



North Riding County Football Association

Centre Of Referee Excellence

Paris World Games 2019

Tournament Report

**(L to R) Tommy BROWN - Vladimir MOLLOV - Macca GIBSON
& Andy HIMSWORTH (Coach)**



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A FEW FIGURES...

400 delegations

71 countries represented 5 sports

Badminton Basketball Football Handball Rugby 7s

23 Parisian venues involved

7 000 athletes

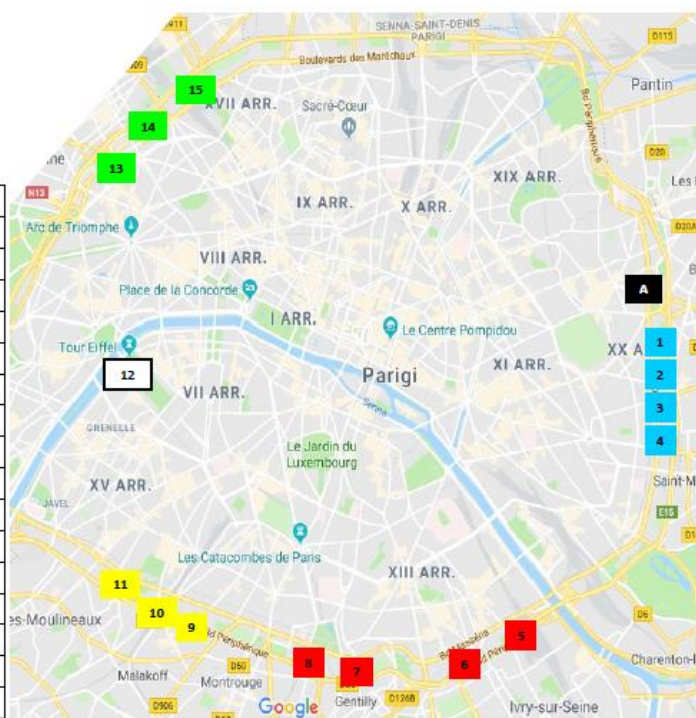
2 000 coaches and leaders

220 international referees

200 volunteers

Fields map
Football

Nr	Pitch	Address
1	Dejerine 1	36 Rue des Docteurs Dejerine
2	Dejerine 2	36 Rue des Docteurs Dejerine
3	Maryne Hilsz 1	34 Rue Maryne Hilsz
4	Maryne Hilsz 2	34 Rue Maryne Hilsz
5	Boutroux	1 Avenue Boutroux
6	Carpentier	5 Place de Port-au-Prince
7	Cité Universitaire E	4 Avenue Pierre de Coubertin
8	Cité Universitaire O	47 Boulevard Jourdan
9	Didot	18 Avenue Marc Sangnier
10	Rigoulot	18 Avenue de la Porte Brancion
11	La Plaine	13 Rue du Général Guillaumat
12	Emile Anthoine	2 Avenue de Suffren
13	Jean-Pierre Wimille	83 Boulevard de l'Amiral Bruix
14	Paul Faber	17 Avenue de la Porte de Villiers
15	Porte Asnières	6 Avenue Brunetière
A	FUAJ	80 Rue Vitruve





Benefits of overseas tournaments to NRCFA Match Officials:

There are many benefits to NRCFA match officials, who are fortunate enough to be selected to attend the Paris World Cup & others, some of which include:

- Development of communication skills: When at the Paris World Games Officials are refereeing international players, who speak a variety of different languages. Communication of decisions are key part of success to officiating foreign players. Officials quickly develop skills to aid them during the game, which heighten their abilities when returning home to referee within their leagues.
- Improving fitness levels: It is recommended that prior to attending the Paris World Games officials have excellent levels of fitness, however when refereeing in Paris officials will develop them even further when participating in games involving the world's top youth teams in hot & humid conditions.
- Exposure to officials across the world: during the Paris World Games match officials get the opportunity to meet people from across the globe from different cultures that have different styles of refereeing. Some of which are notable and helpful for officials when returning home and others less so.
- Befriending opportunities: While at the Paris World Games match officials meet fellow colleagues not only of other nationalities but also from many Football Associations across the world. This offers a great opportunity for officials to make long lasting friendships, which are vital in refereeing.
- Developing pride from match officials not only to represent their CFA, but also their country in the best possible light.
- Development of confidence: Many young match officials lack confidence on and off the field of play, the Paris World Games offers officials to develop their interpersonal skills as they must interact and work as a team with unfamiliar people.
- An awareness of how the game is played across the globe: In most cases this tournament offers officials their first insight into continental football which is very different to their leagues. Most teams at the tournament are well directed and train

their players to commit technical offences that many officials do not encounter in their regular football. Again, a great insight into football at the highest level

- One of the main bonuses of the Paris World Games would be that games are evaluated by Referee Observers who work regularly at the highest level of the game. Some examples include credible & experienced FA & international members, technical staff and experts in communication and the mental side of the game. This offers match officials a golden opportunity not only to showcase their talents but also to learn from the very best aiding with their ongoing development.



In addition to this the NRCFA CORE group were allocated a Coach (Andy HIMSWORTH) who is presently in the role of Regional FA CORE Performance Coach. The Coach would work with the team from morning until night and spend time helping the young Referees develop and ensure the learning is facilitated in a safe and relaxed atmosphere.



Vladimir MOLLOV

Tournament Review



I found out the great news that I was going to officiate in Paris when Ross Joyce rang me to let me know. I was very excited about that because I know it is a big event. Within a week I received an email with information about my fellow referees (Macca, Tommy and then Andy Himsworth – the coach). In the space of three months we had three meetings (York, Kader FC and Stokesley – NRCFA HQ) to equip us with good skills for our trip to Paris. All these meetings were arranged by Andy Himsworth. I was impressed by the training sessions Andy organized to monitor us, improve our fitness levels and refereeing skills. Everything was done in a very professional, yet friendly manner.

Day 1 – Saturday 6th July 2019, early in the morning I met the guys in York & the PWG started for me. In the car, we had many conversations about the trip, the games, refereeing and all these good talks from Andy which followed for the next 8 days as well. When we arrived at the hotel we had some rest then we went out to do some stretches and cardio exercises to get us ready for the long days ahead, especially to get used to the warm weather. In the evening, we found out which stadium we were going to for our first games and who is going to be observing us.

Day 2 – We started the day with a very good training session organised by Andy, very intense stretches and cardio. It helped us to get our minds and bodies ready for the tournament the following day. In the afternoon, we went to a conference with the organisers and this was very informative as they made us aware of what was expected from us during the tournament. They also mentioned the new laws of the game which were going to be used. In the evening, we knew where we were going and what games we were going to have on the next day, therefore we were able to plan everything for the first day at the PWG.

Day 3 – Monday. We woke up early in the morning. We had a healthy and nutritious breakfast to get us ready for the day ahead. We took the tram to the Stade Carpentier stadium to meet another referee and our German observers. We had 3 to 4 games each. I had one game as a 4th official, another as an assistant referee and the final game as a referee. The game which I learnt the most from was the U15 boys. I had some good advice from the observers about managing the wall before a direct free kick. It was only the first day and I had already felt like I was learning a lot, meeting people who can teach me new approaches and skills while enjoying myself.

When we got back to the hotel we had some rest, and then went out for dinner where we continued to talk about the games, reflected on some possible improvements we could make and most importantly feeling satisfied after a long and rewarding day on the pitch.

Day 4 - It was Tuesday and all of us were very excited because we knew we were going to referee games at Stade Emile Antoine stadium, which is just below the Eiffel Tower. The stadium was nice and tidy with very good facilities. Again, Tommy and Macca and I had 3 to 4 games each. We were in a team with another official. We also had a very experienced English observer in John Moules.

One of the games I had was a good competitive game, U17 boys, which gave me the chance to put some more efforts on the pitch and show what I have learnt so far. After the game he gave me some positive comments and very good advice on how to improve my whistle signals which I really appreciated.



Day 5 – Wednesday was even better for us as we found out where we were going to have our games was Stadium Dejerine. It was so close to our hotel that we went in our flip flops supplied by the NRCFA!

That day I had U19 boys' game in the middle with two Romanian referees on the line and Tommy 4th official. I knew that game would be very competitive. I had the observers' manager Dave Waller and Andy in the stands watching me; I was nervous and excited at the same time. I was looking forward to the finals so my mind was focused and I knew if I could manage the game in an expected standard I would have a big chance to reach the finals, below the Eiffel Tower. The game finished with 24 handshakes and I could not wait to hear the observer's comments about my presentation on the pitch. I was glad to hear some positive comments and some very good development points about my movements on the pitch and also managing the players when throw-ins are awarded.



Day 6 - What a day! I didn't expect that Thursday would be such hard work for all of us, including our coach Andy.

We went to Stade De La Plane stadium where we met our observer from England Tunde ADEBAYO, two more referees, one from England and one from Netherlands - he decided to have a nice nap in the morning and did not arrive for the games! On that occasion, all of us needed to do more games which gave us more opportunities to show our skills and talents. Most importantly, by being on time and being present we showed how seriously we took the tournament.

We were able to manage very well. Especially, when it was my turn to be in the middle for the game involving the U17 boys; Andy Himsworth our coach, had to step in and be AR2 to allow several of the team to take a break. This was very helpful of him and I was impressed by how great he was with making sure everything was going well. We had a very interesting quarter final game with some difficult situations. One in particular was a little bit more complicated which I believe I managed well. Nevertheless, it was a very good development point for me.

Day 7 – Friday 12th July 2019 is the day I will not forget. We all went to the conference at the nearby FUAJ centre to find out if we had finals.



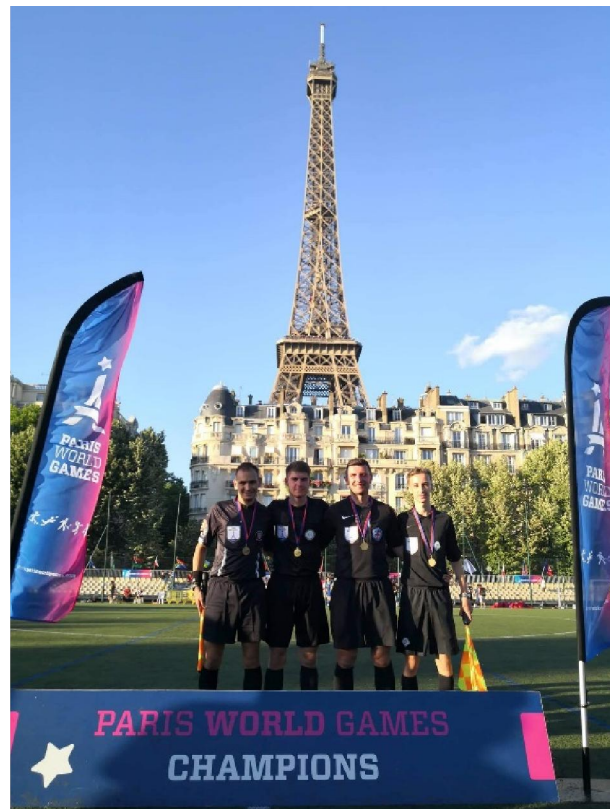
We were in the room with referees from all around the world. The referee manager Cristiano Bonapace started announcing the appointments for the finals. After several of them, it came to introduce the referee for the U16 boys Final - two teams from France & South Africa then I heard my name, I was so pleased with myself and glad I will officiate a final with referees from USA, Netherlands and Switzerland. This was such a great experience and a big opportunity for me.

The final was the same day at 7:30 pm, Stade Emile Antoine (Eiffel Tower) I went to the stadium with our coach Andy who gave me very good tips about my final on the way to the ground. When we arrived at the stadium I met the rest of the team. We had a brief conversation, then I did my pre-match instruction and a warm up before the game.



It was a very competitive game which I really enjoyed and put in all of my efforts even after 4 intense days of games. I tried to incorporate all the development points that were mentioned by all the observers during the week. I believe I did my best.

The game finished and we had 24 handshakes and maybe more, which was the best sign for me that we had a good game and even the losing team showed respect.



Day 8 – I finished my last game at the PWG on the previous day which today meant I had no games. I was just going to watch Macca's game as AR in the U15 final (again at the Eiffel Tower field - some officials don't get chance to go there, we went 3 times!)

We went to the stadium underneath the Eiffel Tower for Macca's final to support him from the stands. He had a great game. After that, we went for a nice walk around Paris and this was the perfect end to a week full of excitement, valuable experience and exploring. I was filled with joy and pride. Most importantly, I was happy because we had our coach and guide to support us from the first email I received from Ross Joyce 5 months ago.



After meeting with players, referees and observers from all around the world, I believe I have become a better referee by improving my movements on the pitch, improving my whistle signals, overcoming the language barrier and finally being more aware of the observer's expectations.

It was a pleasure for me to spend these 8 days with Andy, Macaulay and Tommy in Paris. We had so much fun by working hard during the games and reflecting on our development points in the evening. It did not matter whether we were on the pitch, or having our dinner, the whole trip was educational and full of lessons I will keep for life.



I would like to thank Ross Joyce (Referee Development Manager at NRCFA) for giving me this opportunity.

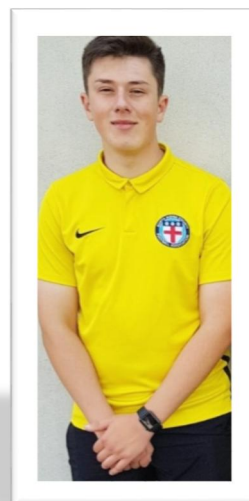
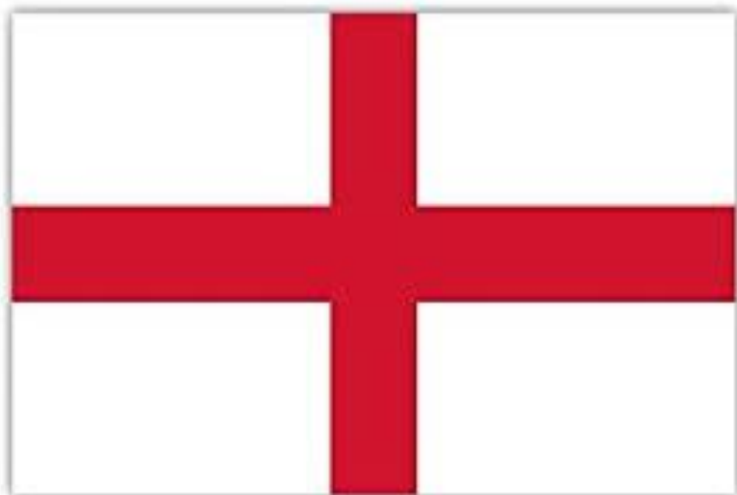
I would also like to thank Andy for his support and giving us advice on how to be better referees and how to handle difficult situations like he does.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow referees, Macaulay for the massages on my calves, maybe without them I would not have reached the final, and Tommy for being a true friend during these days.

I hope I have represented the North Riding County FA in a high standard of refereeing at Paris World Cup Games 2019.

Tommy BROWN

Tournament Review



I found out that I was going to be officiating at the Paris World Games 2019 when I received a phone call from Ross Joyce, shortly after the phone call and I had chance to think about what he said on the phone, was when it hit me that I had been selected to represent NRCFA overseas and how big the achievement actually was.

The next week we received an email from Ross with the confirmation and which other match officials were selected (Vladimir Mollov and Macauley Gibson), I was looking forward to working with these other referees and coach Andy Himsworth because I knew the quality would be of a high standard.

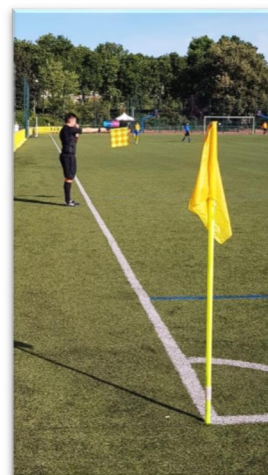
The trip was planned for 6th July 2019, so we had to prepare for this because it would come around quickly. As preparation for the tournament I started to train e.g. Road cycling, running, interval training etc and start to think about eating the right stuff to be able to function well at the tournament.

Other preparation included monthly meetings with the guys, in total 3 meetings took place to prepare us for Paris, the first meeting took place in York which it was an introductory meeting, getting to know the other guys, collecting our kit that we were given and going through important information regarding the tournament and logistics. The second meeting took place at Kader FC, where we did practical fitness sessions of which these included; warming up and stretching correctly, then followed by some recognition work, where Andy told us a match incident and we had to decide the correct outcome, then we did some Referee / Assistant teamwork with some referees from other CFA that came to help us out acting as the players and had to commit a foul and we had to work together to get the correct outcome again, once finished and we were sorted we all sat down for a presentation on effective communication by Andy of which this was very educational to us. The third and final meeting took place at NRCFA HQ where again we worked on our fitness by doing practical sessions of

running using the formation of a 'figure of eight', then onto some speed work, then some side-stepping, this was very beneficial to us all, shortly after we finished the practical sessions we returned inside for a presentation on player management and discussed final arrangements for the trip.

Day 1 – Saturday 6th July 2019:

I was up at 0515hrs, got all my luggage and kit together and had breakfast and then set off to pick up Macca from his house which was on the way to our meeting point at Clifton Moor at York for 0700hrs, once we arrived we met up with Andy and Vlad. We loaded the car and said our goodbyes and set off to Manchester Airport, we arrived in good time and we got checked in and sent our bags off, went through security and we had a couple of hours before our flight so we sat down and had something to eat in a restaurant before the flight. After this we then boarded the flight and took off for Paris, the plane journey was good and we arrived in Paris just after 2pm (Local time) where we then got an Uber to the hotel, dropped our bags off before we went for a training session in the heat to get used to what we were going to be refereeing in we then went back and got sorted and went for our first meal out of which was very nice.



Day 2 – Sunday 7th July 2019:

This was our last day before our games started, we got sorted and went out to one of the local football pitches and we all did a training session on sprinting and running backwards and then stretches again to acclimatise to the heat. After this we returned to the hotel for some well-deserved rest before we went out for some food and then attended the pre-tournament referees meeting where we were told all that we needed to know for refereeing the tournament and what our responsibilities were for that week ahead. After the meeting finished later than expected we returned to the hotel for a good night's sleep before the games in the morning.

Day 3 – Monday 8th July 2019:

This was matchday 1 of the tournament and we were at Stade Carpentier, which was not very far away on the tram, I had the first game of the day which was boys U15's along with Leon from Norfolk FA as AR 1, Vlad as AR 2 and Macca as 4th Official whilst being observed by 2 German observers called Thomas and Martin. The game was fairly quiet, with only 1 yellow card for adopting an aggressive attitude, the observers gave me and the others some great advice about positioning and movement and they even stayed behind after the matches were complete to show us examples of where we needed to stand on the pitch for free kicks just outside the penalty area. This was

really good and I learned a lot from them, after they had finished their debrief I was on the pitch again for the next 2 games and this time acting as an assistant referee for Macca and as a 4th official for Vlad in the game after. Shortly after all the games were finished we went to go and grab some food to replace what we had lost from the morning's games and then travelled back to the hotel where we rested before we went out for tea later on in the evening.

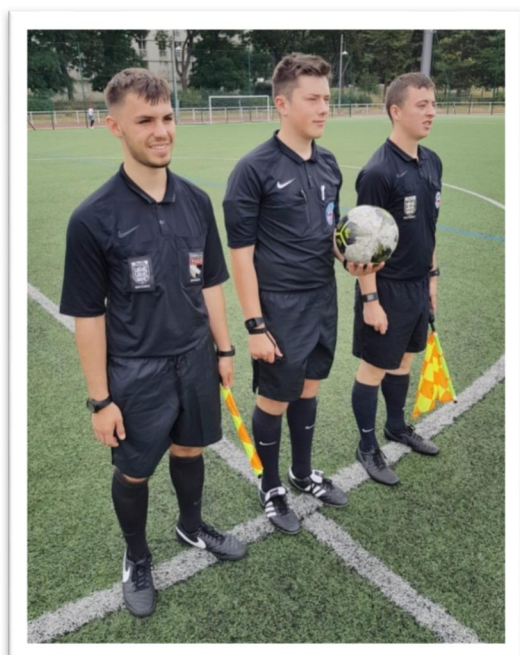


Day 4 – Tuesday 9th July 2019:

Today we had to be up early to travel across to the famous Stade Emile Anthoine, not all the officials were able to referee here so this was a great achievement for us all. We had to get the metro to the stadium but when we got off the tram the views of the Eiffel Tower were amazing! We walked 5 minutes to the stadium and arrived and sorted out what we needed for our games and met the observer John Moules and delivered our pre-match instructions to each other. This time we had another referee from Norfolk FA working with us called Ryan who had the first game which again was U15 boys accompanied by Macca as AR 1 and me as AR 2, with Vlad as 4th Official. This was a challenging game for Ryan as he had some incidents to deal with as well as a red card, we then swapped around as the next game was Vlad as the referee, Ryan as AR 1 and Macca as AR 2, with me as 4th official for what was a good but less challenging game where I was able to get some rest before my game. My game was directly after and was also a non-challenging game but picked up some good development points off the observer to take with me for the rest of the week, I had Vlad and Ryan as my assistants and Macca as 4th, the fourth and final game of the day was Maccas game with me and Vlad as assistants and Ryan as 4th Official. Throughout the day we all picked up some important advice from the observer that we were able to take onboard and use in our future games, after the debrief and everyone was showered and changed, me and Vlad were able to get a massage to help us with our recovery, we then left the ground and went for food at a nice Italian bar where we all enjoyed our meals. We then went to see the site of where princess Diana died and to her memorial on the way back to the metro, we then all has some deserved rest and met up later for tea and then bed for the next busy day ahead.

Day 5 – Wednesday 10th July 2019:

Today Dejerine, the ground where we were refereeing at was very close to the hotel, which made it convenient for us to travel to, we also had later kick off times which made it great for us to have some rest in the morning. Macca was refereeing first in the morning because he was identified as a good assistant referee so was being observed by Daniele and Dave. My games were at 2pm so we had some food before them, I had U13s and I was working with Vlad and 2 Romanian referees, who were of a high standard in their country, the 2 games after that we switched around so I got an assistant role and a 4th official role also, after all the games finished it was fairly late, so we went back to get sorted out and then went out for a quick meal, then returned back to the hotel.

Day 6 - Thursday 11th July 2019:

Today we had morning games at Stade de la Plane which was located about 40 mins away on the tram, when we arrived we met up with a referee from Norfolk FA called Kai but were waiting for the another but he did not turn up, we went about finding him but his excuse was that he was lost, when later we found out that he was actually sleeping, this left us to work with who we had, so we switched round some of the games to give us all some rest, Kai was really good in staying with us and helping us out. It kicked off with kai's game where I was the AR, then it was my game which was Girls U17's, this was a fairly close, good game with one DOGSO incident which resulted in a red card, this for me was the best game of my tournament in terms of the observer report where I got 'above expected standard' because I had listened to the observers all week and took then advice onboard and went into that game thinking about what they said and it paid off and worked for me hence the observers report. After that we had another 3 games to do which was hard for us all, so our coach Andy had to step in and put on my boots to be the assistant in the final game of the day! after this we set off back towards our hotel for some well-deserved rest.

Day 7 - Friday 12th July 2019:

Today due to the finals approaching there was not many games left, so we attended a meeting where Macca and Vlad were appointed finals, we then all were split and went to our different games. Macca in the morning, Me in the afternoon and Vlad with his U17 final on the evening. My games that day were just around the corner of my hotel at Maryse Hiltz, here I was working with a Romanian referee, an English one from Norfolk FA, and a Portuguese referee, I was 4th Official for boys U15's for the first game, then assistant referee for a U14 girls semi-final for the second game which was good. Then I was referee for the boys U13 Play Off Final, which was a really good game with only 1 yellow card for a foul tackle, my next game was the Boys U19 semi-final, this was a really good, exciting game, I was the assistant referee on this, after all the games were finished I walked back to the hotel and got sorted and changed. I then waited for Macca to return and then we went for some food while we were waiting for Vlad and Andy to arrive back from his final.

Day 8 - Saturday 13th July 2019:

Today me and Vlad has a free day, so we travelled on the metro with Andy to Stade Emile Antoine to watch Macca be the assistant on the boys U15's Final, this was a very good game to watch and nice to be able to be in the crowd for a change. Shortly after this we went for some lunch and then we walked all the way up the river looking at all the famous Paris sights before going to the famous Champs-Élysées for a walk up the main street and a drink at a posh coffee bar, then we walked a little up the road to see the Arc de Triomphe, after this we returned on the metro to the hotel before spending our last night having some well-earned down-time!

Day 9 - Sunday 14th July 2019:

Today was our last day, we went out for breakfast and then ordered our Uber to the airport, we arrived early so there was no rushing around. We sat for a couple of hours then checked in our bags and sat again waiting for our plane, only to find out that it was delayed! We then boarded and returned to Manchester, then we set off towards York where we would all make our own ways home.

Conclusion:

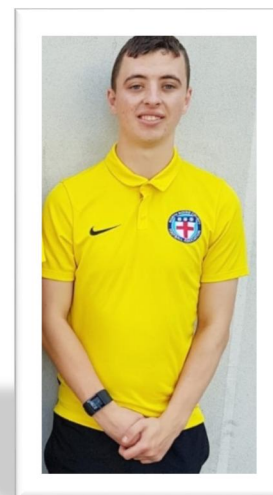
The whole trip for me was excellent and I have come back to the UK with many new changes that I will apply to my game thanks to the observer's & coaches advice.

Many thanks to North Riding County Football Association for making this experience possible for me, and thanks to Vlad and Macca for the excellent performance on the field and making the whole trip enjoyable, and finally a huge thanks to our coach Andy Himsworth who was a massive help on and off the field especially when travelling around the city and in general.



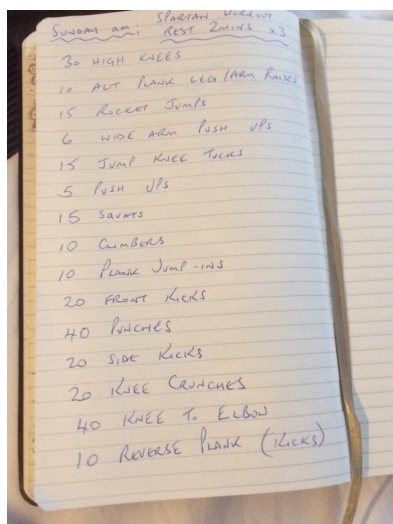
Macca GIBSON

Tournament Review



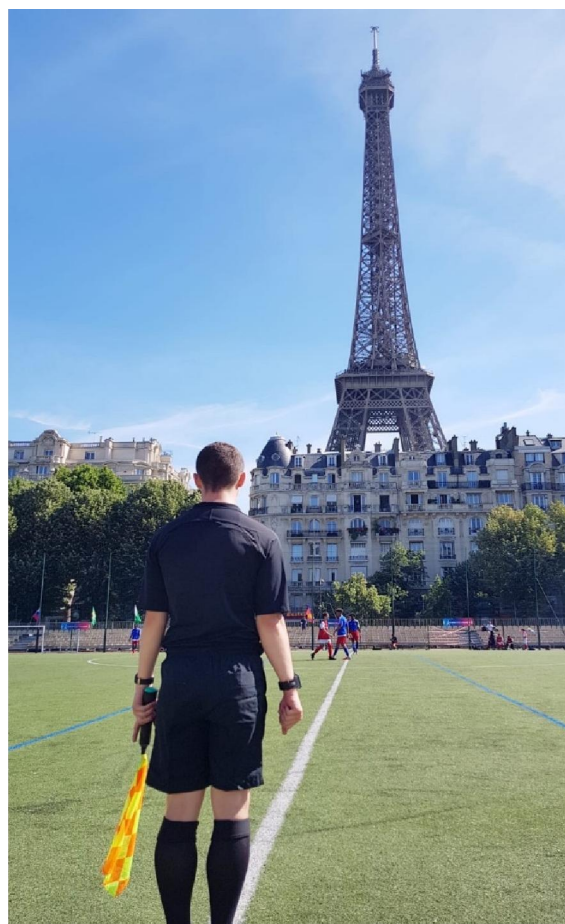
On Saturday 6th July Vlad, Tommy, Andy & I were all set and ready to fly from Manchester to Paris, for the Paris World Games. We arrived at Manchester in plenty of time, and ready for our flight. We had a nice meal, and just relaxed before taking off from Manchester for a flight that last just under an hour, by the time we had taken off, it wasn't long before we landed!

The tournament officially started on Monday, so we had just over a day to acclimatise and do any final preparations that were necessary. On the Saturday, after we landed, the group went to a park, local to our hotel to get used to the heat. We did our first training session, the aim of which was to loosen our body and stretch to ensure we would be ready and prepared for when we step out on the pitch.



On the Sunday, there were no competitive games, although we did travel to Stade Dejerine, which was only a 10 minute walk away from our hotel, to do some cardiovascular training and some more stretching. The heat was intense, and the training session gave us a feel of the heat that we would be refereeing in on a daily basis. At Stade Dejerine, we also did some sprinting and movement drills using markings on the field of play, to get our bodies ready for working at high intensity.

On Monday, me, Vlad, Tommy and Andy all travelled to Stade Carpentier to officiate our first matches of the tournament. We were met by Leon, a Norfolk FA referee and 2 German Observers, Thomas and Martin. I acted as 4th official on the first game which Tommy refereed, one team turned up 5 minutes before kick off, and unsurprisingly lost, although it wasn't a true reflection of the team as they did make it to the semi final. I was next to referee a game between a French and a Spanish team in good competitive football match. I was praised by the observers for how I communicated with players, and how I was the person to end the conversation not the player. I was given development advice on my running technique and how to adjust it for different styles of games. I then acted as assistant referee for Vlad on a very one sided game. At the end of our games, Thomas and Martin gave us all some very good advice on positioning at dead ball situations around the penalty area and optimum angles.



On Tuesday, we travelled to Stade Emile Antoine, which is located next to the Eiffel Tower. We were working with another Norfolk referee, and were observed by an English observer, John Moules. I acted as assistant for the first game of the day, which saw a Canadian team take on a French team. In the second game, I acted as an assistant referee again, to Vlad, who got to referee a very good footballing game between two French teams.



The next game, I acted as 4th official in a well-mannered game with Tommy refereeing. Then, the 4th game of the day, I refereed a one sided affair between an Algerian team and a French team. I got praised on my fitness, and referred to as a machine by the observer! I also played an advantage which led to the team hitting the crossbar. I was given advice on how to ask a player to come for a chat with me, which will help diffuse situations instead of make an irate player even more angry.

On Wednesday at Dejerine I was at working with 3 referees I had never met before, from the Netherlands, Serbia, and Spain. It was a great opportunity and we used communication systems to talk to each other during the game, which was challenging at times, which some of my colleagues English being a bit limited. The Dutch referee got to referee the U17 boys final, and the Spanish referee got to referee the U19 final, which shows the high calibre of referees I was working with. In the first game at Stade Dejerine, I acted as 4th official to the Dutch referee, in a game between 2 African U19 teams which both had lively technical areas! I then acted as assistant to the Serbian referee, which gave me some learning on things not to copy from other referees. Then, I got to be in the middle for the next game, with Tournaments Abroad observer, Dave Waller watching my performance. It was a well-controlled game, in blistering heat, which was so hot I was sweating within 5 minutes of the game kicking off. Despite this, I managed to get a very above standard in my fitness area of my observation. Dave gave me some good feedback, which entailed things regarding which hand I signal goal kicks with, to help me maintain eye contact with my assistants as much as I need to and help improve my teamwork. After I refereed, the refereeing team got a lunch break for an hour before I returned to act as assistant referee for a very good Spanish referee, who referees in the 3rd division in Spain.



On Thursday, we made our longest trip of the tournament to Stade de la Plane, where Me and Tommy were joined by a Norfolk FA Referee, and we should have been joined by a Dutch referee who decided he wanted to sleep a bit longer. This meant that instead of the scheduled 3 games, we ended up doing 5 games each, on already tired

legs, which didn't help the condition of all of our muscles! On the pitch, we worked with a young Norfolk referee, who had unreal commitment to refereeing, and it was a pleasure to act as an assistant referee for him in an U13 game, which he controlled well. We had a swap round in appointments, which meant that Tommy got to referee a Girls U17 game, between Barcelona and AIMZ, an Egyptian team, which included players from the Egyptian National Team, who stood out. In the next game, I got to referee a game between an Algerian side and a French side, the French side won but the Algerian side were certainly improving and managed to score their first goal of the tournament. I got praised on playing an advantage that led to a goal, and also had my first yellow card of the tournament. The observer, Tunde Adebayo, from England, gave me advice on not pointing to where the offence had taken place at free kicks and just pointing in the direction I was giving the foul.

On Friday, before our games we were called to a meeting at FUAJ (the referees base), where me and Vlad were informed that we had been selected to officiate in the finals of the Paris World Games. Vlad was asked to referee the U16 final, on the Friday evening at the pitch under the Eiffel Tower, and I was asked to act as assistant referee on the U15 final, on the Saturday Morning.



On to the games on the Friday, the North Riding refereeing team was all split up, with myself returning to Stade Carpentier to work with a mixture of French, German and Switzerland officials. I again, witnessed some things from referees that I wouldn't want to copy, such as a German referee trying to show off to his mates in the crowd doing the VAR signal after giving a decision, which looked incorrect to me. Onto my game, it was the most challenged game that I refereed in the tournament, it was an U15 semi final between DR Congo and a French team who Tommy refereed on the first game. I had been informed about a coach from the French team already being suspended and forced to sit in the stand. The French team scored first, but during a substitution in the first half, I was informed by my 4th official that he had been pushed by the French manager, which led me to show him the red card, so both managers of that team were

now in the stand. In the second half, the game got became more challenging with the team from DR Congo trying to find an equaliser and more bad tackles coming in, which led to an accumulation of 3 yellow cards. Midway through the second half of the game, the team from DR Congo scored an equaliser, which led to a challenging last 15 minutes. With 2 minutes left on the clock, I awarded the team from DR Congo a penalty, which there were no arguments about. The game finished 2-1 to DR Congo, but the drama didn't finish there, the coach who was suspended from the start of the game decided to come out of the stand at the end of the game, and my 4th official got into an altercation with him, leading to some drama after the final whistle. Eventually, all calmed down and the next game kicked off shortly after. Around 30 minutes after my game finished, Vlad refereed the U16 final, unfortunately transport and distance between the grounds didn't allow me to watch it.

On the Saturday, I was the only one of the North Riding Referees to be appointed to a game that morning. We all travelled as a team to Stade Emile Antoine, next to the Eiffel Tower. I was working with referees from Australia, USA, and Romania. The game was played in a good manner, and to my surprise there was 5 yellow cards in the game, when there was only 1 reckless challenge in my opinion. There were no offsides in the game, so the game went smoothly, and at the final whistle I had finished my tournament officiating in the Paris World Games 2019.

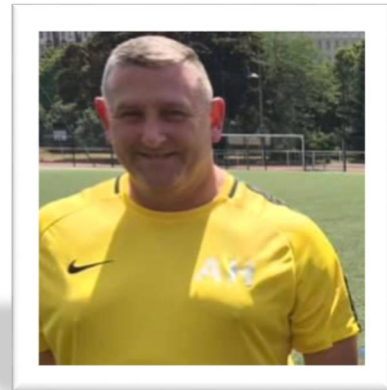
After the game, we went to explore some of the sights around Paris, seeing the Arc De Triomphe, Champs Elysees, Pont De Alma (where Princess Diana was fatally injured in a car accident), Winston Churchill's statue, Notre Dame and we even got to see the French red arrows practising for their demonstration for Bastille Day, which is the French National Day and takes place on Sunday 14th July.



On the Sunday, we flew back from Charles De Gualle Airport and landed at Manchester and made our way home for some much needed rest and recovery.

I would like to thank North Riding FA for the opportunity and support they offered me for the trip, and I will use the experience gained to help me improve as a referee in the future.

Andy HIMSWORTH (Regional CORE Performance Coach) Tournament Review



My Paris World Cup (Games) experience began back in July 2016 as an Observer which went well leading to me working as a Staff member of the TA Referee Academy in 2017 & 2018 in the role of Coach - this helped me to obtain prior knowledge of the tournament and the demands of this high standard competition.

When I found out I'd been selected as a Coach for the 2019 version by Ross JOYCE and would be working with some of our Counties' brightest young officials I was ecstatic, holidays were booked and the journey began!

The 3 Referees were already known to me prior to the tournament and I was keen to get to know them more & give them an insight into how the week would go if planned well. At the opening meeting in May in York after a long day, it was clear early on all 3 of the lads were focussed, determined to learn and competitive as my personal expectations were met with smiles and a sense of purpose which was to remain for the months ahead.



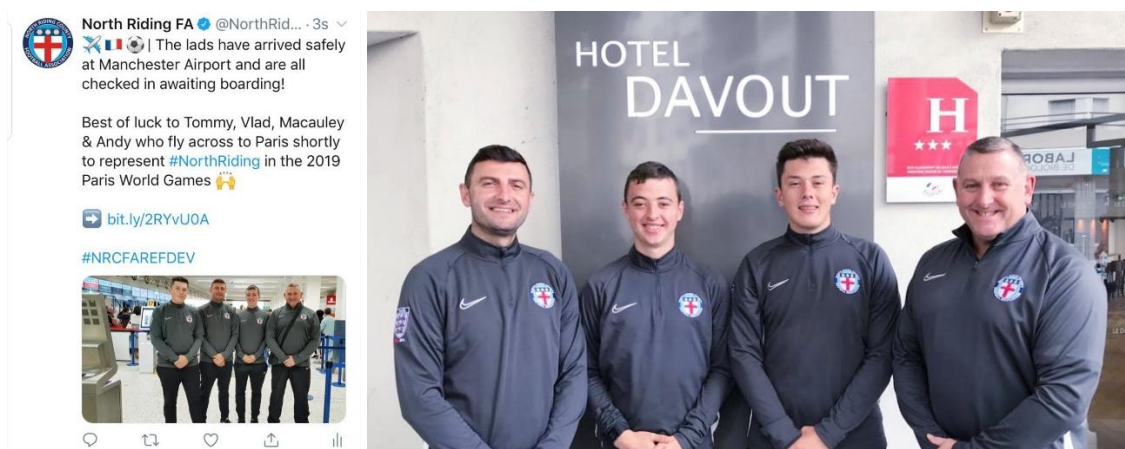
Following this we scheduled in another preparation night - this time held at Kader FC in Middlesbrough in late April. We focussed on communication - body language & signalling as a team in a practical session along with decision making under pressure. We followed the outdoor session with a technical presentation designed to help the lads with expressing themselves & using positive communication when abroad.



The final preparation day took place at Stokesley (Home of the NRCFA) where an intense training session was facilitated covering speed - sprinting - endurance - lateral movement & stamina on a warm afternoon in June (perfect preparation for the France trip in less than a month!) before a welcomed indoor session on managing players & situations with numerous video clips & scenarios for the team. At this time they were gelling together & showing signs of teamwork & friendship which would prove valuable in the upcoming tournament.



Soon the time was here to set off on Saturday 6th July & after many hours of planning & preparation the team departed from Manchester to Paris with the expectations of the CFA and well wishers ringing in their ears with fully functioning Twitter & social media to accompany us!



Almost immediately upon arrival the lads were taken to a nearby green space and took part in some static stretching & a light cardio top to bottom workout - this certainly blew the cobwebs off & got the week away to a great start.



The day ahead of the tournament starting was equally as busy - getting the lads acclimatised with a good workout at one of the fields they'd be officiating on (all of the fields are 4G and the surfaces vary according to use) as they got to grips with the weather and local conditions. There followed a welcome meeting at the FUAI football centre highlighting the week ahead & the rules of the competition. The team were to experience the other Referees for the first time - a variety of languages & nationalities!



Throughout the week in France, before, after and during the games the young Referees were offered numerous developmental points relating to their individual styles and content of Officiating. *Below is a breakdown of the Refereeing tips and advice offered along with the above information from the lads themselves I believe will be advantageous to the individual concerned going forward.* These points (predominantly raised from me, very experienced Observers from a global network and technical staff) were discussed and digested in the most honest and at times unforgiving measures, with me drilling deeper when the chance arose, be it after the game practically on the pitch / changing room or restaurant with a well-earned meal when time dictated.



Vladimir MOLLOV - As the most experienced of the group Vladimir proved to be a fantastic ally for me & helped the other lads both on & off the pitch. His own development was equally as valuable with points raised around the LOTG & changes - dropped ball when Referee intervenes & retaking a throw in when an infringement takes place. We looked at DFK placement near to the edge of the PA & keeping moving (on your toes) so it appears you're constantly travelling especially towards the high risk zones.

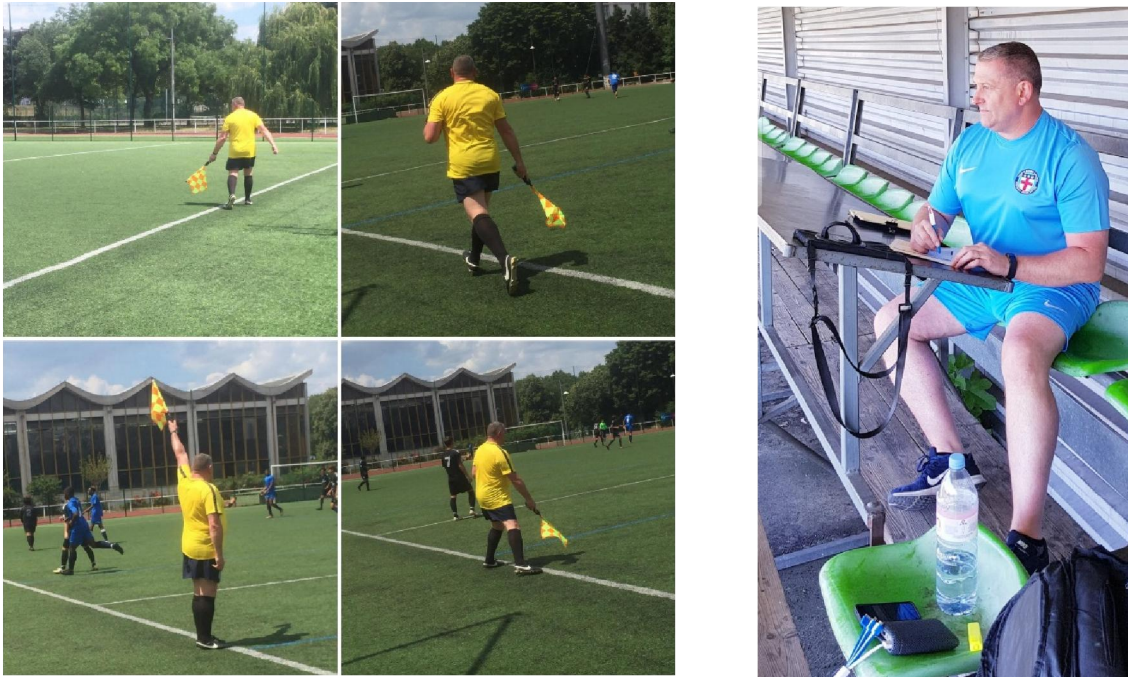
Tommy BROWN - Fitness & Positioning; Tommy highlighted this criteria before the PWG and was then observed and this issue raised several times until the Thursday when he turned his performances around - he showed he was more than up for the task with an excellent display in the Girls U17 game by avoiding the busy centre circle & getting wide to improve his angle / view going forward. It was a steep learning curve for the young man who turned 18 days before we flew out, he was exposed to some good practice from more experienced Officials & subsequently witnessed some indifferent behaviour with some interesting dress code & protocol from his foreign colleagues! Working with ARs was a cause for development - taking time to look right for a signal or confirmation which we caught on video at a game when Tommy & Vlad reached the correct outcome during a high tempo moment - Offside decision ahead of a Penalty kick originally given.



Macca GIBSON - Managing proximity / space; Macca has a high level of fitness & positioning which we used to demonstrate good peer reflection throughout the week - he was suitably praised for this by all observers & rewarded with a high profile role as AR in a Saturday final match. We discussed not getting too close to play / incidents & keeping conversations with players to a minimum which I'm pleased to say he took onboard and showed signs of improvement as the week progressed. Macca was the quieter member of the group off the field & definitely came out of his shell as the PWG went on - contributing to some lively conversations & helping with active recovery with the guys.

It was always a 4-way conversation with the other group members pitching in and acknowledging their individual points with at times a light-hearted moment of humour to gee the lads along if they felt dejected due to some on-field incidents or challenging feedback. Once more, we created a safe, sterile learning environment and I hope this facilitated the desire to put these points right over the following days (and certainly into the months ahead which they'll undoubtedly hit the ground running in after this training camp I hope!) which they all did in equal measure, showing me that they could respond and implement into their already impressive games these minor tweaks and developmental points.

As with this type of experience the Referees were given a valuable insight into the competitive & challenging nature of tournament football at a high level - they are all now aware of the importance of rehydration before during & after games (with self urine checking / colour codes to assist them to ensure they're ready!) along with the power of preparation - something they all improved on as the week went on. They all excelled in active stretching & recovery needed to perform well in every game in demanding conditions before developing an better understanding of the Paris Metro system & language barriers!



My personal experience of this group is nothing but pride and admiration, having worked with many similar groups of officials over many years it gives me a great deal of pleasure to say that none of them made a high-profile error, in Law or with a Key Match Decision during the tournament we could have learnt from. They all pitched in with questions and challenges to me which ensured the week was eventful and invigorating at the same time.

The guys were mostly self-motivating for their own games and adapted well to the communication systems used and language / weather / transport on an hourly basis, so much so I was enthusiastic as I volunteered to work as an AR for Vladimir in his Thursday game - I was to encounter the heat & intensity for myself with 9 Offside decisions & numerous free kicks & throw ins to assist him on!

I'm positive that the above development will help the guys get to the next level and above where they can implement them into their already impressive styles and patterns of Refereeing. I wish them every success in the future and look forward to working again with them during the 2019-2020 season.

