

Come on England!



A World Cup Review

by a

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The English newspapers didn't think very much of the England team's performances in the World Cup 2010, but, from my perspective here in South Africa, I think they got it wrong!

The Sun said that the team had let their country down and wrote "awful England" can offer "no defence". The Sun and the Mirror both adapted Basil Fawlty's remark about the Germans: "Don't mention the score." The Daily Telegraph summed up the 4-1 defeat in a cartoon showing a Saint George flag at half mast above a white van - and its shaven-headed driver. 'Collective surrender' The Daily Star's adjectives of choice were "inept" and "inarguably awful".

These newspapers have totally missed the point.

You see, in response to FIFA's ambition to raise standards of good behaviour and good sporting relationships between the players, and to encourage younger players to follow a good example, rather than the awful behaviour of many professional players at present, the England players were just letting the other teams have a bit of a chance, rather than run them off the field from the word go! So, when John Terry and Co. were seen to pass the ball to the other side all the time, rather than the more traditional approach of passing to one's own side, we should have been applauding, not hurling brick-bats! And just look at Robert Green's friendly gesture to help our American cousins get a start in the goal department. That was jolly sporting, chaps!

And you have to admire the manner in which Wayne Rooney dumbed down his own flawless skills. When playing under the old, more competitive rule, he could trap a ball, or just let it bounce off his foot into open space, then he would turn on a sixpence and leave the defenders reclining on the grass whilst he went on, unimpeded, to score a cracking goal. For this competition, Wayne decided to let the other players have a fair chance. When the ball came near his feet, he kicked it up in the air about ten feet, giving the opposition a bit of time to come and get it. This is exactly the kind of sporting gesture FIFA were looking for, so well done Wayne!

The only problem with this approach was that none of the other teams had heard about the rule change. Perhaps it was the noise of the vuvuzelas? They doggedly kept passing to each other, which wasn't fair really, was it? Ah well, there is always next time, isn't there?