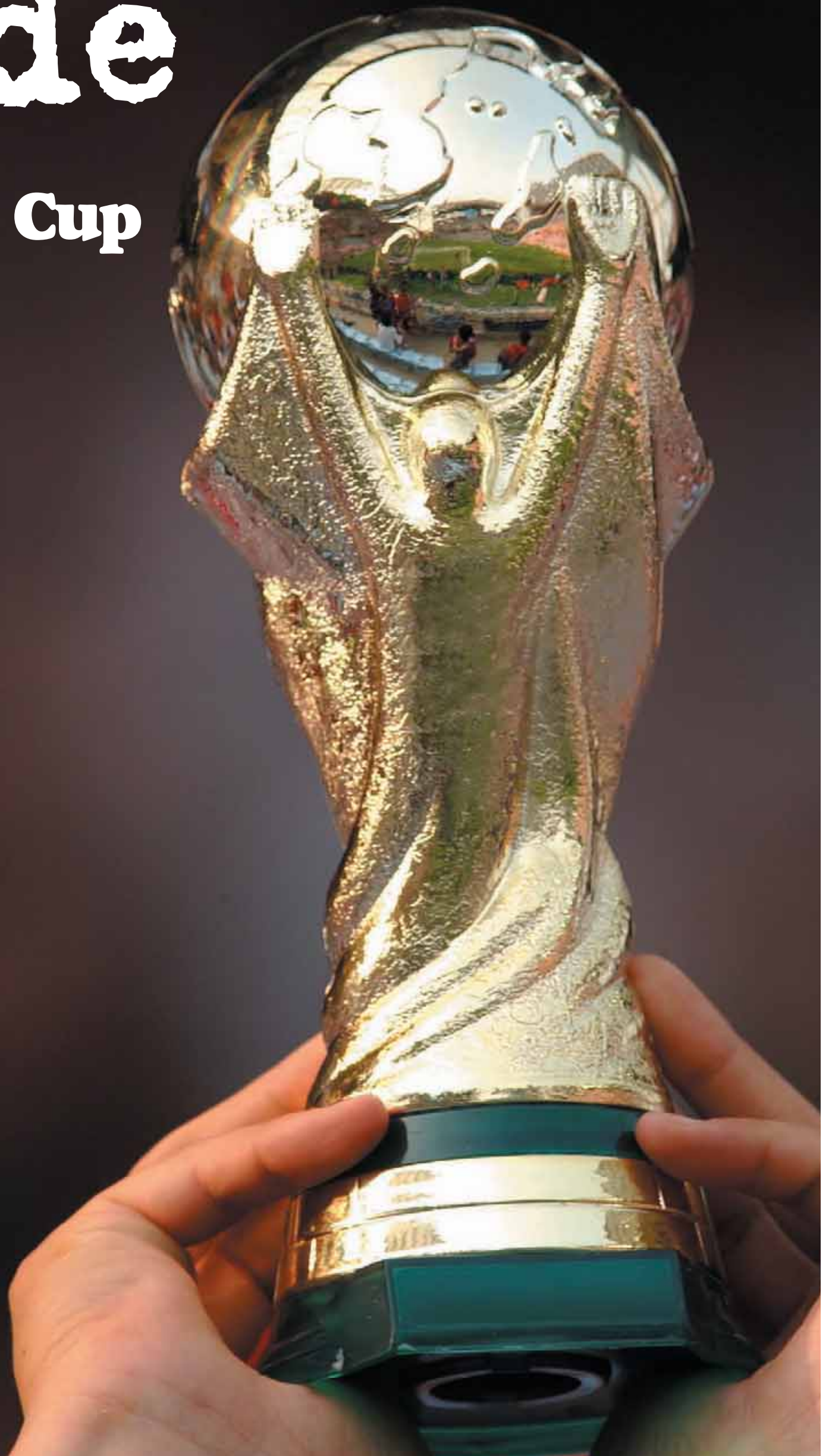


reporter's
guide
to the
World Cup

press
gazette



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WORLD CUP REPORTING

How to keep your head at the World Cup

Harry Harris, group chief football writer at Express Newspapers Group, has travelled to all the World Cups since Mexico 1986, bar one — Japan 2002. Despite not being there, he still broke the story of the tournament. But it's not always plain sailing and the fevered atmosphere can take its toll on the most easy-going reporter

A NATIONAL newspaper's chief football writer trudged along the beautiful Sardinian beach, sweltering under the midday sun, suited and booted and struggling with his luggage.

Along with the entire media corps, of around 300 journalists, radio and TV crews, he had been sharing the gorgeous Forte Village resort, just three miles from the England team's base. We had been living in the lap of luxury for three weeks and the World Cup was still two weeks away from kick-off. Not too shabby.

But for one reporter this was far from idyllic. He looked a bizarre sight as he plodded along, plunging his heavy size-10 brogues deeper into the golden sand, purposefully making his way towards my sun lounger. He wanted to thank me for all the help I had given him, compared to other writers who had made his life hell. He said he couldn't take any more and the pressure of filing live during such a big tournament had taken its toll and he was going home. With that he turned, and walked off as I squinted in the intense sunlight until he disappeared. I have never set eyes on him again.

By all accounts he suffered a nervous breakdown, and did not want to show his face again because of the inevitable stick he would get from his fellow football reporters. By no means is this an isolated incident. I've seen a football writer cowering under his bed, having called me out in the middle of the night declaring "someone is out to get me".

Other football writers have been mugged in the middle of nowhere as they took late-night taxis in Eastern European footballing outposts. One returned from a late night on the tiles having been struck by an ashtray across his face.

One football writer was so upset with one of his rivals that he waited for his adversary to get out of a taxi one evening and punched him in the face.

Not all of these incidents took place in or around a World Cup, but they highlight the enormous tension that surrounds the coverage of major sporting events, the stress some journalists find themselves under, brought about by the pressure from their offices removed from the intricacies of being there.

It might seem glamorous. And, yes, at times it is. First-class travel — unless the bean counters are making the usual economies — five-star accommodation, because you need to be near the action, and the team hotels are always in the best

locations. Then there's the games, the excitement, watching the players, listening to their interviews, studying the managers.

But there's the downside. The raised blood pressure when deadlines approach, the palpitations if your main rivals get a big exclusive, the sometimes bizarre requests from the office to sneak into the England hotel and steal the team sheet. There are probably thousands of wannabe football writers in the media who are envious of the journalists who will be going to Germany this summer.

With the lifestyle, comes the hassle. The two are never far apart. For Italia '90, England were based in Cagliari, the theory being it would be easier to contain the hooligans on an island (wrong), the Forte Village was the media centre, with sponsors laying on big screens to watch games, a free bar, and facilities you would only dream about. Bobby Robson was the England manager, noted for his eccentricities, and it typified the divide that existed between the England camp and the media.

After a Sunday newspaper exposé on a gorgeous, young and single hostess and a couple of the England players, the training ground virtually became a no-go area for the press.

The players had previously co-operated, and, however reluctantly, had been part of a rota system of interviews in the laborious build-up to the games. Now, the players were on the coach and leaving the camp before Robson had finished his press conferences, which he was obliged to do by Fifa.

When a handful of the younger press brigade, fit enough to chase after the team bus, got within

“When a handful of the younger press brigade, fit enough to chase the team bus, got within shouting distance of the players, a couple of reporters were spat on. No prizes for guessing that one of the charming players concerned was Gazza”

shouting distance of the players, a couple of reporters were spat on. No prizes for guessing that one of the charming players concerned was Gazza. It can be a delightful job at times!

I have covered five World Cups and the media has mushroomed beyond belief. At one time there was the chief football writer, and maybe the No2 who was the quotes man. Now there's the No1, No2, the columnist, the feature writer, the colour writer, the diarist, the news reporter and two or three photographers.

When I travelled to Mexico with England in 1986, we were on the same plane as the team, and stayed in the same hotels, and there was a closer affiliation with the players — they often trusted certain journalists. The FA didn't actually want the journalists with them, but the newspapers paid the travel bills, so the FA didn't have to cough up.

Glenn Hoddle's New England, with his alternative thinking and techniques, was partly responsible for calling a halt to the previous cosy co-existence.

He argued that his players increased their fatigue by sitting on planes waiting sometimes up to an hour for the media to arrive for the charter flight. We were always as late as the last man, often a photographer struggling to wire the final picture.

Coverage is now dictated to by an FA communications department that has increased in volume almost as much as the media.

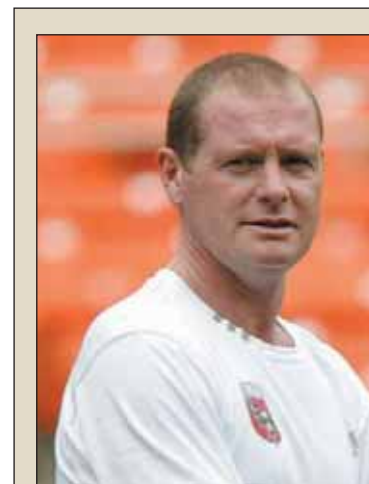
The media are press conference obsessed. Every day, the manager and one or two players are on press conference duty, while other nations usually have open house where the media can talk to just about the entire squad. The FA has also tried this method but only use this rarely as the players don't really enjoy it. Paul Scholes, for example, was so shy he hardly ever gave an interview. And Paul Gascoigne flatly refused to co-operate at times — little wonder he was the target of some front-page scandal ranging from wife beating to kebab gorging.

The upshot is that nothing will keep the media at bay apart from results. Good results equal a good press and good sales, bad results lead to uncontrolled mayhem in the camp. The further the England team goes in the competition, the more newspapers are sold. The *Mirror* put up 250,000 extra copies a day when England reached the semi-final of Italia '90. Good news for England is good news for sales.

It's hard to gauge reaction back home, but every World Cup there is a siege mentality that usually grips the England camp once the adverse publicity kicks in.

Graham “Do I Not Like That?” Taylor had a major showdown with Rob Shepherd, a chief football writer at the time, who turned out for the manager's press conference looking as though he had just walked in from the night before — no doubt he had.

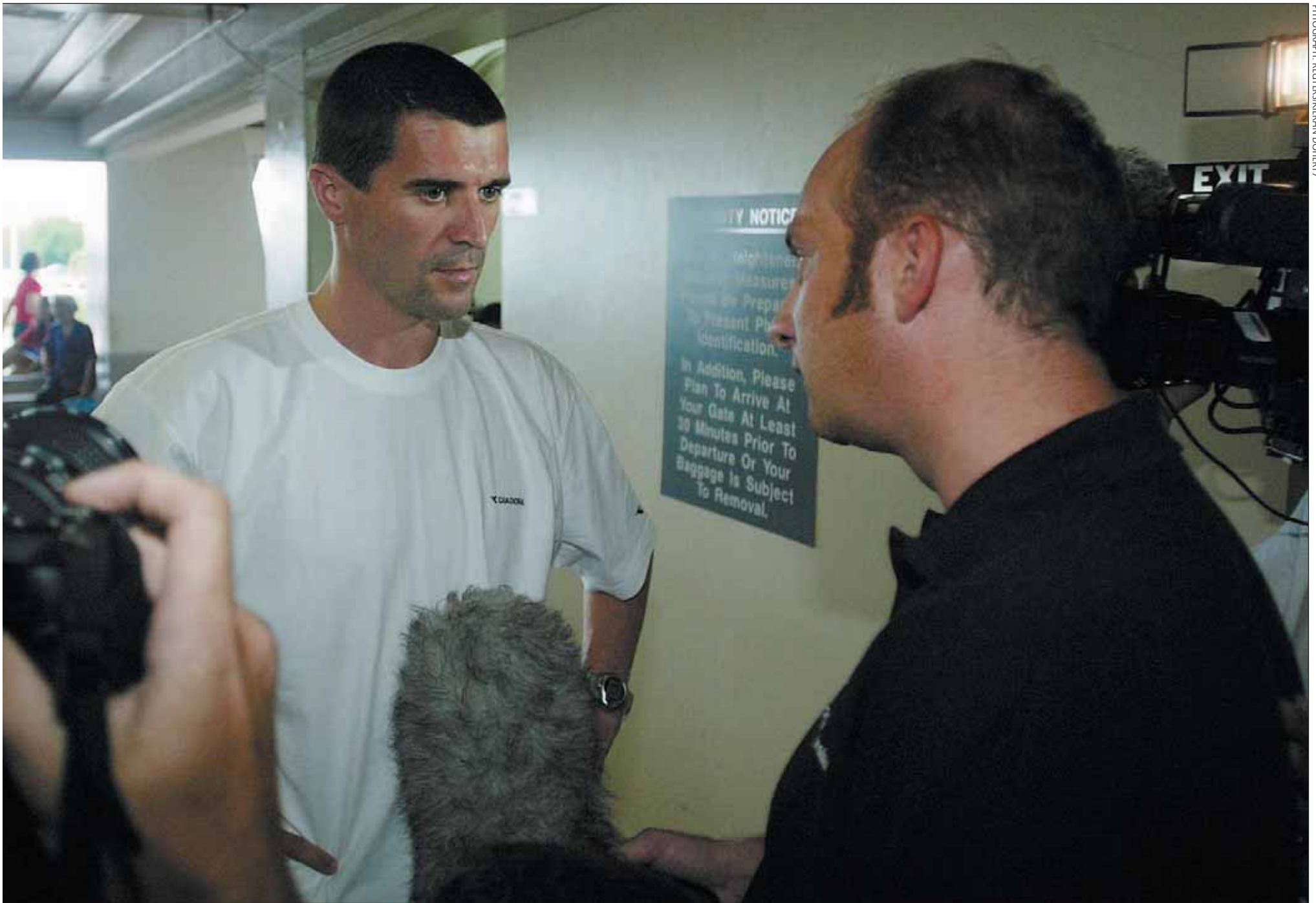
Shepherd was a good footballer in his own right, at least for the England press team, was a great enthusiast for the game, and knew as much about the game as most managers. He had queried Taylor's



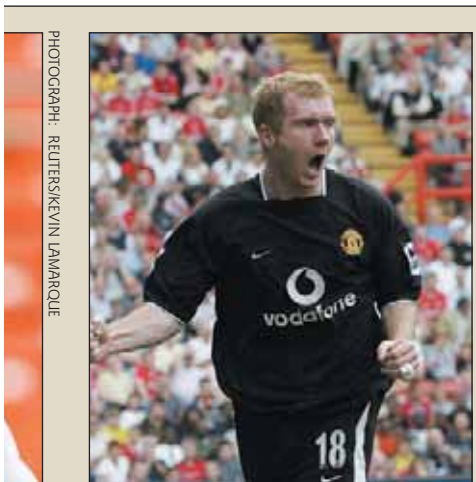
Gazza: uncooperative at times



Hoddle: savaged over diary



Former Republic of Ireland international Roy Keane faces the press at the airport after being kicked out of the World Cup squad. The story continued to dominate back-page headlines for months



PHOTOGRAPH: REUTERS/KEVIN LAMARQUE

PHOTOGRAPH: REUTERS/EDDIE KEOGH

Scholes: hardly gave interviews



PHOTOGRAPH: REUTERS/DARREN STAPLES

PHOTOGRAPH: REUTERS/JAN HODGSON

Taylor: hired personal PR

team selection and Taylor turned on him. "I don't want people here with a face like yours, Rob."

Shep bit back and told Taylor it was no surprise he looked like he did because he had no faith in his team, and he turned out to be right. Taylor hired his personal PR to try to protect him from the hacks, but there is no shield from bad results.

Hodde himself was undone partly for writing a World Cup diary. He was savaged by a media that preaches freedom of speech, yet believed that the England manager should not be divulging secrets of the dressing room.

The Mexico World Cup in 1986 was my first as the senior football writer on the *Mirror*, although as a boy I watched all of England's games, including the Final in '66.

I have covered all the World Cups since, except for the last one in Japan and Korea in 2002. The sports editor Bill Bradshaw and I felt that, with the time difference, I would be better positioned over here making calls to find out what was going on behind the scenes. On one occasion I got a tip from an agent, who told me that one of his clients inside the Irish camp had phoned him to say that just before he left the bar at midnight, Roy Keane had come up and said he was leaving the next morning, so if he didn't see him again, 'goodbye'. It was a great story.

As the huge media entourage actually at the event slept, or partied, I checked out this incredible story. Keane's agent was the highly respected lawyer Michael Kennedy. I called his London offices. "Not true," he told me with great authority. Of course, he pointed out, if all I had said about a row with McCarthy over training facilities, and a threatened walk out the next morning was true, surely he would know about it. And he didn't.

As it was pretty late here in England before they wake up in Japan, I really needed to be 100 per cent sure of my facts to go with this story in our first edition, which went to the presses at around 8-9pm.

I went back to my source, who told me that the player concerned was a sober type and had not been excessively drinking that evening, was highly intelligent and would have related the conversation with Roy with incredible accuracy. That was good enough, I felt, to go with the story, and Bill backed me up — as usual.

Bill's vast experience as an on-the-road journalist gave him an astute insight into how these kind of stories can never be guaranteed, and on occasion you have to go with your hunch.

As a back-up, I began making calls to the Irish team hotel at the crack of dawn. I rang and asked to speak to Mick McCarthy. He declined to come to the phone, but sent his assistant to speak to me.

I put the facts to him, and although he didn't deny them, he wouldn't confirm them either, but pointed out that meetings were on-going, and they hoped to persuade Roy to stay.

Fine, so trying to convince him to stay, meant that he had threatened to walk out. That was confirmation in my book. We were already running the story as the back-page splash and added the comment for the later editions.

Our rivals first got wind of the story when they saw our first edition, and then the Irish team hotel was bombarded with calls.

Roy was persuaded to stay, albeit for just a couple more days, before he eventually packed his bags — just as we said he would do.

From the day of our story, for weeks, months and even a year later, that story set the sports pages agenda. The whole episode has even been transformed into a West End play and earned the *Express* and myself the Sports Writers Association Sports Story of the Year 2002.

For Germany, my hope is that England will end the 40 years of hurt since they won the Cup back in 1966 and that I am there for the Final. Before I hang up my notebook and pen, my greatest wish is to see England win the World Cup again.

Harris's latest books

FURTHER READING

This Time... The Dream Is Coming True — The Inside Story of England's 2006 World Cup Challenge, By Harry Harris
Blake Books, £17.99. Out Now.

Hold The Back (& Front) Page — Behind The Scenes Tales From The Tabloids: Scandals, Bungs, Intrigue, Transfer Deals, Managerial Sackings, Power Struggles, The World's Greatest Stars, The Most Powerful Men In Football. By Harry Harris.
Know The Score Books, £16.99.

WORLD CUP BETTING

We want England to win — even if it costs us £10m



Robin Hutchison of Ladbrokes explains why a victory for Sven and the boys would put a dent in the pockets of the £1bn-plus betting industry

WE HAD a damn good look, honestly we did, but there wasn't a single one left in the cupboard.

The staff canteen looked like a herd of Pamplona's finest had been through it and out the other side.

It was the morning after the night before and Greece had just won Euro 2004.

Ladbrokes, along with every other British bookmaker, had smashed every last plate in celebration. Christmas, as the cliché went, had well and truly come early.

"Retsinas all round!" cried the chief executive. "Mine's a moussaka with a taramasalata to start," crowed the managing director.

The team had been available at a highly improbable 100/1 at the start of the tournament — and all told we'd taken about three drachma on them.

Gone were the English with Wayne Rooney's broken foot, the Italians, the traditionally underachieving Spanish and the much fancied Portuguese. It really couldn't have been any better.

Yet, contrary to popular opinion, we don't always get it right. The favourite romped home at the Grand National last April, remember (fortunately, the joint favourites came in second and third this year) and many a satchel was emptied by Liverpool's victory in the Champions League and Chelsea's dominance of the Premiership.

In their own way, each of those results cost us a fortune. And so, quite frankly, will England if they win this summer's World Cup.

On paper, the signs are all there. Familiar conditions, a favourable draw, a manager with nothing to lose, a good spirit within the camp and a number of genuinely world-class players.

If the last of those can be kept out of Michael Owen's card school for long enough, they have the best chance in a generation to bring the trophy home. And don't the punters just know it.

The Three Lions are already a £5m loser for the industry, seven weeks before a ball has even been kicked.

It's no exaggeration to say that that figure could well have doubled by the time England take to the field against Paraguay on 10 June. A nation really does expect this time.

Of course, we all want them to win, too. It's just that we usually have to shell out a lot of cash when they do, which tends to dampen our enthusiasm. Not that we'd get many column inches if we put out press releases suggesting how pleased we were that England had been beaten in the final. Short shrift, I believe it's called.

We must be the only industry in Britain that celebrates its losses on a daily basis. Every day's a good day to dig up bad news rather than bury it when you do PR for a bookmaker.

In terms of football, it used to be very bad news when the home nations went home early. Why would anyone have a bet on Holland v Argentina?

Nowadays, people can tell you how many goals Van Nistelrooy and Crespo have scored in their last 10 Premiership games and are familiar with Van Bommel and Messi from watching Barcelona in the Champions League.

The footballing world is a much smaller place and there's every reason to bet. There's money to be made, for a start.

Football has changed dramatically, and so has football betting. While horse racing and dog racing still dominate in the shops, turnover on the round-ball game has gone up 140 per cent in the past five years.

During the last World Cup, the nation's punters were stumbling out of bed bleary-eyed, unable to put milk on cornflakes, let alone work out the odds on their five-team accumulator. A lot of bookies weren't even open to take their bets if they could.

Yet with the sociable kick-off times on the Continent, millions will be sat in front of their computers or hurrying past their local turf accountant on the way to the pub as the games kick off.

Due to the advent of 'Betting in play', they'll also be able to have a wager on the outcome of games up until the 85th minute, all of which will be shown live throughout the 2,300-strong Ladbrokes estate. No longer will betting stop when the referee starts the game.

It's no surprise that turnover, for the British industry alone, could be pushing £1bn by the time the month-long tournament comes to a close.

Come kick-off at the final on 9 July, it really will be a question of lighting the blue touchpaper and retiring to a safe distance.

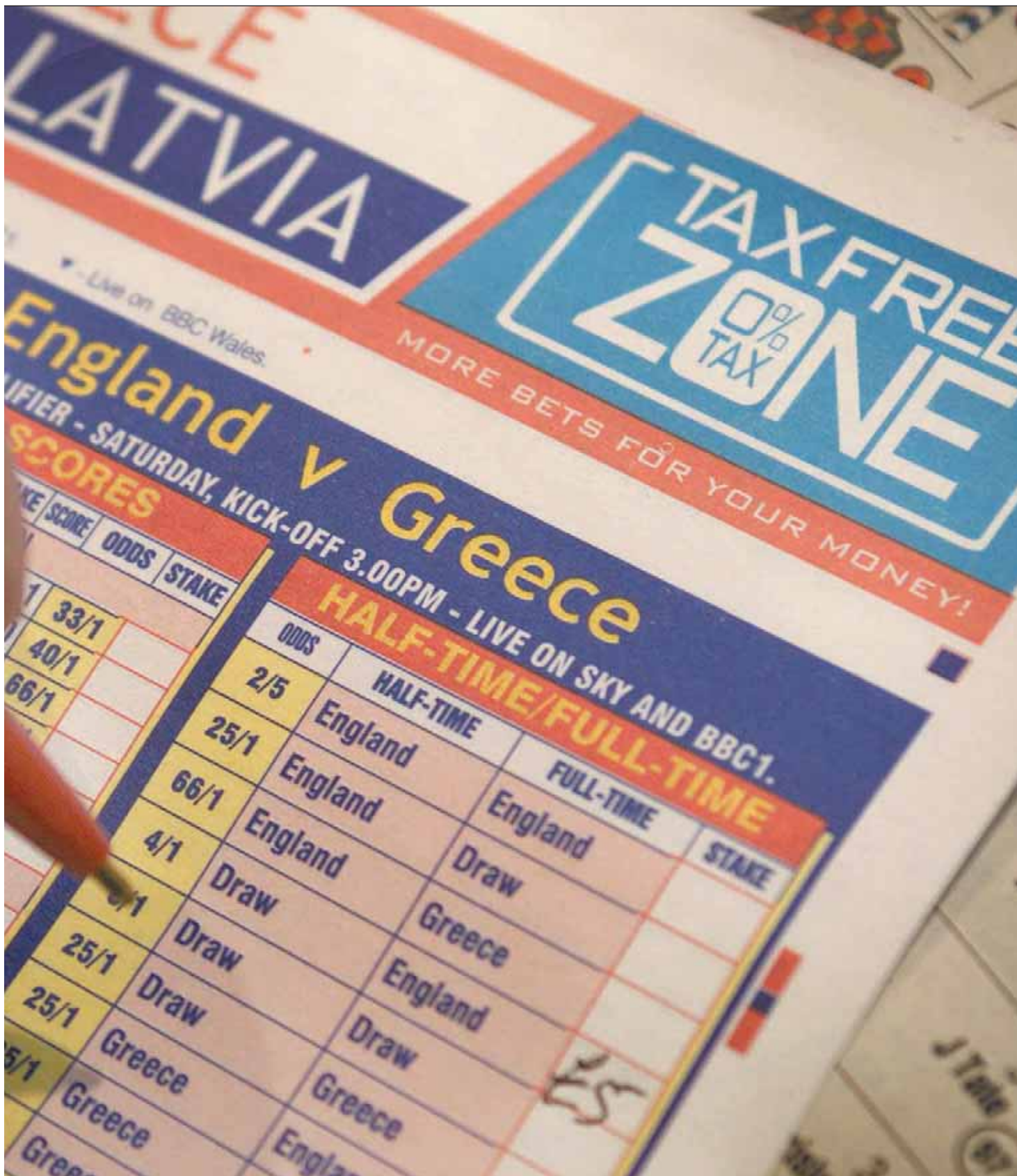
And if you're searching for another long-odds outsider, I'm afraid you'll have to look beyond the Greeks, as they didn't make it to Germany. Not great for the bookies — or those looking for overtime at Royal Doulton.



Ladbrokes is set to print 10 million football coupons during the World Cup and 36 million plain betting slips

“Nowadays, people can tell you how many goals Van Nistelrooy and Crespo have scored in their last 10 Premiership games. The footballing world is a much smaller place and there's every reason to bet”





Fancy a footie flutter?
FASCINATING FACTS

- This year's World Cup is set to be the biggest sports betting event of all time. The betting industry will turn over upwards of £1bn — in comparison with £250m during the 2002 World Cup.
- Ladbrokes is set to print 10 million football coupons during the World Cup and 36 million plain betting slips.
- An England victory could cost UK bookmakers more than £10m.
- The second highest loser in Ladbrokes' 2006 World Cup book is Scotland, who will not be going to the finals. "Even when they were, we weren't losing any sleep about it," said spokesman Robin Hutchison. The team with the third worst result is Northern Ireland.
- More than 1,000 Ladbrokes punters have already backed Wayne Rooney to be top goalscorer in the tournament. Gambling fan Wayne is 14/1 to win the Golden Boot.
- To date, only 13 people have had a bet on 350/1 outsiders Togo to win the World Cup at ladbrokes.com. The total stake is just £7.07.
- Punters will get through more than 4.5 million pens in Ladbrokes shops during the month-long tournament. That's 500 pens a week per shop.
- Outside of the home nations, Brazil at 11/4 is the most-backed country to win the World Cup. More than 2,000 people have had a flutter on the South Americans at Ladbrokes already.
- The biggest bet on England so far is a £100,000 wager at 10/1, which was struck to an internet customer from Essex in August 2004.
- A lot of World Cup betting will be done online. According to industry experts Nielsen, the global internet population is now 1.35 billion. Intel estimates that the number of broadband connections is now around 150 million — up from just 58 million at the time of the tournament in Japan and Korea.

“England are already a £5m loser for the industry, seven weeks before a ball has even been kicked. That figure could well have doubled by the time they take to the field”

10 Wacky World Cup Questions
WIN PREMIERSHIP TICKETS AND BETTING VOUCHERS

Ladbrokes.com

Press Gazette has teamed up with Ladbrokes, which takes bets at 18 Premiership grounds, to offer hospitality for two at a Premiership or Scottish Premiership ground of your choice (subject to availability) next season. And it'll even throw in £100 worth of betting vouchers to help you enjoy the day. All you have to do to get your hands on the prize is answer our wacky World Cup questions and think of a caption for the picture opposite. Send your answers to pged@pressgazette.co.uk by Friday, 5 May 2006. The editor's decision is final.

1 During the first tournament, staged in Uruguay in 1930, Romania v Peru had the lowest attendance of any World Cup game. How many people turned up?

2 Four months before the tournament in 1966, the World Cup was stolen. What was the name of the dog that found it?

3 Brazilian coach Luiz Felipe Scolari banned his players from sexual activity during 2002's Cup, but became furious with the Brazilian press after it reported the team had been supplied with what?

4 Which World Cup winner was falsely accused of stealing a bracelet from a jeweller in Colombia on the eve of the Mexico World Cup in 1970?

5 What year was a smiling orange the World Cup mascot?

6 Which team's players received a Rolls-Royce for every goal they scored in the 1990 tournament?

7 Five players have played for more than one nation in different World Cups. Name three of them.

8 Which national team manager ran on to the pitch at the end of a particularly brutal game to tell his players not to swap shirts with the opposition because "we don't swap shirts with animals"?

9 What was unusual about the first period of extra time during the Italy v Argentina semi-final in 1990, and what was the excuse for it happening?

10 After the match in question 9, the Italian team flew home to a secret destination, but awaiting fans still pelted them with rotting fruit. Why?

PHOTOGRAPH: REUTERS/KIERAN DOHERTY



NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS



Moments of glory

Photographers, correspondents and commentators describe the memories and images of games and goals that sum up the tournament for them



Guardian sports photographer Tom Jenkins's favourite World Cup picture is from the England v Brazil quarter-final in Japan 2002 (left), which shows Rivaldo (bottom) celebrating scoring the equalising goal with Roberto Carlos (middle) and Edmilson (top). Getty Images photographer Mike Hewitt chose his 1994 picture (right) of Brazilian hands lifting the World Cup after the Italy v Brazil final in Pasadena, USA, which Brazil won on penalties

World Cup fever

THE PLAYERS AND GOALS WHICH MADE AN IMPRESSION



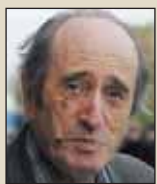
John Motson, BBC football commentator
Paulo Rossi's hat-trick for Italy against Brazil in 1982 would be my supreme moment.

I've commentated in eight World Cups now and this'll be the ninth, but that game still stands out as the best World Cup match I've ever had the pleasure of covering.

The significance of it was that the great Brazilian team with Socrates, Zico and Junior that everyone thought would waltz through and win the World Cup, came across Italy, who had a very poor start to the tournament and couldn't buy a goal in the qualifying competition or in the group stages.

Italy suddenly caught fire in this game, and because the second stage was done on a league basis in 1982, all Brazil had to do was draw to go through to the semi-finals. But Italy beat them 3-2 and Rossi, who had only just come back from a suspension for match-fixing, got all three goals.

It was a magnificent game, the best that I've been at. Most people who were at that game will say the same.



Brian Glanville, Sunday Times football correspondent and author of *The Story of the World Cup: The essential companion to Germany 2006*

The astonishing goal that the 17-year-old Pelé scored in the 1958 World Cup final against Sweden in Stockholm. It would have been an amazing goal for anybody, even the most experienced player, but for a 17-year-old it was an absolute miracle of technique and courage and temperament.

He was absolutely in the middle of a pack of Swedish players and he didn't stand on ceremony. The left half Parling was known as the iron stove — he had put German captain Fritz Walter out of subsequent games by a really ferocious tackle in the semi-final, but he didn't bother Pelé. He simply trapped the ball on his thigh, flicked it over his leg, turned round and slammed it into the net with his right foot.

He scored many, many marvellous World Cup goals, but for me that was the finest goal he ever scored.



Paul Wilson, Observer football correspondent
My most memorable tournament moment was

probably the earliest one. Brazil was kicking off its 1994 finals campaign with a game against Russia in San Francisco.

A little nervous at covering my first World Cup match and impatient to get inside the Palo Alto stadium, I pushed past a knot of people at the top of a stairway who were causing an obstruction.

A guy turned round to see who had just barged him out of the way. It was Pelé, signing autographs for fans and unwittingly blocking a gangway. I apologised and took a look around, now I was in. The stadium was much bigger on the inside than it looked from the outside.

It was entirely roofless too, and the Californian sun was beating down on 80,000 fans enjoying the warm-up act. Carlos Santana, no less, was playing on the pitch.

Hello, I thought, I must have arrived on the world stage.



Henry Winter, Daily Telegraph football correspondent
On the pitch, Michael Owen's glorious dribble and strike against

Argentina in St-Etienne at France '98 took the breath away. I was writing a "runner", the first-edition running copy, but just had to stop typing for a minute to take in what I had just seen: a likeable English kid ripping apart one of the world's best defences. I still cannot believe the audacity of the goal when I see it replayed.

Owen scored at the end crammed with Argentinian fans and I remember noticing a knot of English fans cowering there as the game began. When Owen struck, those fans shed their fear and leapt up and down waving a Union flag. Very brave.

Off the pitch, the wisecracking Alan Shearer trying to get ABBA titles in all his answers to media questions. I particularly enjoyed his comment that it didn't matter how England played, as long as they won, because "the winner takes it all". Sadly, England met their Waterloo a couple of days later — despite Owen's gem.



Oliver Holt, Daily Mirror, British Press Awards Sports journalist of the year
There is one image that sums up for me the joy

of football and the magic of the World Cup.

When Marco Tardelli scored Italy's second goal in the 1982 World Cup Final against West Germany with a thumping left-foot shot, he set off on a celebratory run with his face contorted in the mix of madness and exultation that football seems so good at producing.

There was a great romance about that final and a wonder about Italy beating the great German machine and Tardelli's goal effectively sealed the victory.

In the dying minutes, the Italian manager, Enzo Bearzot, made a fantastic gesture to sentiment when he brought on the veteran of the Italian squad, Franco Causio, as a thank you for his years of service to the team and his nobility as a man.

That was the match that made me believe that football really was the beautiful game.



PHOTOGRAPH: REUTERS/EDDIE KEOCH

“We’re in a unique position in the fact that by a country mile there will be more journalists interested in our training sessions and our press conferences than any other nation”

*Football Association spokesman
Mark Whittle*

COVERAGE

Running with the World Cup pack

As John Motson once said, “The World Cup is a truly international event.” No kidding. But how can journalists meet worldwide demand for news from the tournament about one of the most-followed teams? Lou Thomas answers the all-important questions

CAN I organise last-minute accreditation to report on the tournament?

Fifa spokesman Pekka Odriozola says: “The deadline for accreditation was 15 January and we will not be able to make exceptions. The demand was so great we had to make some difficult choices. There’s been a huge demand. Thousands and thousands of journalists from all over the world have been requesting accreditation. The teams that qualify for the competition receive a greater amount of accreditation than those who have not qualified.”

How many journalists will be covering the World Cup?

Fifa, which controls the overall running of the tournament, says 4,000 print journalists, 1,000 photographers and more than 100 website editors will attend. The Local Organising Committee (LOC), which manages the media facilities for the tournament on behalf of Fifa, also expects 1,500 radio and television journalists, spread out among the venues. The facilities at the stadium in Berlin, where the final will be played on 9 July, is typical in its amount of space available for broadcast journalists and will hold 122, in addition to 491 print journalists. It will all be managed from the International Broadcast Centre in Munich.

What can I do about getting accommodation?

World Cup Accommodation Services (WCAS), a consortium led by the LOC, has been established to provide accommodation during the tournament. WCAS’s hotel inventory consists of more than 46,000 hotel rooms spread across the 12 venues. Journalists who haven’t organised their room should

be aware that if there are any rooms still available (unlikely, considering the sheer number of regular fans attending), prices have been hiked substantially across Germany. It has also been reported that there are now no motor homes in the UK to rent or buy for use during the World Cup, as expectant England fans have already snapped up every vehicle available.

How are the media facilities set up for UK journalists?

Football Association spokesman Mark Whittle says: “The press will be staying in Baden Baden near the team. A lot of the English journo’s will be staying in the Brenner’s Park Hotel. It’s not the official journalists’ hotel, but it’s the one we recommend they stay in and it makes it easier for us to get them to our training centre and arrange transport and that sort of thing.

“We’re in a unique position in the fact that by a country mile there will be more journalists interested in our training sessions and our press conferences than any other nation. Just to give you an idea, the press conference in Portugal during 2004 for the European championships the day before England v France, where David Beckham and Sven-Goran Eriksson were available for interview, we had 365 journalists in one room.

“No other country comes close to half of that. The high level of media we have in England and the worldwide star nature of our players means that both domestically and internationally we’re one of the most followed teams.

“We’ve had requests from Brazil, Sweden, the US and China already. We’re facing a unique situation where we have to accommodate hundreds of press.

“We’ve gone about building another huge media centre in Germany. It’s purpose-built and can hold about 500 print, broadcast, internet and radio journalists. Broadly speaking, we’ll have a huge working area. There’ll be three separate rooms — one for written, one for TV and one for radio. I think the journalists prefer it that way: they can keep with their genre. If we provide Beckham, Sven and Gerrard, one can be doing each room.

“We’ll have a small office for ourselves and a briefing room as well. In addition in this huge central working area, we’ll have daily British and German newspapers, PCs, internet access, a PA wire service, international TV channels running and breakout interview rooms. We’ll probably do post-England training sessions where we’ll bring out one or two of the players — whoever’s topical at that moment.”

What are the headline figures?

Some 3.2 million tickets have been sold for people to watch 32 teams from across the world for one month. More than a billion people in more than 200 countries will watch the tournament worldwide.

What’s the biggest challenge of organising the tournament?

According to a LOC spokesman: “Ticketing. We have 3.2 million tickets and about 100 million people who want to go to the stadiums. We sold the tickets on the internet and had five phases of selling them. After the first phase, we had a draw to try our best to be fair with the ticketing. We had 812,000 tickets and about 10 million people wanted them.” The LOC believes there will be about a million fans from outside Germany coming into the country.

USEFUL WORLD CUP INFORMATION

Dates and contacts for Germany 2006

TOURIST OFFICES IN HOST CITIES

Berlin

+49 (0)30 25 00 25
www.berlin-tourist-information.de
email: information@btm.de

Cologne

+49 221 221 30 400
www.stadtkoeln.de/en/koelntourism
us/index
email: info@koelntourismus.de

Dortmund

+49 (0)231 18 999 222
www.dortmund.de
email: info@dortmund-tourismus.de

Frankfurt

+49 (0) 69 21 23 88 49
www.frankfurt.de/sis/English
email: info@tcf.frankfurt.de

Gelsenkirchen

+49 (0) 69 21 23 88 49
www.gelsenkirchen.de/English/
tourism/default.asp
email: info@tcf.frankfurt.de

Hannover

+49 (511) 12345 111
www.hannover.de
email: Tickets@Hannover-
Tourism.de

Hamburg

+49 40 300 51 300
www.hamburg-tourism.de
email: info@hamburg-tourism.de

Leipzig

+49 (0) 341 710 4260 or 4265
www.leipzig.de
email: Info@LTS-Leipzig.de

Kaiserslautern

0631 365-2317
www.kaiserslautern.de
email: touristinformation@kaiserslautern.de

München

49 (0)89 233 965 00
www.muenchen.de/fva
email: tourismus@muenchen.de

Nürnberg

+ 49 (0) 911 2336 0
www.tourismus.nuernberg.de
email: tourismus@nuernberg.de

Stuttgart

+ 49 711 2228259
www.stuttgart-tourist.de
email: info@stuttgart-tourist.de

TRAVEL

Up to 6,000 members of the media will be able to travel to and from the 64 matches at the World Cup free of charge.

The Local Organising Committee in association with the Deutsche

Bahn AG national rail network, is providing all print and photo journalists from abroad with a Mobility BahnCard100 rail pass.

To board the trains, journalists can use their accreditations, which will be stamped with "Mobility BahnCard", thus making them valid for travel. Accreditations and Mobility BahnCards are, of course, strictly personal and cannot be used by anyone other than the holder. Of the 6,000 Mobility BahnCards, 1,500 will be distributed by Infront Sport and Media, which runs the media facilities for broadcast journalists.

Local public transport such as subways, trams and buses are not included in this offer, and special trains, such as the ICE-Sprinters and night trains, require a surcharge to be paid. Reservations must also be made by telephone via Deutsche Bahn AG Travel Service. Callers from abroad should dial + 49 1805 996 633. For callers within Germany, the number is 11 8 61. Reservations are advisable.

FIXTURE LIST

All times are subject to change and are in BST.

FRIDAY 9 JUNE

Group A
Germany v Costa Rica
1700, Munich

Poland v Ecuador

2000, Gelsenkirchen

SATURDAY 10 JUNE

Group B
England v Paraguay
1400, Frankfurt

Trinidad & Tobago v Sweden

1700, Dortmund

Group C

Argentina v Ivory Coast
2000, Hamburg

SUNDAY 11 JUNE

Group C
Serbia & Montenegro v Holland
1400, Leipzig

Group D

Mexico v Iran
1700, Nuremberg
Angola v Portugal
2000, Cologne

MONDAY 12 JUNE

Group F
Australia v Japan
1400, Kaiserslautern

Group E

USA v Czech Republic
1700, Gelsenkirchen

Italy v Ghana

2000, Hannover

TUESDAY 13 JUNE

Group G
South Korea v Togo
1400, Frankfurt
France v Switzerland
1700, Stuttgart

Group F

Brazil v Croatia
2000, Berlin

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE

Group H
Spain v Ukraine
1400, Leipzig
Tunisia v Saudi Arabia
1700, Munich

Group A

Germany v Poland
2000, Dortmund

THURSDAY 15 JUNE

Group A
Ecuador v Costa Rica
1400, Hamburg

Group B

England v Trinidad & Tobago
1700, Nuremberg
Sweden v Paraguay
2000, Berlin

FRIDAY 16 JUNE

Group C
Argentina v Serbia & Montenegro
1400, Gelsenkirchen
Holland v Ivory Coast
1700, Stuttgart

Group D

Mexico v Angola
2000, Hannover

SATURDAY 17 JUNE

Group D
Portugal v Iran
1400, Frankfurt

Group E

Czech Republic v Ghana
1700, Cologne
Italy v USA
2000, Kaiserslautern

SUNDAY 18 JUNE

Group F
Japan v Croatia
1400, Nuremberg
Brazil v Australia
1700, Munich

Group G

France v South Korea
2000, Leipzig

MONDAY 19 JUNE

Group G
Togo v Switzerland
1400, Dortmund

Group H

Saudi Arabia v Ukraine
1700, Hamburg
Spain v Tunisia
2000, Stuttgart

TUESDAY 20 JUNE

Group A
Ecuador v Germany
1500, Berlin
Costa Rica v Poland
1500, Hannover

Group B

Sweden v England
2000, Cologne
Paraguay v Trinidad & Tobago
2000, Kaiserslautern

WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE

Group D
Portugal v Mexico
1500, Gelsenkirchen
Iran v Angola
1500, Leipzig

Group C

Holland v Argentina
2000, Frankfurt
Ivory Coast v Serbia & Montenegro
2000, Munich

THURSDAY 22 JUNE

Group E
Czech Republic v Italy
1500, Hamburg
Ghana v USA
1500, Nuremberg

Group F

Japan v Brazil
2000, Dortmund
Croatia v Australia
2000, Stuttgart

FRIDAY 23 JUNE

Group H
Saudi Arabia v Spain
1500, Kaiserslautern
Ukraine v Tunisia
1500, Berlin

Group G

Togo v France
2000, Cologne
Switzerland v South Korea
2000, Hannover

SATURDAY 24 JUNE

Game One
Winner Group A v Runner-up Group B
1600, Munich

Game Two

Winner Group C v Runner-up Group D
2000, Leipzig

SUNDAY 25 JUNE

Game Three
Winner Group B v Runner-up Group A

1600, Stuttgart

Game Four
Winner Group D v Runner-up Group C
2000, Nuremberg

MONDAY 26 JUNE

Game Five
Winner Group E v Runner-up Group F
1600, Kaiserslautern

Game Six

Winner Group G v Runner-up Group H
2000, Cologne

TUESDAY 27 JUNE

Game Seven
Winner Group F v Runner-up Group E
1600, Dortmund

Game Eight

Winner Group H v Runner-up Group G
2000, Hannover

FRIDAY 30 JUNE

Quarter-Final One
Winner Game One v Winner Game Two
1600, Berlin

Quarter-Final Two

Winner Game Five v Winner Game Six
2000, Hamburg

SATURDAY 1 JULY

Quarter-Final Three
Winner Game Three v Winner Game Four
1600, Gelsenkirchen

Quarter-Final Four

Winner Game Seven v Winner Game Eight
2000, Frankfurt

TUESDAY 4 JULY

Semi-Final One
Winner Quarter-Final One v Winner Quarter-Final Two
2000, Dortmund

WEDNESDAY 5 JULY

Semi-Final Two
Winner Quarter-Final Three v Winner Quarter-Final Four
2000, Munich

SATURDAY 8 JULY

Third/Fourth place play-off
Loser Semi-Final One v Loser Semi-Final Two
2000, Stuttgart

SUNDAY 9 JULY

Final
Winner Semi-Final One v Winner Semi-Final Two
1900, Berlin