Bulletin 15 - 15 December 2022

France 2 - 0 Morocco

If Argentina brought the noise in the Lusail Stadium the night before, it was defintilly the Moroccans who brought the noise in the Al Bayt Stadium in the second semi-final. Unfortunately for the Atlas Lions, their decibels didn't equate to booking a World Cup final place like Argentina. However their effort was not without bravery, spirit and fight.

France took an early lead through left back Theo Hernandez after just 5 minutes. Moroccan 'keeper 'Bono' may have been a bit hesitant in not closing down Hernandez, but perhaps this was the first sign that it was not going to be a beautiful day. Morocco fought back to try and restore parity with an ambitious over-head kick attempt from defender Jawad El Yamiq but this was denied by Hugo Lloris and then the post.

In the second half, Morocco continued to try to find an equaliser inspired by an energetic Sofyan Amrabat but alas, it did not arrive. Kylian Mbappe's dazzling dribble 11 minutes from time allowed him to get a shot away which was parried by Bono into the path of substitute Kolo Muani who duly converted to double France's lead.

Morocco could have played until a desert sunrise and they still wouldn't have found what they were looking for (an equaliser), and strong performances from Ibrahima Konate and Antoine Griezmann did not help. The final whistle sounded above the Moroccan crowd's chants, which confirmed Les Bleus would be heading to their fourth World Cup final. It sets up a tie with fellow two-time winners Argentina where footballing immortlity awaits the winners.

It's a squad game

Kolo Muani's goal confirmed that each squad number (1 to 26) has scored in this tournament. Hint: Manuel Neuer scored an own goal for the no 1s but how many others can you name?

Results

With another 25 points up for grabs for a correctly predicted finalist, 44 of you correctly picked France to reach the final and 11 of you correctly predicted an Argetina vs France final. **Gary Symons'** stay at the top was shortlived as he is replaced by **Dan Jinks**.

Katie Trevelyan benefitted most from France's victory, jumping up 17 places up to 42nd place. **John Stock** fell the other way, falling 17 places since yesterday.

Neil Kennedy



			Daily	Daily
Ranking	Player	Points	Ranking	Points
1	Don links	260	Change	Change
1	Dan Jinks Oliver Nicholls	368	+3	+25
2		356	+5	+25
3	Bailey Coe	355	+5	+25
4	Gary Symons	353	-3	-
5	James Gardner	350	+4	+25
6	Andrew Pritchard	349	-4	-
7	Rob Walker	348	+3	+25
8	Matthew Allen	346	-5	-
9	Mark Warnes	342	-4	-
10	Neil Kennedy	333	-4	-
11	Emma Robinson	326	+5	+25
12	Daniel Sirl	325	+5	+25
12	James Saxton	325	+5	+25
14	Michael Johnson	323	+5	+25
14	Usman Asif	323	+5	+25
16	Ashraf Mitha	322	+6	+25
17	Andrew Hall	320	-6	-
17	Tim Jones	320	+7	+25
19	John Small	316	+7	+25
19	Mara Aleixo	316	-7	-
21	Darren Goodall	315	+6	+25
21	Olly Roper	315	+6	+25
23	Steve Higginbottom	313	-10	-
23	Stephen Kilgannon	313	-10	-
25	Ed Winstanley	311	+5	+25
26	Amrita Dasgupta	309	+6	+25
27	Duncan Carter	308	+6	+25
27	Stan Hutchinson	308	+6	+25
29	Jasper Ellis	304	-14	-
29	John McLeod	304	+8	+25
31	Tim Poil	302	+9	+25
31	William Rose	302	+9	+25
33	Paul Marriott	300	+10	+25
34	Luke Vickers	298	-15	-
35	Richard Stoddart	296	-12	-
36	Chris Williams	295	+10	+25
37	Craig Moran	294	-12	-
37	James Allen	294	+10	+25
39	George Kennedy	292	+11	+25
39	Marcus Johansson	292	+11	+25
41	Jonathan Hugh	289	+11	+25
42	Eesha Savani	287	-13	-
42	Katie Sutton	287	+14	+25
44	Talha Gulzar	286	-14	-
45	George Bilsby	285	+12	+25
45	Graham Edmonds	285	+12	+25
47	Nick Saxton	284	+12	+25
48	lan Metcalf	283	-15	-
48	Mel Wilson	283	-15	-



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Ranking	Player	Points	Daily Ranking	Daily Points	
Ranking	Flayer	Folitis	Change	Change	
50	Mark Rowlinson	281	+12	+25	
51	George Hinkley	280	+12	+25	
51	George Metcalf	280	+12	+25	
53	Peter Norman	279	-16	-	
53	Sean Delaney	279	+12	+25	
55	Chris Marson	278	+13	+25	
55	Dan Chapman	278	-16	-	
57	Derek Allen	277	+12	+25	
57	John Stock	277	-17	-	
59	Ross Bennett	275	-16	_	
60	Larisa Wood	274	-15	-	
61	Sharon Royston	269	-14	-	
62	Eddie Hopkin	268	-13	_	
63	Stuart Briely	265	+11	+25	
64	Mike Common	264	-12	-	
64	Richard Noutch	264	+11	+25	
66	Ivan Taylor	263	-12	-	
66	Wendy Ludman	263	-12	-	
68	Charlotte Adshead	258	-8	-	
69	Dale Walmsley	257	+8	+25	
69	Josh Titley	257	-8	-	
71	James Milligan	254	-6	-	
71	Rob Young	254	+8	+25	
71	Tim Barlow	254	-6	-	
74	Katie Morgan	252	-5	-	
75	Jamie McLeod	250	-4	-	
76	Sam Ashworth	244	-4	-	
77	Michael Garland	241	-4	-	
78	Hilary Salt	234	-2	-	
79	Charlotte White	232	-2	-	
80	Joe Bronstein	228	-	-	
81	Zoe Sadler	226	-	-	
82	Max Mauchline	225	-	-	
83	Bex Thompson	224	-	-	
84	Benjamin Robinson	222	-	-	
85	Phil Mann	221	-	-	
86	Toni Johnson	220	-	-	
87	Henry Tapper	218	-	-	
88	Chas Goddard	210	-	-	
88	Kieran Armstrong	210	+4	+25	
90	Michael O'Donnell	202	+3	+25	
91	Lance Havell	192	-2	-	
91	Owen Adams	192	-2	-	
93	Claire Herbert	186	-2	-	
94	Andy Wyatt	137	-	-	

