

Unofficial Report from the World Cup, Riva Del Garda, October 2008

Omitting few organisational inconveniences and winging from certain people ☺ the trip was very pleasant. Unfortunately, not everyone returned with medals but most people had very good performances even though they did not reach the finals. Many competitors suffered from bad decisions (we still don't know whether some decisions were so obviously dodgy or electronic system failed – would not be for the first time).

Riva Del Garda is a very nice relaxing place located on a huge lake called Garda (obviously) and surrounded by mountains. The weather was nice, food was great, people were friendly (though a bit apprehensive by the invasion of people walking around in white pyjamas, eating too much ice cream and skipping ropes on each corner afterwards) and it was very safe walking around the town at night, even for juniors (not that we let them).

The team was great and everyone got along really well. Following five days of hanging around together and getting to know each other better, the roles in the team were assigned as follows:

Assistant coach and mentor: Jason
Entertainer and health therapist: Victor
PR: Elena (sacked, position open)
Pub researcher: Marek
Team's Adopted Son: Cullum
Handyman: Ian
Team's pet: Jennifer

Competition aside, THE highlight of our trip was a hike to the “Little Castle” situated high in the mountains. It is in fact a little chapel called Capanna Santa Barbara built near the peak of Mount Rocchetta (1575m).

On the last day of the competition there was an after-party. We showered, changed, put on our “good” shoes and went to check out the party. We had a couple of drinks waiting for fun to begin (it never did!), while others started playing card (that's how bored they were!)

Elena got hungry, as usual, and suggested to go up the mountain to the ‘big castle’ (ruins of the Bastion built in 1508 not far up in the mountain) to have a meal/drinks. We went back to the hotel, put on our “working” shoes and went up to the “Big Castle” – the one we had already gone to explore during the day.

<http://www.cs.dartmouth.edu/~dfk/trips/2005ItalyRivaHike/>

After walking up to the “Big Castle” and discovering that the restaurant was (of course) closed, we sat for a bit in the viewing area to enjoy nice overview of the whole town and the lake. But it was not enough for our wondering minds. We decided we wanted to see what that white little construction with inviting light near the peak was.

The fantastic (or should I say crazy) four climbed the mountain in the middle of the night not knowing how far how steep or where we were going. The saying “impossible is nothing” took the whole new meaning once we reached our “Little Castle”. And it was worth every step, every breath, every moan and every cough. The view was amazing and we could still participate in the party coz we could hear the music all the way and it sounded much better being projected in the mountain.

When sitting on the top of the mountain with the incredible view beneath we looked down and finally got scared (or may be got some sense) and decided to let someone know where we were, in case we get eaten by the mountain monsters or fall of the cliff. We called Master N, who was already sleeping and probably would not have remembered our conversation in the morning or would have thought it was a dream, and told him where we were.

Anyway, we made down without any incidents, found the only hotel that still served drinks and finished the night with few shots.

The next day the group split – some went to Milan to fly back to London, and Jennifer and Elena went to Venice to spend a day there.

Now we got to know each other, learnt our lessons about travelling arrangements we are ready for the next international when we can better organise ourselves (we definitely don’t want to pay £100 p.n. for staying in youth hostel and being patronised by an old grumpy hotel owner EVER AGAIN!). Next stop - Las Vegas.

Photos

Victor Danger Regis



The Team



The Robbery



The Poster



Taking down Canada



Party Time



Chilling Time



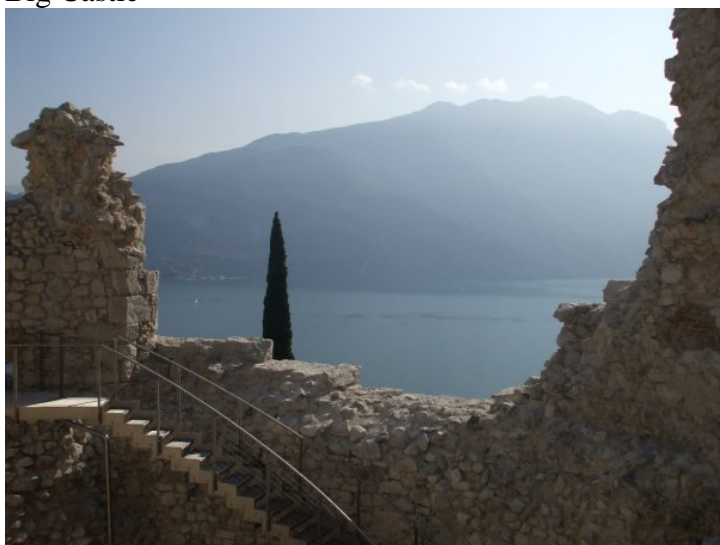
Little Master Dude



On the way to Big Castle



Big Castle





It has been conquered

