

Bulletin 4 - 25 November 2022

Switzerland 1 – 0 Cameroon

Group G kicked off with Switzerland picking up three points in a 1-0 victory over Cameroon, a nation who now find themselves in the unfortunate situation of losing their previous eight world cup outings. The African side should have found themselves ahead going into the break, with Bayern Munich's Choupo-Moting squandering the biggest chance of the half. The Swiss took a 1-0 lead early in the second half, with Cameroonian-born Breel Embolo – who chose not to celebrate after scoring - lashing in an unmissable chance from close range courtesy of a Xherdan Shaqiri cross. The remainder played out largely like a training match for Switzerland, as a lacklustre second half Cameroon performance posed no threat to Sommer in the Swiss net. Perhaps Samuel Eto'o's Cameroon-to-win-the-world-cup prediction may not come to fruition after all – who'd have thought it?

Uruguay 0 – 0 South Korea

The lunchtime kick-off saw Uruguay and South Korea hold each other to a stalemate in a tightly contested draw. The biggest opportunity of the game fell to South Korea's Hwang Ui-jo in the first half, who left teammates and supporters alike with heads in hands after skying a close-range attempt over the crossbar. The second half was one of few clear-cut chances, with the best attempts coming late on with Federico Valverde and Heung-min Son going close from range. The match continued LA Celeste's streak of world cup group stage clean sheets, with the last goal against them coming from Wayne Rooney in 2014.

Portugal 3 – 2 Ghana

Cristiano Ronaldo became the first male player in history to score in five different world cups as Portugal, while unconvincing, managed to defeat Ghana 3-2 in a five-goal thriller. Ronaldo put his side ahead with a second half spot-kick due to a questionable VAR decision, and despite Andre Ayew levelling for Ghana in the 73rd minute, quickfire retaliation goals from Portugal's Joao Felix and Rafael Leao all but sealed the points for Portugal. A late Ghanaian resurgence proved a scare for the European side, with Osman Bukari making it 3-2 followed by the Portuguese goalkeeper Diogo Costa coming perilously close to gifting Inaki Williams a 99th minute equaliser, only for the striker to do his best Steven Gerrard impression, slipping over at the crucial moment and wasting the opportunity that he so craftily created.

Brazil 2 – 0 Serbia

Brazil swept a timid Serbia side away in the final game of the day, putting on a scintillating second-half performance and demonstrating exactly why so many have tipped them to be eventual winners of the competition. Tottenham benchwarmer Richarlison broke the deadlock in the 62nd minute before doubling Brazil's lead with a stunning bicycle kick which will almost surely end up as goal of the tournament. A late injury scare for Brazil's golden-boy Neymar may yet prove costly, though it's hard to see it putting much of a dent in the Selecao's hopes of topping group G, as the South-American's have more attacking talent on their bench than almost every other nation has in their starting XI.

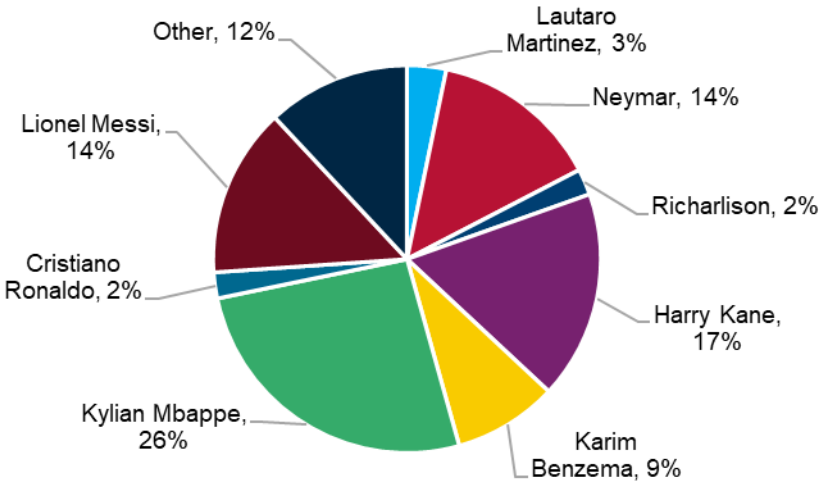
Ronny bookends the record books

The rarely uncontroversial Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo set even more records yesterday. Not only did he become the first male player to score in 5 World Cups (Marta Vieira da Silva has also achieved this feat for Brazil in the women’s game), he also became Portugal’s oldest ever goal scorer at 37 meaning he now holds the record for being both the countries youngest and oldest goal scorer at a World Cup. Not bad for someone who’s just got the sack!

French Fancy

Some further analysis of the entries shows that Kylian Mbappé is your favourite to pick up the golden boot at the end of the tournament, with Harry Kane next best placed. Two maybe mystic participants opted for Richarlison who bagged a brace for Brazil yesterday. Only time will tell.

Leading goalscorer predictions



Results

Mel Wilson remains the competition leader after another strong performance, breaking into the 90’s points wise. Shoutouts too for **Derek Allen** and **James Gardner** for both picking up a whopping 36 points in yesterdays fixtures. Will any Home Nation unconscious bias play a part today with both England and Wales in action?

Rob Walker



Ranking	Player	Points	Daily Ranking Change	Daily Points Change
1	Mel Wilson	94	-	+33
2	Dan Chapman	79	+16	+34
3	James Gardner	78	+19	+36
4	Emma Robinson	77	-1	+24
5	Derek Allen	75	+26	+36
6	Andrew Pritchard	73	+1	+24
6	Rob Walker	73	+6	+25
8	Andrew Hall	72	-1	+23
8	Henry Tapper	72	-1	+23
10	Mara Aleixo	70	+3	+23
11	Ashraf Mitha	69	+2	+22
11	James Milligan	69	+9	+25
13	Daniel Sirl	67	+14	+26
13	Mark Warnes	67	-11	+13
15	Bailey Coe	65	-12	+12
15	Chas Goddard	65	+16	+26
15	George Bilsby	65	+7	+23
15	Oliver Nicholls	65	+7	+23
15	Olly Roper	65	+7	+23
20	Eddie Hopkin	64	-13	+15
21	Duncan Carter	63	+15	+25
21	Richard Noutch	63	+6	+22
21	Tim Jones	63	-5	+17
24	Ross Bennett	62	+7	+23
25	Gary Symons	61	+11	+23
25	Richard Stoddart	61	-18	+12
25	Talha Gulzar	61	-12	+14
28	Tim Barlow	60	+19	+27
29	Eesha Savani	59	-24	+7
30	Josh Titley	58	+6	+20
30	Nick Saxton	58	+20	+26
30	Stuart Briely	58	-1	+18
33	Craig Moran	57	+20	+26
33	George Kennedy	57	+35	+31
33	Jamie McLeod	57	-27	+7
33	Wendy Ludman	57	-15	+12
37	Dale Walmsley	56	-16	+13
37	Lance Havell	56	-6	+17
37	Sharon Royston	56	+13	+24
37	Tim Poil	56	-21	+10
41	Benjamin Robinson	55	-19	+13
41	John Small	55	+17	+26
41	Matthew Allen	55	+6	+22
44	Charlotte Adshead	54	-8	+16
45	Jasper Ellis	53	+8	+22
45	John Stock	53	+13	+24
47	Darren Goodall	52	-11	+14
47	Paul Marriott	52	-16	+13
49	Neil Kennedy	51	-13	+13
50	Charlotte White	49	+18	+23
50	Luke Vickers	49	-6	+13





Ranking	Player	Points	Daily Ranking Change	Daily Points Change
52	Chris Williams	48	+11	+20
52	Dan Jinks	48	+16	+22
52	Peter Norman	48	+24	+26
52	Phil Mann	48	+28	+27
52	Usman Asif	48	+16	+22
57	Hilary Salt	47	+9	+20
57	Ivan Taylor	47	-15	+10
57	Sean Delaney	47	+16	+22
57	Steve Higginbottom	47	+19	+25
61	Marcus Johansson	46	-17	+10
61	Owen Adams	46	-15	+11
63	Michael Garland	45	+13	+23
64	Amrita Dasgupta	44	-6	+15
65	George Metcalf	43	+11	+21
65	Jonathan Hugh	43	-18	+10
67	Stan Hutchinson	42	+14	+24
68	Andy Wyatt	41	-10	+12
68	Ed Winstanley	41	-18	+9
68	James Saxton	41	-10	+12
71	George Hinkley	40	-14	+10
72	Graham Edmonds	39	-43	-1
72	Max Mauchline	39	-4	+13
72	Michael Johnson	39	+12	+22
75	James Allen	38	-	+14
76	Chris Marson	37	-34	-
76	Claire Herbert	37	-23	+6
76	Katie Sutton	37	+11	+22
76	Rob Young	37	-3	+12
80	Sam Ashworth	35	+1	+17
81	Mark Rowlinson	34	-18	+6
82	Toni Johnson	32	+9	+25
83	Kieran Armstrong	31	-30	-
83	Michael O'Donnell	31	-17	+4
85	Katie Morgan	30	+7	+25
86	Bex Thompson	29	-23	+1
87	Joe Bronstein	27	-	+12
88	John McLeod	26	-7	+8
89	Mike Common	24	+3	+19
89	Stephen Kilgannon	24	+1	+13
89	William Rose	24	-	+10
92	Ian Metcalf	18	-8	+1
93	Larisa Wood	17	-7	+1
94	Zoe Sadler	16	-2	+11

