

England U-20s 0 - Portugal U-20s 1: Ricardo Horta's strike eliminates young Lions

GARETH SOUTHGATE insists England must return to the Toulon tournament next year despite ending the competition on a bum note.

By **Phil Cadden** / Published 1st June 2014



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RIC DOES THE TRICK: Ricardo Horta celebrates scoring the winning goal for Portugal against England in the Toulon Tournament [GETTY]

Ricardo Horta's 56th minute strike clinched victory for Portugal after a Saido Berahino clearance hit Liam Moore on the backside and meant the young Three Lions finished fourth.

But Southgate believes England, who ended a nine-year absence of competing in this invitational tournament, will only get better by coming back to the south of France.

Southgate said: "I would recommend that we come here again.

"The more I look at it, the qualifying for European competitions might only present you with one really competitive team in your group and then a play-off.



KEEN TO COME BACK: Gareth Southgate thinks England's youngsters would benefit from playing in the tournament again next year [GETTY]

"I would recommend that we come here again"

Gareth Southgate

"The chance to play better sides is even more important and this tournament provides playing against top opposition.

"We needed games like this because we haven't had a real test up until now so it was a great marker as to where we are. We don't leave here thinking we are miles short."

England were the better side and created more chances before Horta capitalised on a freak passage of play.

Southgate added: "It summed up the tournament. The goals we have conceded have been quite remarkable.

"Hopefully the players will take from playing against one of the best nations in Europe is that we can more than compete."

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