



Brighton & Hove Albion FC SUMMARY REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

**Interreg Project Phase 1
October 2004 – December 2006**

Project Managers Visit To Le Havre: 3 . 4 November 2004

Alan Sanders and John Byrne (Albion's head of education and Project manager) visited Le Havre to conduct the first planning meeting for the new project, meeting up with HAC's Managing Director, educational staff, youth and senior coaching staff and community liaison staff. John already had links with both clubs, having played for both teams, Alan brought along his expertise of already having set up a successful community education project at Brighton. The aim of the visit was to create the basis for a long lasting partnership, agree on exchange visits and work together to benefit both clubs and their local communities.

This inaugural visit went very well and set the friendly and cooperative tone for the rest of the trips.

All subsequent trips, exchange visits and activities relating to this project have served to fulfil this objective. All individual participants and the two clubs concerned have agreed this.

Brighton Study Centre Manager and IT Staff Visit To Le Havre: 6 . 8 December 2004

The Study Support Centre Manager at Brighton & Hove Albion and IT Support Staff for the Centre travelled to Le Havre to meet with their counterparts and advise on the set up of a new IT educational centre, to be based at Le Havre football club's Academy building. The success of Brighton's own centre since January 2003 meant BHAFC staff were able to offer a lot of assistance both in approach and aims and in technical details. The visit was a great success and both Le Havre personnel and our Brighton staff gained a lot from the exchange of ideas, comparing IT systems and educational programmes in France and in England and the relationship between sports and education in each country. Le Havre found inspiration from our methods and our experience and this gave them the impetus to proceed with the setting up of their own Study Support Centre, and thus become the first football club in France to do so.

Youth Team To Le Havre: 27 January . 3 February 2005

Dean Wilkins, Youth Team Manager took 24 players and three members of staff including Vic Bragg (Coach), Darren Kilpatrick (Coach), and Kim Eaton (Physiotherapist) on the seven day trip to Le Havre. John Byrne and Alan Sanders (Principle of Education) joined the group for four days. The aim of the trip was to deliver learning and cultural activities using football as the driving force, and the week was a huge success for both parties. The timetable was full each day with various activities including:



- Training sessions each day with Le Havre players
- Numerous meetings with local Schools
- Coaching various age groups from 8 - 16 years of age
- Two matches against Le Havre under 18s
- Watching first team game then analysing the game with the French counterparts
- Various receptions with the Le Havre dignitaries

The week was a huge success where both parties benefited from the cross-cultural activities and gained a wealth of experience. The Brighton Coaches, Physiotherapist and players all learnt from this trip and will only benefit in their careers and personal lives from this experience.

Physiotherapists Visit To Le Havre: 10-11 May 2005

This trip was a short two-day trip where one of Brighton and Hove Albion's physiotherapists went out to Le Havre to compare and contrast the differences in player rehabilitation at the two clubs, exchange views and gain new ideas.

John Byrne and Alan Sanders, project managers, were also present on this trip, which coincided with the opening of Le Havre's study support centre, which is situated at their academy.

Visit To Le Havre To Opening Of HAC Study Support Centre: 10-11 May 2005

A reception was held to mark the opening of HAC's Study Support Centre with officials from the local government and council present.

Early indications show that this side of the project will be a great success for Le Havre with numbers actually higher than Brighton had at the opening of their study support centre.

Brighton First Team Trip To Le Havre: 5- 10 July 2005

The party for this trip consisted of thirty-three people.

- Twenty six players
- Three coaches.
- One physiotherapist.
- Two project managers
- One kit man

The problem with this trip was that it was very early in the first team's pre season preparation. Therefore as well as fulfilling the protocol of the Interreg project it was vitally important that the managers preparation for the coming championship season was not compromised. The pleasing thing to report after feedback from everyone involved was that everyone's expectations were fulfilled.

In brief the main activities on this trip included:



- Three training sessions a day at Le Havre's training facilities interacting with their French counterparts
- Various training sessions with Brighton's professionals coaching local schoolchildren.
- Brighton's professionals sampling French culture in the form of cuisine, language and architecture.
- Various receptions between Brighton and Hove Albion's Directors, managers and their French counterparts.
- Friendly game between Brighton and Le Havre open to the general public.

The trip was a great success culminating in the game between the two clubs. The match was played in a small stadium five miles outside Le Havre, with Brighton bringing over a thousand spectators to the game.

Both sets of fans interacted with each other in a friendly manner with no reports of any problems. Most of the Brighton Fans stayed for the weekend enjoying lots of French hospitality.

The whole trip had extensive media coverage in the local press on both sides of the channel throughout the week. Edward David also produced a match programme with translations in French and in English TV cameras were also present, with a players diary of the trip being broadcast on BBC South Today also through the internet on Brighton and Hove Albion's own web site.

Brighton's Community Trip To Le Havre: 6-9 July 2005

This was a four-day trip, which took place at the same time as Brighton's first team visit. The party consisted of:

- Twenty-five players
- Five coaches
- One physiotherapist

This trip followed in the vein of all the other trips, which have taken place. The players stayed at Le Havre's academy, which is home to many of Le Havre's talented young players. There were numerous training sessions between the two clubs culminating in a match on the last day.

Official Opening of New ICT/educational facility at Brighton: 3 March 2006

A new larger two-storey facility was opened at Withdean Brighton, to house the Albion's growing community educational programmes. Dignitaries and community partners were invited, including Job Centre Plus to help target beneficiaries from deprived areas in around Brighton. Interreg funding assisted to create this new venue and officials from GOSE attended the launch event.



Brighton's Disability Trip To Le Havre: 30 May- 2 June 2006

The Brighton Disability Football trip consisted of 24 disability players and 6 staff/parents, led by Niki Richardson, assistant disability football manager for BHAFC. The group travelled by coach via the Channel Tunnel and reported that travel in France was very relaxing with less traffic than they were used to in England. The group stayed in a young sports people's hall of residence, which offered a standard of accommodation that was fairly basic, different from overseas hotel based holidays. This was something that most of the group were not used to and found it difficult to acclimatise to this, but they threw themselves into the visit and got the maximum benefit. The first evening was spent trying to practise their French to find a bar, which showed English TV (England were playing a friendly that night). Many were successful and pleasantly surprised to find English style bars in Le Havre.

The group found the meals quite tasty although not sufficient in quantity for some tastes, however the French staff were very friendly towards them. There were many customs that differed from what they were used to in England (e.g. drinking coffee from a bowl for breakfast), food cooked in sauces, fish dishes.

Activities included:

- 2 hour training session
- Visit to the first team academy
- Mini 7 a side tournament amongst the team and staff on first team Astro pitch
- Tournament at the HAC Youth academy: Seniors and Youth against local teams: Brighton Seniors and Brighton youth both won their group.
- Reception/ trophy presentation (trophy each by senior and youth teams), goody bags for all and reception
- Tour of the HAC youth academy, accommodation, teaching areas and gym.
- Bowling

Overall the Brighton group enjoyed their trip. They had fun in their matches although they played a higher standard than their French counterparts and the levels were not very evenly matched with Brighton routing the French local teams 8-0, 11-0 etc. The group learnt a lot about the different food and way of life in France, and the differences between the football clubs and their facilities. The group were very impressed with the high standard of the first team facilities, the proud history and silverware on show and the pitches. Also the organisation, structure and facilities of the HAC youth academy were very impressive.

Youth Team To Le Havre: 16-22 July 2006

This tour was another success, following very much on the lines of the last year's trip. This time the youth team supported the Brighton First team players and delivered a coaching clinic to which children from 8 local Le Havre schools participated. Relationships from the previous visit were cemented, and all concerned were very pleased with the outcome.



Brighton First Team Trip To Le Havre: 16-22 July 2006

A trip run on similar lines to the previous years visit. A highlight for the players, apart from the matches and the cultural experience of interacting with their French colleagues was the 8 school coaching clinic. The players and coaching staff learnt many new coaching techniques from their Le Havre counterparts and exchanged many ideas and views. The visit was declared a complete success by all concerned.

Brighton Diversionsary Trip To Le Havre: 24-26 August 2006

30 children from the Albion's football inclusion project aged 11-16 enjoyed a visit to Le Havre in August 2006. The visit included training at Le Havre's academy complex, followed by two matches against the HAC academy sides. Although the Brighton sides lost out in the end both matches were hard fought and enjoyable. The group also enjoyed watching Le Havre's first team play in their local derby against Caen in an exciting drawn match. This was a first time abroad for many of the Brighton children who come from difficult or deprived backgrounds. The Brighton staff enjoyed the experience and gained a lot from this opportunity, and although the children were quite boisterous at times, they definitely learnt a lot from the visit.

Brighton Community Football Group Trip To Le Havre: 27-29 September 2006

This was a very successful visit comprising of 20 children aged 9-12 led by David Jupp, Albion In The Community's Player Development Officer, and his team of four community football coaches. The group travelled by coach via the tunnel and stayed at the Hotel Gens de Mer in Le Havre. The visit included a visit to HAC's football stadium and training ground, plus training sessions. The highlight was taking part in Le Havre's main community football festival on September 28. This festival involved 500 local children, boys and girls aged 9-12. It comprised a football tournament and entertainment by African percussion groups and dancers. The trip was a very rewarding one for all concerned.

SUMMARY OF BENEFITS

- Sustainable partnership between the two clubs and their community schemes
- Very successful study centres in both clubs
- Project gave children from deprived areas the first opportunity to go abroad
- Professional development exchanged many ideas. Both senior and youth teams learnt new training techniques as a result
- Improved links and awareness between both communities