

REPORT FROM SIMON STACPOOLE (K1990-2002) ON ATTENDING WORLD CUP IN BRAZIL

This summer I embarked on a six-week trip to Brazil to photograph my second FIFA World Cup. I'd visited the country twelve months earlier for the Confederations Cup, using that tournament as a trial run for the main event, so I had an idea of what to expect in terms of cost and logistical issues, as well as stadium layouts and, most importantly, security concerns. What I was yet to experience, however, was the intense excitement and carnival atmosphere that came with it this time around. Political frustration and social issues had been put on hold, as the country embraced the opportunity to show itself off to the rest of the world.

My main base was in Rio de Janeiro, where, for the second year running, I hooked up with Kerrison old boy **Joe Jennings (K97-02)**, who lives on the outskirts of the city. It was nice to be welcomed by a familiar face, and one who loves football too... I'm not the biggest football fan out there by any means, but Joe loves the game more than almost anyone I know, and will talk about it round the clock.

In total, I covered 16 games over 6 weeks across a range of host cities. They included the opening match in Sao Paulo, as well as all three of England's matches. I saw teams including Argentina, Chile, the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Spain, I witnessed Germany's humbling of Brazil in the semi-finals, and was lucky enough to be at the World Cup Final itself, photographing the action inside the Maracana.

Here are a few of my highlights from the tournament.





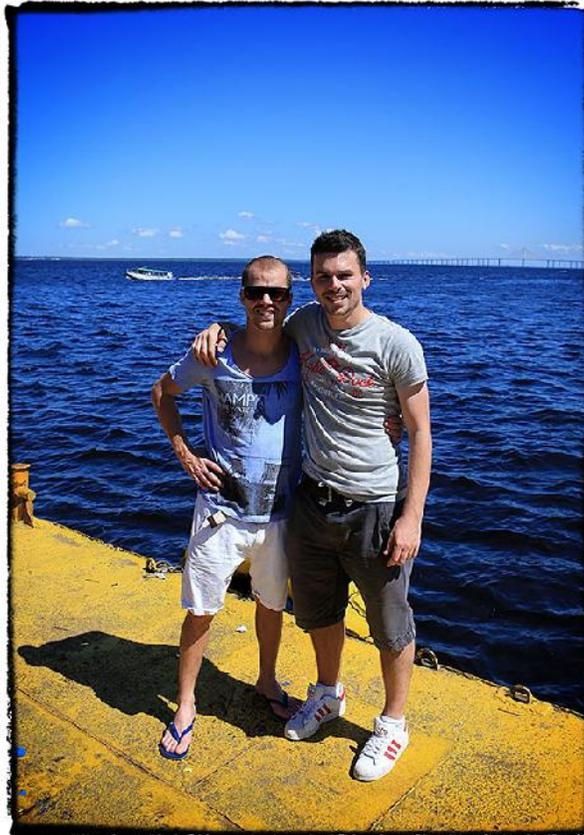












Simon is a freelance photographer whose sports coverage is represented by www.welloffside.com.

He also provides imagery for corporate clients and for PR purposes, and even shoots the occasional wedding.

Follow him on Twitter - @simonstacpoole