

C'mon England!

By the time you read this fellow u3aSEL members and football fans you will know that England have beaten Switzerland and are through to the semi-finals of Euro 24. So, at the risk of shutting the stable doors after the horse has bolted and putting the cart before the horse (a different horse obviously, the first one has bolted) and flogging a dead donkey cwg offers advice to get you through the semi-finals in style. And perhaps beyond.....?

Helpful tips to see you through Euro 24.

1. Azda is doing a fantastic offer at present on lager and pizza so stock up whilst you can. The bacon and pineapple pizza with Mars bar topping is particularly delicious and will avoid the need to run out into the kitchen at some point for the pudding course and thereby risk missing that vital goal.
2. Unfortunately at first glance the flags of England and Switzerland looked rather similar on Saturday so study the flags of the opposing side carefully and do not make the mistake that fans made last time and get over-excited when all the flags started waving and we thought we had scored only to find it was the team with the white cross on the red background and not the team with the red cross on the white background that had 'just slipped the ball with precision into the back of the net'. The flag of the Netherlands whom we play next Wednesday in the semi-finals is red, white and blue unfortunately and so easy to get carried away and think it is ours. Therefore check carefully what you are looking at before assuming we have scored. And if you are colour-blind ask a loved one for assistance.
3. In fact, probably useful to study the flags of all nations so that if you get invited onto 'University Challenge' and a flag question comes up you will be sure to know the answer.
4. And did you know that amongst the 26 strong squad Gareth Southgate has taken to Germany there are 5 goalkeepers? We suggest that when the referee isn't looking Gareth slips the other 4 in behind Jordan Pickford so that if we ever find ourselves taking the inevitable penalties against Germany*, Pickford will not have to shoulder all the blame when we let one in.
* Please note: Germany have been eliminated by Spain so previous comment is irrelevant.
5. Make sure you are able to talk the jargon so as to be credible in the pub afterwards. Phrases like,

'In this game Gary you have to put one foot in front of the other in order to win.'

'It's all about taking possession of the ball and caressing it.'

'It's a young side which promises much in the coming years.' (Useful if we lose).

'Gareth means business, he's taken off his waistcoat.'

Say anything involving the word 'pressure', 'unbelievable' or the phrase 'we've all

been there' and you will be fine.

'Football's not a game of Tiddlywinks you know Gary'.

'Starmer has certainly delivered on his second day (or as appropriate) in office with this one.'

*'We lost the Battle but we didn't lose the War'.
(Useful when playing Germany but see note under 4 above.)*

2024 has a ring of 1966 about it if you just change the numbers round a bit'.

' This Dutch side will be thinking about more than windmills now Gary'.

'One goal and you are ahead . Two goals and you are more ahead.'

'If the Manager makes some changes we might see a difference.'

And finally.....

6. 'The Three Lions' is the name of the team, not a pub to go to after the match.

