

Italy Trip update from chaperones - part 1

Well we all arrived at the sports complex after a long day and evening of travelling. Our coach driver said he couldn't stop at fleet as he had a pick up in Bristol straight after – not a problem for us, except for one young female swimmer who was bursting for the toilet after only twenty minutes. Needless to say we had to spend longer than we had hoped for at the airport although the kids enjoyed the time to mix and have a wander (with chaperone).

The Flight went quite quick, especially with the added bonus of a free British Airways sandwich. I sat next to 2 older ladies who said to each other they really did not want to be in the seats they were allocated, this was after they noticed all the swimmers were a group. On leaving the plane the same women turned to me and said how well behaved everyone was and they were a credit to the Swimming Club. She had been worried about the kids moving around and making loads of noise and mess – not our kids though. Dave had a teacher sat next to him a few rows in front and she was also very complimentary about everyone's behaviour.

We arrived in Lignano at around 01.15hrs and quickly sorted everyone into their rooms. By 02.30hrs they were all asleep or heading in that direction – for the first night we only had to remind a couple of rooms that they needed to keep the noise down.

We woke everyone up at 08.15, had a quick wash and headed for breakfast which consisted of a full continental breakfast (and you could keep going back - wonderful). From here we went back to our rooms and then all met up for our on site Team chat. DT laid down a few rules and gave all the swimmers some advice and then it was off for a walk around the site. We ended up on the beach which runs along the entire resort and walked for over 45 minutes towards the main Marina. The beach was clean, wide and very sandy and all the squad had a great time running around, chatting, writing in the sand and dodging the water (although some managed not to dodge as much as others). The beach was very quiet as Lignano is very much a summer resort, however with the sun shining, the air crisp but not too cold and the mountains in the background Lignano is very much a beautiful place.

We headed back through the town itself to try and find our bearings and just made it back for lunch. Everyone had a selection of foods and all ate well (some having two main courses and two puddings).

It was then decided to give the swimmers a little down time so we asked them all to go back to their rooms and have a rest / nap. Some said they felt fine although most agreed after the down time that they needed it. I got back from a walk to the shops with Colin to find a couple of rooms had managed to merge with a couple of others, the noise gave their game away.

We found out that we were unable to have the 50 metre pool because there is a massive master's competition going on. On hearing this news a few of the swimmers looked delighted – then DT hit them with the 'as we can't do the 2 hour session in the 50 metre pool we have arranged a 3 hour session in the 25 metre pool'. The happy faces dropped, actually most the faces dropped, nothing like breaking them in gently. That's where they are at the moment, ploughing up and down the pool with a very large contingent watching our swimmers going through their paces.

We have already had one room lose their key which has cost his mum £5 for a new one, we had another ask if Dave is expecting them to swim each session in the Sea and another believing that Gullible can't be found in the dictionary – kids.

Once the swimmers have come out of the pool tonight they will be back to their rooms to freshen up, down to dinner for 19.30hrs and then back to the rooms to hang out before bed.

Check the web site Tuesday evening and we should have hopefully sent in a second instalment for you all to catch up on. Everyone is eating, there has been no tears or falling outs and apart from being a bit tired, all is well.

All the swimmers have been really well behaved and so far they have been a credit to the Club.