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of The FA

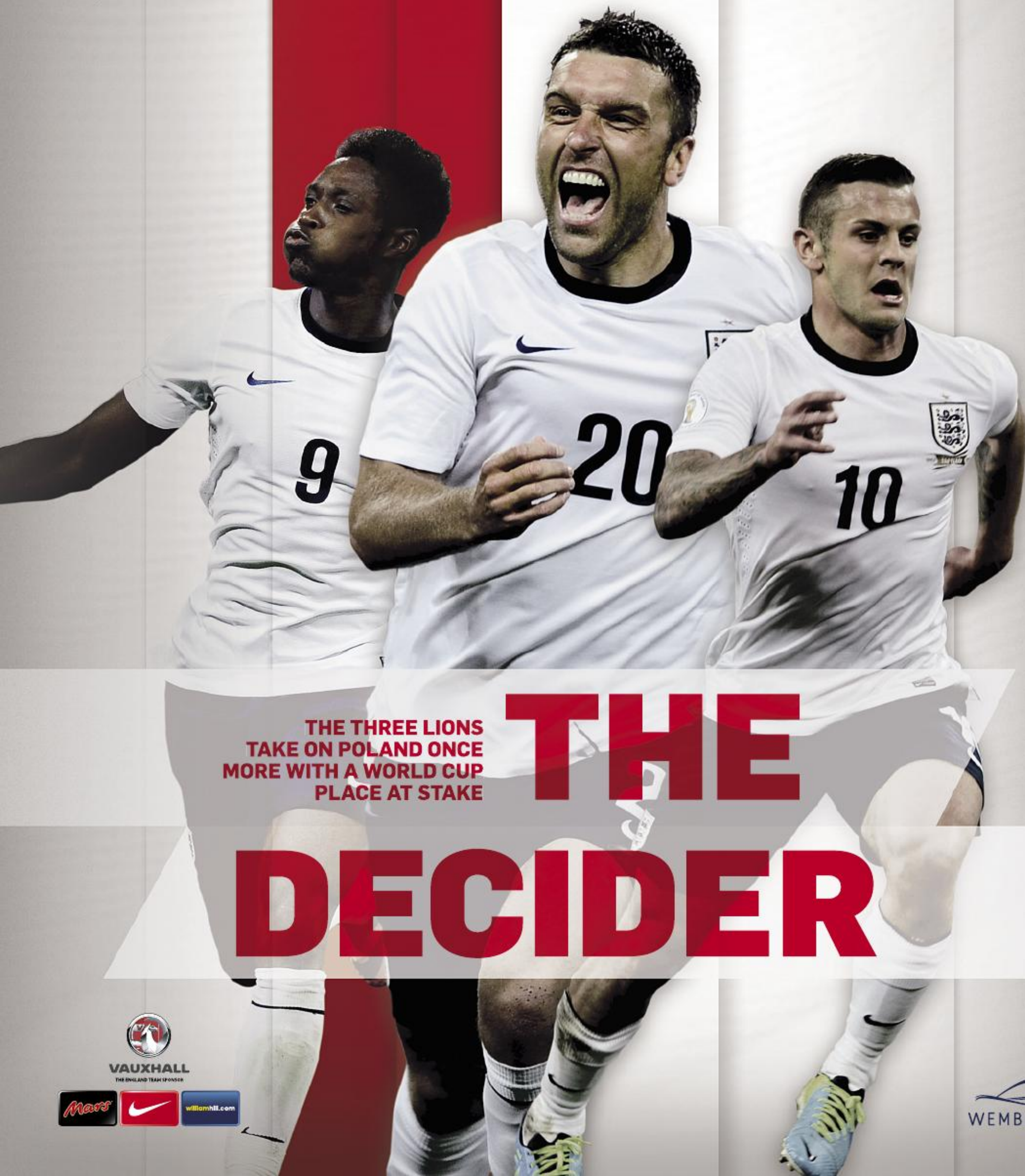
# ENGLAND v POLAND

**2014 FIFA WORLD CUP™ QUALIFIER**

8PM, TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2013

WEMBLEY STADIUM

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £6



THE THREE LIONS  
TAKE ON POLAND ONCE  
MORE WITH A WORLD CUP  
PLACE AT STAKE

# THE DECIDER



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# NEWS

The FA.com

## Friends Reunit

Poland are in town,  
which inevitably means  
there's a lot at stake...

Whenever the draw is made for World Cup or European Championship qualification, it seems almost inevitable that England will be paired with Poland.

Indeed, the two nations have been sparring partners in five previous World Cup qualifying campaigns, once at the World Cup Finals, and in two European Championship qualifying groups.

The significance of tonight's encounter cannot be understated, and it inevitably draws comparisons with the most famous – or infamous if you are an England fan – meeting between the sides in October 1973 when England needed to beat Poland to reach the World Cup Finals in West Germany.

The nation's hopes had already taken a dent, losing 2-0 in Poland that summer, but many pundits predicted an England win at Wembley. Brian Clough branded Polish keeper Jan Tomaszewski a 'circus clown in gloves' in the build-up, yet the keeper – struggling with

a hand injury – kept Alf Ramsey's side at bay with a string of superlative, and sometimes fortuitous, saves. A 1-1 draw saw the Poles through; they would finish third in the Finals.

At the 1986 World Cup Finals in Mexico, England needed a point against Poland to progress to the knock-out stages after an abhorrent start in which Bobby Robson's side had lost 1-0 to Portugal and drawn 0-0 with Morocco. Yet a first-half Gary Lineker hat-trick secured victory as the striker all but secured a move to Barcelona in the process.

If you thought that was the end of the drama, think again. The two nations were paired in qualification for Italia '90, with a point needed by England in Katowice to secure their place in the Finals. In a tense affair, a superb rearguard action by Des Walker and Terry Butcher saw England home with a 0-0 draw. Yet Gazza's tears and that epic semi against West Germany would never have happened if Ryszard Tarasiewicz's







Alan Shearer and England got the better of Poland in 1997

# ted

# A force for good



30-yard piledriver in the final minute had gone in rather crash back off the crossbar.

Naturally, the two sides were paired in qualification for the European Championship in 1992 and the Three Lions, now under Graham Taylor, travelled to Poznan in November 1991, needing another point to reach the Finals. Again, Lineker was architect of the Poles' downfall, netting a spectacular volley from David Rocastle's corner.

There have, of course, been other memorable games; a 2-0 win in Chorzow – courtesy of Alan Shearer and Teddy Sheringham – in May 1997 giving England an edge over Italy in the race to reach France '98, and Paul Scholes netting the last ever hat-trick at the old Wembley as Kevin Keegan's side won comfortably in March 1999 en-route to Euro 2000 being the stand-outs... But given the rich history between the sides, who would bet against tonight's game etching another place in the history books?

**Volunteers from the grassroots** and professional game were honoured by HRH The Duke of Cambridge, FA President, at Buckingham Palace for The FA's Grassroots Heroes Day last week. It was another important event in The FA's 150th anniversary celebrations.

Prior to presenting the awards, The Duke said: "At its best, football is a powerful force for good in society. It binds people from different backgrounds, communities, faiths and abilities – and gives them a common interest, a unifying identity.

"I believe over its 150 years, football has remained a wonderful example of the power of community and of our ability to come together to organise and enjoy a simple pastime.

"As a nation, we were rightly proud of the volunteer 'Gamesmakers' who supported last year's Olympic Games. But for those of us involved in football, this was not a new phenomenon. Grassroots football thrives on the support of its volunteers week after week.

"You and your colleagues are the original

games-makers, and we are in all your debt for it."

FA Chairman Greg Dyke said: "One of the things I am proud of is the way that football inspires people to give of themselves and to give to others. The game survives and thrives on the contribution of 400,000 volunteers, who week in and week out give of their time, in every county, club and league in the land. They are the lifeblood of the game and I am pleased we are able to celebrate their immeasurable contribution here in our 150th year."

After the awards a match was played on a specially-prepared pitch in the Buckingham Palace Gardens. This was a Southern Amateur League Senior Division 1 fixture between Civil Service and Polytechnic. Civil Service is the only one of The FA's original eleven member clubs still in existence and Polytechnic is also one of our oldest amateur teams, formed in 1875. The match was refereed by Howard Webb and a crowd of around 400 saw Polytechnic win a hard-fought contest 2-1.

For more on the 150th anniversary celebrations visit [TheFA.com/FA150](http://TheFA.com/FA150)



## MATCH STATS

### RICKIE LAMBERT

Forward

■ AGE	31
■ DOB	16 FEBRUARY 1982
■ PLAYED	3
■ WON	2
■ DRAWN	1
■ LOST	0
■ GOALS	2
■ BOOKINGS	0
■ DISMISSALS	0

■ FIRST MATCH

v Scotland, 14.08.2013

■ LAST MATCH

v Ukraine, 10.09.2013

"THE BEST MOMENT  
OF MY CAREER  
BY A MILE"





Two goals in his first two England games was a perfect way for Rickie Lambert to burst onto the international scene. But it's been a long journey for the 31-year-old striker...

**I remember playing football in the street when I was growing up** and also the first training session I went to with a proper team. I was about eight. I can still remember the butterflies I had going to training.

**My first team was Shevington Park in Kirkby.** They were a great side. My next door neighbour Leon Edwards was playing for them in goal, so I think that's the reason why I went along and I was with them for five years. The manager was John Jones and his son played for us, too. But all the parents gave their input, it was very competitive, but we were also very successful. I loved every minute of it.

**It was a year or two after I joined and we got to a local final, which we won.** A Liverpool scout was watching the game and must have thought I was all right as they asked me to go for a trial. Obviously the standard there was high. I was a massive Liverpool fan so it meant everything to me to have a chance with them. It was a very exciting time.

**I was ten years old when I joined Liverpool and I was one of the best players in the group.** But by the time I was 15 I wasn't one of the better ones, so they let me go, which I kind of saw coming anyway. A few of my friends were being let go and though I managed to stay on a little bit longer, in the end they said 'good luck for the future' and I was on my way. I was absolutely devastated.

**One of my friends who also left Liverpool at the same time went on to Blackpool.** So my first thought was to go there. I spent two years with them and

I was doing really well. I think Nigel Worthington really liked me but then Steve McMahon took over and he just focused on my fitness, which wasn't good. I must say it was shocking for a 17-year-old. I was completely off it. At the time I didn't really know how to be professional and he said for that reason he was letting me go.

**After leaving Blackpool, I always wanted to get back into it, but I found it hard after a few clubs said no.** I was always thinking 'am I going to get another chance'. I was training at Macclesfield for what seemed like ages and they kept saying that they couldn't offer me a contract. I needed some money, I needed a job. I was getting paid very little for travel expenses.

**A year later I went to Stockport, who paid £300,000, which was a lot of money.** That put pressure on me, but overall it went okay. The first year wasn't too good, but the second year was better. I got player of the season and leading goal scorer. What a lot of people don't realise is that I was a central midfielder. However, the third season went completely wrong for me, which was probably the lowest point in my career. I was so low in confidence, the team were at the bottom and fans started to get on our backs and I think it affected me personally. Halfway through the third season they let me go to Rochdale.

**I dropped down a division at Rochdale, and I wasn't even bothered.** At that stage I wasn't thinking that I could one day be playing in the Premier League or anything like that, I just wanted to go somewhere where I could enjoy my football. Steve Parkin was the only manager that wanted me and we hit it off straight away. I went there to try and fall in love with football again and I did.

**I was at Rochdale for a year and a half and it was deadline day in 2006 when Bristol Rovers came in for me.** That was a very stressful time and I had to decide in the space of three or four hours if I wanted to move. I felt there was more chance of getting to League One and higher with Rovers, but it didn't start well there either. I was unfit and missed some of the pre-season at Rochdale, so I went to Rovers out of shape and it took me half a season to catch up.

**But it was at Rovers where I got my name as a goal scorer and striker** and three years later I did well enough



for Southampton to come in for me. Since then everything changed.

**My first season in the Premier League was great, but I did feel disappointed in some games.** There were a few times I didn't score as often as I'd hoped, but just playing in the Premier League is a dream come true and something I never thought was going to happen.

**It got even better in August when I made my debut for England against Scotland and scored the winner.** It was the best moment of my career by a mile. Everything was leading up to that moment so to get the winner was unbelievable. I was hoping to go on at half-time but when the chance finally came I was ready for it, and I was eager to get on the pitch and try and do something. I knew it might have been my only chance and I knew I had to take it. I didn't quite imagine it to happen the way it did, with my first touch, but my main thing was to try and impress.

**The chance came from a Leighton Baines corner.** He grew up near me in Liverpool. I knew he was a very good player and we'd played against each other when he was with Wigan and I was with Stockport. Even before those days I knew of him. We didn't hang around but it's nice to see him do so well.

**Like everyone else in the squad, I'd love to play at the World Cup.** It's a dream and is something I'll be fighting for but there's still work to do. I'll be focused on working hard to try and keep impressing the gaffer and if we can qualify, who knows what's around the corner.





# MATCH ZONE

The Coach / Tactics / Team Profiles / Player interview /

**POLSKA**



## POLAND

Once again, the Poles have proved to be a difficult customer in World Cup qualification



### AT A GLANCE

**COACH** Waldemar Fornalik  
**CAPTAIN** Jakub Blaszczykowski  
**STADIUM** Kazimierz Gorski National Stadium, Warsaw  
**HONOURS** World Cup Third Place 1974, 1982  
**FIRST INTERNATIONAL** 0-1 v Hungary, Budapest, 18 December 1921  
**LAST RESULT** 5-1 v San Marino, Serravalle, 10 September 2013  
**BIGGEST WIN** 10-0 v San Marino, Kielce, 1 April 2009  
**BIGGEST DEFEAT** 0-8 v Denmark, Copenhagen, 26 June 1948  
**MOST-CAPPED PLAYER** Michal Zewlakow (102 caps) 1998-2011  
**TOP SCORER** Włodzimierz Lubanski (48 goals) 1963-80  
**FIFA RANKING** 65  
**DOMESTIC LEAGUE** The Ekstraklasa is the top division in Poland, comprising 16 clubs. Since the league was formed in 1927, there have been 16 different champions, with Gornik Zabrze and Wisla Krakow each bagging 14 titles, the record. Current champions Legia Warsaw won their ninth title last year, but failed to reach the Champions League group stage.

Poland always give England a tough ride and have been a tricky and at times sensational rival through five decades.

The golden age of Polish football came between 1974 and 1982. To begin that era, coach Kazimierz Gorski's exciting, speedy team were one match away from reaching the FIFA World Cup 1974 Final. However, a downpour turned the Frankfurt Waldstadion pitch to a swamp, neutralising their counterattacks and opponents (and hosts) West Germany coped better, beating Gorski's dark horses 1-0. Yet there was plenty to cheer three days later they beat Brazil to claim third place. Winger Grzegorz Lato scored the winner and finished as tournament top scorer with seven goals.

He returned for World Cup 1978, combining majestically with new star Zbigniew Boniek as the Poles reached the second group stage. Better still, the 1982

### SQUAD NEWS

#### THEN AND NOW..

The good news for Poland fans is that striker

**ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI**

returns upfront after missing the San Marino match with a knee injury.

Also returning to this week's games is **KAMIL GLIK**, who scored the equaliser against England last October, after serving a one match ban. In goal,

Southampton's **ARTUR BORUC** has been preferred recently to

Arsenal duo **LUKASZ FABIANSKI** and **WOJCIECH SZCZESNY**. One player to watch will be teenager

**PIOTR ZIELINSKI** who has scored three goals for Poland this season.

World Cup squad replicated the '74 side with an unexpected third-place finish. Such highs have been difficult to recreate in recent decades, aside from the prestige and joy of co-hosting UEFA Euro 2012.

England have crossed swords 18 times with Poland, eleven times in World Cup qualification. The turbocharged team which prospered at the '74 World Cup won four qualifying points from the Three Lions in 1973, winning 2-0 in Chorzow and drawing 1-1 at Wembley thanks to goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski's super show.

Poland's current squad may be on the cusp of another glorious era. Cerebral, deft striker Robert Lewandowski (below left) and electrifying winger Jakub Blaszczykowski, who is also captain, have captured the country's imagination. The last time the Poles were at the beginning of a wonderful journey, England were caught cold. Full respect and concentration is required to avoid a repeat of 1973.

Captain Jakub Blaszczykowski has 63 caps for Poland



### IN NUMBERS

A history of Poland's rivalry with England

**3-0**

England's largest win over Poland, in 1986, 1989 and 1993

**16**

Number of times Poland and England have met in competitive fixtures

**1999**

The year of Poland's last clean sheet against England, a 0-0 draw in Euro qualifying in Warsaw





Asif Burhan gets a great shot of the Warsaw stadium

Garry Murphy meets a couple of Poland fans in Warsaw



If you spot any England stars on your travels, following the Three Lions, email [englandfans@TheFA.com](mailto:englandfans@TheFA.com) or Twitter [@englandfans](https://twitter.com/englandfans) and you could see your photos in a programme.

## ON THE ROAD WITH ENGLAND

England supporters travel the world following the Three Lions, and return with many stories to tell. Here are just a few photos from [englandfans'](https://twitter.com/englandfans) travels

Twitter user [@NEZmeister80](https://twitter.com/NEZmeister80) stayed over in Poland for England's game, sleeping in the train station with hundreds of Polish fans



Another Twitter user [@TheKeigsUK](https://twitter.com/TheKeigsUK) bumped into former England manager Glenn Hoddle



To join England's travelling support, visit [TheFA.com/englandfans](http://TheFA.com/englandfans), the official supporters club, and apply for tickets for all away games and tournaments





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