

Bulletin 1 - 22 November 2022

Welcome to our first bulletin of the First Actuarial 2022 Monkey World Cup. Throughout the tournament, we will be giving you regular updates on the latest happenings from Qatar, and the current standings in our competition to ensure you're all aware of how well (or not!) you're doing.

So, after twelve years in the making, the tournament hosts and debutants took on Ecuador a day earlier than originally planned in the opening encounter, in a game many felt would be a tight contest...

...It wasn't.

Qatar became the first hosts to lose their opening fixture as they succumbed to a 2-0 defeat, Enner Valencia bagging a first half brace with another ruled out offside in the first five minutes courtesy of VAR. Classically opening fixtures have seen little goalmouth action and in large parts this rang true again with the clash breaking an unwanted record of fewest shots in a World Cup Finals game (11).

Monday brought three more fixtures with both Home Nations in the finals getting their campaigns underway. The Three Lions kicked off proceedings taking on a not-to-be underestimated Iran side. Lengthy stoppages in both halves (24 minutes of injury time in total – another record) extended a close to perfect start to Gareth Southgate's men, as they romped home 6-2. Young WC debutants Jude Bellingham and Bukayo Saka both bagging in the first half along with Raheem Sterling. The second 45 (well 55 with added time) proved fruitful as well, with goals from Marcus Rashford, Jack Grealish and Saka again. An excellent start for England that, perhaps understandably given the score line, none of you managed to predict.

The second game in Group A came next with the Netherlands taking on Senegal minus talisman Sadio Mane. Despite Mane's absence, the African side dominated much of the proceedings, but it was the Dutch who eventually came out on top with starlet Cody Gakpo breaking the deadlock inside the final ten minutes before Davy Klassen rubberstamped the victory deep into injury time to slot Louis Van Gaal's boys alongside Ecuador at the summit of Group A.

Rounding off Monday's action was USA v Wales. It was very much a game of two halves with USA dominating the opening exchanges and deserving their half time lead, but some influential half-time changes by Rob Page meant the Welsh dragons roared into life in the second half and pulled level through "veteran" Gareth Bale's spot kick. The game ended a goal apiece, keeping chances of qualification for both sides very much a possibility.

Pre Tournament Trivia

Last week we asked:

Which nation has only played a single game in a World Cup finals?

It is of course the **Dutch East Indies (Now Indonesia)**, whose only game came in the 1938 event which was naturally a straight knock out affair. A momentous occasion for the nation I'm sure but perhaps one they'd rather forget as they were thrashed by Hungary 6-0!

Great knowledge from **Michael O'Donnell** who correctly answered this one.

Capacity conundrum

Qatar have built several new stadia for the tournament, but there appears to be some debate over how many fans they can hold. Originally the venue hosting the opening game, the Al Bayt Stadium, could hold 60,000 spectators but just hours before kick-off this had grown to 68,895. Eventually, 67,372 people reportedly attended the fixture, although the media reports of empty seats may convince you otherwise!

Results

There have been plenty of high scorers after the first four matches, with a seven-way tie at the top of the leaderboard and plenty sat close behind. Admittedly some are doing less well but as many repeat players will know, things can (and will) change fast in the Monkey League, especially during the fixture packed group stages, so still all to play for!

George Metcalf

Ranking	Player	Points	Daily Ranking Change	Daily Points Change
1	Emma Robinson	34	-	+34
1	Graham Edmonds	34	-	+34
1	Mara Aleixo	34	-	+34
1	Neil Kennedy	34	-	+34
1	Stuart Briely	34	-	+34
1	Talha Gulzar	34	-	+34
1	Tim Jones	34	-	+34
8	Ashraf Mitha	33	-	+33
8	Dale Walmsley	33	-	+33
8	Mel Wilson	33	-	+33
11	Andrew Pritchard	32	-	+32
11	Dan Chapman	32	-	+32
11	Henry Tapper	32	-	+32
11	Oliver Nicholls	32	-	+32
11	Richard Stoddart	32	-	+32
11	Tim Poil	32	-	+32
17	Bailey Coe	31	-	+31
17	Chas Goddard	31	-	+31
17	Ed Winstanley	31	-	+31
17	Owen Adams	31	-	+31
17	Richard Nutch	31	-	+31
17	Rob Walker	31	-	+31
23	Jonathan Hugh	30	-	+30
24	Hilary Salt	29	-	+29
25	Claire Herbert	26	-	+26
26	Eesha Savani	24	-	+24
26	Wendy Ludman	24	-	+24
28	Craig Moran	23	-	+23
28	George Kennedy	23	-	+23
28	James Gardner	23	-	+23
28	James Milligan	23	-	+23
28	Jasper Ellis	23	-	+23
28	John Stock	23	-	+23



Ranking	Player	Points	Daily Ranking Change	Daily Points Change
28	Kieran Armstrong	23	-	+23
28	Mark Rowlinson	23	-	+23
28	Mark Warnes	23	-	+23
37	Amrita Dasgupta	22	-	+22
37	Benjamin Robinson	22	-	+22
37	Chris Marson	22	-	+22
37	Derek Allen	22	-	+22
37	Luke Vickers	22	-	+22
37	Olly Roper	22	-	+22
37	Sharon Royston	22	-	+22
37	Usman Asif	22	-	+22
45	Charlotte White	21	-	+21
45	Dan Jinks	21	-	+21
45	Darren Goodall	21	-	+21
45	Gary Symons	21	-	+21
45	George Bilsby	21	-	+21
45	Marcus Johansson	21	-	+21
45	Matthew Allen	21	-	+21
45	Michael Garland	21	-	+21
45	Paul Marriott	21	-	+21
45	Ross Bennett	21	-	+21
45	Sam Ashworth	21	-	+21
45	Tim Barlow	21	-	+21
57	Charlotte Adshead	20	-	+20
57	Chris Williams	20	-	+20
57	Daniel Sirl	20	-	+20
57	Duncan Carter	20	-	+20
57	Josh Titley	20	-	+20
57	Lance Havell	20	-	+20
63	Andrew Hall	19	-	+19
64	Eddie Hopkin	18	-	+18
64	Jamie McLeod	18	-	+18
66	Zoe Sadler	16	-	+16
67	George Hinkley	13	-	+13
68	Bex Thompson	12	-	+12
68	Larisa Wood	12	-	+12
68	Sean Delaney	12	-	+12
68	Stan Hutchinson	12	-	+12
72	George Metcalf	11	-	+11
72	James Allen	11	-	+11
72	James Saxton	11	-	+11
72	Max Mauchline	11	-	+11
72	Peter Norman	11	-	+11
77	Joe Bronstein	10	-	+10
77	Nick Saxton	10	-	+10
77	Phil Mann	10	-	+10
77	Toni Johnson	10	-	+10
81	Ivan Taylor	9	-	+9
81	John McLeod	9	-	+9





Ranking	Player	Points	Daily Ranking Change	Daily Points Change
81	John Small	9	-	+9
81	Katie Morgan	9	-	+9
81	Katie Sutton	9	-	+9
81	Michael Johnson	9	-	+9
81	Mike Common	9	-	+9
81	Rob Young	9	-	+9
81	Steve Higginbottom	9	-	+9
90	Andy Wyatt	8	-	+8
90	Ian Metcalf	8	-	+8
90	Michael O'Donnell	8	-	+8
90	Stephen Kilgannon	8	-	+8
94	William Rose	6	-	+6