



Shoreline FC 2013 Soccer Trip

Liverpool, England

Thursday February 7th – Sunday February 17th 2013



Day 1: Friday 8th February 2013

We landed at 7:30am, a day earlier than planned to beat the blizzard scheduled to hit Connecticut that day. Lucky we did, between 23" – 30" inches of snow fell in CT that day!!

Another piece of good fortune was that we met Manchester United's & Mexico International forward; Javier Hernandez (nicknamed Chicharito) in Manchester airport. After a quick photo shoot and autograph signing, we were off to our Ramada Hotel base in Southport, Liverpool.

With an extra day at our disposal, the boys voted on a major soccer shopping extravaganza!! We hit the stores with gusto. DW Sports & Sports Direct took a battering!! Many pounds (\$\$) later, the boys returned with bulging shopping bags and broad smiles. We spent the afternoon at the Victoria Leisure Center and their 3-swimming pool facility. Tarzan would have been proud!!! After a great evening meal, the boys retired early to bed. What a great start to the trip.

DAY 1: Friday 8th February 2013

Ramada Hotel, Southport Liverpool



Don Fraser Coaches, Shoreline FC's UK Coach Company



DAY 1: Friday 8th February 2013 continued

Shoreline FC meets Javier Hernandez (Chicharito)



The Shoreline boys outside English landmark Telephone Box



Day 2: Saturday 9th February 2013

After a good night's sleep the boys devoured a hearty English breakfast before setting off to Southport Park for a dynamic stretching and passing session with their Shoreline coaches. Combined with a nutrition and hydration lecture, the boys were well prepared for the week ahead.

After lunch, it was off to our first LIVE game; the Championship battle between Blackpool FC v Millwall FC. Upon arriving, we were presented with a SHES #26 shirt at reception for the Sandy Hook relief fund (thank you Blackpool FC for your kindness), the boys got a taste of a real hard fought encounter between two no nonsense teams. The playing surface was unforgiving, but both teams adapted well. Blackpool came out on top (much to the disappointment of one of the Shoreline FC coaches!) by entertaining the crowd to a stoppage time winner; the game ended 2-1.

Then it was back to the hotel for a good English curry dinner (which the boys devoured more than the adults!) and an evening of Match of the Day highlights.

DAY 2: Saturday 9th February 2013

Shoreline at the Blackpool v Millwall game with the SHES #26 Shirt



Blackpool FC v Millwall FC in action

Got to have a meat pie!!



Day 3: Sunday 10th February 2013

After breakfast, the boys were put through a good 90-min training session at Southport Park by the Shoreline coaches. Coach Darren worked the Goalkeepers, Jason with the midfielders & forwards and Danny with the defenders. We worked on shape, movement and handling.

After lunch, we headed to Victoria Park; home of Burscough FC. Victoria Park is a great stadium with over 120 years of history. The boys were very privileged to play at such a venue. Our opponents were top of the league and unbeaten Burscough FC U15's. They were fantastic. Very well coached, with a good understanding of how the game should be played. They asked a lot of questions of our boys who rose to the challenge and competed mightily. The game may have ended 8-3 to Burscough, but a second half revival showed our boys could play with the very best. 'Man of the Match' went to Goalkeeper Chris Mackay whose performance drew a standing ovation from the 100+ crowd when he was substituted in the 70th minute.

Our hosts; Burscough FC laid on food and refreshments after the game. What a fantastic club and great hospitality. Thank you so much to Ken and Burscough FC. Then it was back to the hotel for a Shepherd's Pie supper and off to the bowling alley for a relaxing evening of entertainment. The boys worked hard today.

DAY 3: Sunday 10th February 2013

Game 1: Burscough FC v Shoreline FC

Captain's Handshake



Both Teams Together



Shoreline Bowling Night



Day 4: Monday 11th February 2013

Today we started our training at the Liverpool County FA ground. WHAT A FACILITY. The Walton Hall Sports Center; Home of the Liverpool County FA is one of the best facilities we have ever seen or played on.

Coach Lee & Dave from Everton FC were our assigned County FA Coaches. The boys were taken through a 2-hour session that started in the classroom (setting out objectives and goals for the week) and then moving to the field for a passing & moving session that included penetrating passes & finishing from crosses. The boys had fun, learned loads and showed a lot of ability.

From there, we had lunch in the conference room of the County FA HQ, followed by a guided tour of the City of Liverpool. Tour guide Sylvia O'Malley took us through the historic, significant and prominent parts of Liverpool. Both football stadiums, Liverpool Cathedral, Strawberry Fields, Penny Lane, and of course; The Cavern were just a few of the tour highlights. In true Shoreline spirit, whilst driving past the Liverpool FC hotel the boys got to see their heroes; Luis Suarez and Lucas Lava enjoying a coffee together!!

Then back to the hotel for dinner before heading out to Anfield to watch Liverpool FC v West Bromwich Albion. Encountering Anfield was a first for many of our boys who are die hard Liverpool fans. The result may not have gone Liverpool's way, but the experience was unbelievable.

DAY 4: Monday 11th February 2013

Training at Walton Hall Park; Home to Liverpool County FA



DAY 4: Monday 11th February 2013 continued

Guided Tour of Liverpool

Shoreline boys with tour guide Sylvia O'Malley. The Liverpool skyline is in the background.



Liverpool's famous Cathedral



Inside The Cavern; home to The Beatles



The boys outside the infamous Cavern Club



DAY 4: Monday 11th February 2013 continued

Liverpool FC v West Bromwich Albion



Day 5: Tuesday 12th February 2013

We start day five with birthday celebrations with one of our players; HAPPY BIRTHDAY Ali MacLean. After breakfast, we were back at the Liverpool County FA ground for session two with Coach Lee and Dave; mobility training, skill & combination passing, followed by finishing:- Another great session.

After lunch, we headed to Anfield; home of Liverpool FC for our guided tour around the stadium. We started in the LFC museum catching up on the history of this great club, then the guided tour of their historic stadium and concluding with a trip to the Liverpool mega store. MORE SHOPPING!!!!

We returned to the County FA ground for our evening game (recently named the '**George Tuck Memorial Game**', after a long time LFA servant and friend to us all at Shoreline FC). Our opponent was League One leaders; Tranmere FC's Academy. A very skillful game played on the exhibition pitch at the Liverpool County FA ground. A back and forth encounter that had every type of action. At the end of a great performance by both teams, the game finished even at 1-1. Thank you so much for hosting us Tranmere FC. George Tuck would have been proud of that performance. To top it all, the Shoreline FC goal was scored by our birthday boy; Ali MacLean!!!

We were not done there.... With 30 orders of traditional English Fish & Chips delivered to our team coach, the boys were off to watch ANOTHER live game (their 3rd so far); Southport v Barrow at Haig Avenue, Southport. What a humdinger: - 5-2 to Southport.

After a 13-hour day, the boys returned to the hotel happy, exhausted and in need of plenty of sleep.

DAY 5: Tuesday 12th February 2013

Anfield; home to Liverpool FC. Museum and Stadium Tour



DAY 5: Tuesday 12th February 2013 continued

Anfield; home to Liverpool FC. Museum and Stadium Tour (continued)



DAY 5: Tuesday 12th February 2013 continued

George Tuck Memorial Game; Shoreline FC v Tranmere FC Academy

Shoreline FC Coaches with George Tuck's family by his memorial



Played at the beautiful Liverpool County FA Ground



Southport FC v Barrow @ Haig Avenue



Day 6: Wednesday 13th February 2013

I knew our trip would bring new experiences to all our boys. As they awoke, they were greeted by soft falling SNOW FLAKES!!! After breakfast, we headed to the County FA ground not knowing if we were going to train or not? After a 60-minute team bonding and player awareness exercise in the County FA Executive suite, the boys were given the green light to go out and train!! GET IN THERE... Coach Lee & Dave warmed the boys up, put them through a shooting exercise and then into a structured game. Seeing is believing; What a fun session. Then it was back to the hotel for lunch and an afternoon's rest OR for some MORE SHOPPING!!!!

Due to the snow, our evening game was canceled. Not to be outdone and in true Shoreline fashion, we made a few calls and were heading for Stobbart Stadium; THE new home Stadium of the Liverpool FC Ladies. A good friend of Shoreline FC's (Liverpool Ladies & England International Center Midfielder) Fara Williams arranged tickets for the boys to watch Liverpool FC Ladies v Blackburn Rovers Ladies. In another twist of Shoreline fate, Liverpool Ladies NEW center midfield signing, Amanda de Costa (FSU alumni & US U23 national team player) was a player Danny had coached many years ago when Amanda had just started out in soccer! The game was a true joy to watch, as the fluid passing and moving of a very strong Liverpool team overpowered their opponents. The Liverpool Ladies superiority showed heavily in the result; a 8 – 0 demolition of Blackburn Rovers. After the game, the boys were invited into the player's lounge for refreshments and interaction with the Liverpool Ladies 1st team squad. Another great day on the Shoreline Soccer Trip.

DAY 6: Wednesday 13th February 2013

Training in the snow anyone? As proven on this trip; snow doesn't stop Shoreline FC!!



Stobart Stadium: - home to Widnes Rugby Club & Liverpool FC Ladies



Amanda de Costa "Shoreline'd out"



Shoreline FC with the Liverpool Ladies team



Day 7: Thursday 14th February 2013

Another full day planned for the boys today. After breakfast we headed for the Liverpool County FA ground for training session #4 with Coach Lee & Dave. Today's session was on finishing from penetrating passes. After lunch, we headed to Manchester to tour Old Trafford; home of Manchester United. Upon arrival, we headed straight to the Manchester United mega store, then into the Manchester United Museum to catch up on the great history of this club. Concluding with an 80-minute guided tour of Old Trafford. With a capacity of 78'000, Old Trafford is the largest club stadium in the country. This was a very impressive stadium tour.

From Manchester, we headed back to the hotel to be served dinner in one of the hotel's fine banquet suites as we watched the 2nd half of Liverpool's Europa League game against Zenit St Petersburg. Not finished there.... we headed out to a 9pm - 10pm 'caged' 8 v 8 training game; Fantastic energy and skill by the boys, well done.

DAY 7: Thursday 14th February 2013

Old Trafford Stadium; home of Manchester United



DAY 7: Thursday 14th February 2013 continued

Old Trafford Stadium; home of Manchester United (continued)



Day 8: Friday 15th February 2013

Our final day of training with Coach Lee and Dave was a fun time. It was also our last day at the Liverpool County FA ground. We can't thank the LFA staff enough for all they did for the boys and Shoreline FC. A special thank you goes out to Anna, Dave, Arthur (Bam) and all the LFA staff. You really have made this trip special for our boys; thank you. Also, as the boys trained, both Fara Williams and Amanda de Costa of the Liverpool Ladies came over to say farewell to our players & staff. Thank you for your generosity and time ladies.

After our farewell's, it was back to the hotel for lunch before heading back out to the Lancashire County FA ground in Leyland for our 3rd game of the trip against Euxton Villa.

What another fantastic facility. We were received with open arms by a very welcoming Lancashire staff (goodie bags for the kids) and a very strong Euxton team. The game was a back and forth encounter that finished 7 - 3 to Euxton. Our boys had a real battle on their hands to contain a strong Euxton team. With every opponent, our players were forced to draw more from themselves to compete. Its fantastic to see. Well done.

Then it was back to the hotel for dinner and to pack our suitcases in lieu of our imminent return to the US.

DAY 8: Friday 15th February 2013

Shoreline boys by the George Tuck Memorial



Liverpool's Fara Williams & Everton's Amy Kane



**Liverpool & USA International
Amanda de Costa**



**George Tuck's understudy; Arthur (Bam)
with the Shoreline Coaches**



Final words of encouragement from Coach Lee & Dave



DAY 8: Friday 15th February 2013 continued

Lancashire County FA Ground



Shoreline FC v Euxton Villa



Day 9: Saturday 16th February 2013

After a well-deserved lie in and breakfast, the boys headed to Highton for our 4th and final game of the trip. Our opponent's today were Marine Academy. Marine is a historic club with a fantastic tradition of producing quality players that graduate into all the local professional Academies. It was a very intense encounter that brought the best out of the boy's character. They had to match Marine's physicality and produce the skill to win over the contest. When the dust had settled, the Shoreline boys stood victorious as 3-2 winners. Thank you coach Kevin from Marine for a fantastic game and a great group of lads you coach.

From there, we headed straight to Deepdale; home of Preston North End. Greeting by Chris (PNE administrator), I was presented with a SHES #26 Preston North End shirt, all signed by the players for the Sandy Hook Elementary School victims. Thank you to all who made this possible at Preston, especially Chris. We got to see a very enthralling encounter between Preston and top of the table Bournemouth. Preston came out the victor 2-0. Not to finish the trip without a crescendo, **the Shoreline FC boys were brought onto the pitch at half time to be presented to the 9'000 crowd and receive there standing ovation. This will not be easily forgotten!** Thank you so much for your hospitality Preston North End. Finally, it was back to the hotel for our banquet meal and an early night.

DAY 9: Saturday 16th February 2013

Shoreline FC v Marine Academy



The Sir Tom Finney Statue



Preston North End v AFC Bournemouth



DAY 10: Sunday 17th February 2013

The alarm clock sounded at 4:45am and breakfast was served at 5:00am!!! We bid farewell to the Ramada hotel at 5:40am GMT, heading for Manchester airport. The journey home was a smooth one. We pulling up at 2:30pm ET in the OGRCC Car Park (our departure and arrival destination) in our Primetime Bus, 10-hrs 20-mins after our journey began.

In the days, weeks and months to follow, the boys will no doubt reflect on a soccer trip like no other: -

- **EIGHT** full training sessions,
- **FIVE** live Professional games attended,
- **FOUR** full games played in (two against Academy teams),
- **TWO** Premiership Stadium tours (Liverpool & Manchester United),
 - **Multiple** Shopping trips
 - **Countless** memories

This wraps up our 2013 Shoreline FC soccer trip to Liverpool, England.

Sign up for the 2014 trip will be right around the corner. Stay tuned.

Thank you to our UK representative; Noel Wathiam, our full-time chaperone; Mark Roach and our coaches; Darren, Jason and Danny.