



WUNSTORF JULY 25 - JULY 31

YOUTH EXCHANGE

Hythe Aqua UK - 1. Wassersport-Verein Wunstorf GER



OUR SWIMMERS ENJOY THE ATTRACTIONS

An exchange visit to our partner swimming club 1.Wassersportverein Wunstorf was made by a group of 39 Hythe Aqua swimmers, coaches and parents during the first week of the summer holidays.

The first day was taken up by travelling but we made it in time to enjoy a cooling swim in the 50 m open air swimming pool at Bokeloh. Nobody wanted to do any training so into the diving pool for fun.

The ages of the group were from 10 to 18 except for George aged 3 years but we won't mention the ages of the coaches and parents!



After the pool everyone went back to their host families. For some it meant renewing old friendships, for others the

chance to make new friends and for a few to overcome their home sickness.

Day 2 was a visit to the Rathaus to meet the mayor. In the afternoon we met at a local park and were split into groups for a walk from the town centre to a local village where there is a fresh water swimming pool.

The mayor had told us that every year at the beginning of the season he would drink a glass from the pool. He was warned never to do this at the Hythe pool.

Each group was given instructions in German and English which meant we had to work together closely with our German friends and complete some tasks on the way. This worked really well in bridging the language barrier.



Frank Weiss

The exchange was organised on the German side by Frank who is their youth leader. As usual the arrangements were brilliantly organised and Wunstorf have raised the bar for us when they visit Hythe in the summer of 2011.

ALL FUN



The long hot walk was worth it for the chance to get to know our hosts and a swim in their fresh water pool. Supper was provided and for the adults a chance to sample the local refreshments. Terry was a bit reluctant at first but with a bit of encouragement...

Everyone was bruised and stiff after the water slide but that didn't stop the excitement for the next day's visit to the Heide Park at Soltau. This is a massive theme park with some fantastic rides. The weather was a bit mixed but it didn't spoil the fun.

After a busy evening of socialising we were glad for a sleep and a little lay in as the next day was family day. John and Lynn West work for Kent Fire and Rescue and as luck would have it their host family is a firefighter in Hanover so Abbie and John junior got a bird's eye view of the town from a fire ladder.

Day 4 was trip to the Hanover zoo which has had a 30 million euro refurbishment. The highlight was seeing two polar bears play fighting in the water. You see we are obsessed by swimming pools!

The next day was shopping day in Hanover. Keenly waited by the girls of course who promptly disappeared into the local H & M followed by a MacDonald.

The evening was then spent at the grillplatz for the farewell BBQ. By now friendships were really developing and the German boy's were becoming popular with some.

The week had gone too quickly and yet the next day was the return to England. Everyone was feeling a little sad at the this being the last night.

It is impossible to convey all the fun and good times that were had by all in a short news letter so follow the link on the Hythe Aqua web site to see all the pictures from the exchange.

This has been the third exchange of recent times and friendships between the families has really developed. Email Face book and Skype have all played a part in keeping alive the friendship between the clubs and individual swimmers. This is what the exchange is all about.

So lets think about preparing for WW Wunstorf visiting Hythe in the summer of 2011. Fiel spas in Hythe!



Trying to stay afloat long enough to wave!