparing him to Frank Lampard after the game. Hirsch Khan scored 2 goals from right back, Ricky Lennon weighed in with a couple of goals, whilst Coran Inboli and Brandon Barzey also found the back of the net. The game finished **8 – 0 to Phoenix** and really could have been more against a good team who showed glimpses of what they were capable of. Special mention must go to Dogan Ozcelik and Nathaneal Sohrens for keeping a clean sheet in defence.

Their girls' vv AGE team were very strong, spearheaded by a very talented youth Dutch international player. The game started out with good probing play by both teams, unfortunately however, it was Phoenix who were put under the most pressure. At times their dominance of possession made it very hard for Phoenix to muster any type of attack. In the end an amazing performance from centre back Stephany Naranjo helped restrict VV AGE to only 3 goals in what was a dominant first half from the home side. Football is often described as a game of two halves; however this one wasn't, as the second half followed a very similar pattern to that of the first. Phoenix did receive a consolation goal late in the game which was well deserved when Laura Nicolaou-Jones finished off our best move of the game. **A final score of 6-1** was a fair reflection of the game, but there were many positives from a Phoenix point of view. These positives included the displays from Cheryl Wamunyima and Rachelle Perejel.

After the game, the girls had the privilege of walking out as mascots for the men's team. Fatima Abdullah-Jensen also got to dribble and pass the ball with a member of the girls VV AGE team, up the pitch and score in front of all of their supporters, an experience, no doubt, she will never forget. After the start of the men's game, both Phoenix teams were invited into the clubhouse to enjoy some lunch with the youth VV AGE players. The pupils had the opportunity to speak to the young Dutch players and learn some Dutch words to take away with them.

When we left the ground we drove to Rotterdam where the squad were able to look around the shops and buy souvenirs. That evening the squad were feeling the impact of the three previous days and had an early night in preparation for their journey home.

On the last day of the tour the pupils were taken on a stadium tour of **Ajax FC** and the **Dutch National team**, where they gained an amazing history of Dutch football. The squad were able to stand on the edge of the pitch, sit in the stands, go into a private box and sit in the press room where the after match interviews occur. After the tour we started our journey back to London. When we arrived back at school the tired group of players were looking forward to a night in their own beds.

It was a pleasure to be part of such an amazing football tour. The Phoenix pupils conducted themselves amazingly on and off the pitch and the Phoenix staff were proud to say that we were their teachers. Well done to everybody involved, you were brilliant!



**Tour Report by Mrs Zoe Adams**