

Hi John,

Sorry for the delay in replying to your letter, I keep meaning to reply but it seems I'm always busy.

Anyroad, I thought that I would send you a couple of photos of my time in Brazil which was absolutely amazing. I went to all 3 of the England games. Despite the results, I still had an awesome time (apart from getting robbed at gunpoint in Rio, but in the end, that wasn't as bad as it could have been).

The first photo is my flag hung up from a bar in Manaus. There were about 3000 England fans there and we didn't see any Italians which was a bit strange. All the locals were very friendly



towards us, but during the game, they were all supporting the Italians. I'm not sure why. There is a large part of the population from Italian descent but it was probably due to Hodgson's comments before the tournament. That flag was one of many England flags hung up around Manaus. I managed to get it up in the Stadium but after the first game, FIFA banned flags from stadiums because some had been stolen, which is annoying for everyone, although some people sneaked them in.

The next photo is my favourite. Me and my friend tracked down Juninho at his club (Ituano FC) about an hour outside of Sao Paulo. He was amazing, he made time for us even though he was extremely busy appointing a new manager. Doriva had been his manager but after they won the Sao Paulo state championship, he moved to a top team. There were a handful of press there that day waiting for a press conference but Juninho still took 10 minutes out to talk about Boro, Brazil and the World Cup. What an absolute hero!



He told us that they are working with Boro to try and get more Brazilians over to us, but the biggest problem is that his best players don't have European passports so they're not allowed to come over.

Overall we had a great time. We met quite a few Boro fans over there who were all having a great time as well. Before the tournament, I had no desire to go to Russia for the next tournament, but now I'm very tempted. The feel-good factor has continued into this season with the mighty reds. Currently we're 1 point off top and haven't played great, so I have high hopes this season that when our new players really start to gel, we can take this division by storm. They show 1-2 championship games on TV over here in the States so the better we do, the more likely we are on TV which always helps!

Up the Boro,  
Matt