



Free Lions

THE ENGLAND FANZINE FROM THE FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 166



FSA FOOTBALL
SUPPORTERS'
ASSOCIATION

HOLLAND V ENGLAND
6TH JUNE 2019

PORTO METRO MAP



WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF **FREE LIONS** 166

...the **free** England fanzine produced and distributed by the **Football Supporters' Association (FSA)** as part of our **Fans' Embassy** service

Holland v England

Estádio D. Afonso Henriques, Guimarães

Thursday, 6th June 2019

Kick-off 19:45, local time

England will probably play in WHITE



Useful Numbers

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IT WASN'T ME

The Free Lions fanzine is produced by the Football Supporters' Association (FSA), the national membership-based organisation for fans. We have tried to ensure the accuracy of all the information provided in this fanzine, but can accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience suffered by anyone relying on

AND welcome to Portugal, to (we hope) both Guimarães and Porto, for the semi-final and (we hope) the final of the first-ever UEFA Nations League. After a gap of 22 years, Gareth and the team have now treated us to two semi-finals in the space of a year, and brought us tantalisingly close to the prospect of winning a trophy for the first time since 1966 – that's 53 long years, so there will be quite a party if we achieve it.

Before we can even begin to get excited about the possibility of a final against Portugal on their own turf, we first of all have to beat a resurgent Dutch team (and of course our hosts have to beat the Swiss), so we can take nothing for granted.

So honestly, the reason we have included some guide information about Porto in this edition of Free Lions is not out of complacency, but because we know that Guimarães is

a relatively small city without a huge amount of accommodation, and so many England fans will be making Porto their base even for the first game, making a day trip north for the match itself.

With over 10,000 tickets sold by the FA to ESTC members for this game (that doesn't include the extra few thousand who have purchased in UEFA's public sale), this will be the biggest turnout of official England fans for years (the ticket allocation is far higher than we've had at World Cups and European Championships), and we're likely far to outnumber the Dutch at the semi-final.

Among our number will be a fair few attending their first away game – welcome to the party. We have a great opportunity to have an amazing time in the sunshine, and also to enhance even further the reputation of England fans, so please, stick to our one simple maxim: don't be a dick. Have fun!

COVER STORY

With Spurs and Liverpool – and with them Harry Kane and Jordan Henderson – involved in the Champions League final, **Raheem Sterling** could wear the captain's armband as he wins his 50th full international cap, a fitting end to an impressive season.



THANK YOU

As ever, this fanzine has been a team effort. This edition was edited by Kevin Miles, and thanks are due to Phil Rowley; Clive Hetherington, Joe Hetherington; Harpreet Robertson, Tony Connifford; Joe Stokoe; Gillian Herculano, Sandra Magalhaes; Peter Daykin.



LEARNING ON THE JOB

BY CLIVE HETHERINGTON



IT says much about English clubs often ignoring their best home-grown players in favour of imported foreign talent that Callum Hudson-Odoi started a senior international before he did a Premier League game.

The Chelsea starlet, 18, looked the part in something a little more than a cameo role as England came from behind to beat hosts Montenegro 5-1 in a Euro 2020 qualifier in March when morons among the home support hurled racist abuse at Three Lions players.

Cruelly, a ruptured Achilles sustained in Chelsea's 2-2 draw against Burnley at Stamford Bridge on 22nd April brought about a painful postscript to what had been a breakthrough season for Hudson-Odoi, who isn't the only young English winger to make it with his country without being a Premier League fixture.

Jadon Sancho has become a firm friend of Hudson-Odoi as they have risen through the England ranks together from Under-16 level.

Sancho, who is still only 19, was lost to English football's top flight, though his circumstances were influenced by a contract issue with Manchester City which centred on assurances over first-team appearances.

Despite being earmarked for stardom with City, after they had signed him from Watford at only 14, Sancho failed to figure in a first-team game and ended up falling into the hands of Bundesliga giants Borussia Dortmund, who paid an initial £8million for him in August 2017.

He made his England debut as a substitute in the goalless, behind-closed-doors Nations League draw in Croatia last October and started for the first time in the 3-0 friendly home win against the USA the following month.

Sancho is now valued at upwards of £100m and, at the time of writing, the talk is of him finally making that Premier League debut in a return to English shores next season.

Hudson-Odoi appeared destined to join Sancho in Germany in January as Bayern Munich circled for his signature. A deal didn't materialise, but Bayern retain an interest.

After entering the big-time international arena as a substitute

in the 5-0 rout of the Czech Republic at Wembley in the Euro qualifying opener in March, Hudson-Odoi then made his full England debut – nine days before starting for the first time in a Premier League game in Chelsea's 3-0 win over Brighton on 3rd April.

Former Three Lions and Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole sang Hudson-Odoi's praises, despite a costly lack of reaction when Montenegro took the lead in Podgorica.

"It was perfectly understandable from an 18-year-old who has come into the side, and a lesson to learn," commented Cole. "You want him to jump for the ball and read the danger, but Callum was excellent running at people. He brings you power, pace, directness and fearlessness. He's a great player and he can be even better.

"The reason he played against Montenegro was that, as well as England needing to win the game, you also need to develop players like Callum and he's getting better and better every time I see him."

Ex-England striker Ian Wright added: "He's learning on the job in international football. There were things he did which were fantastic and there were things he did that were quite naïve. You expect that at his age.

"You make mistakes but you have to keep going and he did that, and I was pleased he finished the game."

While Hudson-Odoi's display rightly grabbed plenty of attention, Chelsea teammate Ross Barkley, now 25, provided a further plus for England manager Gareth Southgate.

Barkley's career at club and international level has been stop-start since much was made of his potential heading into the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

There were comparisons between the then-Everton midfielder and former Toffee Paul Gascoigne.

Four years later, Barkley was nowhere to be seen as England reached a World Cup semi-final for the first time since 1990 and the days when Gazza was the nation's favourite. But Barkley, back in the England fold,

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH CLIVE HETHERINGTON?

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was the man of the match against Montenegro with a brace.

Cole said: "He got two goals and an assist and he looked so comfortable in an England shirt in that game. He came deep, got on the ball and took it in difficult positions. He looked a real player.

"I just think he needs to develop a bit more in his game where he gets in there and picks up the type of tap-in he had for the first goal. It was a great finish because it's not easy when the ball is coming across you.

"He's shown maturity but he needs to arrive in the box like Frank Lampard and get on the end of things because he has the technique, the size and the



physicality. He's starting to knit them altogether.

"I'm a great fan of his and I think he has all the attributes to become a world-class midfielder."

>> IN MEMORY OF IVOR BROADIS & TOMMY SMITH by Clive Hetherington

ENGLAND'S oldest-surviving international, Ivor Broadis, died on 12th April at 96. And on the same day, one-time (literally as, surprisingly, he only won one cap) Three Lion and Liverpool hardman Tommy Smith also passed away.

London-born Broadis played for Sunderland, Manchester City, Newcastle United, Queen of the South and first club Carlisle United, where he had two spells. The first was as player-manager when he was only 23, making him the youngest boss in League football. The inside-

forward also had the distinction of transferring himself from Carlisle to Sunderland! He won 14 caps for England, scoring eight goals, two of them at the 1954 World Cup. Broadis went on to work as a football reporter and settled in Carlisle.

Scouser Smith, known as the "Anfield Iron", scored in Liverpool's first European Cup final win in 1977, when they beat Borussia Monchengladbach in Rome – four years after captaining them to their first European trophy, the UEFA Cup, against the same opponents. A versatile defender, Smith made 638 appearances for the Reds

and won his solitary England cap against Wales at Wembley in 1971. He ended his career with Swansea.

His death, at 74, came little more than three months after the passing of fellow England international and Liverpool teammate Peter Thompson.

The Carlisle-born winger, who also played for Preston and Bolton and picked up 16 caps, died in late December at 76.



INTRODUCING THE FSA

THE NEW, **UNIFIED**, FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' ORGANISATION



If you haven't heard of the FSA then that's not a big surprise – we're only just settling in to our new name. You're more likely be familiar with the Football Supporters' Federation, who for the last 19 years have produced this fanzine, and you may know of Supporters Direct. These two national supporter groups merged at the end of last year to form the FSA, combining our resources to do even more on behalf of football supporters.

The Football Supporters' Association, to give us our full name, is the national supporters' organisation for all football fans, representing more than 500,000 individual fans and members of more than 300 local supporters' organisations from every club in the men's professional structure, and an increasing number of fans of women's football too.

What We Do

We are the leading advocates of cheaper ticket pricing, better

supporter engagement, the choice to stand at football, good governance and fan empowerment in its many forms.

As the national organisation for fans, we have regular meetings with the Premier League, the EFL and the FA, to take supporters' concerns right to the top table. We also provide the secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Football Supporters Group, meaning we get to bend the ears of MPs who follow football, aiming to strengthen the voice of football fans within Parliament. We've even got two fan representatives on the FA Council.

In the past few years we've successfully campaigned to put more than 7,000 extra FA Cup final tickets in fans' hands, fought for and won the introduction of the £30 away ticket price cap in the Premier League, led the campaign for choice on standing which has seen the likes of Shrewsbury Town, Spurs and Wolves adopt rail seating in their stadiums, as well as support more than 40 clubs

into community ownership and set up dozens of supporters' trusts and fan groups across the country, gaining fan representation at board level to ensure supporters' voices are heard in the running of their club. Our Fans For Diversity campaign contributes to the fight against racism and discrimination in football and has brought hundreds of new supporters from under-represented groups to the game.

If you follow England away you'll be most familiar with us via this Free Lions fanzine and our Fans Embassy teams – the foolhardy souls who've been helping England fans abroad for almost 30 years now. We've supported fans of the England men's national team at tournaments since the 90s, pioneering the concept of a fans' embassy, which we are once again running here in Portugal for the Nations League finals.

Get Involved

The staff and volunteers at the FSA work hard to further the interests of football supporters, but our strength comes from our members – football fans who through our democratic structures decide our policies and our priorities, and who by adding their voice to our collective roar help to make us a force that cannot be ignored. That's why we'd urge everyone reading this to join the Football Supporters' Association – membership is free, and there are then dozens of ways you can get involved in our activities.



FANS' EMBASSIES

PORTUGAL & FRANCE



The Fans' Embassy in Portugal

FOR the benefit of the Apparently very many new England fans following the team abroad for the first time – a big welcome to the party, by the way – we thought we'd better explain what this Free Lions magazine and the fans' embassy is all about.

The fans' embassy is organised by the Football Supporters' Association as a "by fans, for fans" service providing information, advice and support for travelling England fans.

We've been doing this for getting on for thirty years now, so we have a fair idea of what's required for a successful trip.

We provide information online via our website, via Twitter and Facebook, via our free text message service, and in particular in the pages of this Free Lions fanzine, a new edition of which appears for every England away game. (Well, it doesn't just 'appear', there's a lot of hard work goes into producing it, especially at a tournament like this when we produce new ones even when the games are only a few days apart.)

We work closely with all the relevant authorities – like the police, the FA and the British Embassy – to make sure we have everything accurate, reliable and up-to-date. And it's not just

information, it's also practical help that we offer: we'll do our best to help you solve any problems you may encounter along the way.

All of our assistance is entirely confidential – we don't share information about any individual with the authorities of our own or any other country. Our help can also extend to putting you in touch with legal assistance should be daft or unlucky enough to end up in trouble with the police.

You can get hold of us on our helpline – **+44 7956 121314** – around the clock, although if you ring us in the early hours of the morning, it had better be important...



...and in France

FREE Lionesses is the naughty little sister of Free Lions and we will be running our first fans' embassy out in France this year when the Lionesses take on the world at the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup.

We will be providing supporters with a gluten-free – and of course free of charge – essential fans' guide to following England at the Women's World Cup as well as providing an opportunity to report

and get assistance with any issues may face during their stay in France.

Free Lionesses has been put together by fans, for fans. We're delighted to be in France at our first women's tournament following Phil Neville and his team, hopefully all the way to Lyon on 7th July. For more in-depth information, updated throughout the run-up to the tournament, head to our website – bit.ly/freelionesses and make sure you follow us on twitter – @FreeLionesses.

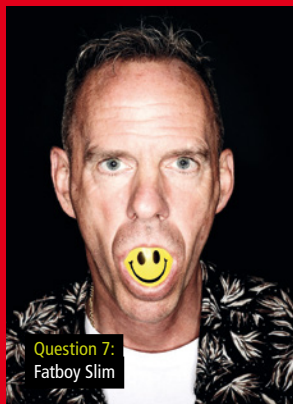


SCOUSE PHIL'S FREE LIONS NAME-CHANGING MUSIC QUIZ

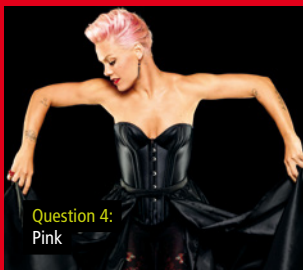


Question 2:
Lady Gaga

OFFICIALLY they're The Netherlands; historically and colloquially, they're known as Holland. To celebrate the fact today's opponents have two names (and perhaps because he's used up all his Dutch music knowledge over the many previous encounters), Scouse Phil has provided us with a music quiz based on people who have changed their names.



Question 7:
Fatboy Slim



Question 4:
Pink

1 Which performer, real name Harry Webb, is the only act to have had a UK Number One hit in five consecutive decades?

2 Lady Gaga, or Stephani Germanotta to her mates, recently appeared in the film 'A Star is Born' which was a remake of the 1976 film featuring which female US singer?

3 Paul Hewson and David Evans are members of a mega-group responsible for numerous albums including 'The Joshua Tree' and 'Achtung Baby', but how are these two band members better known?

4 Pink has had a string of hits including 'Just Like a Pill' and 'So What' but what is her real name: Alicia Moore, Alexa Moore or Amelia Moore?

5 Marianne Elliot was the lead singer of a punk band responsible for classic songs such as 'GermFree Adolescents' and 'Oh Bondage Up Yours', but what was her stage name?



Question 5:
Marianne Elliot

6 Marie Lawrie won Eurovision for the UK in 1969 and sang with Take That on their 1993 hit 'Relight My Fire', but how is she better known?

7 Fatboy Slim was just plain old Norman Cook when he featured in which band who had various hits including 'Caravan of Love' and 'Happy Hour' in 1986?

8 'Rocket Man' Elton John was chairman when Watford last reached the FA Cup Final in 1984, but what is his real name?

9 Which wrestler, real name Peter Thornley, completes the following lyrics of 'Everything's AOR' by the fantastic Half Man Half Biscuit? "She treats me like I'm just another lackey, but I can put a tennis racket up against my face and pretend that I am..."

10 What was the nickname – later adopted as his stage name – given to English singer Gordon Sumner because he often wore a sweater with black and yellow hoops?

Answers can be found on page 15



WELCOME TO GUIMARÃES

THE FREE LIONS GUIDE TO ENGLAND'S FIRST HOST VENUE

WELCOME to **Guimarães**, the historic 'birthplace of Portugal', a UNESCO World Heritage Site, European City of Culture 2012, and most importantly of all for our purposes, venue for our UEFA Nations League semi-final against Holland.

Guimarães is the birthplace of Dom Afonso Henriques, who won the recognition by Spain of Portugal as a separate kingdom in 1143 and then declared the city his capital. It's no wonder they named the football ground after him.

It's not a massive place – the population is only around 160,000 – and although it's a university city, the historic centre is quaint and picturesque rather than busy and bustling. The arrival of an estimated 15,000 English fans will transform the city for a day, with the small squares in the middle of town likely to be full to overflowing.

There's not really a huge amount for football tourists to do in **Guimarães**, and accommodation is in short supply. We expect the majority of English fans will travel in and out on the day, spending the days either side of the semi-final in **Porto**, or even further afield in **Lisbon** or down on the **Algarve**. Extra trains have been arranged in and out of **Porto**, and there has been provision made for parking coaches and a limited number of cars at the **Pavilhão Multiusos de Guimarães** to the south-west of the city centre.



Largo do Toural

FSA FANS' EMBASSY

THE FSA's fans' embassy will be based in **Guimarães** on match day between about 10:00 and 17:00 at Largo do Toural.

On the day before the game, we'll be based both in **Guimarães** at **Largo do Toural**, between around 12:00 and 17:00, and also in **Porto** at similar times, at **Alfandega** on the north bank of the **Douro river**.

The Fans' Embassy arrangements for the weekend will obviously depend on whether or not we qualify for the final.

If we do, then the fans' embassy will be based at **Alfandega** again on both Saturday and Sunday, between around 10:00 and 17:00.



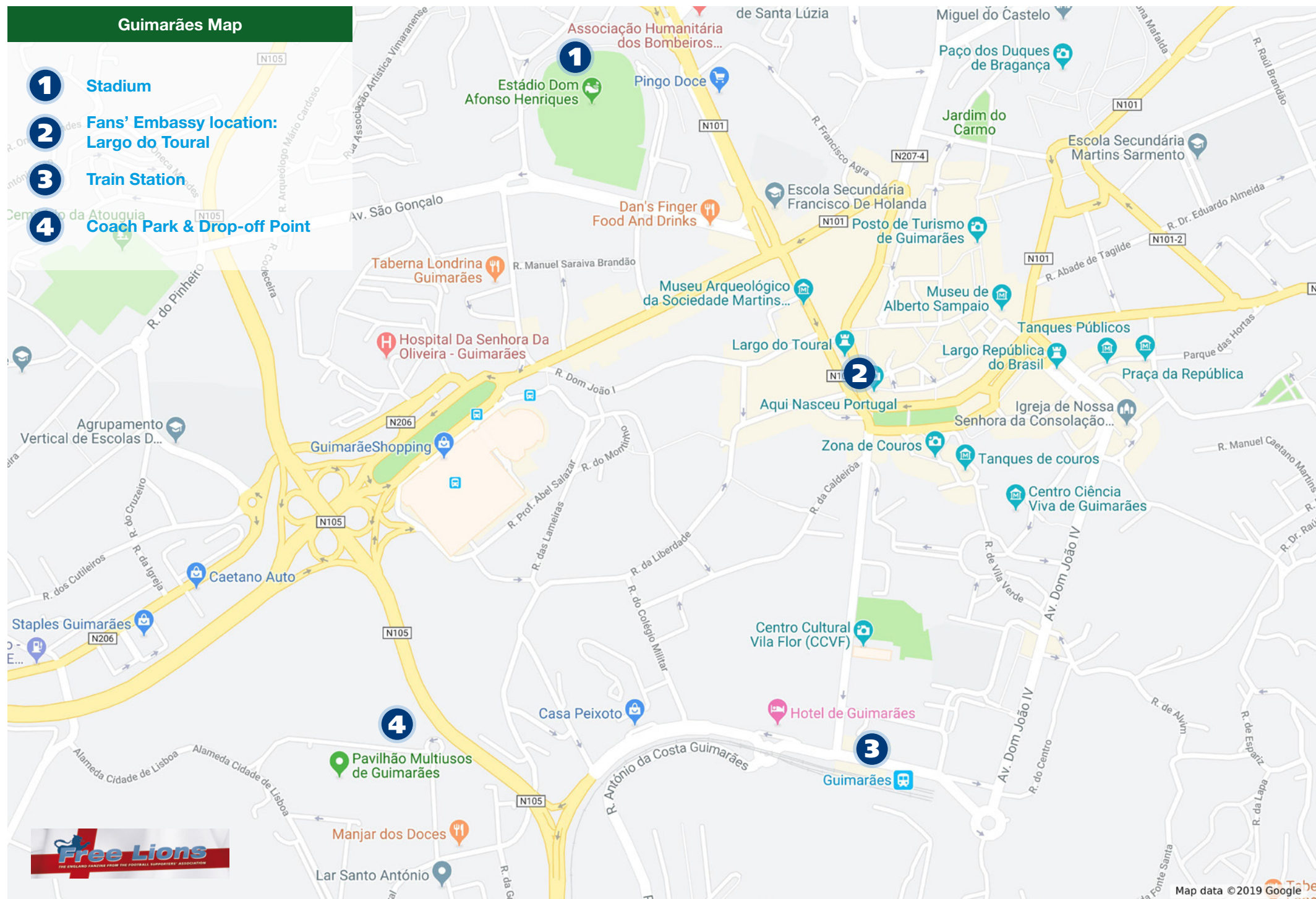
In the unlikely event that we end up in the 3rd and 4th place play-off in **Guimarães**, then we will once again operate in both locations on the Saturday, and exclusively in **Guimarães** on the Sunday from 10:00 onwards.

As always, the fans' embassy will be contactable for information, advice and assistance around the clock, every day from Wednesday through to Sunday, via the 24-hour helpline on +44 7956 121314.



Guimarães Map

- 1 Stadium**
- 2 Fans' Embassy location:
Largo do Toural**
- 3 Train Station**
- 4 Coach Park & Drop-off Point**



WELCOME TO GUIMARÃES

THE FREE LIONS GUIDE TO ENGLAND'S FIRST HOST VENUE



THE STADIUM



THE Estádio D. Afonso Henriques was originally purpose-built for football in 1965, and to become a Euro 2004 venue was subsequently renovated and enlarged in 2003, by the architect coincidentally named Eduardo Guimarães (who also designed some of the 2014 World Cup stadiums in Brazil).

It takes its name from the first King of Portugal, Dom Afonso Henriques, a native of Guimarães who reigned between 1139 and 1185 and who is honoured by a statue outside the ground.

The all-seater stadium has a capacity of 30,165 and is home to club side Vitoria SC de Guimarães, (not to be confused with Vitoria FC of Setubal). Vitoria SC finished last season in fifth place in the Portuguese Liga and enjoy the

fourth highest home attendances in the Liga (after the 'big three' of Benfica, Porto and Sporting Lisbon). Vitoria were formed in 1922, and their main rivals are nearby SC Braga.

The stadium hosted two games in Euro 2004, both involving Italy – a 0-0 draw with Denmark and their 2-1 victory over Bulgaria, and it has also hosted half a dozen games involving the Portuguese national team, most recently their 1-1 draw against Poland last November.

Tragedy befell the stadium in January 2004, when a Benfica substitute Miklos Feher collapsed and died shortly after coming on during a league game. Every time Benfica play in Guimarães, a remembrance ceremony is held on the spot where Feher collapsed.

GETTING TO THE GROUND

GUIMARÃES is a small and compact city, and the stadium is only about a ten-minute walk from the historical centre, 15 minutes from the railway station and 20-25 minutes from the bus drop-off point at the **Pavilhão Multiusos de Guimarães**. In fact, pretty much everything you might want to do in Guimarães can be managed on foot.

A bigger challenge would have appeared to be getting to Guimarães in the first place, as there isn't a great abundance of accommodation in the venue itself, and therefore many England fans will have to travel in and out on the day.

There is a regular train and bus service between **Porto** and **Guimarães**, but in addition to that, the authorities locally have arranged ten extra trains, each with a capacity of about a thousand, between the two cities exclusively for England fans (ticket holders only).

The Dutch fans will have their own dedicated trains. These trains will depart from **Porto Sao Bento station** between 11:05 and 15:50 on match day, calling also at **Estácio de Campanha** before heading non-stop to **Guimarães**, with a journey time of about an hour.

The same ten trains will return from **Guimarães** after the game, departing

between 23:15 and 01:30. The return fare is expected to be around €6.80, and we are told that these trains will not be 'dry' trains.

Parking is very limited in **Guimarães**, so the use of public transport is advised.



GROUND RULES

THE gates will open three hours before kick-off, at 16:45. Over fifteen thousand English fans are expected at this game (that's the combined total of tickets sold to ESTC members by the FA and those sold to UK addresses from the UEFA public sale), so we should account for at least half the stadium, and we seem likely to outnumber the Dutch fans by about four to one. The official England sector will be in the South and East stands, and possibly also round to the north-east corner.

Coming to the ground from the city centre, most English fans will arrive at **Access A**, but entry can be made by any access point, so if entrance A is very congested, it's well worth going past it towards



the right and on to **Access B, C, D E and F**, where queues are likely to be significantly shorter. At the first outer perimeter, there will be a ticket check and validation, and this is where the Bluetooth activation of tickets will take place. The body searches will be carried out inside that perimeter, before the turnstiles.

The usual UEFA list of restricted items will apply – given the potential for problems with phone batteries running out thereby denying access to electronic tickets, we have been assured that mobile power packs will be allowed, as long as they are "small and safe (they don't explode or go on fire)".

The maximum bag size that will be admitted is described as 'A4 size'. Bags any bigger than that (within

reason) will be stored free of charge at deposit points at **Access B and G**. There is no alcohol on sale inside the stadium. Entry can be refused to anyone who appears to be drunk; those suspected of being too drunk to enter can be breathalysed, with the limit set at about one and a half times the UK level for driving. It is permitted to drink alcohol on the streets.

The use of pyrotechnics is illegal both within football grounds and on the streets outside.

It is a legal requirement in Portugal to carry photo ID with you at all times. In most cases a photocopy of the data page of your passport will be enough, but you could be answered to produce the original. A photo driving licence will usually also suffice.

GUIMARÃES & PORTO

YOUR FREE LIONS GUIDE



EATING AND DRINKING

MATCH day in **Guimarães** is likely to see pretty much all of the squares in the historic centre swamped by England fans. The bars in the area are generally quite small, but some have terraces and seated areas outside that will accommodate a good number.

As we've mentioned elsewhere in these pages, drinking in public places is permitted in Portugal, so another option will be to pop into a supermarket or off licence and stock up there, with a view to finding a space in a square away from the congested bars.

Porto is a different prospect altogether, with a bigger concentration of bars, and the supporters of English club sides who have played here have always tended to congregate in the same area known as Ribeira, or riverside. Unsurprisingly, this area is near the **river Douro**, either side of the **Luis I Bridge** and to the south of the **Sao Bento railway station**. There are loads of bars and restaurants here in the narrow, cobbled streets of the oldest part of the city.

Another option is the area around the university, where again unsurprisingly a lot of the student bars and clubs are located; the **Rua da Galeria de Paris** is known locally as 'the street of bars'.



THINGS TO SEE AND DO

If you're staying in **Porto** for both the semi-final and the final, then you'll have a few non-match days to fill, and there's no shortage of things to see and do.

The obvious and traditional one is to sample the port wine for which the city is so famous; there are a number of port houses that offer tours and tastings, and there's even a port wine museum just along from where the fans' embassy will be based at **Alfandega**. Nearby you'll also find the **Museum of Transport and Communications**, which hosts an impressive collection of classic cars.

If you fancy a day trip out of the city (other than to **Guimarães**, of

course) then we would recommend **Braga**: it's a beautiful historic city, very picturesque, and very relaxed, despite being Portugal's third biggest city.

It's easily reached by train, and if you do venture up there, be sure to have a look at the football stadium, in a spectacular setting cut into a hill, with no stands at either end.

It's likely to be hot and sunny while we're here – beach weather, in fact, and you don't have to go very far to find a stretch of sand to lie on. The nearest is **Praia do Carneiro** at **Foz do Douro**, at the mouth of the river where it reaches the Atlantic; it's only 6km from the city centre, less than half an hour by bus number 500 from Sao Bento station.



Quiz Answers

Football Quiz (P20)
1. Cliff Richard 2. Barbara Streisand 3. U2's Bono and The Edge 4. Alicia Moore 5. Poly Styrene (X-Ray Spey) 6. Lulu 7. The Housemartins 8. Reginald Dwight 9. Kendo Nagasaki 10. Sting

GETTING AROUND

OUR best advice for getting around **Guimarães** is just to walk it; the city centre is compact, and the longest distance we can imagine anyone wanting to cover (such as from the coach drop-off point to the stadium via the historical centre) wouldn't take any more than half an hour.

There's no Metro system in **Guimarães**, and many of the roads are set to be closed on match day anyway.

Porto is once again different in this regard, and the key to getting around here is the Metro system. To travel on the Metro, you'll need to buy the **Porto** equivalent of London's Oyster card, known here as an Andante card; they're available from machines at train and Metro stations, but also from many shops. The card itself costs only €0.50, and then you can load it with as much as you think you'll need, bearing in mind each

individual journey costs €1.20 (buy ten and you get one free).

You'll need to validate your ticket against one of the scanners for each journey (no need to scan it on the way out), and each such journey can last up to one hour from the time of validation.

Andante cards are also valid on buses, at the same rate of €1.20 per journey lasting an hour. One journey can involve Metros, trains and buses inside the hour for the cost of one journey, but you'll need to scan your card on entering each new vehicle.

Taxis in **Porto** are plentiful, and can be hailed on the street if their green light indicating availability is lit; otherwise look out for one of the many taxi ranks or "praca de taxis".

Taxis aren't cheap though; there's an initial hire charge of €2.50, and then it's on the meter: there shouldn't be any need to agree a price beforehand, just check the meter's on.

IT'S NEVER ENOUGH

BIG CLUBS PLOT EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE



Andrea Agnelli

How much money is enough money?

FOR the likes of Manchester City, Juventus, Paris Saint Germain and the like, loads and loads of money isn't enough: they want all the money.

The concept of a European super league has been around since the late-80s but the idea that won't die has once again resurfaced – this time led by Juventus chairman Andrea Agnelli and the European Club Association (ECA).

What are they after? Perhaps unsurprisingly, the primary motivation behind the proposals appears to be money, with many of the bigger clubs across Europe looking enviously at the world-wide television revenues secured by the English Premier League (EPL) in particular.

Agnelli apparently hates the idea of upstarts like Leicester City having the temerity to play in his illustrious European competition, so is now looking at ways to guarantee participation for the big clubs and the TV money that comes with that – and to exclude smaller clubs who happen to qualify by winning their domestic leagues, like Leicester City did back in 2016.

Working in cahoots with UEFA the self-appointed big clubs are planning to create a new format for European club competitions from the 2024-2025 season onwards. This would involve a Champions League of 32 teams, a Europa League of 32 teams, and a Europa League 2 composed of 64 teams – with a maximum of five teams from the same national league per competition.

So far, so familiar. But there are some crucial changes being

proposed that would have a huge knock-on effect on English football as we know it. First of all, instead of eight groups of four teams each playing in the autumn, they're going for four groups of eight – so that means instead of each participating club playing six games between September and December, they'd play fourteen.

Adding that number of European games into an already crowded fixture calendar would inevitably have an impact – it would signal the end of the League Cup, the FA Cup would have to become primarily a midweek competition without replays, and the Premier League would have to reduce in size to 18 or even 16 clubs – with a knock-on effect on the number of clubs promoted from the Championship each year.

There's even been talk of the European fixtures taking place at weekends, pushing Premier League fixtures into midweek slots – which would make life even more difficult for away fans in particular, and destroy the traditional culture of weekend league football.

The next big change would be that a club's place in the new-fangled elite European competition would no longer come from success in their domestic league.

Once initial membership of the new Champions League is established, then there'd be promotion and relegation of eight teams from the

32 at the end of each season – with the four semi-finalists of the Europa League being promoted, and only four places available to clubs based on domestic performance.

With the five English teams unlikely to finish outside the top 24, there'd be no prospect of any other English team qualifying again.

Good riddance to them?

Why should you, a fan of say a League One club following England away, care about the avarice of Juventus, Bayern Munich and their ilk? Isn't it a case of good riddance to them, get rid of the big six and we can have a more competitive league without them?

Sadly, the prospect of so much broadcasting money going to the European elite clubs would have a hugely negative impact right down the English football pyramid. If they start playing Champions League matches at weekends then inevitably the blackout of televised matches at 3:00pm on a Saturday will soon be a thing of the past, meaning that all down the pyramid clubs will be competing directly against televised football.

Likewise, the FA Cup would become an almost exclusively midweek competition, the League Cup's very existence would be under threat while the Premier League would shrink in size, becoming a 16-team

league, and the EFL would face further upheaval.

Financial impact

If these proposals come to fruition, the football pyramid in England and Wales would stand to lose billions of pounds – putting the very fabric of football and weekend match-day routine – across the country in jeopardy.

Champions League revenue is currently the biggest factor distorting the competitiveness in the Premier League, and the ECA-UEFA reforms would distort that even further – with the 'big six' retaining a bigger share of TV money and solidarity payments down the leagues drying up.

With the potential for a drastic reduction in the Premier League's broadcast income, the money that filters down in the form of solidarity payments would take a significant hit: last season, Championship clubs shared £72.6 million, League One clubs £16.3 million and League Two clubs £10.9 million of Premier League TV income. The loss of this solidarity money could push a number of EFL clubs over the edge financially.

What do we think?

- **Protect the pyramid** – qualification to European competitions should be open and based on performance in domestic leagues

- **Share the wealth!** Financial power should not be concentrated at a tiny number of clubs.
- **Competitiveness.** Tournament structures must give all leagues a chance.
- **Be fair to fans** when it comes to fixture scheduling, kick off times and prices. The natural home for European football is midweek – protect the weekend.

The future: fans can have decisive voice

This isn't the first time that greed has threatened to undermine the traditional principles of league football – remember Game 39? – and it won't be the last. But history shows us that these plans can be beaten – we defeated Game 39, and we can defeat this

The Football Supporters' Association will be at the forefront of that campaign, along with our colleagues at Football Supporters' Europe. As we learn more about the ECA and UEFA's plans, we'll have campaign actions that many of you will be keen to get involved in – whether that's lobbying your own club, writing to leagues or holding a banner in the stands – there'll be ways for anyone to get involved.

Stay tuned – the campaign will be ramping up over the summer and you can find out more about how you can get involved over at the FSA website: thefsa.org.uk





DUTCH HISTORY

BY CLIVE HETHERINGTON

AS England face Holland here in a Nations League semi-final, we look back on three memorable meetings with the Dutch.

Holland 2 England 0 (October 13, 1993)



This was the game that brought us a quirky catchphrase – “do I not like that?” – uttered by England manager Graham Taylor and ultimately revealed in a fly-on-the-wall documentary.

More importantly, it took England's fate out of their own hands in the qualifying campaign for the 1994 World Cup and signalled the end of Taylor's reign.

Rotterdam's De Kuip stadium was the scene of a controversial defeat. It was a clash that turned on two key moments involving Holland's Ronald Koeman.

The first came in the 57th minute when England captain David Platt raced goalward and was pulled down by rival skipper Koeman. There looked to be a strong case for a penalty and a red card

against the defender for denying a goalscoring opportunity.

But German referee Karl-Josef Assenmacher, guided by his linesman, ruled the offence was outside the box and awarded a free-kick. To compound England's fury, Koeman only received a yellow card.

Worse followed four minutes later when it was Koeman who chipped home a free-kick to hand Holland the lead. Dennis Bergkamp added a second in the 69th minute.

A sarcastic Taylor, who died in January 2017 at 72, also told an official: “The referee's got me the sack, thank him ever so much for that, won't you?” Taylor left his job the next month after England's failure to qualify.

Holland 1 England 4 (June 18, 1996)

Football finally came home on an unforgettable night at Wembley as England produced one of their greatest-ever performances to dismantle the Dutch, who for the

purposes of the draw were the home team.

It wasn't just the margin of victory that was so impressive. It was the manner of it. For most, this was the highlight of that remarkable Euro '96 campaign. After a stuttering start, with a 1-1 draw against Switzerland and a largely unconvincing display in a 2-0 win against Scotland, Terry Venables' Three Lions lit up the Venue of Legends with an exhilarating exhibition that defined the spirit of '96.

Alan Shearer and Teddy Sheringham bagged a brace apiece to eclipse a decent Dutch side. Shearer converted a 23rd-minute penalty, but it was a burst of three goals in 11 second-half minutes – the then-soon-to-be £15million world-record signing for Newcastle netted a second in between Sheringham's efforts – that flattened Holland, who managed a reply by substitute Patrick Kluivert.

The song “Three Lions (Football's Coming Home)”, performed by comedians Frank Skinner and David

>> CLIVE'S VERDICT

Prediction: England 2 Holland 1

When England beat Holland in Amsterdam in March last year, it was the Three Lions' first victory over them in eight attempts. While the Netherlands, who failed to qualify for Euro 2016 and last summer's World Cup, are

a nation in transition, England have re-emerged as a force after reaching the semi-finals in Russia and topping their Nations League group. They should have enough to shade this one, but don't underestimate the Dutch.

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH CLIVE HETHERINGTON?

CONTACT CLIVE VIA FREELIONS@FSF.ORG.UK

>> HOLLAND – THE KEY THREE by Joe Hetherington



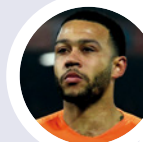
JASPER CILLESSEN
Barcelona's Copa del Rey keeper, effectively, due to that competition providing him with

the vast majority of action in his time at the Nou Camp. Frustration resulting from that has led the 30-year-old to seek a move this summer. He made his professional debut for NEC in his native country and soon signed for Ajax in 2011. After Claudio Bravo's Barcelona exit, the Catalans spent around £15million on Cillessen. In the 2014 World Cup, he was substituted by Tim Krul before the penalty shoot-out against Costa Rica, but Louis van Gaal's gamble paid off as his side reached the semis.



VIRGIL VAN DIJK
The towering centre-back, PFA player of the year, became the most expensive defender

in the world when he moved from Southampton to Liverpool for £75million in January last year. He started his career in his homeland with Groningen before joining Celtic in 2013. After twice winning the Scottish Premiership, he switched to Southampton – managed at the time by current Holland boss Ronald Koeman – for £13m in 2015. Surprisingly, only then did van Dijk make his debut for his country. The 27-year-old has helped Liverpool to successive Champions League finals in under 18 months on Merseyside.



MEMPHIS DEPAY
The Lyon attacker was regarded as a flop when he left Manchester United in January

2017. No-one would disagree he was mediocre, but the 25-year-old has since recaptured some of the form that won him a move to Old Trafford. Depay began his career at PSV Eindhoven, his scintillating displays for the Dutch side making him a hot property, and he signed for United in 2015 for around £25 million. After 18 months, he left for France in a deal said to be worth up to £22m. England will have to be wary of the rejuvenated Memphis Depay's pace and ability to cut inside.

Baddiel with the Lightning Seeds, became the anthem of a nation.

It resounded around Wembley again after the quarter-final win over Spain on penalties, but the adventure came to an end when Germany beat England in another shoot-out.

Holland 0 England 1 (March 23, 2018)

This was England's first win over Holland in eight meetings since the emphatic victory of '96. Manager Gareth Southgate, who had played in that magical match against the Dutch, took his side to the

Netherlands to begin the countdown to what proved to be the Three Lions' best showing in the intervening years as they went on to reach a World Cup semi-final in Russia.

Jesse Lingard's first international goal stretched England's unbeaten run to seven games, the Manchester United forward dealing the decisive blow in the 59th minute.

Southgate laid out his plans for the summer, with right-back Kyle Walker featuring in a three-man defence. But there was early disruption at the back as Liverpool's Joe Gomez suffered an

ankle injury which ultimately ruled out him out of the Champions League final defeat by Real Madrid – and the World Cup.

England preserved their unbeaten record in Amsterdam, extending it to seven matches, with their only defeat on Dutch soil being in Rotterdam in '93.

There was also the satisfaction of putting one over old foe Ronald Koeman in his first game in charge of Holland after Dick Advocaat – boss when they beat England in that infamous '93 encounter – ended a third spell as national coach.



HOLLAND SQUAD WORDSEARCH

Purely for your amusement and entertainment, we've taken the surnames of the Holland squad – that's the preliminary version with 28 players named in it – and hidden them in the Wordsearch grid. The idea is that you spend a few minutes of your life that you'll never get back again looking for them. Have fun!

N U J I R V E D N U F C P D T
E T E T Z A N E H L I V R E L
S O V A N D I J K O N G O L O
S O A S I R B O B B Y W P I H
E N N K W Q D N I L B R P G N
L M D E P A Y G A N E O E T A
L L E B A B V J B E E K R W A
I O B L A L A S M D T X A I N
C I E D U M F R I E S Y O J A
P R E E R A E H S R R M F N V
R A K T T V S T R O O T M A N
O S G N O J E D K O H U Z L M
M O A Y O Z O E T N G S I D C
E R O O N J I W G R E B C U A
S I U H G R E B Q U W E S M B

Marco
Jasper
Kenneth
Jeroen

BIZOT
CILLESSEN
VERMEER
ZOET

AZ Alkmaar
Barcelona
Feyenoord
PSV Eindhoven

Patrick
Nathan
Daley
Virgil
Denzel
Terence
Matthijs
Kenny
Stefan

VAN AANHOLT
AKE
BLIND
VAN DIJK
DUMFRIES
KONGOLO
DE LIGHT
TETE
DE VRIJ

Crystal Palace
Bournemouth
Ajax
Liverpool
PSV Eindhoven
Huddersfield Town
Ajax
Lyon
Internazionale

Donny
Frenkie
Davy
Marten
Pablo
Kevin
Tonny
Georginio

VAN DE BEEK
DE JONG
PROPPER
DE ROON
ROSARIO
STROOTMAN
VILHENA
WIJNALDUM

Ajax
Ajax
Brighton & HA
Atalanta
PSV Eindhoven
Marseille
Feyenoord
Liverpool

Ryan
Steven
Steven
Memphis
Luuk
Quincy
Wout

BABEL
BERGHUIS
BERGWIJN
DEPAY
DE JONG
PROMES
WEGHORST

Fulham
Feyenoord
PSV Eindhoven
Lyon
PSV Eindhoven
Sevilla
VfL Wolfsburg

Scouse Phil's Free Lions Football Quiz (answers on page 15)

- Which founder member of the football league and oldest professional football club in the world was relegated out of the Football League at the end of this season?
- Which England player scored twice in the last Euro 2020 qualifier in Montenegro in March?
- Which club lost the National League play-off final at Wembley this season, but won the FA Trophy at Wembley the following weekend?
- Arsenal player Henrikh Mkhitaryan will not be travelling to this year's Europa League final in Azerbaijan due to concerns over his safety, but what nationality is he?
- Which team won the EFL Championship this season?
- Which Premier League referee was pictured in the crowd wildly celebrating Tranmere's recent League Two semi-final play-off victory v Forest Green?
- Vincent Kompany left Manchester City at the end of this season to take up the player-manager position at which club?
- Which Polish city will host the 2020 Europa League final?
- The 2000 FA Cup final was the last to be staged at the old Wembley Stadium, but which club won it that year, beating Aston Villa 1-0 in the final?
- I was born in Barking, London in 1981 and played for various clubs including Brighton, Fulham, QPR and West Ham, winning my two England caps in the 2010-11 season. Who am I?