

Back of the nyet

TIM VYNER WORLD CUP DRAW No 11 VOLGOGRAD

The build-up to kick off of today's game has been wonderful; Nigeria v Iceland in Volgograd with everything to play for. Last night I stayed 40km outside Volgograd on a campsite alongside the River Volga, where I visited the world's largest statue of Lenin.

Driving back into Volgograd this morning I am stopped three times at roadside police checks. Photos are taken of my passport, my Fan ID is checked and the van is searched for guns by sniffer dogs each time.

I arrive at the fan zone in the centre of town at midday and the atmosphere is building. It is 35C but I cannot resist walking to the ground.

Today's drawing is an accumulation of this walk leading up to kick-off; the fans, the landmarks, from the fan zone, past the theatre to the Hilton Park Inn and finally the stadium. It is a day to smile whatever the result.



WORLD CUP CUP DIARY JAMIE JOHNSON

Shilton holds on to his grudge



Thirty-two years ago yesterday Diego Maradona scored the "Hand of God" goal past Peter Shilton, and England crashed out of the World Cup. After Argentina's defeat by Croatia on Thursday, Shilton tweeted: "God was looking down on me this morning!" He added an England flag, a thumbs-up and a praying emoji, as well as a picture of Maradona crying next to one of himself smiling. Some things you just cannot let go.

From Russia with Love Island

A group of coiffured, chiselled and tattooed twenty-somethings have been the talk of the nation. *Love Island* has been a TV mainstay of households nationwide, but it has also made its way to Russia. The other coiffured, chiselled and tattooed twenty-somethings who have been the talk of the nation need their fix of the ITV2 show. Ashley Young published this playful



picture with the caption: "What do you mean No *Love Island* Tonight?"

Sheeran the crowd-pleaser

Last weekend Ed Sheeran sold out Wembley Stadium and took to the stage in an England shirt. "Look who's been showing support for the #ThreeLions" tweeted the official England football account. But on Thursday the singer was belting out hits at Cardiff's

Principality Stadium, and was pictured wearing a Wales top. A dive through his Instagram shows him in a Scottish top in Glasgow, and an Ireland shirt in Cork. On July 1 he plays in Belgium - let us hope he does not show himself up completely.

Riise's about-turn on Lovren

After a Champions league tie last season, former Liverpool defender John Arne Riise had a pop at Dejan Lovren. "Surely we have or there is better CB than Lovren? He makes too many mistakes."

After Croatia's clean

sheet against Argentina, Riise said: "Mr Lovren. I have been negative towards you. I apologise! You have won me over."

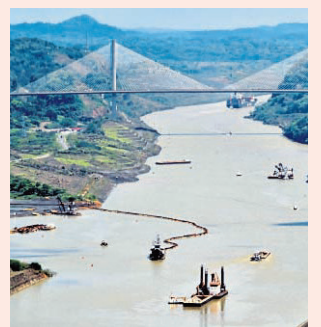
"Played great. Had the best players in your pocket. Good luck for the rest of World Cup, mate."

From summer headgear to a famous canal and some embarrassing leaks... Panama in a nutshell

Panama hats
They originate in Ecuador, and are made from toquilla straw, but were given the name because they were shipped to the Isthmus of Panama before sale abroad.



Panama canal
Fifty miles long, it took 33 years to build. Connecting the Pacific and Atlantic, bypassing the hazardous Cape Horn, it transformed transportation of freight.



General Noriega
The military dictator was an uneasy ally of the US until the 1989 invasion. He was sentenced to 40 years for racketeering and died last year.



Robert Duran
A legendary boxer, he won world titles at four weights. The second of his three fights with Sugar Ray Leonard is famous for him quitting, saying: "No mas."



Darien Gap
An almost impenetrable jungle that is the missing link on the 19,000-mile Pan-American Highway. To cross it you'll need four-wheel drives and canoes.



Panama Papers
More than 11.5 million documents were leaked relating to the finances and offshore tax arrangements of 214,000 individuals and groups.

