

TIM VYNER WORLD CUP DRAW No 15 THE AIRPORT

I am in the middle of a monumental drive from Sochi to Kaliningrad for the England v Belgium game. So far, I have travelled a huge loop round western Russia on trains and planes and in automobiles.

In previous tournaments, I would be used to seeing England fans at roadside cafes, town squares etc. But Russia is different. Outside of the host cities, it is hard to see evidence of the World Cup at all beyond TV screens in cafes showing games, but rarely with a big audience.

And, most noticeably, I have not seen a single England fan on any other day than match days.

Outside the fan zones and transport hubs life goes on as normal, while in the train stations and airport terminals, fans gather to check their schedules, post on social media then move on to the next game.



West Brom to fine Dawson and Foster over training camp snub

EXCLUSIVE

By John Percy

West Bromwich Albion are expected to discipline Ben Foster and Craig Dawson after they refused to join a training camp in Portugal.

Foster, the former England goalkeeper, and defender Dawson can expect to be punished internally for staying at home. Manchester City and Watford have shown interest in Foster. West Ham and Burnley have had bids rejected for Dawson.

Albion's first-team squad flew to Portugal for a six-day training camp on Tuesday but Foster and Dawson informed senior officials they

did not want to go. It is understood both are hugely frustrated over the hardline stance of Albion's board over their futures. The club are determined to keep the core of their squad following relegation to the Championship.

West Ham's £12million bid for Dawson was rejected this month, while Burnley have had a joint offer for the 28-year-old and striker Jay Rodriguez snubbed.

Darren Moore, the club's manager, is planning for his first full campaign in charge and it is believed both players will be fined. Foster, 35, has been with West Brom for six years since his move from Birmingham, while Dawson joined in 2010 from Rochdale.

Albion are keen to build a squad capable of bouncing straight back to the Premier League. There is also interest in Venezuela international Salomon Rondon, Belgium World Cup squad member Nacer Chadli and winger Matt Phillips, but Albion are demanding big fees for their coveted players.

Foster and Dawson's surprise stance has come in the same week as technical consultant Giuliano Terraneo was moved aside by the Albion board. Terraneo is now taking a back seat on transfers after a number of alleged disagreements with chief executive Mark Jenkins.

Albion kick off their Championship season at home to Bolton on Aug 4.

In brief

United to keep Fellaini Manchester United are close to announcing they have agreed a new two-year contract with Belgium midfielder Marouane Fellaini. The 30-year-old had appeared to be on the brink of leaving Old Trafford after months of negotiations in which United had offered only a one-year extension.

Saints eye £16m forward Southampton are ready to make Norway forward

Mohamed Elyounoussi, 23, their second most expensive signing after agreeing a £16million fee with Basel, while the £15million departure of Dusan Tadic to Ajax has been finalised. The Saints' record transfer is the £19million they paid in January for Guido Carrillo, while Sofiane Boufal also cost around £16million.

Liverpool sign Duncan Liverpool have given a professional contract to

England Under-17 youth international Bobby Duncan following his exit from Manchester City after failing to agree terms. Duncan, 17, will officially become a Liverpool player on July 1. They have paid £200,000 for his signature.

Rodwell contract ended Sunderland have terminated the contract of former England international Jack Rodwell. He is expected to join an American club.

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