

Back of the nyet

**TIM
VYNER**
WORLD CUP
DRAW
No 19 MOSCOW

It is great to be back in Moscow after a lot of miles and some great cities. The new stadiums of Nizhny Novgorod, Volgograd and Kaliningrad have been great, but there is something very special about the Luzhniki. It is imposing and beautiful.

There are some stadiums that just stop you in your tracks. The Bird's Nest in Beijing hypnotises you and the Luzhniki makes you stand back and admire.

Yesterday I went to the city observatory to view the stadium from a distance in the build-up to the Spain v Russia game. The frieze that celebrates Soviet athletes has been replaced with Fifa branding, which is a shame.

Afterwards I made my way into town for the second half and then extra-time and penalties. I am certain no one in Moscow would have got any sleep last night.

England are still a long way from the Luzhniki, but it feels just a little closer.

