



THAT LOOK OF EXHAUSTION
ONE OF MANY



FRENCH CONNECTION
ONE LEG ONLY



OVER 60S
A GREAT GANG TO HANG OUT WITH

ITALY 2022



Opening Ceremony!!!!

After being postponed from last night, the opening ceremony was first up this morning. To call it an “Opening Ceremony” is very generous. It consisted of an opportunity for teams to have photos taken with the “World Cup” and then, in two shifts, we were all directed to a small room to listen to a few “thanks’ to the organisers (not really warranted) and an Olympic-like pledge which was made by one of the players (Mark from Australia as it turned out). I know that many players were extremely disappointed not to have marched onto a field together, with the flag, bought especially here by Anthony, and to listen to at least some national

Every player is excited to be here playing in the World Cup. Incredible joy and friendliness. That conviviality ceases the minute they walk on the pitch!!

anthems. All of this did happen at the last competition and was therefore expected by the players. The English team compensated by singing their anthem whilst posing for the team photo.

The venue for the opening was the location of the Italian Football Museum. This was enjoyed by many. One Aussie was heard to say that he found it hard to get Jimmy away from the wide display of balls from previous World Cups and wondered whether he had a personal connection with the 1947 ball. How rude! Is he really that old?

Australia v England - Over 60s

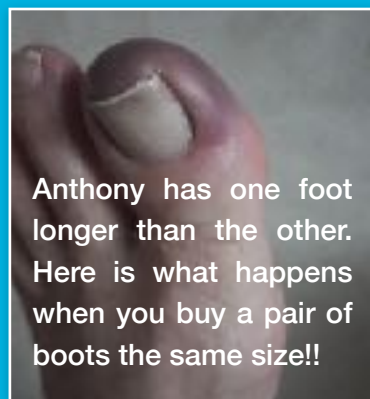
Because of very poor organisation, at least half of the Aussie players did not arrive back at the field (after an excursion to the old town of Sienna) until 5 minutes before kickoff. The English looked fit and strong - they were out on the ground well before kickoff. Our guys were tired but matched it with them. It was incredibly hot — still about 37 degrees at 4.30 when the game started. Many people felt that games should not have been played in the conditions. At least it was the same for all players!! In the end the score was 4 - 0 to England. Defensive lapses due undoubtedly to weariness no doubt but everyone put in a good shift. The game was played in a good atmosphere and there was lots of friendly banter between all players after the game. England also won their second game. We have two games tomorrow. When the English coach was asked why England had played so positively against us and played poorly in their second game he said “you guys ran us ragged all match”.

Australia Over 50s

They had the misfortune of playing two games today - one after the other. They lost the first 5-0 to England and the second 5-3 to Italy. Evidently the English has 10 reserves - and every one of them played meaning Australia literally played against two teams. The comments were that Australia were unlucky not to draw against Italy. End to end stuff but luck was always on the Italian side. They could certainly shoot!!

We were all bused back and arrived at the hotel at about 11 pm. Everyone was exhausted. Heather fell asleep even without having a shower while husband stayed up cleaning up the hundreds of photos taken during the match. We are getting to know our fellow Aussies. Siggie had some in-depth contact with a number of English and Swedish players. Football promotes a sense of community. The memories/friendships made have been worth the trip despite extremely poor organisation.

The leather and cotton of fond memories



Anthony has one foot longer than the other. Here is what happens when you buy a pair of boots the same size!!

The Italian Football Museum was brim full of Italian memorabilia. No mention anywhere of the blatant dive by Grosso in the quarter final of the World Cup in 2006 against Australia. All the Italian's can remember is the goal scored by Totti. The Azzuri have not changed on bit!!

Small selection of snaps from today.





