

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT 2005 IN BANGKOK

The moment the 3 teams of U10's, U12's and U14's, parents and 3 coaches stepped into Changi airport at 5.15pm on the 11th November, there was a fantastic atmosphere being generated within the group. Many of the kids were meeting for the 1st time and wasted no time in getting to know each other.

On arriving at the hotel, all the boys were in their rooms for a good night's sleep to prepare for a full day of football and fun.

Saturday morning, decked out in their new DHL Little League kits, 28 excited players boarded the coach, followed by anxious coaches and parents, bound for Harrow International School.

The U10's team was led by coach Douglas.

In their first game they beat Wells 2-0, drew the 2nd game against Can u Kick It (B) 1-1, in their 3rd game they lost to little league Malaysia 2-0 starting the game well but unfortunately let in 2 soft goals. After that their confidence dropped and they couldn't get back in the game. Their 4th game was against Kickers which they won 1-0. It wasn't easy playing against the more physical Japanese opponents but the boys did well. They lost their 5th game to Coever 1-0. In their last game they were up against one of the best teams in the group Can U Kick It (A). It was their last game so the boys were all fired up they went out there and gave a 100% and came out with a 2-2 draw.

Over all the team finished 4th. It was an excellent effort from all the boys, they gave a 100% in every game.

The U12's team, coached by Matt, had an early kick against fellow Little Leaguers from Malaysia.

The game was very tight with both teams having good goal scoring opportunities, after Little League Singapore took the lead in the second half, Little League Malaysia got a late equalizer.

A good start to the tournament for the U12's, happy to share the points.

The 2nd game in their group after a 3 hours' wait was against the host Can U Kick It. We started very strong, going into half time 2-0 lead. In the 2nd half the team let Can U Kick It back into the game 2-2, keeping coach Matt on his toes. With a late goal, our U12's got the win deservedly.

The last game was against a "massive" Coever Hong Kong. Although going down 2-0, the boys played out of their skin, getting stuck into a physically bigger Coever. Towards the end of the game, coach Matt and the five supporting parents got their wish of a deserved goal finishing the game 2-1, putting our team into the semi-final against the eventual U12 winners Kickers, a Japanese team based in Bangkok. After taking the lead early in the game, Kickers came back strong finishing the game 3-1 winners, shadowing the passion, determination and teamwork shown by the U12 team.

3rd place was left to play for and the U12 came up against a strong Regent team. Again the boys played their best although going down 4-0.

The U12's made coach Matt and the supporting parents extremely proud with their attitude, efforts and team moral. Well done lads !!!

A party of 8 players joined the LLS U14 squad for the trip to Bangkok in what was their first experience in participating within a 7-a-side tournament, under the supervision of coach Owen.

The tournament started off as a local derby – LLS Singapore vs LLS Malaysia; in what was a very competitive but fair fixture on a pitch with too much surface water for us to do what we do best, pass the ball around. We lost the match 3 nil but was not a real reflection of our second half performance. The next two matches soon seen us go down one nil after a minute of play and then do everything possible but score a goal due to some great defending from the opposition to our failure in finishing off our well created opportunities, very unlucky indeed.

The last game seen us play Harrow Int'l School and we were determined to get our 1st win and goal of the day as the lads certainly deserved that. The game did not start well as we went down two goals to nil but some spirited play seen us get a goal back from a great shot from twenty yards out by Tom Bolt. We pushed and pushed for the draw and win but could not find the goals to mark such results – I think someone upstairs was stopping us from finding the back of the net when we created so many chances – oh well that's football sometimes !

Finally, I have to mention my Man of the Tournament in being Jamie Gordon who played in every position and was outstanding in his work rate and level of performance-well done mate !!! A big thanks does out to all the players who made me proud even without a single win during the day, they showed it's not all about results but commitment to the team and positive attitudes to one another. Ben Franks – what a goalkeeper – reactions of a Catsome funny moments – well done !!!

A tired Little League Singapore headed back to the hotel with two 4th place medals and a 6th place medal. After a feast at the hotel, the players retired for the night, exhausted from the day's events.

After sorting out missing hotel towels and memo pads....it was off to Dreamworld. The only way to describe the day is “extremely wet”, especially after 2000 rides on the super splash.

Thanks to all involved, the trip was a great success. Special thanks must go out to the parents who traveled to support the teams. This support is greatly appreciated and what is needed to take our teams further. Also a special thanks to our guide, Gae, who went everywhere with us and supported us at the tournament.

Lastly, to the lads, the enthusiasm, team spirit between all the teams and the effort was second to none. Well done lads !!!

Written by Coaches Matt, Owen & Douglas