

The Second Phase in Turin
‘UEFA Regions Cup’ between
Italy, Ireland, Scotland and England
Week commencing 27th October
2008.

As you would expect, it didn't take long for the Battersea contingent to find the Don Bosco Church, in Alessandria, the location where the Battersea group were staying, which is close to Turin the very birthplace of everything Salesian.



In the mist you can just about see the football pitch behind the Salesian Parish Church. Would you believe it, they have 13 Old Boys' Teams, and a Stadium where they charge spectators to get in.

Are we missing out on an opportunity at Ewell, me thinks!

Battersea Old Salesians FC had 6 players in the 18 man England squad (the England Captain James Ayres, Michael Ayres, Jack Gavin, Nick Haynes, Russell Hodges, and Chris Shaw) and 5 members played in one or more of the 3 matches.



The magnificent Basilica of 'Mary Help of Christians' in Valdocco, Turin

While close to Turin (Alessandria is about 80 miles from Turin) Diane and Patrick took the opportunity to visit Valdocco, and were given a tour of that most important Salesian Heritage site by an official guide (Deborah Contratto),

which was kindly arranged by Fr. John Dickson SDB, Battersea Rector.

After all they have done for football in Battersea and England a fine photo of our National President, Patrick Morrissey and his wife Diane either side of the



statue of Don Bosco outside the Mother House, Valdocco, Turin. A well deserved opportunity gladly taken.



The Valdocco Old Boys Association poster:

“Union of Past Pupils (Old Boys)”

“Mother House”

A copy of the poster for the film of a new Musical on the life of Don Bosco and Mamma Margaret, Don Bosco's Mother and supporter in every aspect of Don Bosco's care for young and disadvantaged children he found or who came to him for help and support. Mamma Margaret became their Mother just as Don Bosco became their Father.



Some of the painted England (Salesian) loyal supporters, who travelled all the way to Italy to support their Old Boys who made it into the England team.



More of the loyal Battersea supporters enjoying the action.

All eleven of the Battersea Salesian Supporters in the Bar afterwards. And most still able to stand!



In the 3 matches England beat Scotland 3-0 and drew 0-0 with both Ireland and Italy. Although England Italy and Ireland all finished on 5 points, Ireland were declared the winners on goal difference having scored more goals in beating the Scots.

The England team had performed extremely well given that the Irish team was their full National Amateur XI, with some of their players having up to 100 International caps.

The largest single group of England supporters were the 11 Salesian club and family members who gave vociferous encouragement to the team during the matches, and enjoyed typical Salesian eating and drinking arrangements together each evening!



England Captain James Ayres, Michael Ayres, Jack Gavin, Nick Haynes, Russell Hodges, and Chris Shaw

The above six Battersea Salesian Old Boys who were in the England Amateur team. Remember them from the first round and their result at Coventry's RICOH Stadium which won them their right to Captain and play for the England Team in this second Round?

The end.