

Introduction



The final round of the UEFA European Under-17 Championship traditionally has a high turnover in terms of participants – this was perpetuated in 2014, when only one of the previous year's finalists (Switzerland) was present. Former winners England, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal and Turkey joined up with the Swiss in returning and their presence undoubtedly had an effect on the texture of an event marked by attacking ambition.

The 2014 final tournament was impeccably staged, for the first time, by the Malta Football Association (MFA). Three venues were used, including the stadium on the island of Gozo – a fact which introduced the novelty of teams travelling by boat to their games. The group matches were staged as double-headers at Gozo Stadium, Hibernians Stadium and Ta' Qali National Stadium, with all three knockout games played at the latter.

Kick-off times ranged from 11.00 to 18.00, with the second semi-final and the final starting at 20.45 and 19.00 respectively. Training facilities were on a mixture of artificial and natural grass surfaces, with all eight teams given equal shares of each type of surface.

All eight delegations were accommodated in a single hotel, which facilitated interchanges between the playing and coaching staffs. The crowd of 9,422 to watch the final between the Netherlands and England brought the accumulative attendance figure for the tournament to 42,388. Matches were screened on a pan-European basis by Eurosport.

Six referees and eight assistant referees from non-participating countries were selected to gain their first experience at the final tournament of a UEFA competition, along with two Maltese referees who acted as fourth officials.

As has become the custom in recent years, the tournament agenda featured educational briefings on doping controls and the dangers of match-fixing aimed at players who were, in the main, also enjoying their first taste of international competition. Grassroots events were pegged to the final tournament, including a successful 'Reach Out' project which allowed local youngsters to make contact with players from the participating countries.



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Dutch fans before the final

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Attacking mode prevails in Malta

Within two matchdays, the goal tally had already surpassed the total for the whole of the previous year's final tournament and, ultimately, practically doubled it.

Even the hosts, faced with the daunting challenge of competing with three former champions at this level, added their vote to the campaign for attacking philosophies. The results pages may record comprehensive defeats for Sergio Sedano's team, but analysis of their games uncovers evidence of fluid, forward-looking play undermined by lapses of concentration at the other end of the field. Malta's campaign could be symbolised by a clip from their second match when, after failing to convert the chance which would have brought the hosts back to 3-4, vulnerability to an immediate Dutch counter put 2-5 on the scoreboard.



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Hosts Malta had their moments

That result assured the Dutch of a semi-final place, following on from their opening 3-2 win against Turkey. Hakan Tecimer's team had taken a 1-0 lead through striker Enes Ünal before conceding three times and it was an identical story when they took on John Peacock's England three days later. This time, however, their plight was worsened by the dismissal of screening midfielder Hasan Özkan in the closing minute of the first half – and three second-half goals by a rampant England condemned them to an early exit.

After being held to a 0-0 half-time scoreline by Malta, Turkey hit four after the break to achieve a degree of consolation. At the same time, England and the Dutch were rotating their squads for an encounter between two already-qualified teams. Maarten Stekelenburg's side produced the more solid performance, with a 2-0 victory secured by a long-range strike by defender Calvin Verdonk and a short corner which culminated in Danny van der Moot heading one of the fastest goals ever to have been scored by a substitute.

Group B, on the other hand, went to the wire – but not for the Portuguese, it has to be said. Building on the foundations of the ready-made cohesion between the 11 SL Benfica players in the squad, Emilio Peixe's team defended resolutely and probed constantly amid the Scottish and Swiss defenders in their opening two fixtures. They probed deeply enough to provoke errors which gave them 2-0 and 1-0 victories – and assurance, with a game to spare, of a berth in the semi-finals.

But second place was wide open. Germany had dominated almost two-to-one in terms of goal attempts against the Swiss; had gone 1-0 ahead; had failed to convert a penalty (well saved by Gregor Kobel); and ultimately conceded a 1-1 draw to opponents who played the closing minutes with ten players. It was more of the same against Scotland. Christian Wück's side dominated 21-6 on goal attempts but only three were on target. They were felled by a sucker punch within seconds of the restart, with Scott Wright heading the only goal of the game.

That left Scot Gemmill's youngsters needing only to draw with the Swiss – but this seemed a tall order during a wretched opening spell in which Yves Débonnaire's team scored once and could have added more. Switching to 4-4-2 after the break, Scotland scored three to send the Swiss home and make the result of the Portugal v Germany match irrelevant. In the event, the Germans produced only two on-target attempts and lost 1-0 to a much-changed Portuguese lineup.

Undefeated and with their net unruffled, Portugal produced an impressive first half in their semi-final against an England side which frequently surrendered possession in inopportune moments – and areas. After hitting the woodwork three times, Peixe's pupils were frustrated by a blank half-time scoresheet, while Peacock's half-time talk galvanised his team into action. His decision to deploy Dominic Solanke as the most advanced striker paid off when he controlled a long pass by Taylor Moore with a deft left-footed touch and, with equal skill, flicked the ball right-footed into the net. When Patrick Roberts ended an individual slalom by firing a second in off the far post, England had reaped the reward for the greater control and impetus they had displayed after the break.



©Domenic Aquilina
Dominic Solanke celebrates a goal

The other semi-final was effectively decided when the Dutch scored twice in four minutes before the interval against a Scottish team which fought resolutely against a tide of orange-shirted advances. Three goals in the second half crowned a conclusive victory for a team which belied the age group by displaying uncommon maturity and acumen in all departments of the game. The scene was set for a second contest between England and the Netherlands in the space of six days.

The final



The presence of a classic VW Beetle and five Maltese knights mounted on magnificent steeds served as a pre-match omen for a final which blended the virtues of reliable, well-assembled components with the power, pace and panache of a horse brigade. After a battle which had ebbed and flowed and had produced territorial advantages for both contestants, individual duels from the penalty spot decreed who would take the spoils.

Having met in a group match six days earlier and shared a hotel for two weeks, the Netherlands and England were no strangers to each other. As Maarten Stekelenburg and John Peacock handed in their team sheets, the two coaches knew what to expect. When the Swedish referee signalled the start of play, minor positional adjustments came into view.

In the Dutch front line, Steven Bergwijn and Segun Owobowale swapped the central and left-flank positions. In the English attack, Patrick Roberts, the electric left-footer hitherto deployed Messi-style on the right, switched to his 'natural' left-wing berth. The injury to central attacker Adam Armstrong obliged Peacock to repeat the plan B which had paid off during the semi-final against Portugal. He promoted Dominic Solanke into the spearhead role with Joshua Onomah exploiting his slipstream with power and pace.



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The teams knew each other well

As the shadows lengthened at the Ta' Qali National Stadium, the crowd of almost 10,000 spectators was held in muted fascination as familiarity bred respect. In the Dutch camp, the front four tried high pressing, but England successfully played their way out of trouble and remained

loyal to their build-from-the-back philosophy.

On the right flank, Bilal Ould-Chikh used his pace and changes of direction to test the English left-back. But Tafari Moore, pigtail flapping in the cool evening breeze, was equal to the task – and when his charge attempted to cut inside, there was the industrious screening midfielder Lewis Cook to race into the interception. The Dutch pivotal midfielders, Donny van de Beek and Jari Schuurman, probed at the centre of the English defence – but Joseph Gomez and Taylor Moore manned the ramparts with efficiency and aplomb, with captain and leader Ryan Ledson ready to lower the portcullis in front of them.

Central defender Calvin Verdonk tried the long-range shooting which had broken the deadlock in the earlier confrontation; the Dutch tried the short corner which had produced the second goal. But there was no repeat performance. The English, focused and well prepared, were not going to be caught out twice. What is more, the full-backs – Jonjoe Kenny on the right, Tafari Moore on the left – were aware that they could spike Dutch guns by surging forward and obliging the wingers to chase back.

At the other end, a similar story was being drafted. Isaiah Brown, trying to capitalise on solo trickery, tested Yanick van Osch in the Dutch goal but, as the teams alternated spells of territorial dominance, struggled to find routes through the well-organised orange ranks. Until the 25th minute. England's first corner from the left – and their second of the match – was hit deep beyond the far post, where Gomez headed back across goal. A half-clearance was put back into the box by Taylor Moore, and Solanke exploited momentary defensive chaos by driving a low shot past Van Osch.

Understandably, the goal prompted a reduction in the Dutch team's risk-management levels – and increased their vulnerability to English counters. Van de Beek earned a yellow card for emergency measures against a power-run through midfield by the impressive Onomah.

Peacock had witnessed a performance which had barely prompted him to put pen to the notebook balanced on his knees. A minute before the break, however, he appeared on the touch line at a moment when the tide of the battle seemed to have turned against his team. Bergwijn had dropped deep to make central space available to the onrushing Schuurman. The attacker produced a delightful through ball which, for once, caught the central defenders napping and allowed Schuurman to home in on Freddie Woodman and beat him with a deflected finish just inside the post. There was barely time to restart – and the Dutch seemed to have delivered a telling psychological blow seconds before the break.



©Domenic Aquilina
Jari Schuurman celebrates his goal

Peacock's hurriedly-revised half-time talk therefore focused on shrugging off the blow and on persuading his players to continue to operate as they had done for the opening 39 minutes. As soon as play restarted, it became obvious that his voice had been heard. While the Dutch were prioritising antidotes to English raids on the flanks, combinations through the middle between Onomah and Solanke began to pose a serious alternative threat. The majority of incidents took place in the Dutch defensive third, including a goal-bound backpass

which Van Osch felt obliged to handle. However, the resultant free-kick simply illustrated the difficulty of scoring when the entire opposing team is lined up between the posts.

The Dutch cause was not helped when Bergwijn retired injured seven minutes into the second half and was replaced by Marton Slabbekoorn. But it was a further adjustment to the front line which created a flurry of half-chances in the closing minutes. With the clock ticking down on a stuttering clockwork orange, Stekelenburg sent on target striker Dani van der Moot. Moments after a flick-on had set Slabbekoorn free, only for his shot to be blocked by last-ditch defending, a deep cross from the right reached Van der Moot beyond the far post. But haste was the striker's enemy as he snatched at the chance and sliced his volley wide. Seconds later, the referee blew the final whistle and decreed a trial by penalties.

Previous trials of this nature had produced tribulations for English teams – enough to load them with psychological baggage. Peacock, however, had coaxed his players into practising the discipline throughout their stay in Malta as the pay-off to every training session. The search for perfection had been backed by video replays of the spot kicks which had failed to hit the net. The question-mark was over their ability to reproduce training-ground aplomb in a high-tension scenario in front of a big crowd.

With England initiating the shoot-out, captain Ledson led by example. Woodman, having fine-tuned his own performance during the training-ground rehearsals, then dived to his right to save from Van der Moot. Van Osch, however, was no match for the well-drilled English takers and, with 3-1 on the scorecard, a touch of irony handed Peacock's side a match-ball. Verdonk, the only player during the entire tournament to have successfully converted a spot kick, sent Woodman the wrong way – but placed his left-footed shot wide of the keeper's right post. Up stepped Kenny to confidently clinch a 4-1 shoot-out victory and the European title.



©Domenic Aquilina
Ryan Ledson scores his penalty

English jubilation contrasted with the disconsolate Dutch players' disbelief that they had played the entire competition without defeat, yet had failed to win it. But, as the young mascots formed a guard of honour waving, ironically, orange balloons, it was the England team which walked up to receive gold medals from UEFA president Michel Platini. As the climax to a tournament which could be hailed as an ode to attacking football, it was Ryan Ledson who lifted the trophy.

Technical topics

"It was a magnificent tournament for youngsters learning how to play the game," commented UEFA technical observer Ginés Meléndez. "All eight teams – and not just the ones rated as potential winners – tried to construct, tried to build via combinations in midfield. It was great entertainment and it was something special to see such attacking football and such creativity. All eight teams were very similar. Not in terms of playing systems but with regard to their concepts about attacking and defending. If we saw a lot of goals, it was about well-constructed attacks and not about poor defending."

The result of attacking vocations was a tournament which contrasted sharply with the 2013 finals, at which only 24 goals had been scored and the champion had found the net four times in five games.

A pair of wings

The recent trend towards a 4-2-3-1 structure was continued at the final tournament in Malta, where six of the eight contestants used this formation as a default setting. Turkey and Portugal opted for a more clearly-defined 4-3-3 system, though the former's frequently evolved into a 4-1-4-1. Other teams also introduced shades of meaning via flexibility from game to game or during the 80 minutes – Scotland providing a prime example of the latter with strategic switches to 4-4-2 and Switzerland permuting 4-2-3-1 with 4-3-3.

Tactical flexibility made an impact on the tournament. Trailing 1-0 at half-time in the crucial group match against Switzerland, the Scots made a double half-time substitution, sending on Craig Wighton and Ryan Hardie to operate as the striking partnership in their switch to 4-4-2. On taking the advantage, this evolved into a 4-4-1-1 structure with Wighton as the more advanced striker and Hardie dropping deep to receive the ball and launch hard-running counter-strikes. A three-goal dividend from the tactical change allowed Scotland to reach the semi-finals at the expense of the Swiss and Germans, who might have been considered the pre-tournament favourites to qualify.

However, although team shapes ebbed and flowed, the common denominator in Malta was the use of the wide areas by fast, skilful wingers who were key components in the 4-2-3-1 and 4-3-3 structures. Even the teams eliminated in the group phase were equipped to run at opponents on the flanks. Malta, with Aidan Friggieri and Joseph Mbong, provided a prime example of ambitious, attack-minded play based on rapid incursions on the wings.

The approach work of semi-finalists Portugal relied heavily on the contributions by Diogo Gonçalves and Buta or João Carvalho in the wide areas. The finalists also exemplified the effectiveness of wing play. The high-speed dribbling skills and directional changes of Steven Bergwijn and Bilal Ould-Chikh were fundamental weapons in the Dutch attacking armoury, while England created a similar sense of danger via Patrick Roberts and Isaiah Brown.

Most teams effected positional interchanging of their wingers during the 80 minutes, but the presence of 'inverted wingers' was a notable element among their starting positions. The trend towards fielding left-footers as right-wingers and vice-versa opened the door for the wide players to cut inside and either search for shooting opportunities (both Bergwijn and Roberts occupied places among the leading scorers) or to open space on the wings for the overlapping full-backs. These players also made significant contributions to their teams' attacking play – to the extent that there were many candidates to join England's Jonjoe Kenny and Tafari Moore in the UEFA technical team's selection of the most notable players of the tournament, particularly Portugal right-back Hugo Santos or Scotland left-back Kyle Cameron.



©Domenic Aquilina
England full-back Jonjoe Kenny

A constructive approach

All eight teams gave preference to building from the back, with Turkey sometimes providing the exception to prove the rule by opting for direct lofted supplies to their target striker and captain Enes Ünal. The general *modus operandi* was based on possession play with, when the goalkeeper had the ball, the two full-backs advancing; the two centre-backs splitting wide; and the screening midfielder (or one of them) dropping deep to form a core triangle.

To compete at this level, centre-backs therefore needed to be technically equipped to detect and deliver the forward pass in addition to their basic requisites in terms of defensive skills. They tended to be positionally conservative, though the German pair of Lukas Boeder and Benedikt Gimber were prepared to push forward in search of numerical superiority in midfield. Furthermore, England centre-back Joseph Gomez was willing to indulge in powerful upfield runs, notably the high-speed incursion as far as the Turkish byline, when he produced the cutback that allowed Dominic Solanke to tap in the equaliser.

With almost all teams focusing on playing their way through midfield, screening midfielders had crucial roles to play in construction work and, more especially, in opening play to the flanks. Portugal operated with a single midfield screen, Rúben Neves making an outstanding contribution at the base of a triangle in which Gonçalo Rodrigues performed a box-to-box role and the gifted Renato Sanches produced the creative touches which linked midfield with attack. Among the teams who deployed twin screens, the balance between the two pivotal players was a relevant factor. In the English line-up, captain Ryan Ledson was the constant provider of leadership qualities and defensive cover, while other tasks were shared among his colleagues in midfield. The Dutch pair of Donny van der Beek and Jari Schuurman also achieved a nice balance in terms of shielding the back four and pushing forward to support attacks.

The strike force

With the exceptions of Scotland's switches to 4-4-2 and Fatih Aktay's support to Enes in the Turkish attack, the teams operated with a solitary striker. Enes could be cited among the few forwards with a 'target man' profile (a topic which can be linked to the lack of headed goals referred to as a 'talking point' elsewhere in this report). Among the teams in Malta, the trend was clearly towards a mobile central attacker prepared to drift wide to receive or to open



©Domenic Aquilina
Turkey captain Enes Ünal

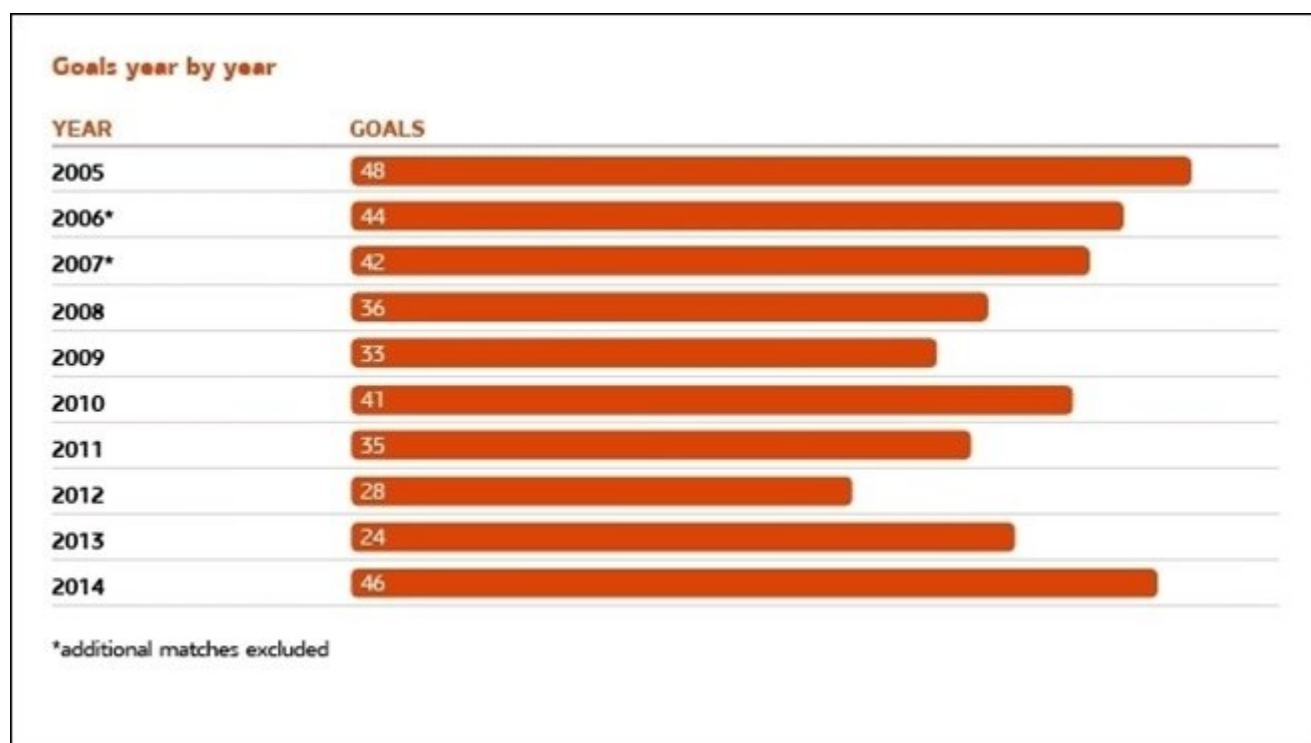
central spaces. England's Adam Armstrong, the Dutch team's Segun Owobowale or Portugal's Alexandre Silva were prime examples. On the other hand, the Dutch squad contained target striker Dani van der Moot as an attacking option but, although he supplied two goals, strikers were not the predominant force among the tournament's leading scorers.

| Name | Team | Goals |
|-------------------|-------------|-------|
| Dominic Solanke | England | 4 |
| Jari Schuurman | Netherlands | 4 |
| Fatih Aktay | Turkey | 3 |
| Steven Bergwijn | Netherlands | 3 |
| Patrick Roberts | England | 3 |
| Calvin Verdonk | Netherlands | 3 |
| Dani van der Moot | Netherlands | 2 |
| Hayrullah Alici | Turkey | 2 |
| Luís Mata | Portugal | 2 |
| Enes Ünal | Turkey | 2 |
| Adam Armstrong | England | 2 |
| Abdelhak Nouri | Netherlands | 2 |

Goals talk

The tournament total of 46 goals at an average of fractionally over three per match represented a sharp contrast to the previous season's final tournament in Slovakia, which had registered an all-time low of 1.6 goals per game. Comparisons can be unreliable in the sense that only the Swiss were making a second successive appearance, and the 2014 lineup featured six former champions of Europe at this level who travelled to Malta with ambitions of adding to their collection of silverware. As Meléndez remarked "I've been at so many tournaments with the Spanish side,

but this has to be among the most impressive. The concepts displayed by the teams were extraordinary in terms of speed and dynamism, creativity and movement. It was all about the sort of possession play I identify with – progressive, vertical possession using the width of the pitch and pushing players up to the box to support attacks. The number of goals reflected the philosophies of the teams and the quality of their attacking play."



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The contrast between the two tournaments can be highlighted by comparisons between the two champions. In 2013, Russia won the title with an average of 6.60 goal attempts per match, of which 3.2 were on target. The table below includes the figures for the 2014 champions.

2014 Attempts table

| TEAM | ON TARGET | OFF TARGET | BLOCKED | WOODWORK | TOTAL | AVERAGE | GOALS |
|-------------|-----------|------------|---------|----------|-------|---------|-------|
| England | 33 | 32 | 27 | 1 | 92 | 18.40 | 10 |
| Germany | 9 | 22 | 15 | 0 | 46 | 15.33 | 1 |
| Malta | 12 | 13 | 7 | 1 | 32 | 10.67 | 2 |
| Netherlands | 34 | 40 | 11 | 4 | 85 | 17.00 | 16 |
| Portugal | 21 | 29 | 14 | 4 | 64 | 16.00 | 4 |
| Scotland | 14 | 14 | 6 | 0 | 34 | 8.50 | 4 |
| Switzerland | 11 | 12 | 5 | 0 | 28 | 9.33 | 2 |
| Turkey | 13 | 13 | 9 | 1 | 35 | 11.67 | 7 |

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How the goals were scored

A salient feature of the tournament was that only five goals (11%) were derived from set plays; two of these were penalties converted by Dutch defender Calvin Verdonk. Three other spot kicks (in normal play) were saved by the goalkeeper. Only two goals stemmed from corners – both in confrontations between the Netherlands and England. During the group match, substitute Van der Moot headed in from close range after a short corner had resulted in the ball being played into the box. Then, in the final, England opened the scoring after a deep corner had been headed back across the box from beyond the far post. They represented the only rewards from 121 corners.

Only one goal was the result of a direct free-kick, with Portugal's Pedro Rodrigues hitting a shot which evaded attackers and defenders alike to find its way into the German net.

Debating the key elements behind set-play successes, the coaches pinpointed the quality of delivery as a determining factor.

Despite the quality of the combination moves and solo runs, the main source of open-play goals was long-range shooting, often attributable to situations where defences had been dragged deep, leaving unprotected areas in the proximity of the box. Although defence-to-attack transitions were generally fast, only three goals could be genuinely attributed to counterattacks, one of them being the Gomez upfield surge which led to England's equaliser against Turkey.

| How the goals were scored in 2014 | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------|
| CATEGORY | ACTION | GUIDELINES | GOALS |
| Set plays | Corners | Direct from / following a corner | 2 |
| | Free-kicks (direct) | Direct from a free-kick | 1 |
| | Free-kicks (indirect) | Following a free-kick | |
| | Penalties | Spot kick (or a follow-up from a penalty) | 2 |
| | Throw-ins | Following a throw-in | |
| Open play | Combinations | Wall pass / 3-player (or more) combination | 4 |
| | Crosses | Cross from the wing | 6 |
| | Cutbacks | Pass back from the byline | 3 |
| | Diagonals | Diagonal pass into the penalty box | 3 |
| | Running with the ball | Dribble and shot / dribble and pass | 6 |
| | Long-range shots | Direct shot / shot and rebound | 12 |
| | Forward passes | Through pass or pass over the defence | 5 |
| | Defensive errors | Bad passback / mistake by the goalkeeper | 2 |
| | Own goals | Goal by the opponent | |
| | Total | | 46 |

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The goals were unevenly distributed over the 80 minutes, with only 14 (30%) scored during the first half compared with 32 after the interval. However, it would be risky to venture the fatigue factor as an explanation for the preponderance of second-half goals, as only seven hit the net during the closing ten minutes and none during additional time.

| Minutes | Goals | | Goals | | Goals | |
|---------|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|
| | 2014 | % | 2013 | % | 2012 | % |
| 1-10 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 11 |
| 11-20 | 5 | 11 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 11 |
| 21-30 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 7 |
| 31-40 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 17 | 2 | 7 |
| 41-50 | 8 | 17 | 4 | 17 | 1 | 4 |
| 51-60 | 10 | 22 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 18 |
| 61-70 | 7 | 15 | 4 | 17 | 5 | 18 |
| 71-80 | 7 | 15 | 3 | 12 | 5 | 18 |
| 80+ | 0 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 6 |

The card game

The tournament in Malta produced 307 fouls, compared with 413 in the previous year – a downturn of 25%. What is more, the 15 matches yielded 30 yellow cards in comparison with 68 in 2012 and 54 in 2013. Two players were red-carded at a final tournament where the two finalists also emerged as the top two in the UEFA fair play ranking.

Fatigue and fitness

The intensive match schedule made heavy demands on the players, obliging coaches to focus on rest and recovery during the two days between fixtures. Three of the semi-finalists (England, Netherlands and Portugal) were able to share workloads as a result of securing their place in the last four with a group game to spare. However, some coaches had to contend with fatigue accumulated prior to the trip to Malta. The Germany squad, for instance, contained players who had contested their final domestic championship matches days before the final tournament.

"Some are already in the Under-19 and youth leagues," commented coach Christian Wück, "and had already played 50 or so games before travelling to Malta. At this stage of player development, we need to be careful to differentiate between 'athletic conditioning' and 'football conditioning' and accept that, in terms of working the players, a 'less-is-more' policy is the most appropriate." Malta's Sergio Soldano also stressed "we need to keep a balance in physical preparation. It's essential to remember that football is not a science – but that science can help."



©Sportsfile
Germany coach Christian Wück

Aptitudes and attitudes

"These tournaments are about developing players. The work dynamic is different and, when you

have so many days together, you focus on man-management aspects related to group spirit and a sense of responsibility. So, apart from individual qualities, I look at a player's ability to integrate into the group, his behaviour, his ambition to improve. We have to help to form the player's attitudes." The words by Portugal's Emilio Peixe reflected the majority view among the coaches in Malta in terms of selection criteria.

Netherlands coach Maarten Stekelenburg concurred: "I look to make a nice mix of personalities and also ask basic questions like: 'Is he a talent?' or 'Is he just physically strong?' In Holland we can pretty well take technical ability for granted, so we need to look at other things, like what they actually contribute on the field; whether 'will to win' is among their capacities and whether we feel that they genuinely have a chance of reaching the 'A' team."

"It's important to know youth players as persons, to see what they do off the pitch," Swiss coach Yves Débonnaire added. "And it's fascinating to track each player's development, to keep an eye on the players who rise or fall year by year. Some of our U16s, for example, didn't make it into this team and others have developed enough to come in."

Débonnaire is a staunch supporter of the Swiss association's policy of entrusting the youth development teams to educators rather than big-name former players – a view endorsed by Scotland's performance director Mark Wotte. "I'm a former physical education teacher," he commented, "and I believe it's important that educational background should be present in coaching." Stekelenburg, a youth development specialist, prefers a mixed approach: "I wanted to work with a recently-retired player and recruited Mark van Bommel – who unfortunately wasn't able to go to the final tournament."



©Domenic Aquilina
Scotland performance director Mark Wotte

Peixe, a former international player, said that "as a national team coach at these levels you're not so much working on technique as on improving tactical knowledge, reading of the game and interpreting concepts." Débonnaire echoed this view: "You transmit concepts rather than work on details and you use guided-discovery methods to encourage players to solve problems."

The future

The tournament in Malta was the last to feature eight teams, with the 2015 finals in Bulgaria switching to 16 participants. The coaches unanimously hailed the change as an important advance in youth football. "It's a positive move," said Turkey's Hakan Tecimer, "because it will offer exposure to a greater variety of systems and tactics. This means better educational opportunities and a greater chance to measure yourself against other countries and to progress. For the coaches working at youth development levels, it also means more contacts with the colleagues in charge of other teams."

Talking points



Vanishing spray in use ©Domenic Aquilina

A head start?

The issue of headers became headline news at UEFA EURO 2012, where headed goals accounted for 29% of the tournament total. The striking statistic has provided a benchmark for comparisons with subsequent tournaments and, at the 2013 UEFA European Under-17 Championship in Slovakia, one of the notable features was that only two goals (of 24) were headers.

This trend was perpetuated in Malta where, even though the goal tally for the final tournament was practically doubled, headed goals were limited to a grand total of three. Scott Wright headed Scotland's winner against Germany; Fatih Aktay's header pulled Turkey back to 2-3 against the Dutch; and a short corner led to Dani van der Moot clinching a 2-0 win for the Netherlands against England in their final group game. Curiously, the last two were scored by substitutes within seconds of entering the field of play.

There is no need to put a negative spin on that statistic, however. The dominant characteristic of the final tournament was ball-to-feet possession play, exemplified by the two teams who disputed the final. Both the Netherlands and England were more susceptible to create danger via wingers who generally preferred to cut inside rather than act as traditional purveyors of high crosses from the flanks. Much the same could be applied to the Portuguese modus operandi, with wingers aiming to strike low crosses or dribble their way into positions along the byline from where they could cut the ball back.

The extremely low ratio of headed goals in the last two final tournaments therefore gives rise to an interesting debating point. While heading ability remains a prerequisite for central defenders, is it becoming a neglected art among attackers? Even though the game may be drifting away from the cross-plus-header recipe for goals, how much work at youth development levels should be dedicated to aerial ability?

Break points

One of the novel features of the final tournament in Malta was the experimental use by referees of aerosol spray to mark the positions of the ball and the defensive wall at set plays. The spray produced white marks which vanished within a few minutes. The coaches in Malta unanimously endorsed the experiment. "It was positive," said Turkey's Hakan Tecimer, "because it made it easier for the refs to concentrate on other things." Portugal's Emilio Peixe added: "I think it helped to earn greater respect for the referee." Ginés Meléndez, a member of UEFA's technical team at the tournament, said: "It translated into fewer yellow cards and greater respect for the referee and the rules of the game. But it could have been a bit quicker."

The latter point was echoed by many of the coaches. The referee carried the can in a holster but was not always quick on the draw. Procedure was, first of all, to mark the position where the taker needed to place the ball – and there was one comment about referees needing to make sure that the procedure did not prevent the taker from exploiting the advantage of a quickly-taken free-kick.

The referee then paced out the distance and sprayed a line to mark the position of the defensive wall. It has to be said that one of the positive features of the tournament in Malta was that it did not provide a plethora of free-kicks in areas where a defensive wall was required. But, in one of the group games, timings of two such cases revealed that the procedure, from whistle to whistle, took 53 and 51 seconds respectively. Subsequent readings brought the average down to something in excess of 40 seconds.

The debating point here is whether this figure is genuinely excessive. As a stand-alone statistic, it might seem slow. But is it necessarily a lengthier procedure than the time-honoured scenario of the referee having to dedicate time to re-positioning or even cautioning encroaching defenders?



©Domenic Aquilina
Scotland's Scott Wright scored a header

The topic will, evidently, be pursued at administrative and sporting levels. But it is legitimate to record that the on-site feedback from coaches and referees at the tournament in Malta was highly positive. So was the reaction to the decision by referees to make use of a natural stoppage in play (a throw-in, a free-kick, an injury or a substitution) to give the players a 'water break' midway through each half.

In point of fact, temperatures in Malta were not excessive – indeed, there was no need for water breaks on the chilly, sometimes rainy evenings when the knockout games were played. But this is often an issue when youth tournaments are played in southern climes and where concerns about the players' well-being are paramount. During the group stage, many matches kicked off at 11.00, 11.15 or 15.15 local time, meaning that the players were exposed to the sun pretty much at its zenith.



©Sportsfile
There were water breaks in Malta

A talking point here is to what extent the water breaks should be exploited as coaching opportunities. The coaches in Malta were well aware that, around the 20-minute mark, the referee would gesture towards the touch line and provide them with the equivalent of a 'time-out'. In other words, it afforded them two coaching opportunities in addition to the traditional half-time team talk.

The spray and the water add up to another talking point. During the match where the aerosol procedure for two free-kicks added up to 1m 44secs, the water breaks were of two minutes in the first half and 94 seconds in the other. At the end of the second half, the referee signalled four minutes of added time – of which all but 42 seconds were consumed by the water break and the two free-kicks. The debating point here is whether the 'spray procedure' should be regarded as a natural part of the game or as a 'stoppage' which needs to be reflected in the total amount of time added to the duration of each half?

Birthday present; birthday future?

For readers who refer back to the technical reports on previous final tournaments, the following lines might be as familiar an experience as it is to blow out candles on birthday cakes. It is an annual occurrence. The ineluctable fact is that the opportunities to acquire international experience at this age level – or the lack of them – have become a perennial talking point.

Debate focuses on the birth dates of the 144 players who started the tournament in Malta. In Slovakia a year earlier, 29% of the 'workforce' had been born in either January or February. In 2014, this increased to 32%. In other words, almost one-third of the players had birthdays in one-sixth of the year.

In Malta, 61 of the players (42%) had been born between January and March of 1997, with a further 17 celebrating birthdays in April. No fewer than 11 of the German squad and ten of the Portuguese were born during the first quarter of 1997, followed closely by England (nine), Netherlands and Turkey (both eight). For the record, 11 players had post-1997 dates of birth – three of them goalkeepers and five of them members of the Maltese squad. The English, German and Turkish squads were comprised exclusively of players born in 1997.



©Daniel Balzan
Malta's Aidan Friggieri was born in 1998

But the point for discussion is that the final tournament featured only 11 players born during the last three months of the year – a frugal 7.6% of the total. The German and Portuguese squads did not include any players born between October and December. Bearing in mind the ongoing nature of this scenario, the perennial questions can be asked once again. What more can be done to offer equal opportunities to gain international experience at this level? Is talent being lost to the game purely on the basis of birth dates?

Winning coach



England manager John Peacock watches on ©Domenic Aquilina

Peacock's pursuit of perfection

"It's never nice for a team to lose on penalties, but England have been there before, so it's nice that it was our turn to be successful." John Peacock's balanced attitude to victory translated into an immediate move towards his counterpart Maarten Stekelenburg after the winning penalty had been converted. The Dutch coach, however, had already entered the field of play to console his players – meaning that the fraternal handshake between colleagues had to be momentarily postponed.

After he had put an end to England's 17-year drought in UEFA youth competitions by leading the Under-17 side to victory against Spain in the 2010 final in Liechtenstein, Peacock had remarked: "What was missing was a trophy to put our name on. Hopefully, we won't have to wait another 17 years for another one." After his hope was fulfilled in Malta, he repeated the sentiment he had expressed four years earlier: "I'm absolutely delighted for all the players."

His delight had been hard-earned. Convincing performances against Malta and Turkey had generated optimism. "I had to stress to the players," he admitted, "that we were a team with potential but that there were other excellent teams in the tournament and that we would have to work hard to beat them." His attempt to keep feet on the ground was reinforced by the defeat against the Netherlands and a first half in the semi-final against Portugal which could have engendered a serious deficit for his side. As it did in the final, his half-time team talk provoked positive responses.

Television images of the England manager gesticulating on the touch line are a rarity. Peacock has no qualms about leaving his assistant, Kenny Swain, to deliver instructions from the technical area. He places importance on trust and cohesion among his backroom team – and considers

them relevant factors when selecting his squad.

"The dynamics of the group are fundamental," he maintains. "For psychological and social reasons you need a united group. If you can, you need to mix flamboyant characters with quieter ones and then hand a bit of 'ownership' to the players when it comes to organising the life of the group. These tournaments give the boys an understanding of what it is to be a top player and, if they don't have the right attitude to a two-week tournament, they may not be equipped for top-level football."

The viewpoint is expressed by a voice of experience. After a playing career truncated by injury at 24, Peacock began coaching three years later with an eight-year spell at the English Football Association (FA) in a variety of roles which included responsibility for the U16 team. In 1998, he acquired a new slant on youth development by taking charge of a club academy, producing nine first-teamers and 14 age-group internationals while at Derby County FC. He also added an Academy Directors' Licence to his UEFA Pro Licence.

Peacock was back at the FA in 2002, primarily as the U17 coach, but often lending a helping hand to colleagues responsible for England's other age-group teams. Since 2007, he has been the association's head of coaching.

"I have seen an evolution at this level," he comments. "The general standard has improved. Levels of technique obviously vary, but teams tend to be better organised, well-drilled and difficult to beat. I think that a sign of this is the fact that nowadays there are more U17 players who are already involved with the first-team squads at their clubs."



©FA
England training base St George's Park


Team of the Tournament

Goalkeepers



1 Yanick van Osch
 Netherlands



1 Gregor Kobel
 Switzerland

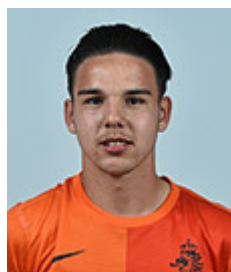
Defenders



2 Jonjoe Kenny
 England



3 Tafari Moore
 England



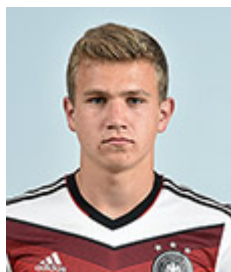
4 Calvin Verdonk
 Netherlands




5 Joe Gomez
 England

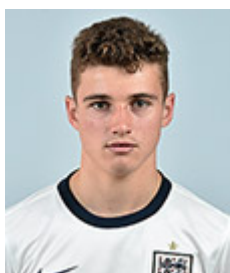


13 Francisco Ferreira
 Portugal




13 Lukas Boeder
 Germany

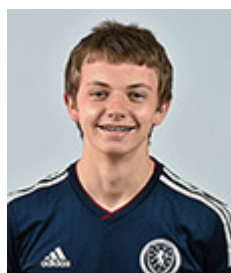
Midfielders




4 Ryan Ledson
 England



6 Rúben Neves
 Portugal




7 Aidan Nesbitt
 Scotland




8 Jari Schuurman
 Netherlands



10 Renato Sanches
 Portugal

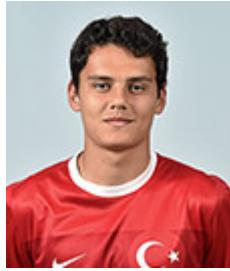



10 Dimitri Oberlin
 Switzerland

Forwards



7 Steven Bergwijn
 Netherlands



9 Enes Ünal
 Turkey



9 Alexandre Silva
 Portugal



18 Patrick Roberts
 England

UEFA technical observers



©Domenic Aquilina

Technical observers Ginés Meléndez and Romeo Jozak

UEFA fielded a two-man technical team at the final tournament in Malta:

Romeo Jozak is a former winger who, having earned his PhD in kinesiology at Zagreb university, is now technical director and board member at the Croatian Football Federation (HNS). He is also head of technical development with responsibility for overseeing the country's age-limit teams and women's football. He is a UEFA and FIFA coach instructor and a regular speaker at UEFA coaching events but, at the final tournament in Malta, was making his debut as technical observer.

Ginés Meléndez is current technical director of the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), switching to the role after a distinguished record as coach of the Spanish squads which have been dominant forces in age-group football in recent times. Regarded by his colleagues as a youth development 'guru', he has led Spain to European and world finals. At the Spanish national association since 2002, he combines his deep involvement in youth development with the role of director of the national coaching school, while also acting as a UEFA and FIFA coaching instructor.

Team analysis



England



| No. | Player | Born | Pos. | NED | TUR | MLT | NED | POR | GS | Club |
|-----|------------------|------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Freddie Woodman | 04/03/1997 | Goalkeeper | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | | | Newcastle United FC (ENG) |
| 2 | Jonjoe Kenny | 15/03/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 1 | Everton FC (ENG) |
| 3 | Tafari Moore | 05/07/1997 | Defender | 66* | 80 | 80 | 80 | 72* | | Arsenal FC (ENG) |
| 4 | Ryan Ledson | 19/08/1997 | Midfield | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Everton FC (ENG) |
| 5 | Joe Gomez | 23/05/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Charlton Athletic FC (ENG) |
| 6 | Dael Fry | 30/08/1997 | Defender | 80 | | 80 | | | | Middlesbrough FC (ENG) |
| 7 | Demetri Mitchell | 11/01/1997 | Midfield | 68* | 10+ | 30+ | | | | Manchester United FC (ENG) |
| 8 | Joshua Onomah | 27/04/1997 | Midfield | 80 | | 69* | 80 | 44+ | | Tottenham Hotspur FC (ENG) |
| 9 | Adam Armstrong | 10/02/1997 | Forward | 33+ | 70* | 80 | | 36* | 2 | Newcastle United FC (ENG) |
| 10 | Dominic Solanke | 14/09/1997 | Forward | | 65* | 59* | 80 | 80 | 4 | Chelsea FC (ENG) |
| 11 | Izzy Brown | 07/01/1997 | Forward | 80 | 80 | | 80 | 80 | | Chelsea FC (ENG) |
| 12 | Mandela Egbo | 17/08/1997 | Defender | 80 | 14+ | | | 8+ | | Crystal Palace FC (ENG) |
| 13 | Sam Howes | 10/11/1997 | Goalkeeper | 80 | | | | | | West Ham United FC (ENG) |
| 14 | Lewis Cook | 03/02/1997 | Midfield | | 80 | 11+ | 74* | 80 | | Leeds United (ENG) |
| 15 | Taylor Moore | 12/05/1997 | Defender | 12+ | 80 | | 80 | 80 | | RC Lens (FRA) |
| 16 | Callum Cooke | 21/02/1997 | Midfield | 59* | 15+ | 21+ | 6+ | 3+ | | Middlesbrough FC (ENG) |
| 17 | Josh Sims | 28/03/1997 | Midfield | 47* | | 80 | | | | Southampton FC (ENG) |
| 18 | Patrick Roberts | 05/02/1997 | Forward | 21+ | 80 | 50* | 80 | 77* | 3 | Fulham FC (ENG) |

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

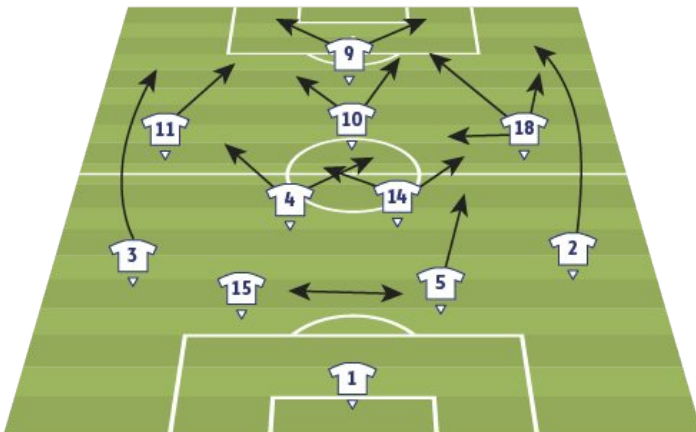
Coach: John Peacock

27/03/56

"I'm delighted for the players. Not just because they won the tournament but because they showed character. There were moments when they had to dig deep and had to regroup collectively. We played the final very well. We had a really good game plan; we controlled things well and deserved to go in front. The equaliser just before half-time could have been a knockout blow, but the lads really showed character in the second half. If you're going to win anything, you've got to have characters in your side who can come back from a bit of adversity."



England team analysis



- Variations on 4-3-3 with single or twin screen in midfield
- High levels of technique; physical strength; quick to ball
- Progressive, high-tempo possession game based on building from back
- Power runs by centre-back Joe Gomez and midfielder Joshua Onomah = dangerous counters
- Fast, explosive wingers ready to run at defences; adventurous full-backs
- Ryan Ledson the controlling midfielder dictating tempo of passing game
- Confident, composed in possession; strong team ethic, mental strength



Germany



| No. | Player | Born | Pos. | SCO | SUI | POR | GS | Club |
|-----|-------------------------|------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|----|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Timo Königsmann | 05/04/1997 | Goalkeeper | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Hannover 96 (GER) |
| 2 | Robin Tim Becker | 18/01/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80 | | | Bayer 04 Leverkusen (GER) |
| 3 | Nicolas Clasen | 25/02/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80* | 80 | | VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach (GER) |
| 4 | Matthias Bader | 17/06/1997 | Defender | | 1+ | 67* | | Karlsruher SC (GER) |
| 5 | Benedikt Gimber | 19/02/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80 | 80 | | TSG 1899 Hoffenheim (GER) |
| 6 | Damir Bektic | 30/01/1997 | Midfield | 66* | 80 | 62* | | Hertha BSC Berlin (GER) |
| 7 | Arianit Ferati | 07/09/1997 | Forward | 80 | 80 | 74* | | VfB Stuttgart (GER) |
| 8 | Benjamin Henrichs | 23/02/1997 | Forward | 80 | 80 | 80 | 1 | Bayer 04 Leverkusen (GER) |
| 9 | Phillipp Ochs | 17/04/1997 | Forward | 80 | 79* | 80 | | TSG 1899 Hoffenheim (GER) |
| 10 | Max Besuschkow | 31/05/1997 | Midfield | 49* | 80 | 6+ | | VfB Stuttgart (GER) |
| 11 | Oguzhan Aydogan | 04/02/1997 | Forward | 14+ | 53* | | | FC Schalke 04 (GER) |
| 12 | Patrick Bade | 10/01/1997 | Goalkeeper | | | | | Bayer 04 Leverkusen (GER) |
| 13 | Lukas Boeder | 18/04/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Bayer 04 Leverkusen (GER) |
| 14 | Patrick Kammerbauer | 11/02/1997 | Defender | | | 13+ | | 1. FC Nürnberg (GER) |
| 15 | Ole Käuper | 09/01/1997 | Midfield | 31+ | | | | SV Werder Bremen (GER) |
| 16 | Finn Porath | 23/02/1997 | Forward | 40* | 27+ | 18+ | | Hamburger SV (GER) |
| 17 | David Sauerland | 28/06/1997 | Midfield | | | 80 | | Borussia Dortmund (GER) |
| 18 | Allessandro Fiore-Tapia | 04/03/1997 | Forward | 40+ | 1+ | 80 | | SC Freiburg (GER) |

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

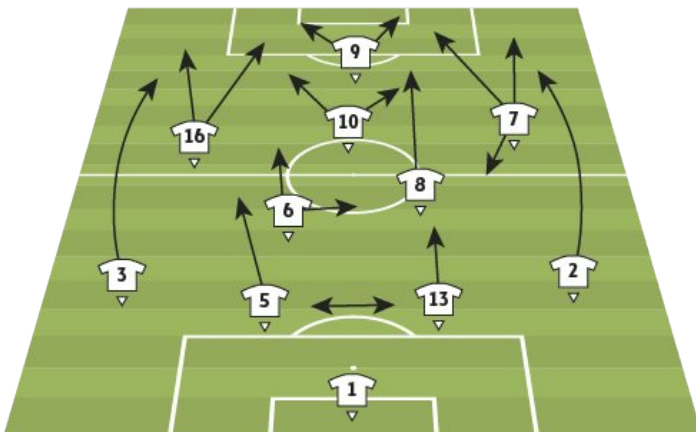
Coach: Christian Wück

09/06/73

"We had so many scoring opportunities that we didn't take in all three games. We had bad luck, hitting the woodwork, missing a penalty ... we should really have got a better reward. The disappointment was very big among the players and the coaching staff. It's very difficult for young people of 16 or 17 to take this on board, and it's not easy to lift spirits. We have to analyse the games and hope that the players learn from the tournament. You don't only learn from success – you also learn from defeat."



Germany team analysis



- 4-2-3-1 with quick, compact narrow defensive block
- Centre-backs ready to advance and create numerical superiority in midfield
- Emphasis on building combination moves from back
- Good diagonal passing from centre-backs to open play to wings
- Fast, skilful, interchanging wingers supported by overlapping full-backs
- Fast transitions in both directions; dangerous counterattacking
- Quality of approach play not matched by accuracy of finishing



Malta



| No. | Player | Born | Pos. | ENG | NED | TUR | GS | Club |
|-----|----------------------|------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | Jamie Azzopardi | 01/09/1997 | Goalkeeper | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Mosta FC (MLT) |
| 2 | Daniel Buckle | 29/07/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80 | 61* | | Hibernians FC (MLT) |
| 3 | Jean Borg | 08/01/1998 | Defender | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Valletta FC (MLT) |
| 4 | Nick Ghio | 18/06/1998 | Defender | 73* | 80 | | | Hibernians FC (MLT) |
| 5 | Matthew Guillaumier | 09/04/1998 | Midfield | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Saint Andrew's FC (MLT) |
| 6 | Christian Degabriele | 07/03/1997 | Defender | 80 | 46* | | | Pietà Hotspurs FC (MLT) |
| 7 | Aidan Friggieri | 28/04/1998 | Forward | 80 | 80 | 80 | 1 | Sliema Wanderers FC (MLT) |
| 8 | Jake Grech | 18/11/1997 | Midfield | 73* | 80 | 80 | | Hamrun Spartans FC (MLT) |
| 9 | Kyrian Nwoko | 04/07/1997 | Forward | 80 | 55* | | | Saint Andrew's FC (MLT) |
| 10 | Conor Borg | 13/05/1997 | Midfield | 80 | 65* | 79* | | AC Chievo Verona (ITA) |
| 11 | Joseph Mbong | 15/07/1997 | Forward | 40* | 80 | 80 | 1 | Hibernians FC (MLT) |
| 12 | Mikhail Sciberras | 17/05/1997 | Goalkeeper | | | | | Balzan Youths FC (MLT) |
| 13 | Myles Beerman | 13/03/1999 | Midfield | 40+ | 25+ | 80 | | Floriana FC (MLT) |
| 14 | Iousef Meli | 07/11/1997 | Defender | 7+ | 34+ | 80 | | Sliema Wanderers FC (MLT) |
| 15 | Mark Scicluna | 24/02/1997 | Midfield | | | 80* | | Sliema Wanderers FC (MLT) |
| 16 | Neil Spiteri | 03/06/1997 | Defender | | | 19+ | | Floriana FC (MLT) |
| 17 | Juan Corbolan | 03/01/1997 | Midfield | 7+ | 15+ | 1+ | | Balzan Youths FC (MLT) |
| 18 | Neil Tabone | 01/10/1997 | Midfield | | | | | Floriana FC (MLT) |
| 19 | Luke Galea | 21/01/1997 | Defender | | | 1+ | | Hamrun Spartans FC (MLT) |

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

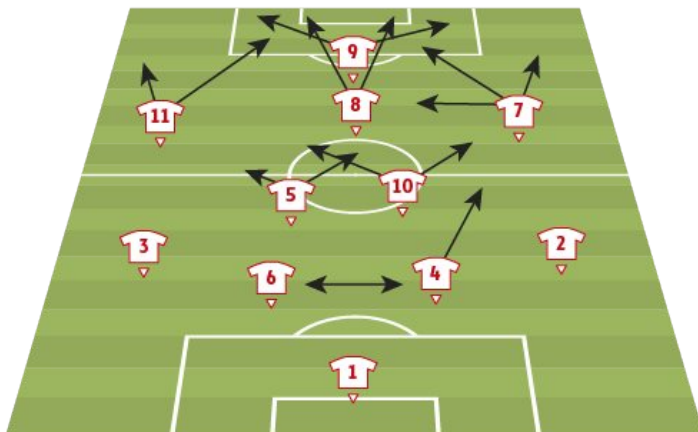
Coach: Sergio Soldano

29/11/60

"In the squad we had five players born in 1998 and one in 1999, and we demonstrated that there is great potential. I was very pleased that the lads never let their heads drop, even when they were two or three goals down. We still kept trying to score. It was hugely beneficial to take on teams and experience situations totally different to what we usually encounter. The pace and the tactical quality was much higher. The more tournaments like this we can play, the more our football will grow."



Malta team analysis



- 4-3-3 with Matthew Guillaumier, Conor Borg, Jake Grech alternating as twin screen
- Adventurous attacking approach; high level of motivation
- Effective use of wide areas by Aidan Friggieri (right) and Joseph Mbong (left)
- Well-organised team; good level of physical condition
- Deep defending with screening midfielders and wingers back
- Fast counterattacks based on direct supply to target striker Kyrian Nwoko
- Dangerous set plays with good quality delivery



Netherlands



| No. | Player | Born | Pos. | ENG | MLT | TUR | ENG | SCO | GS | Club |
|-----|--------------------|------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Yanick van Osch | 24/03/1997 | Goalkeeper | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | | PSV Eindhoven (NED) |
| 2 | Hidde ter Avest | 20/05/1997 | Defender | 74* | 80 | | 80 | 80 | | FC Twente (NED) |
| 3 | Keziah Veendorp | 17/02/1997 | Defender | 80 | 60* | 80 | 80 | 80 | | FC Groningen (NED) |
| 4 | Calvin Verdonk | 26/04/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 3 | Feyenoord (NED) |
| 5 | Wellington Verloo | 27/02/1997 | Defender | | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Vitesse (NED) |
| 6 | Donny van de Beek | 18/04/1997 | Midfield | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 73* | | AFC Ajax (NED) |
| 7 | Steven Bergwijn | 08/10/1997 | Forward | | 80 | 80 | 47* | 69* | 3 | PSV Eindhoven (NED) |
| 8 | Jari Schuurman | 22/02/1997 | Midfield | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 4 | Feyenoord (NED) |
| 9 | Dani van der Moot | 07/03/1997 | Forward | 13+ | 21+ | 55* | 4+ | 11+ | 2 | PSV Eindhoven (NED) |
| 10 | Kenneth Paal | 24/06/1997 | Midfield | 67* | 58+ | 1+ | 22+ | 7+ | | PSV Eindhoven (NED) |
| 11 | Anthony Berenstein | 02/03/1997 | Forward | | 22* | 80* | | | | FC Utrecht (NED) |
| 12 | Rick van der Meer | 14/06/1997 | Defender | 6+ | | 80 | | | | Feyenoord (NED) |
| 13 | Segun Owobowale | 22/03/1997 | Forward | 67* | 20+ | | 80 | 80 | 1 | ADO Den Haag (NED) |
| 14 | Abdelhak Nouri | 02/04/1997 | Midfield | 80 | 80 | 25+ | 58* | 80 | 2 | AFC Ajax (NED) |
| 15 | Mauro Savastano | 16/04/1997 | Defender | 80 | | | | | | AFC Ajax (NED) |
| 16 | Justin Bijlow | 22/01/1998 | Goalkeeper | | | | | | | Feyenoord (NED) |
| 17 | Marlon Slabbekoorn | 01/02/1997 | Midfield | 13+ | | 55* | 33+ | 20+ | | Feyenoord (NED) |
| 18 | Bilal Ould-Chikh | 28/07/1997 | Forward | 80 | 59* | 25+ | 76* | 60* | 1 | FC Twente (NED) |
| 19 | Guido Janssen | 09/01/1997 | Defender | | | | | | | FC Utrecht (NED) |

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

Coach: Maarten Stekelenburg

13/12/72

"We won all our official games during the season and the last one was a draw, so it was hard to lose on penalties. It was tough, disappointing and sad, but I felt proud of my boys. England sat back a bit in the final and tried to catch us on the counter. That was their strategy and they were good at it. We had ten minutes in the second half when we lost a bit of control but we came back strongly and could have won. We had a team of very smart players, technically and tactically of a high standard, and we can feel proud of a great season."



Netherlands team analysis



- 4-3-3 with twin screen in midfield; fast transition to 4-5-1 defending
- Strong emphasis on ball-to-foot possession play, neat combinations
- Goalkeeper reacting fast to control space behind back four
- Good diagonal passing (notably Calvin Verdonk) from centre to flanks
- Jari Schuurman, Donny van de Beek dictating pace of game as midfield pivots
- Exceptional one-on-one abilities among front four; ready to run at opponents
- Compact, disciplined, focused unit in attacking and defensive modes



Portugal



| No. | Player | Born | Pos. | GER | SCO | SUI | ENG | GS | Club |
|-----|--------------------|------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Pedro Silva | 13/02/1997 | Goalkeeper | | 80 | 80 | | | Sporting Clube de Portugal (POR) |
| 2 | Hugo Santos | 08/06/1997 | Defender | | 80 | 80 | 80 | | SL Benfica (POR) |
| 3 | Rúben Dias | 14/05/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | | SL Benfica (POR) |
| 4 | Pedro Rodrigues | 20/05/1997 | Defender | 80 | | 9+ | | 1 | SL Benfica (POR) |
| 5 | Yuri Ribeiro | 24/01/1997 | Defender | 7+ | 80 | 80 | 75* | | SL Benfica (POR) |
| 6 | Rúben Neves | 13/03/1997 | Midfield | 28+ | 80 | 80 | 80 | | FC Porto (POR) |
| 7 | Diogo Gonçalves | 06/02/1997 | Forward | | 76* | 58* | 80 | | SL Benfica (POR) |
| 8 | Gonçalo Rodrigues | 18/07/1997 | Midfield | 52* | 64* | 71* | 54* | | SL Benfica (POR) |
| 9 | Alexandre Silva | 16/03/1997 | Forward | 40+ | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Sporting Clube de Portugal (POR) |
| 10 | Renato Sanches | 18/08/1997 | Forward | | 80 | 80 | 80 | 1 | SL Benfica (POR) |
| 11 | Luís Mata | 06/07/1997 | Forward | 80 | 24+ | 27+ | | 2 | FC Porto (POR) |
| 12 | Fábio Duarte | 11/05/1998 | Goalkeeper | 80 | | | 80 | | SL Benfica (POR) |
| 13 | Francisco Ferreira | 26/03/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | | SL Benfica (POR) |
| 14 | Pedro Empis | 01/02/1997 | Midfield | 80 | | | 5+ | | Sporting Clube de Portugal (POR) |
| 15 | João Carvalho | 09/03/1997 | Midfield | 73* | 4+ | 22+ | 78* | | SL Benfica (POR) |
| 16 | Diogo Izata | 06/01/1997 | Defender | 80 | | | | | FC Porto (POR) |
| 17 | Pedro Delgado | 07/04/1997 | Midfield | 80 | 16+ | | 2+ | | FC Internazionale Milano (ITA) |
| 18 | Buta | 10/02/1997 | Forward | 40* | 56* | 53* | 26+ | | SL Benfica (POR) |

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

Coach: Emilio Peixe

16/01/73

"It's a development process and it was an important moment for the young players. They made a very positive impression, though we wanted a different ending to the story. I think we showed quality and that, because of the way we were organised and our individual ability, we deserved to reach the final. I think we played the best-quality football at the tournament and, even though we went home sad, the players had good reason to feel proud of their performances."



Portugal team analysis



- 4-3-3 with single screening midfielder and two wingers
- Good teamwork by strong, compact defensive line from same club
- Rúben Neves the midfield pivot; excellent passing, switches of play
- Renato Sanches the skilful, creative link between midfield and attack
- Direct runs by interchanging wingers; attack well led by striker Alexandre Silva
- Fluent, progressive possession play based on neat short passing
- Well-structured team; high levels of individual and collective qualities



Scotland



| No. | Player | Born | Pos. | GER | POR | SUI | NED | GS | Club |
|-----|-------------------|------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | Robby McCrorie | 18/03/1998 | Goalkeeper | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Rangers FC (SCO) |
| 2 | Sam Wardrop | 20/10/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80 | 80 | 6+ | | Celtic FC (SCO) |
| 3 | Thomas Lang | 12/06/1997 | Defender | 7+ | 67* | | 1+ | | Birmingham City FC (ENG) |
| 4 | Jack Breslin | 06/04/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Celtic FC (SCO) |
| 5 | Kyle Cameron | 15/01/1997 | Defender | 73* | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Newcastle United FC (ENG) |
| 6 | Joseph Thomson | 14/01/1997 | Midfield | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Celtic FC (SCO) |
| 7 | Aidan Nesbitt | 05/02/1997 | Midfield | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Celtic FC (SCO) |
| 8 | Michael Kelly | 03/11/1997 | Midfield | | | 1+ | | | Aberdeen FC (SCO) |
| 9 | Craig Wighton | 27/07/1997 | Forward | 15+ | 80 | 40+ | 80* | 1 | Dundee FC (SCO) |
| 10 | Steven Boyd | 12/04/1997 | Forward | | 40+ | | 26+ | | Celtic FC (SCO) |
| 11 | Scott Wright | 08/08/1997 | Forward | 65* | 40* | 79* | 74* | 1 | Aberdeen FC (SCO) |
| 12 | Mackay Devlin | 23/01/1997 | Goalkeeper | | | | | | Kilmarnock FC (SCO) |
| 13 | Calvin Miller | 09/01/1998 | Forward | 73* | 13+ | 40* | | | Celtic FC (SCO) |
| 14 | Ryan Hardie | 17/03/1997 | Forward | | 40+ | 40+ | 80 | 1 | Rangers FC (SCO) |
| 15 | Aidan Mcilduff | 20/04/1997 | Defender | 7+ | 40* | | | | Celtic FC (SCO) |
| 16 | Zak Jules | 07/02/1997 | Defender | 80 | | 80 | 80 | | Reading FC (ENG) |
| 17 | Cameron Ballantye | 13/04/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80 | 40* | 80 | | Dundee United FC (SCO) |
| 18 | Jake Sheppard | 30/05/1997 | Defender | 80 | | 80 | 54* | 1 | Reading FC (ENG) |

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

Coach: Scot Gemmill

02/01/71

"The manner of defeat in the semi-final was hurtful for the players. There's often a thin line between winning and losing and we went toe-to-toe with an excellent Dutch team for 30 minutes. But once the game swung, it was difficult against technical players who were always capable of scoring goals. The lads were very upset but they're young players and they're still learning. They need to see the bigger picture – and that might take some time. But they went home as better players and with every reason to hold their heads up high."



Scotland team analysis



- 4-2-3-1 with switches to 4-4-2, always with twin midfield screen
- Physically strong back four holding high line; good aerial strength
- Good shot-stopping and defensive covering by goalkeeper Robby McCrorie
- Emphasis on building through midfield, opening play to wings
- Aidan Nesbitt the skilful, industrious catalyst linking defence with attack
- Attacks supported by full-backs, especially Kyle Cameron on left
- Excellent team and work ethics; mental strength; never-say-die attitude



Switzerland



| No. | Player | Born | Pos. | GER | POR | SCO | GS | Club |
|-----|-----------------|------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|----|------------------------|
| 1 | Gregor Kobel | 06/12/1997 | Goalkeeper | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Grasshopper Club (SUI) |
| 2 | Samir Bajrami | 03/07/1997 | Defender | | 80 | 80 | | Grasshopper Club (SUI) |
| 3 | Tobias Schättin | 05/06/1997 | Defender | 80 | 71* | 80 | | FC Winterthur (SUI) |
| 4 | Alban Selmanaj | 19/04/1997 | Defender | 80 | 9+ | 77* | | FC Basel 1893 (SUI) |
| 5 | Mirlind Kryeziu | 26/01/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80 | 80 | | FC Zürich (SUI) |
| 6 | Remo Arnold | 17/01/1997 | Midfield | 75 | | 80 | | FC Luzern (SUI) |
| 7 | Arxhend Cani | 02/08/1997 | Midfield | 63* | 71* | 58* | | FC Basel 1893 (SUI) |
| 8 | Djibril Sow | 06/02/1997 | Midfield | 80 | 80 | 80 | | FC Zürich (SUI) |
| 9 | Albian Ajeti | 26/02/1997 | Forward | 78* | 80 | 80 | | FC Basel 1893 (SUI) |
| 10 | Dimitri Oberlin | 27/09/1997 | Midfield | 80 | 80 | 80 | 1 | FC Zürich (SUI) |
| 11 | Roberto Alves | 08/06/1997 | Midfield | | 15+ | | | Grasshopper Club (SUI) |
| 12 | Senad Mujovic | 26/05/1997 | Goalkeeper | | | | | Grasshopper Club (SUI) |
| 13 | Noah Loosli | 23/01/1997 | Defender | | 80 | | | Grasshopper Club (SUI) |
| 14 | Robin Huser | 24/01/1998 | Midfield | 70* | | 3+ | | FC Basel 1893 (SUI) |
| 15 | Harun Alpsoy | 03/03/1997 | Defender | 2+ | 80 | 58* | | Grasshopper Club (SUI) |
| 16 | Kevin Rüegg | 05/08/1998 | Defender | 80 | | | | FC Zürich (SUI) |
| 17 | Derek Kutesa | 06/12/1997 | Midfield | 10+ | 65* | 22+ | | Servette FC (SUI) |
| 18 | Boris Babic | 10/11/1997 | Forward | 17+ | 9+ | 22+ | 1 | FC St Gallen (SUI) |

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

Coach: Yves Débonnaire

12/12/56

"It's down to consistency in your performance and discipline in your game plan. The players are going to learn from this, then we will see if they do anything about it. Some will learn and act on it, whereas others learn and then don't do anything about it. That's what makes the difference. Some of these will be around at Under-21 level and some won't because they haven't learnt correctly. That's the reality, but that's why this tournament is magnificent."



Switzerland team analysis



- Variations on 4-3-3 with single or twin screen in midfield
- Quick transitions to compact 4-4-1-1 when defending
- Emphasis on combination play from back and through midfield
- Effective use of direct long passing, notably against Scotland
- Full-backs ready to push forward, especially Tobias Schättin on left
- Good one-on-one abilities among front four; striker Albian Ajeti a permanent threat
- Excellent goalkeeping, initiating build-ups with good distribution



Turkey



| No. | Player | Born | Pos. | ENG | NED | MLT | GS | Club |
|-----|--------------------|------------|------------|-----|-----|------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Tarık Çetin | 08/01/1997 | Goalkeeper | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Fenerbahçe SK (TUR) |
| 2 | Savaş Polat | 14/04/1997 | Defender | 57* | 80 | | | Fenerbahçe SK (TUR) |
| 3 | Bahadır Çiloğlu | 05/01/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Fenerbahçe SK (TUR) |
| 4 | Burak Bekaroğlu | 16/04/1997 | Defender | | 80 | 80 | | Sakaryaspor (TUR) |
| 5 | Ertuğrul Ersoy | 13/02/1997 | Defender | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Yeşil Bursa A.Ş. (TUR) |
| 6 | Hasan Özkan | 14/11/1997 | Midfield | 40 | 80 | | | KV Mechelen (BEL) |
| 7 | Sabit Yılmaz | 27/07/1997 | Forward | 45+ | 80 | 40* | | Turgutluspor (TUR) |
| 8 | Birhan Vatanserver | 25/04/1997 | Midfield | | 76* | 80 | | Galatasaray AŞ (TUR) |
| 9 | Enes Ünal | 10/05/1997 | Forward | 80 | 78* | 40* | 2 | Bursaspor (TUR) |
| 10 | Emirhan Aydoğan | 26/06/1997 | Midfield | 80 | 80 | 80 | | Bursaspor (TUR) |
| 11 | Doğuş Can Incedere | 15/01/1997 | Midfield | 41* | 55* | 21*+ | | Galatasaray AŞ (TUR) |
| 12 | Übeyd Adiyaman | 02/10/1997 | Goalkeeper | | | | | Gençlerbirliği SK (TUR) |
| 13 | Alican Özfesli | 01/01/1997 | Midfield | 35* | | 19+ | | Altınordu A.Ş. (TUR) |
| 14 | Furkan Ünver | 30/01/1997 | Defender | 80 | | | | Bursaspor (TUR) |
| 15 | Okan Çelik | 01/01/1997 | Midfield | 23+ | | | | Gençlerbirliği SK (TUR) |
| 16 | Tuncay Kılıç | 02/05/1997 | Midfield | 39+ | 4+ | | | Göztepe (TUR) |
| 17 | Hayrullah Alici | 07/01/1997 | Forward | | 25+ | 80 | 2 | Borussia Dortmund (GER) |
| 18 | Fatih Aktay | 29/08/1997 | Forward | 80 | 2+ | 40+ | 3 | Altınordu A.Ş. (TUR) |
| 19 | Mehmet Çelik | 17/02/1997 | Defender | | | 80 | | Bursaspor (TUR) |
| 21 | Uğur Tezel | 27/02/1997 | Midfield | | | 80 | | Hertha BSC Berlin (GER) |

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

Coach: Hakan Tecimer

06/01/67

"We had a player sent off in a match we had to win, and that obliged us to take risks. But, overall, we didn't play the way we wanted to. We only played well at certain moments when we put our ideas into practice on the pitch. However, in our first two games we were not calm enough, made rash decisions, made simple mistakes – and you don't really have a chance if you make those kinds of errors. But taking part in such a well-organised and competitive final tournament was a good experience for us."



Turkey team analysis



- Flexible structure using 4-4-2, 4-2-3-1 and 4-1-4-1 formations
- Good levels of individual technique and physical condition
- High, flat defensive line; aggressive high pressure on ball carrier
- Enes Ünal a physical presence and threat as target striker
- Extensive use of lofted passes to striker; pursuit of second ball
- Fast skilful wingers aiming to supply crosses to central striker(s)
- Attacking philosophy; commitment to cause; high-adrenaline approach

Results

Final

Final - Wednesday 21 May 2014

Ta' Qali National Stadium - Ta' Qali 21/05/2014 - 19:00CET (19:00 local time)



Netherlands

Schuurman 40

1-1

**England win 4-1
on penalties**

England

Solanke 25



Netherlands: Yanick van Osch; Hidde ter Avest, Keziah Veendorp (C), Calvin Verdonk, Wellington Verloo; Donny van de Beek, Jari Schuurman, Abdelhak Nouri (Kenneth Paal 58); Steven Bergwijn (Marlon Slabbekoorn 47), Segun Owobowale, Bilal Ould-Chikh (Dani van der Moot 76).

England: Freddie Woodman; Jonjoe Kenny, Tafari Moore, Joe Gomez, Taylor Moore; Ryan Ledson (C), Joshua Onomah, Lewis Cook (Callum Cooke 74); Dominic Solanke, Izzy Brown, Patrick Roberts.

Attendance: 9422

Yellow cards: Netherlands - Donny van de Beek (37), Jari Schuurman (53); England - Lewis Cook (68)

Referee: Andreas Ekberg (SWE)

Assistant referees: Dag-Roger Nebben (NOR), Istvan Albert (HUN)

Fourth official: Aleksandrs Anufrijevs (LVA)

Semi-finals

Semi-finals - Sunday 18 May 2014

Ta' Qali National Stadium - Ta' Qali 18/05/2014 - 20:45CET (20:45 local time)



Netherlands

5-0

Scotland



Verdonk 35 (P)
Nouri 38
Bergwijn 57
Owobowale 59
van der Moot 73

Netherlands: Yanick van Osch; Hidde ter Avest, Keziah Veendorp (C), Calvin Verdonk, Wellington Verloo; Donny van de Beek (Kenneth Paal 73), Jari Schuurman, Abdelhak Nouri; Steven Bergwijn (Dani van der Moot 69), Segun Owobowale, Bilal Ould-Chikh (Marlon Slabbekoorn 60).

Scotland: Robby McCrorie; Jack Breslin (C), Kyle Cameron, Zak Jules; Joseph Thomson, Aidan Nesbitt, Cameron Ballantye, Jake Sheppard (Steven Boyd 54); Craig Wighton (Thomas Lang 80), Scott Wright (Sam Wardrop 74), Ryan Hardie.

Attendance: 508

Yellow cards: Scotland - Cameron Ballantye (78)

Referee: Jonathan Lardot (BEL)

Assistant referees: Jure Praprotnik (SVN), Istvan Albert (HUN)

Fourth official: Aleksandrs Anufrijevs (LVA)

Semi-finals - Sunday 18 May 2014

Ta' Qali National Stadium - Ta' Qali 18/05/2014 - 17:45CET (17:45 local time)



Portugal

0-2

England



Solanke 52

Roberts 74

Portugal: Fábio Duarte; Hugo Santos, Rúben Dias, Yuri Ribeiro (Pedro Empis 75), Francisco Ferreira; Rúben Neves (C), Gonçalo Rodrigues (Buta 54), João Carvalho (Pedro Delgado 78); Diogo Gonçalves, Alexandre Silva, Renato Sanches.

England: Freddie Woodman; Jonjoe Kenny, Tafari Moore (Mandela Egbo 72), Joe Gomez, Taylor Moore; Ryan Ledson (C), Lewis Cook; Adam Armstrong (Joshua Onomah 36), Dominic Solanke, Izzy Brown, Patrick Roberts (Callum Cooke 77).

Attendance: 2107

Yellow cards: Portugal - Alexandre Silva (29); England - Lewis Cook (68), Mandela Egbo (80+3)

Referee: Alexander Harkam (AUT)

Assistant referees: Dag-Roger Nebben (NOR), Oleksandr Korniyko (UKR)

Fourth official: Andreas Ekberg (SWE)

Group A

| Teams | P | W | D | L | F | A | +/- | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| Netherlands | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| England | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| Turkey | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 3 |
| Malta | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 12 | -10 | 0 |

Legend:

P: Played W: Won D: Drawn L: Lost F: For A: Against +/-: Goal difference

Final tournament - Group stage - Friday 9 May 2014

Ta' Qali National Stadium - Ta' Qali 09/05/2014 - 11:00CET (11:00 local time)



Netherlands

Verdonk 54 (P)

Nouri 69

Ould-Chikh 75

3-2

Turkey

Enes Ünal 43

Fatih Aktay 79



Netherlands: Yanick van Osch; Keziah Veendorp (C), Calvin Verdonk, Wellington Verloo, Rick van der Meer; Donny van de Beek, Jari Schuurman, Marlon Slabbekoorn (Abdelhak Nouri 55); Steven Bergwijn, Dani van der Moot (Bilal Ould-Chikh 55), Anthony Berenstein (Kenneth Paal 80).

Turkey: Tarık Çetin; Savaş Polat, Bahadır Çiloğlu, Burak Bekaroğlu, Ertuğrul Ersoy; Hasan Özkan, Birhan Vatansever (Tuncay Kılıç 76), Emirhan Aydoğan, Doğuş Can Incedere (Hayrullah Alici 55); Sabit Yılmaz, Enes Ünal (C) (Fatih Aktay 78).

Attendance: 3947

Yellow cards: Turkey - Doğuş Can Incedere (31), Bahadır Çiloğlu (54)

Referee: Nikola Dabanović (MNE)

Assistant referees: Istvan Albert (HUN), Audrius Jagintavičius (LTU)

Fourth official: Clayton Pisani (MLT)

Final tournament - Group stage - Friday 9 May 2014

Ta' Qali National Stadium - Ta' Qali 09/05/2014 - 18:00CET (18:00 local time)



Malta

0-3

England



Roberts 15, 48
Armstrong 25

Malta: Jamie Azzopardi; Daniel Buckle, Jean Borg, Nick Ghio (Iusef Meli 73), Christian Degabriele; Matthew Guillaumier, Jake Grech (Juan Corbolan 73), Conor Borg (C); Aidan Friggieri, Kyrian Nwoko, Joseph Mbong (Myles Beerman 41).

England: Freddie Woodman; Jonjoe Kenny, Tafari Moore, Joe Gomez, Dael Fry; Ryan Ledson (C), Joshua Onomah (Lewis Cook 69), Josh Sims; Adam Armstrong, Dominic Solanke (Callum Cooke 59), Patrick Roberts (Demetri Mitchell 50).

Attendance: 7015

Referee: Aleksandrs Anufrijevs (LVA)

Assistant referees: Jure Praprotnik (SVN), David Chigogidze (GEO)

Fourth official: Aliyar Aghayev (AZE)

Final tournament - Group stage - Monday 12 May 2014

Gozo Stadium - Gozo 12/05/2014 - 11:15CET (11:15 local time)



England

4-1

Turkey



Solanke 22, 49
Kenny 58
Armstrong 64

Enes Ünal 16

England: Freddie Woodman; Jonjoe Kenny, Tafari Moore (Mandela Egbo 66), Joe Gomez, Taylor Moore; Ryan Ledson (C), Lewis Cook; Adam Armstrong (Demetri Mitchell 70), Dominic Solanke (Callum Cooke 65), Izzy Brown, Patrick Roberts.

Turkey: Tarık Çetin; Savaş Polat (Okan Çelik 57), Bahadır Çiloğlu, Ertuğrul Ersoy, Furkan Ünver; Hasan Özkan, Emirhan Aydoğan, Doğuş Can Incedere (Tuncay Kılıç 41), Alican Özfesli (Sabit Yılmaz 35); Enes Ünal (C), Fatih Aktay.

Attendance: 1631

Red Cards: Turkey: Hasan Özkan (40)

Yellow cards: Turkey - Hasan Özkan (24), Hasan Özkan (40), Emirhan Aydoğan (79)

Referee: Jonathan Lardot (BEL)

Assistant referees: Oleksandr Korniyko (UKR), David Elias Biton (ISR)

Fourth official: Andreas Ekberg (SWE)

Final tournament - Group stage - Monday 12 May 2014

Gozo Stadium - Gozo 12/05/2014 - 15:15CET (15:15 local time)



Malta

Mbong 37
Friggieri 64

2-5

Netherlands

Schuurman 5, 27, 42
Bergwijn 13, 69



Malta: Jamie Azzopardi; Daniel Buckle, Jean Borg, Nick Ghio, Christian Degabriele (Iusef Meli 46); Matthew Guillaumier, Jake Grech, Conor Borg (C) (Juan Corbolan 65); Aidan Friggieri, Kyrian Nwoko (Myles Beerman 55), Joseph Mbong.

Netherlands: Yanick van Osch; Hidde ter Avest, Keziah Veendorp (C) (Segun Owobowale 60), Calvin Verdonk, Wellington Verloo; Donny van de Beek, Jari Schuurman, Abdelhak Nouri; Steven Bergwijn, Anthony Berenstein (Kenneth Paal 22), Bilal Ould-Chikh (Dani van der Moot 59).

Attendance: 1145

Yellow cards: Malta - Aidan Friggieri (59)

Referee: Aliyar Aghayev (AZE)

Assistant referees: Mesrop Ghazaryan (ARM), Dag-Roger Nebben (NOR)

Fourth official: Alexander Harkam (AUT)

Final tournament - Group stage - Thursday 15 May 2014

Hibernians Stadium - Paola 15/05/2014 - 11:00CET (11:00 local time)



England

0-2

Netherlands

Verdonk 45
van der Moot 68



England: Sam Howes; Jonjoe Kenny, Joe Gomez, Dael Fry, Mandela Egbo; Ryan Ledson (C), Demetri Mitchell (Taylor Moore 68), Joshua Onomah, Callum Cooke (Patrick Roberts 59), Josh Sims (Adam Armstrong 47); Izzy Brown.

Netherlands: Yanick van Osch; Hidde ter Avest (Rick van der Meer 74), Keziah Veendorp (C), Calvin Verdonk, Mauro Savastano; Donny van de Beek, Jari Schuurman, Kenneth Paal (Marlon Slabbekoorn 67), Abdelhak Nouri; Segun Owobowale (Dani van der Moot 67), Bilal Ould-Chikh.

Attendance: 1240

Yellow cards: England - Jonjoe Kenny (54)

Referee: Alexander Harkam (AUT)

Assistant referees: David Chigogidze (GEO), Mesrop Ghazaryan (ARM)

Fourth official: Alan Mario Sant (MLT)

Final tournament - Group stage - Thursday 15 May 2014

Ta' Qali National Stadium - Ta' Qali 15/05/2014 - 11:00CET (11:00 local time)



Turkey

Hayrullah Alici 43, 58
Fatih Aktay 70, 76

4-0

Malta



Turkey: Tarık Çetin; Bahadır Çiloğlu, Burak Bekaroğlu, Ertuğrul Ersoy, Mehmet Çelik; Birhan Vatansever, Emirhan Aydoğan, Uğur Tezel; Sabit Yılmaz (Doğuş Can Incedere 41), Enes Ünal (C) (Fatih Aktay 41), Hayrullah Alici.

Malta: Jamie Azzopardi; Daniel Buckle (Neil Spiteri 61), Jean Borg, Iusef Meli; Matthew Guillaumier, Jake Grech, Conor Borg (C) (Juan Corbolan 79), Myles Beerman, Mark Scicluna (Luke Galea 80); Aidan Friggieri, Joseph Mbong.

Attendance: 8129

Referee: Jonathan Lardot (BEL)

Assistant referees: David Elias Biton (ISR), Jure Praprotnik (SVN)

Fourth official: Aleksandrs Anufrijevs (LVA)

Group B

| Teams | P | W | D | L | F | A | +/- | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| Portugal | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 9 |
| Scotland | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Germany | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | -2 | 1 |
| Switzerland | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | -3 | 1 |

Legend:

P: Played W: Won D: Drawn L: Lost F: For A: Against +/-: Goal difference

Final tournament - Group stage - Friday 9 May 2014

Gozo Stadium - Gozo 09/05/2014 - 11:15CET (11:15 local time)



Germany

Henrichs 58

1-1

Switzerland

Babic 72



Germany: Timo Königsmann; Robin Tim Becker, Nicolas Clasen (Matthias Bader 80+4), Benedikt Gimber, Lukas Boeder; Damir Bektic, Max Besuschkow, Oguzhan Aydogan (Finn Porath 53); Arianit Ferati, Benjamin Henrichs (C), Phillipp Ochs (Alessandro Fiore Tapia 79).

Switzerland: Gregor Kobel; Tobias Schättin, Alban Selmanaj, Mirlind Kryeziu (C), Kevin Rüegg; Remo Arnold, Arxhend Cani (Boris Babic 63), Djibril Sow, Dimitri Oberlin, Robin Huser (Derek Kutesa 70); Alban Ajeti (Harun Alpsoy 78).

Attendance: 1448

Red Cards: Switzerland: Remo Arnold (75)

Yellow cards: Germany - Max Besuschkow (52); Switzerland - Boris Babic (80+3)

Referee: Alexander Harkam (AUT)

Assistant referees: Dag-Roger Nebben (NOR), Mesrop Ghazaryan (ARM)

Fourth official: Jonathan Lardot (BEL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Friday 9 May 2014

Gozo Stadium - Gozo 09/05/2014 - 15:15CET (15:15 local time)



Scotland

0-2

Portugal



Renato Sanches 18
Luís Mata 78

Scotland: Robby McCrorie; Sam Wardrop, Thomas Lang (Calvin Miller 67), Jack Breslin (C), Kyle Cameron, Aidan Mcilduff (Ryan Hardie 41); Joseph Thomson, Aidan Nesbitt, Cameron Ballantye; Craig Wighton, Scott Wright (Steven Boyd 41).

Portugal: Pedro Silva; Hugo Santos, Rúben Dias, Yuri Ribeiro, Francisco Ferreira; Rúben Neves (C), Gonçalo Rodrigues (Pedro Delgado 64); Diogo Gonçalves (João Carvalho 76), Alexandre Silva, Renato Sanches, Buta (Luís Mata 56).

Attendance: 341

Referee: Andreas Ekberg (SWE)

Assistant referees: David Elias Biton (ISR), Oleksandr Korniyko (UKR)

Fourth official: Alan Mario Sant (MLT)

Final tournament - Group stage - Monday 12 May 2014

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Switzerland

0-1

Portugal



Luís Mata 54

Switzerland: Gregor Kobel; Samir Bajrami, Tobias Schättin (Boris Babic 71), Mirlind Kryeziu (C), Noah Loosli, Harun Alpsoy; Arxhend Cani (Alban Selmanaj 71), Djibril Sow, Dimitri Oberlin, Derek Kutesa (Roberto Alves 65); Alban Ajeti.

Portugal: Pedro Silva; Hugo Santos, Rúben Dias, Yuri Ribeiro, Francisco Ferreira; Rúben Neves (C), Gonçalo Rodrigues (Pedro Rodrigues 71); Diogo Gonçalves (João Carvalho 58), Alexandre Silva, Renato Sanches, Buta (Luís Mata 53).

Attendance: 2563

Yellow cards: Switzerland - Gregor Kobel (35)

Referee: Nikola Dabanović (MNE)

Assistant referees: David Chigogidze (GEO), Audrius Jagintavičius (LTU)

Fourth official: Clayton Pisani (MLT)

Final tournament - Group stage - Monday 12 May 2014

Hibernians Stadium - Paola 12/05/2014 - 18:00CET (18:00 local time)



Germany

0-1

Scotland



Wright 41

Germany: Timo Königsmann; Robin Tim Becker, Nicolas Clasen, Benedikt Gimber, Lukas Boeder; Damir Bektic (Oguzhan Aydogan 66), Max Besuschkow (Ole Käuper 49); Arianit Ferati, Benjamin Henrichs (C), Phillipp Ochs, Finn Porath (Alessandro Fiore Tapia 41).

Scotland: Robby McCrorie; Sam Wardrop, Jack Breslin (C), Kyle Cameron (Thomas Lang 73), Zak Jules; Joseph Thomson, Aidan Nesbitt, Cameron Ballantye, Jake Sheppard; Scott Wright (Craig Wighton 65), Calvin Miller (Aidan Mcilduff 73).

Attendance: 1206

Yellow cards: Germany - Damir Bektic (40+1), Benjamin Henrichs (51), Phillipp Ochs (72); Scotland - Jack Breslin (12), Scott Wright (18), Kyle Cameron (61), Sam Wardrop (80+3)

Referee: Aleksandrs Anufrijevs (LVA)

Assistant referees: Istvan Albert (HUN), Jure Praprotnik (SVN)

Fourth official: Alan Mario Sant (MLT)

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Portugal

1-0

Germany



Pedro Rodrigues 51

Portugal: Fábio Duarte; Rúben Dias (C), Pedro Rodrigues, Francisco Ferreira, Diogo Izata; Gonçalo Rodrigues (Rúben Neves 52), Pedro Empis, João Carvalho (Yuri Ribeiro 73), Pedro Delgado; Luís Mata, Buta (Alexandre Silva 41).

Germany: Timo Königsmann; Nicolas Clasen, Matthias Bader (Patrick Kammerbauer 67), Benedikt Gimber, Lukas Boeder; Damir Bektic (Finn Porath 62), David Sauerland; Arianit Ferati (Max Besuschkow 74), Benjamin Henrichs (C), Phillipp Ochs, Alessandro Fiore Tapia.

Attendance: 1172

Yellow cards: Portugal - Buta (32), Diogo Izata (80+2)

Referee: Andreas Ekberg (SWE)

Assistant referees: Oleksandr Korniyko (UKR), Istvan Albert (HUN)

Fourth official: Nikola Dabanović (MNE)

Final tournament - Group stage - Thursday 15 May 2014

Hibernians Stadium - Paola 15/05/2014 - 18:00CET (18:00 local time)



Switzerland

Oberlin 20

1-3

Scotland

Wighton 45

Sheppard 56

Hardie 63



Switzerland: Gregor Kobel; Samir Bajrami, Tobias Schättin, Alban Selmanaj (Robin Huser 77), Mirlind Kryeziu (C), Harun Alpsoy (Derek Kutesa 58); Remo Arnold, Arxhend Cani (Boris Babic 58), Djibril Sow, Dimitri Oberlin; Alban Ajeti.

Scotland: Robby McCrorie; Sam Wardrop, Jack Breslin (C), Kyle Cameron, Zak Jules; Joseph Thomson, Aidan Nesbitt, Cameron Ballantye (Craig Wighton 41), Jake Sheppard; Scott Wright (Michael Kelly 79), Calvin Miller (Ryan Hardie 41).

Attendance: 514

Yellow cards: Switzerland - Remo Arnold (64), Djibril Sow (69); Scotland - Cameron Ballantye (36), Zak Jules (72)

Referee: Aliyar Aghayev (AZE)









Assistant referees: Audrius Jagintavičius (LTU), Dag-Roger Nebben (NOR)

Fourth official: Clayton Pisani (MLT)

Match officials

| Name | Country | Date of birth | FIFA |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------|------|
| Referees | | | |
| Aliyar Aghayev | Azerbaijan | 17/10/1987 | 2013 |
| Aleksandrs Anufrijevs | Latvia | 08/01/1984 | 2012 |
| Nikola Dabanović | Montenegro | 18/12/1981 | 2009 |
| Andreas Ekberg | Sweden | 02/01/1985 | 2013 |
| Alexander Harkam | Austria | 17/11/1981 | 2012 |
| Jonathan Lardot | Belgium | 31/01/1984 | 2012 |
| Assistant referees | | | |
| Istvan Albert | Hungary | 17/01/1980 | 2007 |
| David Elias Biton | Israel | 17/06/1978 | 2011 |
| David Chigogidze | Georgia | 26/07/1989 | 2013 |
| Mesrop Ghazaryan | Armenia | 19/07/1982 | 2012 |
| Audrius Jagintavičius | Lithuania | 13/09/1984 | 2012 |
| Oleksandr Korniyko | Ukraine | 20/04/1981 | 2012 |
| Dag-Roger Nebben | Norway | 05/09/1980 | 2005 |
| Jure Praprotnik | Slovenia | 24/08/1985 | 2013 |
| Fourth officials | | | |
| Clayton Pisani | Malta | 31/07/1978 | 2009 |
| Alan Mario Sant | Malta | 16/08/1980 | 2010 |

Fair play rankings

| Pos. | Team | Points | Matches played |
|------|---|--------|----------------|
| 1 |  Netherlands | 8.657 | 5 |
| 2 |  England | 8.614 | 5 |
| 3 |  Malta | 8.536 | 3 |
| 4 |  Portugal | 8.536 | 4 |
| 5 |  Germany | 8.25 | 3 |
| 6 |  Scotland | 8.009 | 4 |
| 7 |  Switzerland | 7.917 | 3 |
| 8 |  Turkey | 7.774 | 3 |