

Dalgarno Supplementary School Newsletter — Summer 2006

Dalgarno students visit Morocco as first overseas team to play in Ait-Melloul's football tournament

The thirteen day trip to Morocco by a group of young students (and footballers!) from Dalgarno Supplementary School was to participate in the Annual Springtime Football Tournament hosted in Agadir by Ait Melloul Football Club. Dalgarno Supplementary School were the first foreign team to take part in this tournament which has run in Ait Melloul for six years. The players also toured to the South of Morocco and played a friendly match with local team Raja in Casablanca.

A lot of preparation and organisation work had to be done prior to the trip. The Dalgarno school party comprised 23 members this year - 16 children between the ages of 10 and 12 years attended, with 2 coaches, 4 parents and the manager. Last year we had taken a group of sixteen year-olds when we first participated in a tournament in Morocco.

Departure to Morocco was on the 6th April. The team flew from London to Casablanca by Royal Air Maroc - without whose support the trip might not have been possible. We had only a quick stop in Casablanca allowing just enough time to get our connecting flight to Agadir's al Massira Airport. When we arrived at the airport we were met by a very friendly welcoming committee from the Club and Town Council and were then taken to the Ait Melloul Sports Centre, where we stayed for the duration of our stay in Agadir.

The next day we met with the President of the Ait Melloul Sport Centre, Mr Hussein Adardour, who is also the leader of Ait Mellours City Council. He gave us a welcoming reception and told us the programme for the football tournament.

The sports campus where we stayed was first class with the latest facilities and comforts and during our stay we benefited from a 24-seater coach that was at our disposition 24 hours a day as well as constant police security around the clock! We had 3 days before the start of the tournament and we used the time to do some sightseeing and visited the so-called Birds Valleys which are home to some of Morocco's rarest birds and animals. We also spent a day in the Taghazoult beach resort which everyone enjoyed immensely.

...continued overleaf



Mohamed Benrahma, the Director of Dalgarno Supplementary School, watching the tournament in Morocco, with the Chairman of Ait Melloul football club, the Sports Centre Director and other local dignitaries.

Mohammed is on the left of the picture

Elias from Dalgarno Supplementary School was voted the 'Player of the Tournament' and presented with a trophy.

The Dalgarno team finished fourth overall—out of 12 teams



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The Dalgarno Supplementary School's certificate, which records our participation in this year's Ait-Melloul football tournament. The certificate features the Moroccan and UK flags, the crest of the local City Administration at Ait Melloul and the Ait Melloul Club crest and is signed by the Club President Mr Hussain Adardour.

Dalgarno Supplementary School's trip to the sixth Ait-Melloul football tournament in MorOCCO ... continued from page 1



Mohamed thanks everyone at Ait-Melloul for inviting Dalgarno Supplementary School's team to the tournament and for the generous hospitality of the Club, the Moroccan government and Royal Air Maroc, who generously supported the trip



The tournament was opened by a representative of the Moroccan government, the Governor of the Inzegane-Ait Melloul, accompanied by the local member of parliament and other dignitaries including the local commander of police and the local councillor. The opening speech was given by the President of the Club on the theme of fair play. He reiterated the words of our Glorious King Mohamed VI on the importance of sport in the physical and mental development of young people and then declared the tournament open. The stadium was full to capacity with local people, football supporters, a plethora of musical bands from the Souss area, and the 12 football teams taking part. The first kick of the opening match was symbolically taken by the governor!

The 12 football Clubs who, took part in the tournament, came from different parts of Morocco, and the Dalgarno supplementary school represented the UK! Dalgarno came fourth overall in the tournament.

The success of this trip was very much due to the support of the Royal Air Maroc in London. The support of their Director and staff in London enabled the children from North Kensington to take part. We hope that some of these children will be a part of the future of Morocco, and of course that they will visit the country again. A big part of the trip for them was being able to see the south of Morocco for the first time and having a positive experience and outlook on their mother country. They were able to use their own Arabic language and solidify their relationship and love for their country and at the end some did not want to return to England but would have preferred to extend their stay in Casablanca if it were possible!

Speaking at a reception to mark the end of the tournament, Mohamed Benrahma of DSS thanked our hosts, he said:

"In the name of Allah the most Merciful, the most Compassionate. Your Honour, his Majesty's Prefect; your honour the Leader of Ait Melloul Council and Chair of Ait Melloul's Club; ladies and gentlemen. On this happy occasion and on behalf of Dalgarno School's football team, I would like to thank Ait Melloul United Sports Club, especially its president, Mr Al Hussein Adardour, for their hospitality towards us during our participation in this Spring childrens' tournament. Which was up to required standards. We hope to participate in the next tournament, God willing.

I would also like to thank the club's officials for their kind treatment to us throughout our stay in Ait Melloul, the local authority, as well as the police for their sustained efforts to ensure our safety and comfort. We sincerely hope that we get the opportunity to invite Ait Melloul's team to London as a way of consolidating our brotherly relationship and creating the right environment to promote partnership in sport and raise the standards reached by our children."

The children, their parents, the coaches and the organisers would also like to thank Royal Air Maroc, its director and its staff both in UK and Morocco for their help and support and for their excellent customer service.

Report by DSS



The Club pennant of the Ait-Melloul team—who hosted the tournament.



At the tournament's opening ceremony—Dalgarno carried the British flag and a sign with the school's name

And there is much more than football at Dalgarno Supplementary School...

Find Out More:

The Dalgarno Supplementary School provides local children and young people with after-school English, Maths, Arabic and IT tuition. The aim of the school is to raise their levels of achievement and support their learning—both within their mainstream schools and in the context of their family life.

Some of the other activities organised by the schools such as Karate and social events are also shown in the pictures on this page and overleaf. Karate is taught by Hussein and Mohamed—who is seen with the children above.

Classes are held on Friday evenings from 6.30pm—8.30pm and Sundays from 11am—1pm.

The school aims to raise awareness about healthy living and keeping fit from an early age by practicing sport, especially football, and also strives to increase opportunities for local residents to meet up and socialise in a safe and friendly environment. We celebrate cultural and religious events and the achievements of our children and also run summer camps and organise a variety of trips to places of interest throughout the year.

If you would like more information or have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact:

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Mohamed Benrahma of Dalgarno Supplementary School receiving an award from the Mayoress of RBKC Councillor Barbara Campbell at the Community Volunteering Awards Ceremony.



Right, Mohamed serving couscous at the Dalgarno Community Centre party in April (also pictured below). DSS would like to thank all the management committee members who helped to make the party such a great success.



More pictures from our tour of Morocco in April 2006



Right, Azro Souss, whom Dalgarno beat 4 : 1 in a friendly warm-up match during our pre-tournament tour.



Above, the Under 12's team enjoy some of the excellent hospitality which we were shown throughout our trip. In the picture on the left they are eating dinner in Agadir on the first night of their football tour of their homeland

Azro Souss kindly awarded prizes and certificates to the Dalgarno children and coaches and everyone was very grateful for the amazing hospitality we received.

Other Tournament successes for Dalgarno...



Dalgarno's team celebrate success (left) at the Steve MacManaman Tournament in Wandsworth, which took place in 2005 and



Right, the medals and trophy from the Amal Trust tournament on display at DSS after the Annual General Meeting. At the meeting the School welcomed new parents and explained the strategy for the coming year to the parents and members.



Above, the team show off their medals and trophy after triumphing in the National Amal Trust Tournament - the tournament's prize presentation took place in Kensington & Chelsea Town Hall. The ceremony was attended by local councillors, the mayor and the new local MP, Malcolm Rifkind. The reception included displays of Islamic literature, refreshments and food and prizes were presented at a by a player from Chelsea.