

Chaperone report number 3

Well its 1030, the sun is still shining and the squad are in the pool for the first of their three training sessions. DT hopes to take them to the beach this afternoon for their gym workout with running, dumbbells and stretch cords all coming into play.

Yesterday everyone had a really good time with the swimmers splitting into 2 groups to do their own things and then the Quiz night (part 1).

The Girls headed to Udine where they spent the afternoon shopping in some well known branded shops, some local one off establishments and regional / Italian chains. They had a great time popping in and out each place that took their fancy and wandering along the streets of this very pictures town. At one point they had the town centre and all the locals stop and turn around as 9 girls (and Tim) ran screaming to an old fashioned carousel, they all felt much better after a quick trip on the horses and cars. The trip was topped off with a coach ride home eating ice cream, this was once they managed to get the shop keeper to understand they wanted seven ice creams and not one ice cream with seven scoops on it - I don't know what the problem was there (that would have been fine for me). The only disappointment was that despite frantic searching no one could track down a pizza shop, something that all the girls are want - Italy and No pizza shop - can you believe it.

The Boys (plus Nikki) went to the beach where they played football, frisbee and throwing yourself of the hugest pile of sand you can. We then walked along the beach to the pier and found a coffee and ice cream bar. Most had ice cream, James and I had a banana split while Tom and Valarie had a cup of hot chocolate, which turned out to literarily be chocolate melted into a cup. We then headed to a supermarket where they stocked up on supplies and it was a quick march back to the camp - a very quick march as Sam and Jake were bursting for the loo (with everyone else remarking on anything and everything that involved running water, just to make the urgency of the toilet stop a little more urgent).

The Quiz proved to be a big hit, in fact the intense rivalry and constant banter meant that we had to stop at 22.00 and say we would finish it today. I can tell you all that the noise from the room we were in was at times unbearable. All the tables had drinks and snacks on although by the end of the night it was the floor that had all the drinks and snacks on (very difficult to clean with no brushes and mops). At this stage the girls are in the lead, followed by the men, then the ladies and the boys are out of it already. The girls did get a bonus of 4 points for knowing the exact times one of our Olympic swimmers finished her races in - I suppose that the fact Izzy did a project on the swimmer last week helped. The funniest thing was when the boys were clucking over the fact they knew that before the last England Game David Beckham had 107 caps, it was a shame that I then had to tell them they had written 108 caps on the answer sheet. The mens table nearly fell of their chairs with laughter as the boys began the inquest into how and why it had happed.

I know that we have two days left and this could come back to haunt me but I do have to say that all the swimmers have been an absolute credit to the Club. We have received no complaints, only acknowledgements of how well they have conducted themselves and no chaperones has had to take anyone aside to tell them off (apart from the obvious 'keep the noise down please' and 'don't forget you hoodies, they are not optional').

Trip Highlights include:

Jake and Myself beating all-comers at table football.

Me laughing at Tom hitting Elliot in the head with the frisbee - only to get hit in the head 5 minutes later by Tom again.

Caitlin telling Dave ' sorry I need to go up to my room to get my CSSC Hoodie' only to be told 'Caitlin you've got it on'.

Callum getting his Leg waxed by Nikki and James - only one leg though, we are waiting to see if he lets them do the other.

Seeing Sue have to knock on Sherry's door to get her bag out the morning that Sherry wanted to have a lie in, then seeing Sherry emerge from her pit not overly happy. Then the real funny thing was that Sue had to do it again 5 minutes later because she also left her fleece in her room.

There are too many memories of this trip to list and all the swimmers have been great fun. Please feel free to come and have a chat with me on my return as there are so many stories that I have not even started to cover yet.

The main thing though is that all the swimmers are having a good time, the training Dave is providing has been excellent and the facilities have been good, with help available whenever we have needed it.

Finally though my lasting memories will be good and many

Mark.

A selection of photos from our trip.

